

April 2004

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ST DUNSTAN'S Review



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Cover story:

Catch of the Day!

It's easy to guess what St Dunstaner Phil Dobson had to eat the night after this Fishing Club trip off the Peacehaven coast. Apart from this 15lb cod, our fishermen hooked over a hundredweight of fish in a single day. **Report on page 13.**

Flying High!

Raymond Rawcliffe used to fly an autogiro that he built himself.
Taking off on page 15!

Talking TV

A new device brings audio described television to the mass market. **Page 14!**

Plus Balancing the Books, Letters
Ten Questions and other favourites!!!

insight

The fourth issue of the **insight** newsletter is included with this edition of **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**. This newsletter is being sent to some 250,000 donors who continue to support the work of St Dunstan's, creating an independent future for blind ex-servicemen and women.



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The Review is also available in braille, on MP3CD,
on audio cassette, floppy disk and via e-mail.

Radio Lives

An idea to air!

Nick Ward airs his concept of a dedicated radio station for blind listeners.
Details on page 8.

Radio rugby

A St Dunstaner was present at the first rugby match to be beamed into the nation's living rooms.
Details on page 9

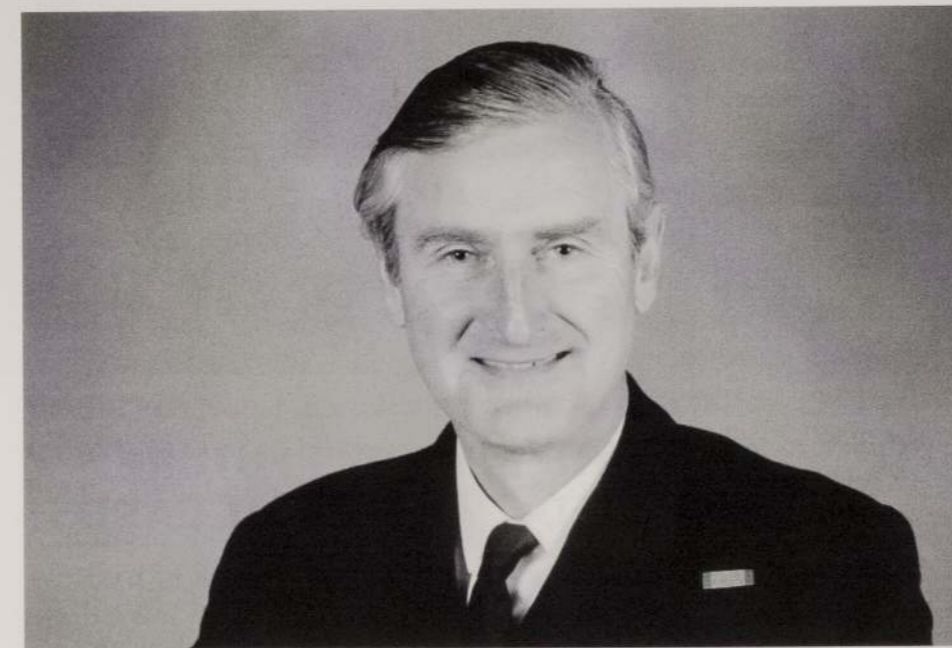
Ham radio

St Dunstaners continue their own world service.
Tune in to the back page.

It Strikes Me!

Steve Pendleton unveils his pantry on Radio 4.
Details on page 10.

From the Chairman



THE SPEED OF innovation and design of technological developments these days means attempting to keep up with what is available in the marketplace is tantamount to competing in a journey with no end! Television programmes that have an additional commentary for visually impaired people called audio description, storage devices that are tiny and yet contain masses of information, the Daisy system giving swift access to recorded material, to name but a few, are helping to improve the lives of blind people. Via the Rehabilitation and Training resource centre at Ovingdean and through the **Review**, we try to keep you up to date with the latest developments. I know our technical experts would appreciate any feedback from you, the consumers, on the aids you find useful.

It would be advantageous if we did not have to rely on gadgets, often prone to letting us down at just the wrong moment. But, in similar vein, failing human faculties due to age make us more, rather than less, dependent. It is interesting to note how technology is replacing our own faculties; pacemakers, cochlea ear implants, new hips, knees and shoulders and most important to all of us, even artificial retinas which may, hopefully one day, enable some blind people to see once more.

Michael Gordon-Lennox

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

ST DUNSTAN'S Calendar

Indoor Bowling	April 2nd
Writers' Forum	April 3rd
Indoor Bowling	April 7th
Norwich Reunion	April 14th
Fishing Club (II)	April 19th-23rd
Ex-POW Reunion	April 23rd-26th
London Reunion	April 28th
Writers' Forum	May 1st
Football Fundraiser	May 2nd
Gardening Week	May 3rd-10th
Exeter Reunion	May 5th
Handless Reunion	May 5th-11th
Liverpool Reunion	May 11th
Blackpool Reunion	May 12th
Exercise Iron Man	May 12th
Fishing Club (III)	May 17th-19th
Newcastle Reunion	May 18th
Leeds Reunion	May 19th
Bournemouth Reunion	May 26th
Edinburgh Reunion	May 26th
Archery Club(II)	June 5th-12th
Chichester Reunion	June 9th
Fishing Club (IV)	June 14th-19th
Widows' Week(II)	June 14th-21st
Cardiff Reunion	June 15th
Brighton Reunion (III)	June 23rd
Bristol Reunion	June 30th
Ladies' Reunion	July 18th-25th
Royal Marines Band	July 21st
HMS Sultan	July 30th-Aug 7th
Activity Week	Aug 16th-20th

ST DUNSTAN'S

an independent future for blind
ex-Service men and women

insight

ST DUNSTAN'S NEWSLETTER SPRING 2004

Photograph courtesy of the Imperial War Museum, London (B5114)



Fred (left) with his guide at the Cenotaph parade.

A brave Normandy veteran remembers

With St Dunstan's support, Fred Bentley has rebuilt his life after being blinded in action. This year marks the 60th Anniversary of D-Day and many veterans like Fred will be returning to the Normandy beaches to pay their respects to comrades who lost their lives.

June 6th 1944, D-Day, was the day that Allied Forces united in the most notorious assault against the tyranny of the Nazi Army. St Dunstaner Fred Bentley served with the A Company in the 6th Battalion Durham Light Infantry and was amongst the first British troops to cross the Channel that fateful day.

"I've never seen anything like it in all my life - as far as you could see nothing but boats and boats. They looked like stepping stones as if you could have walked across the Channel from boat to boat."

As the ships landed on the beaches, machine gun bullets rained down like hailstones, killing many men as they headed for cover.

Danger surrounded him at every turn, but soon enough for Fred, the fighting was over. He was leading a patrol inside German lines, when a grenade dropped merely one foot from his face. Fred knew instantly that he had been blinded.

"There's an expression I hate. That's when they say a man 'gave his life'. You don't

give your life, you have it taken from you! Nobody goes into action expecting to be killed. I didn't give my sight, I had it taken from me."

After being transferred to a hospital, Fred was visited by Sir Ian Fraser, Chairman of St Dunstan's at that time. It wasn't long after that Fred came to St Dunstan's where he was given the training and support needed to get on with his life. Fred benefited hugely from St Dunstan's training, in Braille, woodwork and typing and soon found a job in engineering for a large car manufacturer.

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of D-Day. Hundreds of veterans like Fred will be visiting the beaches of Normandy to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the Normandy battle.

MEET THE ST DUNSTANERS MEET THE ST DUNSTANERS MEET THE ST

It's never too late for a new career

When Constance Halford-Thompson joined the Army, a year before the end of WWII, she was just 18 years old.

Constance volunteered for the Women's Auxiliary Service in Burma (WASBs). She worked alongside her sister in the mobile canteens that were attached to the Army divisions retaking Burma. "We were a very small force and unique. I was a Sergeant but we were all given papers to say that we were Officers if we were ever taken prisoner."

Constance went to Mandalay a week after the battle. "There were bodies still lying everywhere. At just 18, it was a real eye opener for me to find myself so near the battles."

Soon after the war, Constance returned to England where, in 1950, she met her husband, who had been a prisoner on the Burma railway. The Army took them both to Vienna, Paris and Naples, before they finally settled in England.

It was here that Constance started to paint. "I had always wanted to paint, so I went to art school for a short time as a mature student



and it really took off. It was amazing." In painting she found her real passion and was successful enough to make it her profession, selling all her work through the Osborne Studio Gallery in Motcombe Street, London. 37 years ago, at the age of 40, Constance began to lose her sight. "I noticed one night when I was walking home that I could see the lights in the house but my sight appeared to be most peculiar."

Constance suffers from Retinosa Pigmentosa, a genetic disease that affects about 1 person in 4,000. Sufferers develop night blindness, then tunnel vision, and some finally lose their colour and day vision. It is the most common cause of blindness in people under the age of 70.

Over the years Constance's condition gradually got worse and finally she was forced to give up the vocation she loved.

Then three years ago she joined St Dunstan's and was trained in how to use a guide cane and a barcode reader that enables her to read the labels on canned foods, medicines and CDs.

However Constance says that the most helpful skill she learned at St Dunstan's was how to use a computer. The screen-reading technology on her PC allows her to scan and read her bills and letters.

More importantly it has enabled her to start writing a children's book, which she hopes will be published before long.

Put yourself in their shoes... and sponsor our London Marathon runners

St Dunstan's is delighted to have a large team of runners putting themselves through this spring's 26-mile race in London and helping us to raise funds.



Included in the team are 3 St Dunstaners, Steve Sparkes, Iain Millard and Don Planner.

Of the forthcoming challenge on 18th April, Don says, "many runners say 'never again,' after completing their first marathon. For me running is like a bug, and I am really looking forward to the challenge of taking part in my 15th Marathon."

If you wish to support our Marathon runners, please complete the form on page 5. If you have access to the internet, you may wish to donate online at www.st-dunstans.org.uk/sponsor.

If you are interested in taking part in any fundraising events, please contact Clare on 0207 616 7966.

Have you thought of leaving a lasting gift?

Richard Homes has.

"I wanted to make sure that my Dorothy was remembered for as long as possible after I died. And I wanted to find a charity for which we both had some affection. St Dunstan's suited us - my wife was blind for the last six years of her life and we loved the Services."

With the demands of living today, many people need all their income for their daily lives and so feel more at ease leaving a gift after their death. Whether pecuniary or residual and of any amount, be assured your gift will provide a solid foundation for the good work of St Dunstan's to continue.

MEET OUR STAFF MEET OUR STAFF MEET OUR STAFF MEET OUR STAFF

ROVI – Ian Hebborn



St Dunstan's Rehabilitation and Training department is one of the most vital and beneficial services for new St Dunstaners coming to terms with their sight loss.

Rehabilitation Officers for Visually Impaired People (ROVIs) provide assessment, advice and training appropriate to each St Dunstaner's needs and assist them to regain their own level of independence.

ROVI, Ian Hebborn believes training is the fundamental step.

"The confidence a St Dunstaner gains from the training and having the opportunity to meet and learn from fellow St Dunstaners can be the starting point to doing more for themselves."

Having a father who is blind, Ian is more aware of the possibilities for visually impaired people to be able to live as independent a life as possible.

Colin Best came to St Dunstan's after being traumatically blinded and unable to do most things for himself. Now he's more independent and even confident enough to walk around town with his guide dog.

"Knowing I've made a difference to his life is the most rewarding part of my job," says Ian.

New St Dunstaners undertake an introductory week at the National Centre, where they cover all areas of training, from learning how to identify kerbs with a cane, to using an electronic magnifier to identify tins and enlarge text. The training is varied and caters specifically to an individual's needs.

"For those with some sight, we try to make the most of their remaining vision, for example, when chopping vegetables they use a brightly coloured chopping board to contrast with a dark surface. If a St Dunstaner has no vision at all, we may spend time teaching extra safety in the kitchen, such as checking that the knife blade faces away from them when cutting."

Although this training takes place initially at the National Centre, some St Dunstaners may need to be visited at home. Learning the routes to work or even to the local shops is important in rebuilding a St Dunstaner's confidence.

BLIND AMBITION BLIND AMBITION BLIND AMBITI

Speedy Mark smashes blind water speed record - by 26 mph!



And not content with that, he was also part of a brand new world record, aptly referred to as the 'Blind leading the Blind'. Mark towed blind water skiing champion Gerald Price through the course - setting an average speed of 35 mph.

Mark's Blind Ambition has raised a little over £21,000 - just short of our £25,000 target.



St Dunstaner Mark Threadgold has broken the Blind Water Speed Record with a remarkable average speed of 99.19 mph in a Bladerunner RS6 powerboat. Not quite reaching his average target of 100 mph, Mark nevertheless managed to smash the existing record by 26 mph!

Mark achieved this record on 16th October 2003, during the annual Records Week held at Lake Windermere.

However the aim is to reach a figure of £100,000, if not more over the coming year, with further 'Blind Ambitions'. Mark would like to thank everyone for their support in helping him achieve his ambition.

Spread the Word

St Dunstan's cares for anyone who has served in the UK Armed Forces and has become severely visually impaired, due to age, war, accident or illness.

If you served your country years ago and have only recently become blind - you may still be eligible for help.

The entry criteria also apply to those who have served in the Polish Forces under British Command or in the Merchant Navy during World War II.

St Dunstan's also cares for men and women who have served in the Emergency Services who have lost their sight whilst on duty.

If you know of anyone you think may be eligible for help, please call Admissions on 0800 389 7979.

Partner Wanted

Green fingered Charity seeks like minded corporate sponsor for mutually beneficial activity at major RHS shows in 2005. If you think you or your company may be able to help or would like to find out more please contact Sarah Tait on 020 7723 5021 or email sarah.tait@st-dunstans.org.uk.

FUNDRAISING FUNDRAISING FUNDRAISING FUNDRAISING FUNDRAI

What can you do for St Dunstan's?

From Christmas carolling to running marathons, hosting concerts and jumping out of planes, there have been some fantastic events organised by St Dunstan's supporters. Thank you to all our volunteer fundraisers, for your tremendous efforts - as well as, in many cases, your blood, sweat and tears!



97 Cadet Battery, Royal Artillery, organised a 12-mile sponsored walk to raise funds for us. The walk was a huge success and the cadets raised well over £1,300 - a fantastic amount. We look forward to the next event later this year.



Congratulations to Tim Hirst, who recently attempted to summit Mt Aconcagua in Argentina, helping to raise over £5,000 for St Dunstan's and his local Church. Tim reached 22,000 ft before 70 mph winds and a -35°C wind chill factor forced him to turn back, narrowly missing reaching the summit.

Thanks must go to the ladies of Paxhill Golf Club and Ladies' Captain Maureen Winskill, who raised over £2,500 through a series of lunches and a charity golf day.

Supporter John Young set a personal best in the Great North Run, finishing 15,932nd out of a field of almost 47,000 runners - raising £900 in sponsorship for St Dunstan's.

Good luck to the soldiers from Mansfield, who will soon be driving from John O'Groats to Land's End and Skegness to Blackpool within 10 days, hoping to raise £20,000 for St Dunstan's and Nottinghamshire RSB.

If you would like to get involved with fundraising or would like a fundraising pack, please contact Clare on 020 7616 7966 or email fundraising@st-dunstans.org.uk.

On the Ball... at Brighton Hove Albion



Fancy a family day out by the sea and watching a bit of footie? Then why not join us at our Celebrity Football Fundraiser? It's happening at Brighton Hove Albion Football Club, Withdean Stadium, Brighton, on Sunday 2nd May 2004.



Only a stone's throw from our National Centre in Ovingdean, the Football Fundraiser will be a fantastic day out for the whole family. You will also be helping to raise vital funds for St Dunstan's and Help a Local Child. So come along and join the fun!

For ticket sales please telephone the Brighton Hove Albion Ticket Office on 01273 776 992 from 1st April 2004.

You don't have to see the ball to win

Imagine being blind-folded, trying to hit a small golf ball with accuracy...it seems impossible. Well, St Dunstaner David Morris does it with ease - and he's blind. As the current Blind World Golf Champion, David proves that sight isn't essential to achieving success.

David lost his sight 20 years ago in a motorcycle accident whilst serving in the Royal Air Force. On joining St Dunstan's the initial priority was to re-educate David with necessary life skills such as cooking and washing. Mobility was, of course an important step to his independence. David recalls that coping with a long cane and re-entry into society was a frightening experience.

Since joining the St Dunstan's Golf Club, David's confidence has grown immensely. "Playing against sighted golfers is a real boost to my self-esteem. People watch me, firstly in disbelief and then in surprise, as I play shots that they can't even attempt!" Playing off a handicap of 17, David uses a guide to help him round the course. Together they discuss the wind and the distance to the holes, before the guide places the club head behind the ball. The rest is up to David.

As the first Briton to win the Blind World Golf Championships, we wish David every success at the next Championships in October.



Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES MUST TAKE GUIDE DOGS

GDBA INFLUENCES LAW CHANGE: It is now illegal for minicab operators to refuse a booking from a guide dog owner unless they have medical exemption. Section 37a of the Disability Discrimination Act came into effect on March 31st this year after a two year campaign by the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. It extends the law that already covered taxi drivers to include private hire vehicles. A report from the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee revealed that many blind and visually impaired people depended on cabs they could pre-book rather than hail from the kerbside.

DRAUGHT BEER PRICES AT ST DUNSTAN'S OIVINGDEAN

PINTS GO UP: Due to a price increase by Coors Brewers, the cost of a pint of beer will rise by 10p from Monday April 5th 2004. The prices in the bar are still very competitive with the price of a pint of Carling Lager or Worthington Bitter rising from £1.90 to £2.00.

We do not have any plans to raise the cost of spirits or wines, unless there is an announcement in the Chancellor's Budget of an additional taxation burden on these products.

Trevor Richardson,
Catering Operations Manager, PBK

CHIP AND PIN KEYS FUTURE FOR CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS

ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM AVAILABLE FOR VIP CUSTOMERS: In an effort to crack down on fraud, Banks and credit card companies are phasing in changes to the manner in which credit and debit cards are used. Known as 'Chip and PIN' the system asks customers to tap a four-digit personal identification number (PIN) into a keypad beside the till. In some instances, such as restaurants, the keypad may be a portable unit which the waiter can bring to the table.

Recognising that using keypads or PIN numbers may be difficult for some visually impaired people, Banks and credit card companies are also running a 'Chip and Signature' system. It will operate in the same way, but the card's microchip will inform the retailer that the customer will verify their use of the card by signature rather than PIN.

Banks such as Barclays and Lloyds TSB are in the process of introducing 'Chip and PIN' for their customers. "We are doing this for Barclays and Barclaycard customers at the moment. This will be a fairly gradual process with cards being issued as old cards expire," said a spokesman for Barclays. "The PIN pads themselves have been designed with nodules on the keys to help the visually impaired. Alternatively, the system allows customers with special needs to opt out of the PIN system and revert to using a signature."

COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT IS THERE TO BE CLAIMED

PENSIONERS MISS OUT ON BENEFIT: The government is urging pensioners to claim council tax benefit which could save them an average of £426 a year. Less than half of home-owning pensioners are claiming the money they should get. Some are even missing out on a full refund. There has been an attempt to simplify forms, but should any St Dunstaner or Widow require assistance Barry Porter, Grants & Welfare Manager recommends that they contact their Area Welfare Officer.

LAST CALL FOR HMS SULTAN

SUMMER CAMP DEADLINE: Any St Dunstaner wishing to attend the annual Lee on Solent Summer Camp should contact Dave Burrows by May 1st. He can be contacted by letter at 18 Portsmouth Road, Lee on the Solent, Hampshire PO13 9AG, by telephone on 02392 550532, or by e-mail at DAVEBURROWS808@aol.com. The 2004 Camp is the 60th gathering with a familiar mix of activities and a few surprises. It will be held at HMS *Sultan* from Friday, July 30th to Saturday, August 7th.

SERVICEPALS.COM JOIN UP WITH FORCESREUNITED

REUNION WEBSITES COMBINE FORCES: Two websites aimed at reuniting existing and former members of the Armed Forces have been merged together. ServicePals.com has acquired ForcesReunited.co.uk which was mentioned in the February **Review**. ServicePals are intending to launch a brand new version of ForcesReunited.co.uk soon, but in the meantime a similar opportunity to find old service friends can be found at www.ServicePals.com.

D-DAY AS YOU REMEMBER IT!

REMEMBERING THE BEGINNING OF THE END: With the 60th Anniversary of D-Day approaching, St Dunstan's Public Relations department is keen to hear the memories of St Dunstaners (particularly the ladies), widows and other family members. If you can provide any anecdotes, recollections, photographs or other items relating to June 6th 1944 then call Anna Robinson, Head of Public Awareness on 020 7616 7927 or Rosemary Cottrell, Head of Marketing on 020 7616 7962 today!

NOVEL APPROACH TO RADIO

BOOKS ON AIR: Oneword, offers radio listeners books, drama, comedy and discussion seven days a week on Sky 877, Freeview 87, NTL 893, DAB digital radio and on the internet at www.oneword.co.uk.

Programmes include serialisations of best selling books, from Jane Austen to Nick Hornby, read by actors such as David Jason, Hugh Laurie, Fiona Shaw, Patricia Hodge, Jenny Agutter, John Sessions, Alec Guinness and Martin Jarvis. "With readings of the latest books, news, views and interviews with top names in the literary world, there's something for every Thomas, Dickens and Hardy on Oneword," they add.

There is a similar mix, but with a greater emphasis on comedy, to be found on BBC7. This radio station is available on Sky 881, Freeview 78, NTL 866, Telewest 910, DAB digital radio and online at www.bbc.co.uk/bbc7.

St Dunstaner Ray Hazan tests out a blind-friendly Freeview Digital Television receiver on page 14, While Director of Fundraising & Communications Nick Ward suggests that a dedicated radio service for blind listeners might be possible in the near future on page 8.

UK AUDIO NETWORK

RADIO AND MORE ONLINE: The UK Audio Network offers a wide range of material for blind and visually impaired people. Their BBC Radio Schedules page now carries Sky TV Audio Description listings while The Games Room offers family quizzes and games to test your knowledge and skill. The Radio Tuner has nine channels covering Top 40 hits, jazz, classical music and Christian issues. The News Bulletins page features world and regional news. Audio versions of classic movies can be found in the Entertainment Section and a variety of sports are also covered. Finally, they include a link to audio magazine *Soundaround*. The UK Audio Network can be found on the web at <http://www.yrguk.com>.

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 2004

TICKETS NOW ON SALE: The **Review** has once more opened its annual Derby Sweepstake. The draw is open to all St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows and widowers. Tickets are 30p each and issued consecutively to a maximum of 25 (costing £7.50). Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's and crossed. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered. The closing date is June 1st and the draw will be made that day. The Derby will be run at Epsom on June 5th.

Each applicant should send their name and address, the number of tickets required, and a stamped addressed envelope, to The Editor, Derby Sweepstake Department, **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

Details of Prize distribution appeared last issue. No prize won in the sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

PIT YOUR WITS AGAINST THE QUEEN OF MEAN

BLIND CONTESTANTS WANTED FOR POPULAR QUIZ SHOW: The BBC's *Weakest Link* quiz challenge is seeking disabled contestants. The show involves a group of strangers who have to work together as a team to win prize money of up to £10,000. But only one person can take the money away - the others leave with nothing as they are voted off with Anne Robinson's famous words ringing in their ears: "You are the weakest link - goodbye!"

If you think you can cope with the self-proclaimed Queen of Mean's verbal put-downs, are 18 or over and have good general knowledge then ask for an application form! Contact the producers at The Weakest Link, BBC FREEPOST or telephone 020 8576 3736. Applications can be made online at www.bbc.co.uk/weakestlink/appear.shtml.

RAF TACKLE SOAP SOCCER STARS IN BRIGHTON FOOTY FEST

ST DUNSTAN'S FUNDRAISER IS A GAME OF TWO HALVES: Taking their motto to heart, the RAF will be looking to the stars on May 2nd - and trying to get the ball past a few of them. They will be kicking off at Celebrity Soccer Sunday against a soap squad drawn from the casts of *Coronation Street*, *EastEnders* and *Holby City*. This family fun-packed football festival takes place on May 2nd. The RAF Falcon Parachute Display Team will drop by with the ball. Proceeds will be split between St Dunstan's and Southern FM's Help a Local Child Appeal. Tickets are available from the Brighton & Hove Albion ticket office at Withdean Stadium, either in person or by telephone 01273 776992. They cost £5 adults, £3 children (under 16) and OAPs, £10 family of four. Accompanying guides go free.

WAR PENSION CHANGES

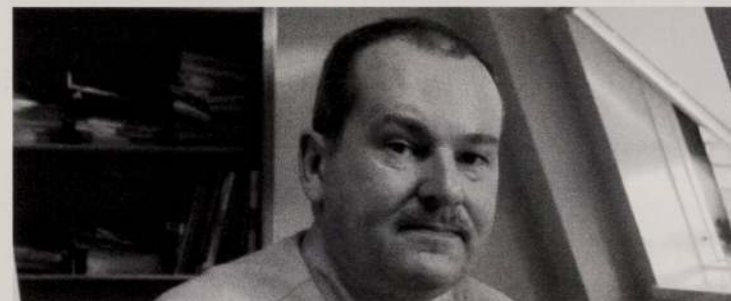
PENSIONS SUPPLEMENT NOW AVAILABLE: Details of the War Pension rates that come into effect on April 12th can be obtained on request from St Dunstan's Head of Pensions, Christabel Clifford. Either telephone her at Headquarters on 020 7723 5021 or e-mail her at christabel.clifford@st-dunstans.org.uk, stating if you would like to receive the document in print, braille, tape or electronic formats.

NEW NERO 6 KEYBOARD TUTORIAL AVAILABLE

HOW TO BURN CDS: John Wilson has released a guide to the latest CD burning software, produced with blind and visually impaired computer users in mind. *Nero Burning-ROM 6 from the Keyboard* covers all aspects of copying and burning data and audio files to all kinds of writable disks, such as CDs, DVDs and DDCDs.

The tutorial instructs on how to use Nero with the keyboard and a screenreader or screen magnifier, without having to use a monitor or mouse. It is available as a plain text file by e-mail or on floppy disk or CD. For details, contact John Wilson on 0113 2575957.

NEW SURVEYOR FOR MIDLANDS



Jonathan Green recently joined St Dunstan's in March as Area Surveyor for the Midlands region. He is aided by Sue Wilkes.

STAFF RETIREMENTS

JOHN TARRANT: Head of Housekeeping John Tarrant (pictured right) retired on March 7th. He joined St Dunstan's at Pearson House in May 1992 after being made redundant from machine tool company Kearney & Trecker. He became a Housekeeping Supervisor at St Dunstan's Ovingdean and was later promoted to Head of Housekeeping when Olive Taylor retired.



MARION LUROT: St Dunstaner Liaison Marion Lurot retires on April 8th after 17 years service. She joined St Dunstan's in March 1987, working initially as Secretary to the Southern Area Welfare Superintendent Penny Lord. Several re-organisations and job changes later, Marion has remained with the Welfare Service providing an important point of contact to many St Dunstaners and their families.

She has become a voice, that many have been familiar with when talking to Welfare at Harcourt Street over the years. Amongst Marion's responsibilities has been the coordination of sending out flowers, poppy wreaths and personal letters of condolence on the passing of a beneficiary. This work, alongside the organisation of the Welfare Committee processes and being a contact for the Welfare Service has given the opportunity for many in the St Dunstan's family to get to know Marion and she will be much missed. Marion has displayed many talents during her career at St Dunstan's especially as a fluent French speaker and renowned thespian in the Christmas shows held at Harcourt Street! Throughout her career, Marion has been a loyal and highly committed employee, we will all wish her well for the future.

Barry Porter,
Welfare & Grants Manager

Robert Nelson tunes in to a new project from St Dunstan's Nick Ward

A sound service for blind

Proposal to set up a dedicated radio station for the UK's blind community is great opportunity

year, with presenters broadcasting programmes about business, food, finance, sport and much more.

The UK currently has no national radio service for blind people unlike Australia, America and some African states, though online webcasting services such as VIPONAIR and UK Audio Network have made an inroad to the issue.

"This is a St Dunstan's project," said Nick Ward. "But it is certainly not a project it could run on its own. It needs the support and involvement of a whole range of organisations, that's the RNIB, Guide Dogs, National Talking Express - the London Society for the Blind are particularly interested - it's something that could be a really good joint operation.

"I think the most interesting bit about it is that there are hundreds of people who have contacted us so far to say how interested they are and would like to volunteer their time. There are organisations like the London Society for the Blind who are particularly intrigued,

not least because they have their own studio operation. There they train visually impaired and blind people to run a studio from all production aspects and become presenters."

So could we see St Dunstaners making their mark on the broadcasting industry? "Yes, there is an employment opportunity, but that's not one that's going to take place straight away because the whole project is unlikely to go on air for about 18 months," added Nick. "That's a recognition of the practical aspects of creating broad support for the concept, a broad practical support, so that funding is obviously an issue, as well as the acquisition of licensing from Ofcom and the upload link to a satellite if that's the route that the group chooses.

"The biggest problem is deciding just how quickly we want to work, and my concern here is that all those who are interested do actually have the opportunity to become involved. This is not a case of 'Too many cooks spoil the broth'; this is a case of

creating something that has broad appeal. If you let the imagination run riot a bit, this is not necessarily an exercise that is restricted to blind and visually impaired people.

"It could be appealing to a broad audience, where say a St Dunstaner describes what it is like to ski. So he describes his experiences in a way that you or I can visualise what he is feeling and experiencing, every twist and turn, every mogul on the way. That would make really interesting listening and its not restricted listening. What we don't want to do, and what we are positively going to avoid, is become too parochial."

Nick is keen that the project should not be a purely commercial exercise. However, between examining broadcasting options such as BSkyB's digital satellite

platform or a webcasting service, projected costs suggest around £20,000 would be needed to set up followed by about £150,000 a year to keep it running. Funding through grants, sponsorships, advertising sales and donations will be one of the first tasks facing the steering group.

"Finding the right level of funding, the right government departments for example, is vital to give us the integrity to continue. What will make it a practical reality is the creation of a concrete plan. That really depends on the discussion of the interested groups. Some of the groups may want to put in some seedcorn money to test the practical reality of the project. I consider that to be a very useful contribution.

"The real charm of this idea is that it is going to run across the whole country, we can draw on

local experience, from the VIP network in Scotland. So there is nothing exclusive about what we are proposing! We want the involvement of everybody who has got experience.

"The exploration will come in discovering how many hours we can efficiently create. That's going to be the real drain on resources and energy. It's easy during the first week, first month, but we want a consistent service delivery," concluded Nick.

St Dunstan's Chief Executive is also enthusiastic. "I have been very encouraged by the amount of interest that this has generated and by the favourable reception that the idea has received from other organisations involved in helping visually impaired people," said Robert Leader. "It seems a mammoth task but I'm sure that if it gets enough support it will make a real difference."

Nick Ward hopes that a station could be on air before the end of 2005.

A NATIONAL RADIO Station aimed at the UK's blind and visually impaired community has been proposed by St Dunstan's. The Charity is setting up a steering group with like-minded organisations to examine the factors involved in getting a specialist radio station on air which would inform and entertain people who cannot read printed information. "Our vision is to create a service that is dedicated to the needs of the UK's blind and partially sighted communities, but doesn't focus solely on 'visually impaired' issues," said Nick Ward, Director of Fundraising and Communications at St Dunstan's.

The station aims to be on air 24 hours a day, 365 days of the

Square one was radio first

Harry Beevers uncovers the first live sports commentary on radio



Lance Sievking (1896-1972) was one of the most influential and colourful pioneers from the early days of British radio. He was the BBC's first Head of Outside Broadcasts and it was he who made the opening announcement at the first ever sporting occasion to be covered by the BBC - the England v Wales Rugby Union International at Twickenham on January 15th 1927! He hired the commentator Lieutenant Colonel Henry Blythe Thornhill Wakelam (pictured left), a former Harlequins captain, invited along a

blind RU enthusiast from St Dunstan's to sit beside Wakelam so that the commentator could explain the game directly to him. They produced for the *Radio Times* a squared plan of the field to help listeners follow the action at home. According to some pundits that is how the expression "Back to square one" originated. Yet another first for St Dunstan's!

You can listen to an excerpt of Wakelam's commentary at http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/tv_and_radio/1204729.stm along with George V's first broadcast, a controversial report on the General Strike and other memorable radio moments.

It strikes me...

with Gog and Magog

Gog hears that a St Dunstaner has been collecting stardust. Raymond Rawcliffe has ingeniously re-cycled magnets from old loud speakers and television sets to extract particles from the rain. The collected dust is high in iron, hence the magnetic attraction. According to astronomers at Joderell Bank, Raymond has captured a four and a half thousand million year old residue from our Solar System's formation! Another side to Raymond's engineering expertise is on page 15.

Magog tunes into *In Touch* on Radio 4 to hear chef supreme St Dunstaner Steve Pendleton enter Delia Smith country. Steve offered a few tips on the best way for a blind person to boil an egg. So Steve, having cooked the egg, which end should be used to open it?

Gog hears of a lady CA at Ovingdean who had a good laugh when St Dunstan's Fishing Club were forced to abandon a trip due to inclement weather. It seems her own spin out with rod and line was similarly afflicted.

Magog is concerned about the price of a bottle of water. It seems that the same water the **Review's** Simon Rogers gets out his tap is being bottled by Coca-Cola in nearby Footscray. They are putting a 1600 per cent mark up on the water - a revenue stream or what?

Medical Services Training Chief visits St Dunstan's



Group Captain Lane with some of the medical students who have been learning new skills at St Dunstan's.

MEDICAL STAFF FROM all three Services made a fact-finding tour of St Dunstan's Ovingdean on February 18th. Group Captain Lane, Commandant of the Defence Medical Services Training Centre led a delegation from Aldershot.

During their visit they were introduced to St Dunstaners and staff who discussed nursing techniques, daily living skills, adaptive technologies and rehabilitation and mobility methods. St Dunstaner Arthur



Nigel Whiteley demonstrated daily living skills in the kitchen.

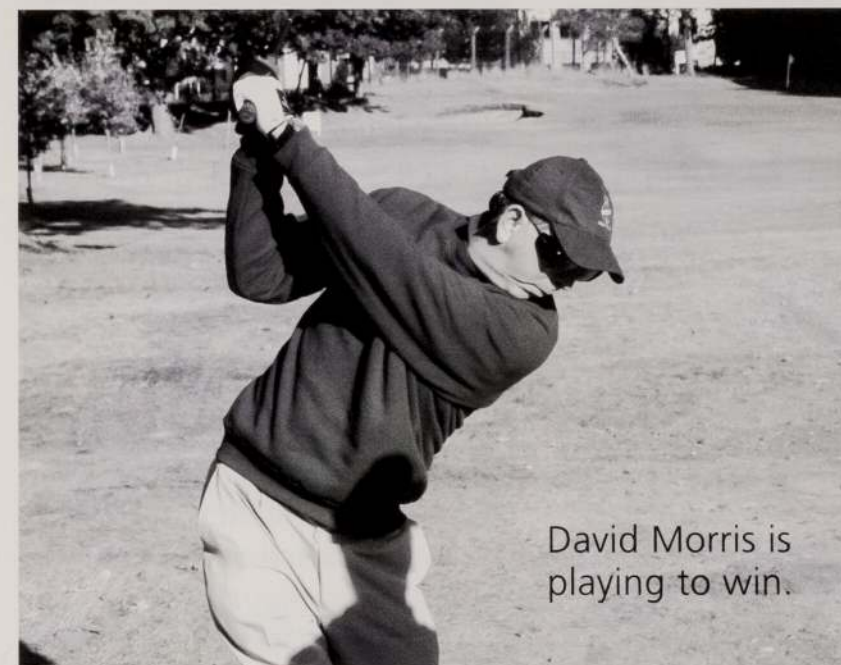
Lowe compared notes with the Group captain on the RAF 'then and now'.

Of particular interest to the DMST delegation were a quartet of nurses, the latest students from the Training Centre who have been honing their skills at St Dunstan's before returning to their units. Royal Army Medical Corps Nurses Barbara Kobson, Charlotte Rowan, Catherine Mandaza and Stella Frost discussed their experiences with the Group Captain.



Arthur Lowe chats with Group Captain Lane.

Tee for two down under



David Morris is playing to win.

IN A FEW SHORT weeks, two Cornwall St Dunstaners will be playing against the cream of the blind golf world in Australia. Reigning International Blind Golf Champion David Morris of Newquay will be joined by Mike Mayo of Saltash at the 2004 Championship being held at Rosebud Country Club on the Melbourne Peninsula in Australia.

Blind golfers from America, Australia and Canada will be among those playing against David and Mike on April 19th-21st. David has been training with Pro player Ian Marshall but flew out to Australia in March for final preparations. "I'm not defending my title," said David. "I'm going out to win it again. I want to be positive about this. Mike's the same. If we are in a positive frame of mind we stand a good chance of winning. My motto is don't lose, make them beat you! I feel very confident about this. If I can control the adrenalin on the day then it should go well." Mike echoes this sentiment, looking forward to a double win.

So will it come down to a play-off between our two St Dunstaners? Apparently not, David is playing in the B1 category, while Mike is in the B3 category. If they are both successful, there will be two St Dunstaner IBGA World Champions returning to the UK.

Ten questions on...

Clothing and Fashion

Harry Beevers dresses up for the occasion

- 1) Which type of headwear associated with former comedian Tommy Cooper takes its name from a city in Morocco?
- 2) Which type of headwear shares its name with that of a 1935 Fred Astaire film?
- 3) ...And which other form of headwear is also the title of a novel by George du Maurier featuring hypnotist Svengali?
- 4) Which items of clothing were exempt from Purchase Tax in the 1960's because they were regarded as childrens wear?
- 5) The former world heavyweight boxing champion in the days of bare-knuckle fighting, John L. Sullivan gave his name to which item of underwear?
- 6) What did actor Clark Gable *not* wear in the 1934 Oscar-winning film *It Happened One Night* thus causing a slump in their sales in the USA?
- 7) What was the name of the one-piece garment popularised by Winston Churchill in World War II?
- 8) In a 1966 top-ten hit song by the Kinks whose clothes were "loud, but never square"?
- 9) Which garments consisting of trousers with a bib attached take their name from a Hindi word for an area of Bombay?
- 10) Of which item of wear was fashion designer Yves St Laurent speaking when he said, "I wish I had invented them, the most spectacular, the most practical, the most relaxed and nonchalant: they have expression, modesty, sex appeal, simplicity, all I hope for in my clothes."?

Answers on page 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to The Editor are always welcome. Write to The Editor, St Dunstan's Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. E-mail ray.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk.

New Year's Resolution keeps us out of mischief!

Betty and myself made a New Year's Resolution that we would 'do something'! So consequently, we attend classes at local schools and the University, as well as the local keep-fit club and also play long-green bowling. We were elected and now serve as Parish Councillors. We are wondering what else we can indulge in. It keeps one out of mischief, dunnit!

**Dennis W. Busby,
Wilerby, East Yorkshire**

I shall miss this partnership

It is with much satisfaction and surprise that at last I have reached the age of 65 when I no longer have to get up in all weathers but can suit myself as to when, how, or even if I wish to do something (with the wife's permission of course). Having said this, it is with a touch of sadness that I realise I shall also miss the repartee and close working partnership I have had with my immediate work colleagues and St Dunstaners. I should also like to take this opportunity to thank my two supervisors, Velda, Sandra and the housekeeping team for all their hard work and cooperation they have given me

while I have been their Head of department. Working at St Dunstan's has been a very rewarding experience for me. St Dunstaners have never ceased to amaze me with their fortitude, cheerful nature and outstanding achievements. Even when you think there are no more realistic goals that can be achieved they always come up with another surprise! So it is with my utmost admiration and best wishes for the future, that I say long may you go on, so that others may continue to benefit from the excellent service the staff and organisation provides.

John Tarrant (Blakey)

Surprise as little boat came back from Dunkirk

I am writing this with the aid of recently acquired Aladdin Classic CCTV – truly amazing!

I walked into Fulwood Barracks, Preston in November 1939 for square-bashing. In March 1940, we marched out, full pack, to the rail station. The station is the other side of town but, kindly, they didn't make us carry our kit bags. They took them in a truck. Early in April, the regiment was split, I was HQ, the advance party were on their way to Norway, though

they returned a few weeks later. The rest had gone to France to be caught up in Dunkirk.

Our RSM, a chap called Gander, had been promoted to OC. I was one of the fortunate ones who never left these shores but we had the task of wading into the sea and giving a helping hand to those coming ashore from those great little boats and ships. Can you imagine my surprise when I held out a hand to none other than Gander. Yes, RSM Gander, out of all those

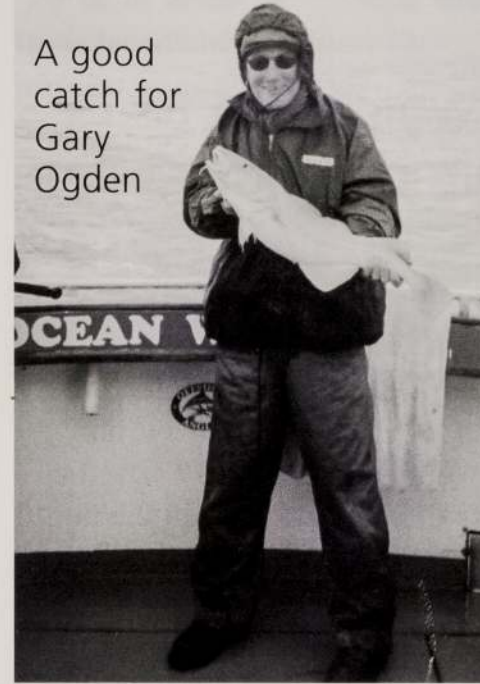
people! I did not know whether to salute him or offer my hand. We both enjoyed that moment. I have often wondered what became of him for, in my opinion, he would have made a far better OC than many I served later.

October 1940, we set sail from Liverpool for the Middle East through the Irish Sea. Talk about sea sick! Well, would you not have been, had you been given kipper to eat.

**James Robinson,
Preston**

So what is that in the freezer, lads?

A good catch for Gary Ogden



Britain's most popular sport, fishing can easily flounder on fickle fate, but there are days when the catch is well worth the effort of setting sail.

St Dunstan's Fishing Club had one of those days in February. The first couple of days were spent pulling whiting and dog fish from the deep.

The Club's time at sea was marred by having to dodge trawlers who seemed

unwilling to turn away when heading straight for our St Dunstaners' boat.

On the third day, they headed down towards Bexhill to fish off World War II submarine wrecks. The cod and pollock kept biting on that occasion. Phil Dobson caught a 15lb cod, while St Dunstan's staff member Stan Bowers pulled in a ten-pounder. About 20 fish totalling over a hundred weight were caught that day.

Not so much of a warm up after all

RUNNING THE Hastings Half Marathon on March 14th seemed like a good way of warming up for the London Marathon to St Dunstaner Iain Millard. However, the 13-mile run notorious for its uphill route coincided with gale force winds, rain and a corresponding drop in temperature. Iain's regular

guide was forced to pull out of the event at the last minute, so he asked a former member of St Dunstan's staff to fill in. Lynda Stringer is no stranger to long distance running, but had not been able to train lately.

Despite the weather, good progress was made over the hills. However, turning onto



the seafront, the duo were running into headwind. At this point the rain felt like needles as it hit their faces. Iain reached the finish in 2hrs 47 minutes with Lynda following ten minutes behind.

Many thanks to Lynda's husband John who chauffeured them to Hastings and met them at the finish with warm jackets and much needed cups of tea!

The London Marathon is being held on April 18th.

Well done Pila

St Dunstan's Chief Executive Robert Leader recently presented Institute of Leadership and Management certificates to members of staff at Ovingdean. Amongst them was RGN Pila Nesi, whose nursing skills are in high demand on Nursing Floor Two. Pila passed a course in Team Leadership skills.



Making Pictures Talk

Ray Hazan road-tests some new devices which aim to make television accessible to visually impaired people

AUDIO DESCRIPTION (AD) has been around for several years. AD consists of an additional sound track added to a film, video or television programme, mostly when there is no other dialogue going on. A narrator will describe either actions, facial expressions, or identify people thereby helping a visually impaired person to follow the events.

For some while, the RNIB has been marketing audio described videos for sale or loan. This facility has similarly been available to a limited degree on television, but up until the end of last year, there was no commercially available means of receiving the audio description stream. There are now two such devices have been released on the market.

It is important to point out that there is currently only around ten hours of viewing per week, shared amongst ten channels, that is audio described. This consists mainly of soaps and the occasional film.

Before considering the purchase of a receiver, you should check that a digital TV signal can be received in your area. If you buy the I-Player set-top box from Netgem, then they can tell you over the phone, by your postcode, whether you are in a reception area. Your existing television aerial should be sufficient, though if you use a "coat-hanger" wire aerial common to portable sets, it is possible that reception will be restricted.

The I-Player AD from Netgem costs £125, including post and packing. It should arrive with the installation instructions on CD and in large print, provided you make it clear you are a visually impaired user.

The set-top box measures some 14 x 8 x 3 inches and is supplied with a remote control, aerial lead, scart connection lead, power and telephone cables. The unit, like a video recorder, is linked between the aerial lead from outside and the television set. The box is also connected to the television with the scart cable. The telephone cable, which is some 15 feet long, is only plugged in if you want to upgrade the software within the unit or you want a spoken description of the programmes using AD. The remote unfortunately does not have 'talking' keys, but they are well laid out and of differing shapes to aid identification.

Basically, the unit receives the 'Freeview' channels, which encompass some 30 channels

including radio, BBC and independent TV channels. These are identified in a clear female voice as you switch around the channels using the remote control. When the audio description kicks in, the background sound track is suppressed, which is very helpful for those who are hard of hearing. You can adjust the volume balance between the sound and audio description. You can turn the AD on and off.

Although a blind person could install the unit, sighted assistance is preferable. You will hear the unit say 'please wait' and 'press next', but it will not read out what is on the screen. The on screen instructions are preparing you for the tuning-in sequence. This is an automatic process and each channel will be announced as it is tuned in. At some stage, you will be asked via the screen (hence the need for sighted help) to connect to the telephone line. This enables the I-Player to upgrade its software. You will hear the unit dial in but the remainder is screen-based and therefore is inaccessible without sight. It is important to connect into the telephone line once a month to see if there are any upgrades, which should improve the unit's efficiency. You do not

need to have the telephone cable permanently plugged in.

In order to check which TV programmes are audio described, you need either to receive the *Radio Times* on CD, which is currently being piloted by the RNIB, or there are web sites, or you can dial 900 on the remote when the I-Player is connected to the telephone line. This will download a spoken description of how to upgrade the system, or listen to spoken listings of audio described programmes. You may connect the set-top box via broadband, if you have it, or via your own provider taking advantage of any special charge rate you might have.

Nebula Electronics sell either a PCI or USB2.0 DigiTV cards at £130. These either fit or connect into your PC and a timer allows you to record TV programmes onto your hard drive for later viewing.

There is no doubt that AD can make a big difference to a visually impaired viewer. Although legislation sets a target for 10 per cent of programmes to be audio described, progress is slow and pressure needs to be maintained, which viewers can do by writing to their local MP's. However, the journey has begun and the road ahead looks exciting!

Contact telephone numbers:
Netgem 0800 0153090
(www.netgem.com)
Nebula Electronics 01689
885009 (www.nebula-electronics.com)

The Sky's the Limit

Raymond Rawcliffe during his high flying days.



BACK IN THE Thirties and Forties, magazines such as *Popular Mechanics* used to predict a congestion free world where commuters flew to work in personal flying machines. That has yet to become reality, but for one St Dunstaner with a passion for engineering, it came very close.

Like many youngsters, Raymond Rawcliffe of Blackburn, Lancashire built things with Mecanno and maintained miniature steam engines driven by methylated spirits. After school, he became an engineer, making his own power tools.

In 1960, he committed £35 for a set of plans he saw advertised in *Popular Mechanics*. The advert, placed by one Igor Bensen offered schematics for an autogiro. "You could do pretty much

what you wanted underneath, but the rotorblade had to be exact," said Raymond who served with the Royal Air Force in Singapore.

It took several years for Raymond to carefully construct his own autogiro, but his dedication paid off. Standing 6ft high, with the rotor blades covering a 20ft diameter, the autogiro carried Raymond into the sky for the first time in 1966. "We used to go to the beach at Southport. My wife used to tow me up in increments of five miles an hour. It took off at 30mph and landed at about 15 to 20mph."

In the Eighties, he built a microlite, combining a delta-shaped glider wing with a light engine. Both aircraft are still flightworthy and an air museum in Manchester has expressed an interest in acquiring Raymond's autogiro.

PENDLETON'S PANTRY

Blind chef **Stephen Pendleton** cooks up an easy dinner!

Toad-in-the-hole! Quick, Easy and British! This recipe will serve six portions.

Ingredients:

4oz (100g) plain flour.

2 eggs.

1/2 pint of milk.

Six sausages (I use pork and beef, but essentially the choice is up to you).

One tablespoon of olive oil.

1/2 teaspoon of mixed herbs.

Salt and pepper to taste.

Method:

Make the batter first, preferably the night before.

Using a medium sized mixing bowl, add the flour. You can use reasonable approximations for this – 4oz of flour is roughly two heaped tablespoons.

Break the eggs into a cup. Your hands are wonderful tools. Using your finger, check the eggs to make sure that there are no shell fragments in the cup. Add this to the flour.

Using a tactile measuring jug, measure out half-a-pint of skimmed milk. There are also a set of four measuring cups which are available from the RNIB. The largest in the set is a quarter of a pint, so obviously use two of these. Depending on how much sight you have, you can use a milk

bottle which has been marked with dark coloured tape. The marks can be placed at regular intervals, such as 1/4 pint, 1/2 pint and 3/4 of a pint.

QUICK TIP:

Purchase a hand held electric whisk. This tool is worth its weight in gold. The beauty of this machine is that it is small, light, and you can feel if it has stopped completely by the vibration in your hand. Using this tool saves you a lot of time by avoiding dismantling and reassembling the free standing bigger types of food processors. These types can also prove problematic. For example, when trying to line up the bowl with the motor.

Starting the whisk on a slow speed (this is to avoid splashes) mix together the milk, eggs and flour. It is a good idea to have a damp tea towel under your mixing bowl. This will stop the bowl from moving around on the work surface. Also it will help to catch any food debris that might fall out of the bowl. Whisk for a couple of minutes until the batter is the consistency of unwhipped double cream. Use your finger to make sure there are no lumps in the mixture. I cannot over emphasise the importance of good food hygiene skills,

for example making sure you wash your hands on a regular basis, especially when you are using your hands to check the food. If you do not fancy putting your fingers into the batter, you can check the consistency by inserting a wooden spoon into the mixture and running your finger over the back of the spoon. This will also give you an idea of the texture of the batter.

When the batter has been whisked and it is nice and smooth, cover it with cling film and place it in your fridge over night. To get a nice light and crispy batter it is always best to make it the night before.

Pre-heat your oven to 220C or gas mark 7. For this recipe I use a 12 inch by 6 inch Pyrex casserole dish. When the oven is good and hot, generously cover the inside of the dish, with the olive oil, then place the sausages in the dish and using your fingers cover them with the oil. Sprinkle the sausages with the herbs and then place them in the oven for 10 to 15 minutes depending on the size and quality of the sausages, then leave them to brown. When the sausages have browned (you will be able to tell this by inserting a sharp knife into them) you will be able to feel a slightly dry

crispy texture on the outside of the sausages. Once brown remove them from the oven.

Pour on the batter. It is important that the oil is sizzling when you pour on the batter “The hotter the dish the better.” Put the dish back in the oven and leave to cook for 35 minutes, making sure you do not open

the oven door. The batter will flop if you are continuously opening the door to check on the progress of the dish.

Remove from the oven and serve with onion gravy and vegetables of your choice.

Next Month:

Mixed Fruit Crumble.

David Youngson on the Music Week

Talking notes!

THE MUSIC WEEK at St Dunstan's Ovingdean at the end of February brought together old friends and some new faces and was thoroughly enjoyed by all despite there being a virus around.

With the accompaniment of some nice red wine Lyn Mullins set out what was in store.

We began with an open discussion about music today. It was clear that many had not bridged the gap of years to understand the tonal expressions now being presented. However, we all adjourned to the Bar where the discussions continued.

There were three outings which offered a variety of music and traditions. The magnificent Georgian Theatre Royal was the venue for a modern day production of *Carousel* performed by young people who clearly enjoyed themselves on stage. A visit to the Congress Hall of the

Salvation Army enabled us to enjoy an evening with the National Symphonic Wind Band with acts of worship thrown in for good measure. The regular lunch time recital at the Chapel Royal was given by an excellent Bassoon player with piano accompaniment. Both musicians presented a variety of music spanning two hundred years.

In house, we experienced the problems and delights of hand bell ringing, an evening with Shirley Jaffee with her gramophone and 78's, and a live recital on Sunday evening in the Lounge. An enjoyable music quiz was once more won by the Four Quartets (can they ever lose?) and a selection of classical music, played on CD in the Winter Garden, once more provoked interesting comments.

A good time was had by all and thanks to Lyn Mullins and other staff members who made the week very worthwhile.

BALANCING THE BOOKS

Ted Bunting on a chilling Talking Book

In Cold Blood

Author: Truman Capote.

Reader: Marvin Kane

Duration: 13 hours 30 minutes.

Catalogue Number: TB334

Normally, categorising a book is a simple matter. You can say, 'it's a history', 'it's a detective story', 'it's a textbook', and so forth! But it can't be done so easily with this one because *In Cold Blood* attempts to be all of these and more simultaneously. To what extent it succeeds is debatable... It reports the brutal murder of a family of four and relates the history of the small American community in which it actually happened. It identifies the killers and gives their life stories. It describes their time on the run, the steps that led to their arrest and at the time of the trial it almost takes on the role of a textbook on psychology.

Furthermore, when they reach the State Penitentiary the book branches out to incorporate the stories of their neighbours on Death Row. It would be easy to criticise this as 'going off at a tangent' but these side-tracks have the merit of being interesting in their own right and illustrate the sorry fact that multiple murders are quite common everywhere. All in all this is a book that genuinely rewards its reader. It doesn't give one much confidence in the American legal system though.

Ray Hazan Logs on to the Computer Club, March 3rd-4th

Harry and Mark are great for Englebart hyperthink

IF YOU EVER have the choice of who you would like in your quiz team, then choose Harry Beevers (**ST DUNSTAN'S Review's** quiz compositor) for general knowledge and Mark Threadgold for the computer quiz! But explanations anon.

The stalwarts, plus newcomer Lin Stevens spent two days, nearly literally, in the Winter Garden for the Computer Club gathering.

As always, Brad Crawshaw gave us an excellent questions and answers session and we have yet to devise a query, which he is unable to solve! The afternoon was spent clearing up or learning some of the more unused aspects of Windows XP. If some of this felt indigestible, the same could not be said for the buffet supper served later that evening, still in the Winter Garden. A most convivial group of St Dunstaners, wives, Brad and the 'ladies' from the IT department, nattered and nibbled for quite some while.

The ladies graced us once more with their presence on the Thursday morning, but this time accompanied with a quiz they had all prepared. It was both fun and enlightening as this sample question illustrates:

Who invented the mouse (a device for controlling the computer)? A) Englebert Humperdink; B) Adam Englebart; C) Englebert Humphries or D) Doug Englebart?

It was a radical change to our lives to learn the answer (which follows soon)! With the two above mentioned St Dunstaners split between the teams, only one mark separated us in the end.

The meeting concluded with a return visit from Iki of CVIP Ltd. He demonstrated the Book Courier, a detailed description of which follows this article and the Dymo label printer. This is a small printer, which holds a roll of some 200 adhesive labels. The unit plugs into the USB port and can print directly from Word. The price, for the basic model, is £95.

No one leaves these gatherings without having picked up some gem, large or small nor whatever the experience or inexperience. Our grateful thanks to all who contributed and attended. By the way, the answer to the question was D) Doug Englebart.

The next meeting will be held on October 6th-7th.

The Book Courier



This is a small portable talking book device and combined MP3 player with many useful features. The unit, (pictured left) measures some 4x2x1.5 inches and is powered by two AA batteries. A keystroke will tell you the battery percentage remaining. On the face of the unit are 12 keys with different shaped tops for identification. There are a further three keys below the 12.

Files with a .txt, or .mp3 extension are downloaded via a USB cable from your PC. Storage is on a CompactFlash card (information is not lost if batteries fail), which can come in size from 128MB to 1GB in capacity. Since an average book may use some 150 to 300k, a very large amount can be stored!

The text file is 'read' by the built-in Double Talk speech synthesiser via headphones or amplified speaker. Music MP3 files sound excellent. The voice, speed, volume, pitch, punctuation level, etc can be adjusted. Other keys navigate through the text by page, paragraph, sentence or word and can spell words individually. A clock/calendar, help file and bookmarks are additionally available. Future upgrades may include the ability to read books in Daisy format, making this a very comprehensive unit.

If you are an avid reader and don't mind being read to by a synthesised voice, then this is a must for those train, plane and car journeys.

The Book Courier costs £250 including carriage and is available from:

Steve Nutt, Computer Room Services, 77 Exeter Close, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 4PW (E-mail Steve@comproom.co.uk, tel: 01438 742286);

Iki, CVIP Ltd, 30 St Thomas Drive, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4SS (E-mail iki@cvip.co.uk, tel: 020 8420 1388);

or Techno-Vision Systems Ltd, 76, Bunting Road Industrial Estate, Northampton NN2 6EE (E-mail sales@techno-vision.co.uk, tel: 01604 792777).

TEN ANSWERS from page 11

1) Fez; 2) Top Hat; 3) Trilby; 4) Mini-skirts, those less than 24 inches in length; 5) Long Johns; 6) Vest; 7) Siren suit; 8) "A dedicated follower of fashion." 9) Dungarees; 10) Jeans.

Welcome to ST DUNSTAN'S

Lieutenant Colonel Alan Beaumont of Wokingham, Berkshire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1950 to 1979. He served in the UK, Germany, Malaya and Borneo.

John Bennett of March, Cambridgeshire served in the Rifle Brigade, North Lancashire Regiment, Reconnaissance Corps and Royal Armoured Corps from 1939 to 1946. Posted to Malaya, he was captured in 1942 and was initially held as a FEPOW at Changi Gaol.

Leslie Blake of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Marines from 1938 to 1952. He survived the sinking of HMS *Prince of Wales* and was held as a Far East Prisoner of War for three years.

Rosemary Bole of Kingsbridge, Devon served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1946.

Robert Chandler of Peacehaven, East Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1944, leaving as a Sub-Lieutenant. He served in the North Sea and English Channel.

Patrick Chubb of Stourbridge, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve from 1946 to 1948. He served in Palestine, Egypt and the UK.

Jean Curnow of Aberlady, East Lothian served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Frederick Doyle of Wotton, Norfolk served in the Royal

Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

Constantine Fettel of Tongham, Surrey served in the Yugoslav Guards under British Command from 1942 to 1948, leaving as a Corporal. He served in the Middle East.

Roy Foulsham of Kingswood, Surrey served in the Royal Engineers from 1956 to 1957 leaving as a Lieutenant.

Thomas Hall of Edwalton, Nottingham served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1977 leaving as a Wing Commander. He served in the UK, Ceylon, Singapore, and Europe.

William Higgins of Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1945 leaving as a Flight Lieutenant.

Philip Hill of Stafford, Staffordshire served in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry from 1957 to 1959. He served in the UK, Kenya and Aden.

Jean Hiscock of Selsey, Chichester, West Sussex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1945 to 1949 leaving as a Sergeant. She served in the UK and Malaya.

Ernest Lamb of Deal, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1936 to 1967 leaving as a Chief Petty Officer Mechanic. He served in Burma, Thailand, Africa, Greece, Italy, and Malta.

Major John Lauder served in the Royal Corps of Signals from 1939 to 1946. He served in Burma and India.

Bertram Nicholls of Downham Market, Norfolk served in the Royal Artillery from 1953 to 1955. He served in Korea and the UK.

Alexander Panton of Rubery, Birmingham served in the Royal Horse Artillery from 1946 to 1948. He served in Palestine and Egypt.

Albert Richardson of Spennymoor, County Durham in the Royal Armoured Corps, 51st Tank Regiment from 1942 to 1947, leaving as a Sergeant. He served in North Africa, Italy, Austria and UK.

David Schofield of Ilkeston, Derbyshire served in the Black Watch from 1946 to 1948 before being transferred to the Army Air Corps where

he served until 1957. He re-enlisted with the Army Air Corps in 1963 and served until 1969. He served in the UK, Bahrain and Egypt.

John Simpkin of Lytham St Annes, Lancashire served in the South Lancashire Regiment from 1949 to 1950.

Gordon Waitson of Ormskirk, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946, leaving as a Sergeant. He served in Canada.

Edith Worrall of Stourbridge, West Midlands served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946 and thereafter on reserve until 1954.

Walter Barton of Heathfield, East Sussex served in the Royal Signals from 1933 to 1936 and then the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry until 1937. He joined the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps in 1940 but was released to the TA Reserve for employment in the Fire Service. In 1942, he rejoined the colours from TA Reserve into the Army Fire Fighting Company (Pioneer Corps) until he was released on reserve in 1946.

George Glynn of South Harrow, Middlesex served in the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1954 to 1956.

Elliot Hamilton of Cowes, Isle of Wight served in the Merchant Navy from 1942 to 1972 leaving as Senior Engineering Officer. He served

in various ports world wide including Australia and Canada.

Clifford Hanson of Selsey, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946 leaving as a Flight Lieutenant. He served in the UK and North Africa.

Nora Hillman of Newhaven, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1945 leaving as a Corporal. She served in the UK.

Jack Illingworth of Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry from 1944 to 1948. He served in the UK, Malta and Egypt.

Thomas Mitchell of Gloucester served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946, leaving as a Corporal. He served in the UK and Canada.

Reginald Nash of Middlesborough served in the Royal Navy Submarine Service from 1940 to 1945. He served in the North Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Iceland, Norway and Latvia.

Albert Norman of Goring-by-the-Sea, West Sussex served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1939 to 1946 leaving as a Staff Sergeant. He served in the UK, Iraq, Egypt and India.

Keith Seaward of Uplyme, Devon served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1945 leaving as a Warrant Officer. He served in the UK and Nigeria.

Kenneth Shute of Billingham, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1953 to 1955.

John Stearn of Kings Langley, Hampshire served in the North Staffordshire Regiment from 1940 to 1942, the Pioneer Corps and then the Royal Engineers from 1942 to 1946 leaving as a Corporal. He served in the UK, Iran and Palestine.

Robert Wade of Hepscoth, Morpeth served in the Royal Artillery from 1936 to 1946, leaving as a Lance Bombardier. He served in the UK, France, Holland and Germany.

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations of the birth of:

Benjamin James on February 9th. He is the grandson of Robert and Jo Simpson of Norwich, Norfolk.

Layla on February 25th. She is the granddaughter to *Bryan and Valmai Alexander* of Hounslow, Middlesex.

Adam on March 5th. He is the son of *Mark and Elizabeth Maddock* of Wallasey, Wirral.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Duncan and Kate MacIver of Studham, Bedfordshire on March 14th.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Alan and Margaret Jakeman of Bognor Regis, West Sussex on February 25th.

Eric and Joan Hale of Stourbridge, West Midlands on February 26th.

Maxwell and Joan Ash of Sidmouth, Devon on March 4th.

Joseph and Lilian Pecket of Gorton, Greater Manchester on March 14th.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Derek and Betty Hagger of Brighton on February 13th.

William and Brenda Hindley of Caerinion, Powys on March 18th.

Clifford and Phyllis Fisher of Ower, Romsey, Hampshire on March 20th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Arthur and Doris Thomson of Mill Hill, London who celebrated 61 years of marriage on February 21st.

Robert and Bertha Webb of Saltdean, Brighton who celebrated 66 years of marriage on February 26th.

Bob and Eileen Taylor of Leicester, Leicestershire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on March 6th.

Trevor and Joan Phillips of Paignton, Devon who celebrated 61 years of marriage on March 20th.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the passing of:

Fred Nixon on March 7th. He was the father of *Steve Nixon* of Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear.

Lottie McConaghy on March 14th. She was the wife of *Charlie McConaghy* of Belfast.

Susan Palmer of Throwleigh, near Okehampton, Devon on January 3rd. She was the widow of *John Palmer*.

Ivy Cox of Birmingham, West Midlands on February 15th. She was the widow of *John Cox*.

IN MEMORY

It is with deep regret that we have to record the deaths of the following St Dunstaners and we offer our heartfelt condolences to their widows, family and friends.

James Hobbs

Royal Navy

James Arthur Hobbs of Terriers, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire died on February 15th, aged 80. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942 and sailed on the *Queen Mary* to Boston to collect the first Landing Ship Tanks. He remained with the same LST throughout the war, taking part in landings in Sicily, Palermo, Syracuse, Solerno, and other Mediterranean operations. The ship then took part in the D-Day landings. After the war, he worked as a carpenter. Our sympathy goes to his widow Alice, their sons and daughters, and all of the family.

Robert Pearson

Royal Navy

Robert Ambrose Pearson of Barry Island, South Wales died on February 18th, aged 85. He served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946. Having completed his apprenticeship as a fitter in a ship repairing business, he joined the Merchant Navy and was in Australia when war was declared. He then returned to the UK and joined the Royal Navy, serving as an Engine Room Artificer in the North Atlantic, Red Sea and Indian Ocean. Involved in convoy duties on destroyers such as HMS *Revenge*, he was on HMS *Capetown* when it was torpedoed. In civilian life, he continued in ship repairs and also rejoined the Merchant Navy. Our sympathy goes to his widow Lilian and all of the family.

Percy Stower

The Loyal Regiment

Percy Sidney Stower of Cardiff, South Glamorgan died on February 19th, aged 88. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1994. Having trained as a printer, he enlisted with army in 1934 and was posted into The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire). He spent a year in Palestine

and Egypt before being sent to Shanghai where his Regiment formed part of the garrison in 1936. During these years he excelled as a marksman and enjoyed hockey, football and boxing. In 1938 he was sent to Singapore, where he was promoted to Corporal. Captured by the Japanese in 1942, he was held in Riverside Camp and periodically broke out at night to steal food for his section. Later, the privations and malnutrition he experienced would cause his loss of sight. Discharged in 1945, he joined the Corps of Commissionaires. Our sympathy goes to his widow Dylis and all other members of the family.

Arnold Wigley

Royal Navy

Arnold Wigley of Belper, Derbyshire died on February 21st, aged 81. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2000. He joined the Royal Navy in 1941, training on a merchant ship en route to South Africa. There, he joined HMS *Dragon* as a Stoker and spent three years on convoy duty in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Pacific. He later sailed on the *Queen Elizabeth* to the USA but returned to England to take part in the D-Day landings on a LST deploying tanks and ferrying wounded. After the war, he spent 30 years working in limestone quarries in Derbyshire before falling 80ft and injuring his spine. He later worked as a driver and a hospital cook. Our sympathy goes to his son Kenneth, daughters and all of the family.

Edward Finch, BEM

Essex Regiment

Edward William Finch, BEM of Thetford, Norfolk died on February 23rd, aged 89. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1989. He joined the Essex Regiment in 1940, serving in Africa and the Middle East before his discharge in 1945. In civilian life, he ran his own business until loss of sight forced his retirement. After that he was active organising events for the local Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Talking Newspaper and disabled bowls club. In 1991, he was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to blind people in Thetford. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mona and all other members of the family.

Harold Hale

Royal Navy

Harold Walter Hale of Brighton died on February 29th, aged 81. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940, serving in the UK, Middle East and Europe. He was involved with landing craft in Sicily and Italy, before being drafted back to the UK and taught mine disposal. After his discharge in 1945, he worked at Brighton General Hospital and at the Sussex County Hospital as a Ward Orderly. He also worked as a painter and in an Army Surplus store. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Elizabeth and all other members of the family.

Wilfred Barrett

Royal Marines

Wilfred Douglas Barrett of Blackpool, Lancashire died on March 1st aged 86. Originally a builder, he joined the Royal Marines in 1940. As a Corporal, he took part in the Dieppe raid, Sicily, Italy and served in Yugoslavia with Marshal Tito's men. Discharged in 1946, he returned to the building trade until he retired six years ago. He studied Italian and mathematics with the Open University. Our sympathy goes to his widow Ellen and all members of the family.

George Scott

Royal Air Force

George Scott of West Hampstead, London died on March 2nd. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 and was taken prisoner in Singapore. The privations he suffered during his years as a Far East Prisoner of War left an enduring mark on his health. Corporal Scott was discharged in 1946. In civilian life, he worked as a teacher but later joined Ford's Accounts department. Our sympathy goes to his cousin Margaret and all other members of the family.

Victor Hamling

Royal Navy

Victor George Richard Hamling of Herne Bay, Kent died on March 3rd, aged 84. He joined the Royal Navy in 1934. After training, he joined HMS *London* in Alexandria assisting refugees from the Spanish Civil War. Later he was sent to New Zealand on exchange duties. Having returned to the UK in 1938, he was serving on

HMS *Cumberland* in the Atlantic when war broke out. Soon after he was posted as Coxswain on Mortar Torpedo Boats. Twice Mentioned in Despatches, he was a Chief Petty Officer when he left the Service in 1947. He and his wife ran a pub in Woolwich for five years before joining his father in his butchery business. He later turned to woodworking and cabinet making. Our sympathy goes to his widow Betty and all other members of the family.

Daniel Watkins

56th Battalion, Field Regiment (SA)

Daniel Jacobus Watkins of Cambridge, New Zealand died on March 5th, aged 79. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1946. A lathe worker, he enlisted with the 56th Battalion, Field Regiment (SA) in 1944. Serving as a Gunner, he was wounded after picking up a box of explosives in Legnano, Italy in 1945. Apart from being blinded, he also suffered the loss of his right hand. While training at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, he met and married the daughter of St Dunstaner Christopher Brennan. He returned to South Africa to try poultry farming but moved back to the UK in 1948. Retraining as telephonist, he joined the Ministry of Agriculture, moving onto the Government Chemist and then Barclays Bank in Cannon Street. He and his wife moved to New Zealand in the early 1970s. His interests included Bridge. Our sympathy goes to his widow Anne, their sons Christopher and John, daughter Patricia and all members of the family.

Reginald Smith

Royal Air Force

Reginald Smith of Harrogate, West Yorkshire died on March 11th, aged 79. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1943 and qualified as an Air Gunner before being posted to India. Serving in Bombay and Karachi as a member of the new Air Trooping organisation, he helped to run the reception centre, looking after air crew and passengers from all three Services. Discharged in 1946, he worked as a decorator before joining the deep sea trawling fleet in Hull. He later returned to decorating, specialising in supporting exhibitions at Earls Court and Wembley. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doris and all other members of the family.

Ray Hazan joins the Radio Society as they open a channel that lets nation speak unto nation

A signal to the world

Tom Frankland adjusts the frequency.

ATTENDEES SLIPPED into a well-oiled routine for St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society meeting of March 5th-11th; warm 'hellos' followed by a committee meeting on the Friday evening and the AGM on Saturday morning. Members were brought up-to-date with the shack and aerials. Gratitude was expressed to all those who had assisted in any way, especially Freeman, Hardy and Willis (Brian Freeman, John Hoolihan and Eddie Wilson). The committee was re-elected, viz Bill Shea Chairman, Ted John Secretary Treasurer and members Ray Peart, Tom Frankland and Ray Hazan.

This was followed by an enjoyable lunch in the Winter Garden. The excellence of the

meal was surpassed only by the company! A newly affiliated member, Hugh Roberts from Barmouth, and widows Jane Taylor, Rose Shed with her daughter Pat joined 31 members, guests and helpers. It was a cheerful and bubbly atmosphere.

The radio station was then manned daily for the next five days with many contacts across the 'pond' thanks to an American contest where participants aim for as many contacts as possible within a specified time. Consequently, they are happy to respond to any calls.

On Tuesday, the Society visited the Newhaven Fort Museum, which is chaired by Eddie Wilson. Although not officially open until April 25th, Eddie and John showed members around

the amateur radio station, with several historic items and described the World War II memorabilia displayed in the remainder of the museum.

It was a busy week and thanks go to all those who spent the week proliferating the name of St Dunstan's abroad via the fraternity that is amateur radio.

Next meeting: October 8th-15th.



Radio men: Tom Frankland, Ted John and James McGoff.