

May 2004

[www.st-dunstans.org.uk](http://www.st-dunstans.org.uk)

# ST DUNSTAN'S Review



Photograph: Courtesy of the Imperial War Museum

**FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN**

ST DUNSTAN'S  
**Review** No 935  
**May 2004**

Cover story:

## The hard road to Rome

Five soldiers from the West Kent Regiment make themselves at home in a dugout amongst the ruins of Cassino. We examine the nature of the conflict in the "soft underbelly" of Europe on **page 14**.



## Eamonn bowls them over!

TV's Eamonn Holmes, pictured with Jackie Pryor, Bob Osborne, Frank Smith and Peter Hammond, dropped into Ovingdean. **Details on back page.**

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

Published by **ST DUNSTAN'S**  
 an independent future for blind  
 ex-Service men and women  
 Service Delivery Directorate  
 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.  
 Charity Reg. no 216227.

Printed by Maund & Irvine Limited

Tel: 020 7723 5021  
 Fax: 020 7262 6199  
 Editor: Ray Hazan  
 E-mail: ray.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk  
**PUBLISHED MONTHLY**

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

## Noticeboard

**Starting on Page 4:**  
 D-Day events, Heroes  
 Return, plus a mix of  
 dates, information,  
 advice and challenges!

## Minister for Veterans meets a generation like no other!

Ivor Caplin, MP meets  
 some very special people.  
**Story on page 18!**

## A run in the rain

Three St Dunstaners  
 pound the rain-soaked  
 streets of London.  
**Race over to page 21!**

## Braille books

The National Library for  
 the Blind holds the largest  
 collection of Braille and  
 Moon publications.  
**Information on page 9.**

## From the Chairman



AT THIS TIME 60 years ago, the Italian campaign was in full swing. We think of those St Dunstaners past and present, who served and lost their sight there.

You will find reference in this issue to the 'Heroes Return' scheme, which can provide grants to enable Veterans and their widows to visit places of wartime importance to them. I hope some of you may be able to participate.

On Tuesday March 30th, Major General Andrew Keeling, Member of Council, welcomed to Ovingdean, Ivor Caplin, MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Veterans. I am delighted to report that the Minister enjoyed his visit and I thank all those who spoke to him and who obviously made a good impression. It is so important that we keep the name of St Dunstan's in the minds of those who have influence within the field of veteran affairs.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

## ST DUNSTAN'S Calendar

Writers' Forum	May 1st
Celebrity Soccer Sunday	May 2nd
Gardening Week	May 3rd-10th
Exeter Reunion	May 5th
Handless Reunion	May 5th-11th
Outdoor Bowling	May 10th
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
D-Day Commemoration	June 2nd
Archery Club(II)	June 5th-12th
D-Day 60th Anniversary	June 6th
Chichester Reunion	June 9th
Outdoor Bowling	June 10th
Outdoor Bowling	June 14th
Fishing Club (IV)	June 14th-19th
Widows' Week(II)	June 14th-21st
Cardiff Reunion	June 15th
Outdoor Bowling	June 21st
Brighton Reunion (III)	June 23rd
Writers' Weekend	June 25th-27th
Bristol Reunion	June 30th
Writers' Forum	July 3rd
Outdoor Bowling	July 10th
Outdoor Bowling	July 16th
Ladies' Reunion	July 18th-25th
Royal Marines Band	July 21st
HMS Sultan	July 30th-Aug 7th
Outdoor Bowling	Aug 5th
Outdoor Bowling	Aug 16th
Activity Week	Aug 16th-20th
Archery Week (III)	Aug 28th-Sept 4th
Outdoor Bowling	Aug 31st
Kent Reunion	Sept 15th
Cornwall Reunion	Sept 22nd
Outdoor Bowling	Sept 23rd

# Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

## LIGHTING UP THE SOUTH COAST IN MEMORY OF D-DAY HEROES

ROCKET RALLY TO LAUNCH SALUTE TO NORMANDY VETERANS: In the spirit of a 21-gun salute, a 360-mile stretch of Britain's southern coast will be lit up by a series of rocket flares fired at 60 landmarks on the evening of June 2nd. The initial salvo will be followed by synchronised launch from all 60 points between Falmouth and Beacon Hill.

Each point along the route represents one of the years that have passed since the D-Day landings took place in 1944. It also unites the ports where Allied Forces massed before they set sail on their way to Normandy.

Any St Dunstaner who would like to represent the charity at a point local to them should contact Anna Robinson, Head of Public Awareness on 020 7616 7927. The Rocket Rally runs through the following locations:

### CORNWALL

Pendennis Point  
Zone Point, St Mawes  
Killgerran Head  
Nare Head  
Dodman Point  
Cadythew Rock  
Chapel Point  
Black Head  
Gribbin Head  
Pencarrow Head  
Hore Stone  
Rame Head

### DEVON

Wembury Point  
Hilsea Point  
Beacon Point  
Bolt Tail  
Steeple Cove  
Bolt Head  
Pawre Point  
Start Point  
Combe Point  
Outer Froward Point  
Scabbacombe Head  
Sharkham Point

### DEVON cont

Berry Head  
Straight Point Range  
Otterton Ledge  
Beer Head  
Humble Point  
East Ebb

### DORSET

West Bexington  
Small Mouth Car Park  
Redcliffe Point  
White Nothe  
Dungy Head  
Worbarrow Tout  
Clavells Hard  
St Albans Head  
Durlston Head (near Swanage)  
Peveril Point  
The Foreland  
Handfast Point  
Hengistbury Head

### HAMPSHIRE

Solent Way Hurst  
Stone Point  
Gilkicker Point (near Gosport, Hampshire)  
Castle (Southsea Common)  
Fort Cumberland  
Sinah Common  
Eastoke Point

### WEST SUSSEX

Selsey Bill Car Park  
Bognor Regis Pier  
Littleham, River Arun  
Kingstone Gorse  
Worthing Pier  
Shoreham-by-Sea Pier

### BRIGHTON

Palace Pier  
Brighton Marina  
Beacon Hill

## SORRY, NO CASHBACK

BUT CHEQUES CAN BE CASHED: Recently some St Dunstaners have asked the Cashier's office for cashback while settling bills at Ovingdean using credit or debit card.

Unfortunately, St Dunstan's status as a charity prevents the organisation from offering this service. However, if necessary, our cashier can cash cheques up to a value of £100.

## D-DAY COMMEMORATIONS AT ST DUNSTAN'S OIVINGDEAN

CHURCH SERVICES AND MUSIC FESTIVAL: St Dunstan's Ovingdean will be commemorating the 60th anniversary of D-Day with Services of Remembrance and a series of musical events in St Dunstan's Chapel and the Garden. Some items on the programme may be subject to an admission fee. Details may alter

### Friday June 4th

19:30-21:30pm, Evening Concert in the Chapel. St Paul's, West Street Choir and organ recital.

### Saturday June 5th

13:00-16:00pm, Lunchtime jazz concert.

19:30-21:30pm, Evening concert in the Chapel. Promusica in performance.

### Sunday June 6th

9:30am, Eucharist in the Chapel.  
11:30am, Service in the Inner Garden led by the Archdeacon, Canon Douglas McKittrick.  
14:30pm, Music in the Inner Garden.

## BRIGHTON OUTDOOR BOWLING

AWAY GAMES: Brighton Club Indoor Bowling steps outside this month for a series of away matches through to September. Any St Dunstaner visiting Ovingdean who wishes to play should contact Iain Millard on 01273 303451. Each match starts at 14:30.

Peacehaven	May 10th
The Drive	June 10th
East Preston	June 14th
Newhaven	June 21st
Guildford	July 10th
Hollingbury	July 16th
Marine Gardens	August 5th
Burgess Hill	August 16th
Seaford	August 31st
Saltdean	September 23rd

## NATIONAL CARE STANDARDS COMMISSION INSPECTION FEBRUARY 23RD 2004

UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION COMMENDS ST DUNSTAN'S OIVINGDEAN: Following the report in the March **Review** about the inspection of St Dunstan's, Ovingdean by the National Care Standards Commission we have since had another inspection. This happened on February 23rd and was unannounced.

The reason we were inspected again so early was because on the occasion in December there were five standards that the Inspectors did not look at. Of these five standards, one of them refers to a service that St Dunstan's Ovingdean does not offer and is therefore discounted.

The Inspectors also re-looked at the two areas where they had identified minor shortfalls. These were diet and availability of the Inspection Report. They have now given us a 4 for the Inspection Report and a 3 for diets. The other areas looked at had two scores of 4 and two of 3.

In summary, this means that St Dunstan's Ovingdean has now received a total of ten score 4's, which indicate that we exceed standards expected and this is commendable. Twenty-seven score 3's, indicating that the standard required is being met. Thus, St Dunstan's Ovingdean now meets all of the required standards of the National Care Standards Commission.

Anybody who requires further information or would like a copy of the full report should ring Jackie Greer, Head of Care on 01273 307811. December's report, plus the additional report from February 2004 are on St Dunstan's web site at [www.st-dunstans.org.uk](http://www.st-dunstans.org.uk) under Nursing and Residential Care.

**Jackie Greer, RGN,  
Head of Care**

**HELPING THE HEROES RETURN**

## FUNDING FOR VETERANS PILGRIMAGES:

Heroes Return is an initiative to enable Second World War veterans and widows to obtain funding to help them commemorate the 60th anniversary of the events that led to the end of that five year conflict.

The New Opportunities Fund will be making grants toward the costs of commemorative visits to the areas where British Armed Forces saw active service during the Second World War. A fixed sum may be available for each veteran and their spouse or carer and widows, which will contribute towards the cost of their visit. The level of funding will be dictated by destination and applications close on March 31st 2005.

The Fund is working with the Confederation of British Service and Ex-Service Organisations (COBSEO), of which St Dunstan's is a member, to help veterans organisations promote the scheme and verify the eligibility of applications for funding. They encourage veterans to take part in organised group visits.

UK residents who saw active service overseas with, or alongside, the British and allied Armed Forces in the Second World War can apply for a grant. Widows and widowers of veterans are also eligible in most cases, as are merchant service veterans. Conflicts, such as Suez, Malaya, Aden and Korea are not eligible for this programme.

Funding will be made available to veterans living in the Crown Dependencies but not those resident outside the UK. Equally, applications from veterans who supported actions overseas will be considered on their relevance.

For example, an RAF ground crew visiting the graves of an air crew they served with, will be considered eligible, whereas an army pay clerk based in the UK would not have the same clear link with veterans who served overseas.

As a first step, call the Veterans Agency free helpline on 0800 169 2277. They will provide detailed information on eligibility and advice on how to submit an application.

Should you require further advice please contact St Dunstan's Services Manager Ray Hazan at St Dunstan's HQ on 020 7723 5021.

**TOURS FOR VETERANS**

JOURNEY TO SIGNIFICANT SITES OF WWII: Remembrance Travel, part of the Royal British Legion, will be organising pilgrimages and battlefield tours under the auspices of the Heroes Return programme through this year and next.

The visit programme for 2004 includes trips to the following destinations:

The Somme	June 29th-July 2nd
Liberation of Caen	July 7th-10th
Normandy	Aug 3rd-6th
Arras area and	
Liberation of Amiens	Aug 30th-Sept 2nd
Liberation of Belgium	Sept 3rd-8th
Liberation of Brussels	Sept 3rd-8th
Ypres	Sept 6th-9th
Italy South	Sept 11th-18th
Arnhem (60th Anniversary)	Sept 16th-20th
Italy North	Sept 20th-27th
Egypt	Oct 21st-26th
(Alexandria & Alamein)	
Egypt	Oct 21st-29th
(Alex, Alamein & Halfaya Sollum)	
Sandakan & Borneo	Nov 3rd-13th
(via Singapore)	
Ypres	Nov 9th-12th

The programme for 2005 is more provisional and details may change in response to feedback from veterans who want to visit particular areas where they were deployed.

Remembrance Travel say that if numbers are sufficient they will consider arranging trips to

suit the requirements of specific groups of veterans. Currently the following trips are envisaged for 2005:

Burma	March 1st-14th
(Arakan Chindits & Rangoon)	
Denmark	March
FEPOW	March 15th-28th
Battle of the Reichswald Forest and Rhine	
Crossing	April
India (Calcutta, Delhi,	April 8th-15th
Bombay, Madras, Poona & Agra)	
Libya (Tobruk,	April 22nd-30th
Knightsbridge, Tripoli only, not Benghazi)	
Kohima & Imphal	April 3rd-15th
Berlin, Colditz & Poland	April
(POW Camps)	
Germany North	April
(Hamburg, Luneberg and Belsen)	
Liberation of Holland	May 3rd-7th
Tunisia	May 7th-14th
(inc Longstop Hill, Cap Bon Airfields)	
Germany North	May 3rd-8th
(Hamburg, Bremen, Luneberg)	
Italy South (incl Bari area)	May 14th-21st
Dunkirk	May
Greece & Crete	May 17th-23rd
Bavaria (POW Camps & Dachau)	May
Normandy (I)	June 4th-8th
Brittany	June 13th-19th
(St Nazaire, Lancastris, etc)	
Somme	June 29th-July 2nd
Normandy (II)	July
Sicily	July 7th-14th
Norway	July
Russian Convoys (Murmansk)	July
French Coast	Aug 4th-7th
(Dieppe, Le Havre, Rouen)	
Holland	Aug 19th-23rd
Gibraltar	Aug
Hong Kong, Taiwan & Japan	Sept 9th-16th
Thailand	Sept 9th-16th
Singapore	Sept 9th-16th
(Surrender & RAF FE Memorial)	
South Italy (Inc Sangro area)	Sept 11th-18th
North Italy	Sept 21st-28th

Belgium & Luxembourg	Sept
Central Italy	Oct 3rd-10th
Sri Lanka	Oct 19th-28th
Egypt	Oct 21st-26th
(Cairo to Salum, inc Alex and Alamein)	
Burma (Rangoon)	Nov 8th-15th
Malaysia	Nov 9th-16th
(HMS POW/Repulse, RN in FE)	
Malta	Nov
Labuan	Nov

For full details, contact Remembrance Travel on 01622 791939 or e-mail them at [heroesreturn@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:heroesreturn@britishlegion.org.uk).

**WINTER BOWLS TOURNAMENT**

BACK ON THE GREEN: St Dunstan's Bowling Club will be holding their next tournament from Thursday, October 28th to Thursday, November 11th. Any St Dunstaner who wishes to play or would like more information please ring Rita Pryor on 01273 582523 or Joan Osborne on 01273 302115.

**DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 2004**

LAST CHANCE FOR A FLUTTER: The closing date for the Derby Sweepstake is June 1st. 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. 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.

Full rules and details of Prize distribution appeared in the March issue of the **Review**.

## CINEMA AUDIO DESCRIPTION REACHES MORE EARS

THE SILVER SCREEN CAN BE THE SILVER SCREAM: A growing number of cinemas are introducing audio description for blind or visually impaired patrons. This year, around 100 UK cinemas will be equipped with facilities to screen almost every popular film, with subtitles and audio description.

Recent hit movies such as *Scooby Doo Too*, *Gothika*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *Starsky & Hutch*, *The Missing*, *Along Came Polly*, *Haunted Mansion*, *Scary Movie 3*, *The Last Samurai*, *Love Actually*, *Finding Nemo*, all three *Lord of the Rings* films, *Calendar Girls* have been shown with audio description.

The audio description system installed in cinemas does not interfere with "normal" shows, (it's broadcast through headphones), so every show can be an audio described show.

In a multiplex cinema, the audio description system is usually installed in one auditorium only, (although some cinemas have a portable version). So every time an accessible film is screened in that auditorium, it should also broadcast audio description. But it is advisable that you check that this is the case with the cinema you intend to visit, as not all cinemas follow the same procedures.

Details of cinemas in your area that have audio description, along with screening times and information on films being shown that week can be found online at [www.yourlocalcinema.com/ad.html](http://www.yourlocalcinema.com/ad.html). They can also be called on 0845 056 9824 (local rate, manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week) or e-mailed at [ad@yourlocalcinema.com](mailto:ad@yourlocalcinema.com).

Listenings are split into London, England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland with addresses and telephone numbers for participating cinemas.

## CRAZY DESCRIPTIONS

GERSHWIN HIT GETS AUDIO DESCRIPTION: Bromley's Churchill Theatre will have an audio described performance of Gershwin musical *Crazy for You* on July 10th. Ticket prices range from £18.50 to £26. People with disabilities and their companion receive £5 off the ticket price of most performances and there are 2-for-1 options for wheelchair users. For full details, call 0870 060 6620.

## BLIND ATHLETICS CHALLENGE

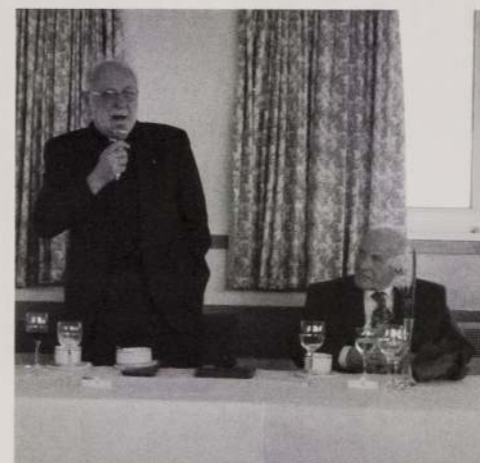
RUN FOR THE CUP: The Metro Games Athletics Championships 2004 will take place at Walthamstow Track & Pool, London E17 on Saturday June 26th (11.30am-5.30pm). There will be events for visually impaired athletes of all age groups, male and female. Those with additional disabilities are also welcome.

The Metro Games is organised jointly by the Metropolitan Sports & Social Club for the Visually Impaired and the London Sports Forum for the Disabled. Accommodation is available and there will be a buffet and disco. Details and entry forms are available from Alan Whetherly, London Sports Forum on 020 7354 8666, via e-mail at [Alan@londonsportsforum.org.uk](mailto:Alan@londonsportsforum.org.uk) or by writing to him at London Sports Forum for Disabled People, Ground Floor, Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, London N1 3QP.

## ST DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

COMMENTS WELCOME: As ever, we welcome your comments, suggestions and contributions for **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**. Any letters should be addressed to The Editor, St Dunstan's Review, St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

## Lasting brotherhood in Brighton



Rev David Youngson and Ron Freer address the Masons meeting.

ST DUNSTAN'S MASONIC Group entertained members of The Temple Lodge and other Masonic Groups at Ovingdean on March 28th. During the meeting, it was announced that Ron Freer had been indentured as chaplain of his lodge. For about 15 years now, Temple Lodge have been receiving St Dunstaner Masons at Brighton's Sussex Masonic Centre. "It is always a pleasure to see old friends like Ron Freer and Billy Miller," said

Temple Lodge's Michael Hoskins. "However our records show that the connection between Sussex Masonry and St Dunstan's has existed for much longer. On May 3rd, 1933 Brighton Masonic Lodges entertained '149 of the boys and their lady friends' by putting on a concert party. The Honorary Secretary of that Committee was H. Gainsford Heise who was at that time the Worshipful Master of The Temple Lodge."

## Introducing you to the National Library for the Blind

by Helen Brazier,  
NLB Chief Executive

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY for the Blind (NLB) houses Europe's largest collection of Braille and Moon books and provides a free postal library service to blind and partially sighted people worldwide. From classics and popular fiction to poetry and non-fiction, there is something to suit all tastes and ages. The extensive collection includes 350,000 Braille and Moon volumes including practice materials for people who are learning Braille. NLB also houses the largest collection of Braille music outside the USA with 13,500 scores. The friendly staff help people to choose their reading and answer reference and other enquiries by letter, phone and e-mail.

We also offer a range of innovative library and information services through our website at [www.nlb-online.org](http://www.nlb-online.org). This includes access to the catalogue, a facility to search for and order books, news and discussion boards. The website also provides access to electronic books and high quality online reference resources including encyclopaedias, dictionaries and journals. The site is an

important gateway to a wealth of information about visual impairment and links to a wide range of websites which are proven to be accessible to blind and partially sighted people.

As well as having a large number of members around the world, NLB works closely with libraries overseas to support visually impaired people worldwide. We collaborate with the Canadian Institute for the Blind (CNIB) to share Braille files and encourage interlibrary loans, and we are in the process of developing similar relationships with libraries for the blind in Africa, USA, Australia and Ireland. This all helps us to achieve our aim of ensuring that visually impaired people the world over have access to the same library and information services as sighted people.

National Library for the Blind, Far Cromwell Road, Bredbury, Stockport SK6 2SG.  
Telephone: 0161 355 2000  
Fax: 0161 355 2098  
E-mail: [enquiries@nlbuk.org](mailto:enquiries@nlbuk.org)  
Website: [www.nlb-online.org](http://www.nlb-online.org)

## It strikes me...

with Gog and Magog

Gog chances upon the latest issue of *Sussex Life*, wherein author Peter James nominates St Dunstan's Ovingdean as his favourite building. "It is not merely a stunning Art Deco building, I am touched every time I pass it, by all it stands for; as a home for brave servicemen and women, old and young, who lost their sight serving their country. And there is something very moving about giving a home for the blind with one of the most spectacular views in all of Britain," says the writer who has been press-ganged into judging the entries to the **Review's** story contest. We expect his verdict on the collected submissions soon.

Magog is awash with the fickle flow of fate. Barely had the April **Review** gone to press when Coke's bottled tap water Dasani was withdrawn from shops because it contained hazardous levels of bromate. Anyone in the Footscray area will be pleased to hear that this was a side effect of the "purification" process rather than something already in the tap water. It seems that in adding bromide, (which will no doubt stir up memories, if nothing else, for anyone familiar with an Army tea bag) a further chemical reaction occurred creating the unwanted additive in quantities deemed hazardous in the UK (but not elsewhere in the EU).

## IT'S A DOG'S LIFE!



Bertie is suddenly shy, while Lucy sits with Alan.

**T**HERE WERE three veterans at the world's biggest dog show in March. St Dunstaner Alan Gibson of Luton, Bedfordshire joined his partner Barbara Goodyer at Crufts where two of their Bearded Collies were showing in the Veterans Class.

A busy week of grooming, bathing and exercise preceeded a 3:30am start to travel up to the NEC Birmingham where Crufts was held this year. The couple joined the event on the Saturday, one of the busy days which attract TV stars and pedigree hunters.

Barbara has been showing dogs since 1975 and having joined up with former Gunner Alan, the couple have bred several champions, winning English and Irish championships. This year, they took Bearded Collies Lucy and Bertie out to show in the ring.

Bertie has previously won "Best Puppy" at Crufts. That was in 1996, but this year he and Lucy didn't fare so well, despite being initially well received by the judges.



### Football crazy!

Southern FM DJs Danny Pike and Jack the Lad kicked off preparations for May 2nd's Celebrity Soccer Match with players from the RAF and Brighton & Hove FC.

## ARCHERS SHOOT AT SENIOR CONTESTS

**T**WO ST DUNSTANERS shot in the Grand National Archery Society's Senior Indoor National Championships on March 20th, writes **Clive Jones**.

This is predominantly a sighted competition, but for the second year running both David Poyner and Clive Jones participated, in a tournament of over 500 archers.

Both Dave and Clive shot well! Dave broke the British National Record and Clive shot a personal best by a good few points. For their hard work and commitment promoting visually impaired archery, both David and Clive were presented with fleeces and made honorary members of Clickers Archery Team, Norwich.

The competition was a great success and both Dave and Clive would like to thank David and Sue Hapgood, for their time in coaching and spotting at the tournament. Also thanks go to both Clickers Archery and DAMAGE of Scandinavia for sponsoring the event.

## Mark lights up real blindside for Flanker

ST DUNSTANER MARK THREADGOLD described what life is like on the real blindside to England Rugby player Lawrence Dallaglio on April 23rd. The former Sergeant from the Royal Corps of Signals was addressing a gathering of some of England's Favourite Sporting Heroes in Olympia, London. The St George's Day event was organised as part of the Wasps' Flanker's benefit year. It was hosted by television and radio presenter Johnny Vaughan. Mark also described his experiences setting world records for both speed and endurance while piloting powerboats.

## Golf challenge in Oz

AS THE **Review** went to press, St Dunstaners David Morris and Mike Mayo were teeing off in the International Blind Golf Championship in Australia. Full report next issue!

## Ten questions on...

The subject of Transport

Harry Beevers takes us on a quizical trip

- 1) Which British island is linked to the mainland by the Britannia railway bridge across the Menai Straits?
- 2) Which English city has a longer canal system than the one in Venice and its principal railway station is named New Street?
- 3) Which brothers revolutionised world transport in the 20th century after first setting up a bicycle repair shop in the United States in the 1890's, one of their innovations being a self-oiling cycle hub?
- 4) In 1955 the Queen Mother became the first member of the British royal family to use which form of transport?
- 5) What form of transport is featured in the museum at Crich near Matlock in Derbyshire?
- 6) In which Commonwealth country is the longest stretch of straight railway line in the world?
- 7) In which US city was the first car wheel clamp used?
- 8) A road sign featuring a burning torch used to be a warning against which driving hazard?
- 9) Which three forms of transport appear in the title of the Billy J. Kramer and the Dakotas No 12 hit in the UK singles charts in 1965?
- 10) What was banned on French trains on April 5th 1910?

Answers on page 25

# 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.

## Bring back fair taxis, please!

It was good to read how the GDBA has enabled guide dogs to be recognised as passengers in taxis (April **Review**). However, I wonder how many owners of such dogs know if they are being charged the correct fare? How many of those reading this letter, whether or not they are St Dunstaners, know when they are being charged fairly?

I went to hospital today, the fare there was £5. On the return back, another driver, different vehicle, £6! I am told that the correct fare is £4.

I was not one for using taxis, but now with failed sight, I have little option. Yes, I use public transport but there does

not seem to be much round here. On Sundays and holidays, local buses are few, though it wasn't always so. But I deviate, back in the good old days, when taxis were easily recognisable, one could see in bold numbers the cost of the trip. Now when any size, shape and make of vehicle claims to be a taxi, the driver has little or no idea of where you wish to go, and claims to be PSV. I doubt if he has any license, speaking from personal experience in Preston.

It's not only old moaners like me that are being ripped off, but also those very important tourists and you will have read of the danger careless young women may place themselves

in. Males also run the risk of being victims.

So let us regain some lost ground and have taxis which are easily recognised with honest qualified drivers with the name, phone number and license number of the cab and, last but not least, some instrument that will advise the passenger of the correct fare.

**James Robinson,  
Preston**

■ St Dunstan's Transport department recommend only using licensed taxi firms. They add that any reputable company will display license details and if asked will tell you how much the fare will cost before the trip is made.

## What was life like on MTBs?

I'm an ex-Royal Navy Man and served on the old "Colony Class Cruisers" as well as frigates and submarine. I would like to hear from any of the old sailors out there who served on Coastal Command MTBs. That was part of the Royal Navy that interested me a lot, but I never got the chance to do anything about it. I wonder if any of you chaps out

there could supply me with any information you could on MTBs, what life was like and any photographs I might borrow. I would be most grateful and would see that anything sent to me would be returned in perfect condition. My e-mail is william.mckay@ntlworld.com.

**William McKay,  
Hucknall, Nottinghamshire**

## Also ...

Anne Watkins of New Zealand, widow of Danny Watkins, writes to say she can be e-mailed on anne.danny@stra.co.nz.

Alan and Margaret Jakeman of Bognor Regis, Bill and Ivy Hain of Weymouth, Tom and Edith McLoughlin of Spital, and Leslie and Doreen Thompson of Tenerife send their gratitude for recent anniversary greetings.

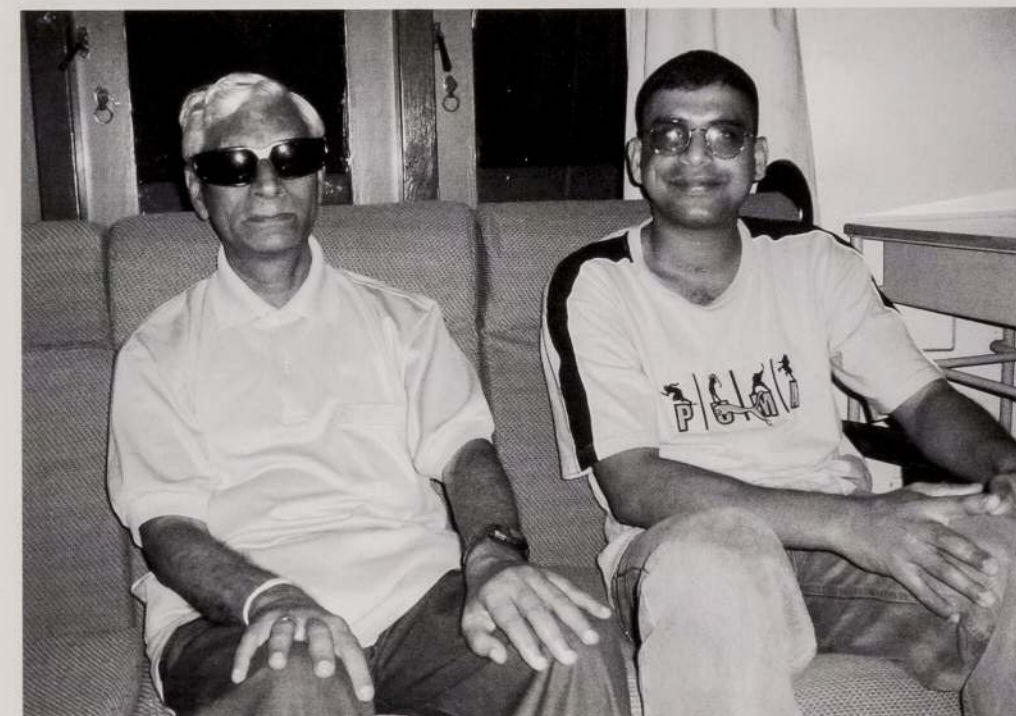
St Dunstan's Ovingdean Manager **Dick Lake** meets up with blinded veterans in Sri Lanka

## Cheerful greeting from veterans of 20 year conflict

**D**URING MARCH, I made a five-day investigative trip to Sri Lanka to look at the needs of soldiers blinded in the 20 year civil war between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Tigers. St Dunstan's advice was sought by Benjamin Mahathilaka of the Sri Lanka Blind Foundation who, although not in the Services himself, has a real heart for the issue having lost his sight as a five-year-old boy.

It was a privilege to undertake three field trips to visit soldiers in their own settings which were mainly villages well off the tourist track. They were a very cheerful and hospitable bunch and, contrary to expectations and accepting that there are some obvious areas for improvement, the situation looks quite good for them currently.

Most significantly, it appears that they can remain on full pay until age 55 and then go to pension. Depending upon their unit, they spend more or less time in camp, some only reporting in once in six months though others have to spend a lot of time in barracks. There is a multi-purpose rehabilitation centre outside Colombo (regrettably only visited at ten o'clock at night!)



The Sri Lanka Blind Foundation's Benjamin Mahathilaka and Captain Dushyantha Yapa who was blinded in action in 1998.

which includes training in things like braille and white-cane. The programme there has already been influenced by Benjamin's input.

Unfortunately though, unless you can work in English as one blinded officer, Dushyantha Yapa, does, you cannot access the computer revolution as there are no speech packages yet in the soldiers' local language (Singhala) and that is something we are now looking into. The soldiers are all in their 20-30s and keen on blind sports though I reckoned that challenges between St Dunstan's and themselves

over things like the 100 metres were probably not on! However, great interest was also expressed in acoustic rifle shooting and archery. That certainly seems to be a possible way in which we may be able to encourage the war blinded of Sri Lanka.

Although the two-year cease fire is holding, it was not possible to visit the Tamil Tiger areas regrettably for reasons of security and distance. I suspect that the situation for blinded soldiers is less positive in those regions. Perhaps another research visit is called for?!

# Gustav Line was not just a walk in the park!

To military planners, Anzio and Monte Cassino represented the back-door into Europe but the Service men deployed there found it needed a hard knock to break through

**O**N PAPER, IT seems a simple idea. You select a small town to place a force ashore, outflank the enemy and march on the nearby capital. The city under discussion was Rome and it was a short distance from the town selected, Anzio on the west coast of Italy.

In the winter of 1943, German General Albert Kesselring pulled his forces back to what became known as the Gustav Line. Running along the

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**by Simon Rogers**

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Garigliano and Rapido rivers, it included Monte Cassino, a sixth-century Benedictine monastery resting upon a hilltop. The line was fortified with gun pits, concrete bunkers, turreted machine-gun emplacements, barbed-wire and minefields. It was defended by 15 German divisions. In December 1943, the Allies suffered heavy losses while trying to capture the monastery.

This prompted the idea of an amphibious attack on Anzio

which would be combined with a renewed assault on Monte Cassino. A British and American force, two divisions from each side, landed upon the beaches of Anzio on January 22nd 1944. These early morning landings went well. Denis Healey, later to be Chancellor of the Exchequer, described them as “flawless”. By the end of the day, they had achieved their objectives and moved four miles inland.

Just ahead of this, another Allied force, the Fifth Army

British Infantrymen advance in the Anzio countryside.

began an offensive across the Gustav Line. The aim was to cross the Garigliano and Rapido rivers, strike at Cassino and push through the Liri Valley to meet up with the Forces who would be advancing from Anzio.

St Dunstaner Bill Shea was one of many Marines involved in this push. Having entered enemy territory on the suggestion that Castleforte was lightly held, his Royal Marine Commando troop found themselves isolated from any support. They successfully repelled an attack but one of Bill’s lads stepped on a landmine. The blast killed two Marine’s and Bill was blinded.

A third push was coming in from the Adriatic, as the Eighth Army was redirected to break the Front and prevent German Forces move back to Anzio.

St Dunstaner Reg Goding, a Lance Corporal with the Royal Fusiliers, with El Alamein and Salerno, fresh in his mind was one of those on the march.

“It was a different experience from the desert. They were running a bit and we had to chase them,” recalled Reg. “I was with the Indian division, with Gurkhas and Sikhs. I started out with the 4th division and ended up with the 10th. We had some heavy battles out there but I never got to Cassino. We



Two captured German Paras carry a British soldier who has lost his foot on a mine. Another soldier from his unit has suffered an eye injury in the same blast.

were up in the hills and I trod on a landmine! I was blown up and the two chaps in front of me were killed!

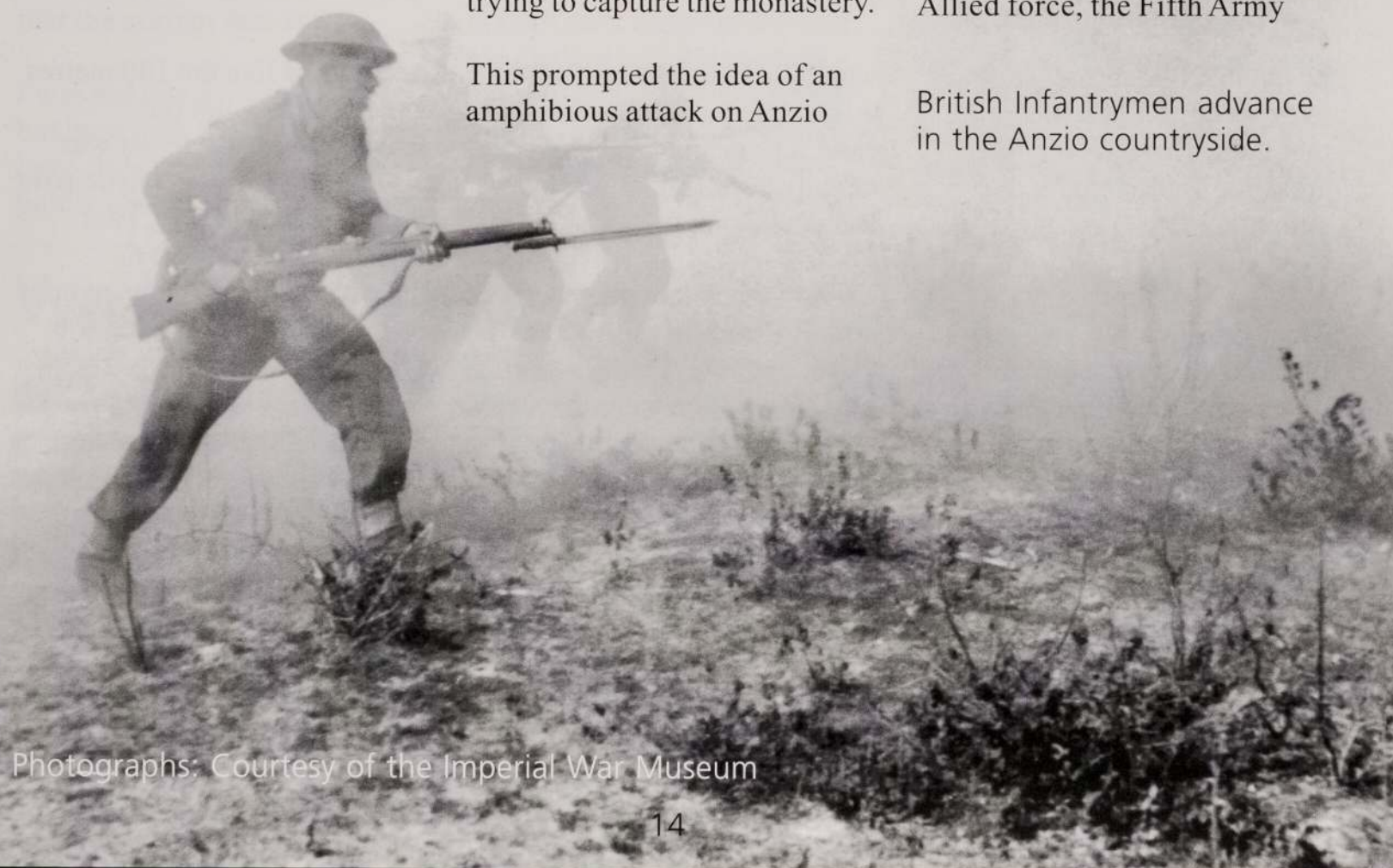
“I was flown by Dakota to 94 General Hospital in Algiers. It was touch and go for a while. They weren’t sure I would be able to travel, but then the Major decided to let me go on the hospital boat.

“I came back to England with another St Dunstaner, Tommy Bice, he was a Londoner. There was also a Scottish fellow and his brother, they weren’t in the same unit but they had both

been injured at the same time. Then there was George Coles, the morse code fellow.”

St Dunstaner Jim Marsland, serving in the Royal Tank Regiment, was also pulled over from the Adriatic. He recalls snow, mud and rain giving Allied Forces a hard time as they tried to push through to their target.

Back in Anzio, there was a lull in hostility and while German Forces had been surprised by the attack, they took the opportunity to close roads leading into the Alban Hills



Photographs: Courtesy of the Imperial War Museum

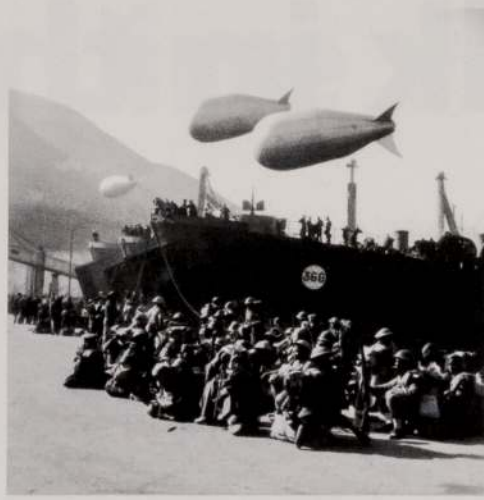


and reinforce other strongholds in the Anzio area.

The German counterattack began in earnest in February 1944 with an artillery barrage followed by armoured and infantry assaults. Although they were prepared, the British 1st Division bore the brunt of this onslaught, effectively trapped at the head of an exposed line.

A withdrawal was ordered, with troops who were injured but still mobile remaining as a fighting force. During this battle, one platoon succeeded in freeing 300 Allied prisoners from enemy hands.

Allied Forces set a line hold, after all, the shallow beachhead left little room for retreat. However, the German advance was restricted by the same poor weather and muddy



South African troops wait to board a landing craft that will take them to Anzio.

roads that had bogged the Allies down in previous weeks. There were heavy losses on both sides, casualties numbering in the thousands, but the two sides were now locked into a six week onslaught of continuous bombing, shelling and fighting.

The situation angered Winston

Churchill who vented his fury on General John Lucas. "I had hoped that we were hurling a wildcat onto the shore, but all we got was a stranded whale," he is reported to have said.

Monte Cassino remained under German control. On February 15th, 1944, the Eighth Army made a renewed assault on the mountain using Indian and New Zealand troops. The attack was repulsed but was distinguished by a heavy bombing raid on the monastery that reduced this holy sanctuary to rubble.

The Allies were accused of needless sacrilege. Meanwhile, the Germans realised that the ruins made an excellent fortress with good views of the land beneath. It was an excellent strong point, so they moved in.

The Kiwis retreated back across the Rapido river, taking heavy casualties. Surviving Gurkhas and Indian soldiers dug in around Monte Cassino. They were oh-so-close but units that tried to move forward were cut down in a hail of crossfire.

Further attacks followed through March, the Gurkhas cut off from support with only air dropped supplies to offer relief. Nearly 3,000 men were lost in a week.

The stalemate continued through April while planning for a renewed assault came into place. With proposals for the Normandy landings taking shape, it was decided that the Cassino front had to be broken

Return fire!  
A British Soldier takes cover in the ruins before taking aim at the enemy.

by June. The Allies needed to smash any German Divisions that could be used in France.

Parts of the Eighth Army were moved west from the Adriatic front to the Cassino front. A four-pronged attack was devised with the US 2nd Corps attempting a breakthrough on the west coast, their aim to link up with the 5th Corps in Anzio. Four divisions of the French Expeditionary Force were primed to march on the Liri Valley and attack areas behind Monte Cassino. The British 8th Corps were to cross the Rapido, clear the town and cut off routes on the west of Cassino. Monte Cassino itself was the objective of the Polish 2nd Corps.

The offensive began on May 11th with an artillery barrage catching German Paras by surprise. Within the hour, Polish forces were on Calvary Hill but they took heavy casualties. By the 12th, the British 8th Corps had crossed the Rapido and advanced four miles. The French making a successful advance and the German forces were losing their grip on the Gustav Line.



On May 16th 1944, despite heavy artillery and mortar fire, the Poles took Calvary Hill. Kesselring gave orders for his men to withdraw from Cassino. Unfortunately, the Allies had not thought to cut off Route 6, the main highway to Rome, allowing thousands of German troops to escape.

Polish forces entered the ruins at Monte Cassino on May 18th 1944, proudly raising their flag. Around 1,000 of their men had died and 3,000 had been wounded during the assault.

The Germans retreated to the Hitler/Dora line some six miles back, but this was soon over run. A third defensive line was never finished.

Back at Anzio, the US Army broke out of the beachhead on May 23rd 1944, linking up with their counterparts. The German 14th Army and retreating 10th Army were encircled, trapped with no where to go. However, fate was on their side that day as US 5th Army, led by General Mark Clark, decided to head straight for Rome.

This move, which allowed German forces to escape, has angered many veterans of the conflict who feel Clark was grandstanding, going for glory. Certainly, being hailed as the liberator of Rome was an advantage in his subsequent political career. The debate will no doubt continue.

British Infantrymen secure the remains of a building in Monte Cassino.



Photographs: Courtesy of the Imperial War Museum

# Minister for Veterans meets a generation like no other!

Returning from the battlefield, St Dunstaners are the people who created our brave new world!



Frank Tinsley greets Ivor Caplin, MP at Ovingdean.

## Simon Rogers reports

**M**INISTER FOR Veterans Ivor Caplin had a lesson in social history when he visited St Dunstan's National Centre in Ovingdean on March 30th. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence discussed changes in the economy of London's East End with a St Dunstaner who had first hand experience of the subject.

As a Trade Unionist in London's upholstery trade, St Dunstaner Frank Tinsley witnessed dramatic changes in the area.

The former bombardier confirmed that the Minister was meeting a special group of people while at Ovingdean. "St Dunstaners are the remnants of a generation, the like of which Britain will never see again," said Frank. "We are the children of the Hungry 30's, we lived in two rooms, went to school in ragged trousers and lived on jam and chips. We left school at 14 years of age to work 54 hours a week for 50p a week. We went into the army as boys and faced everything the Luftwaffer had to throw at us!

"But after the war, we elected the Labour Government that put

into effect the Beveridge Report and that changed the political and social structure of this country forever."

The Minister, who is also MP for Hove, flew into Ovingdean by helicopter. He was greeted by Members of St Dunstan's Council Major General Andrew Keeling and Ray Hazan, Chief Executive Robert Leader and Ovingdean Manager Dick Lake. He was then given a tour of the facilities at the National Centre that are harnessed towards enabling blind ex-Service men and women to reclaim independent lives.

Along the way he met up with St Dunstaners in the Craft Workshop, Gym, Rehabilitation and Training department, nursing floors and residential areas. Ray Hazan recalled the thrill of racing down the snow covered mountains of Italy during the recent skiing trip.

St Dunstaners Peter Hammond and Norman Perry demonstrated how the tactile sight can enable a blind person to compete in archery contests.

He paused to inspect two of the medics posted to St Dunstan's from the Defence Medical Services Training Centre, before joining St Dunstaners in the Lounge for a cup of tea and a chat. Trainee Supervisor Martin Shail, Arthur Lowe, Ernie Firth, Jason Hobday and Barbara Bell were amongst those he spoke to before heading off to an engagement with the War Widows Association of Great Britain.



The Minister meets RAF St Dunstaner Michael Ryan.



WRN St Dunstaner Joan James with The Minister.



Chris and Wyn Jordan spoke of St Dunstan's care service.



Major General Keeling introduces Eddie O'Brien and Geoff Collins who had been working on handicraft projects.

# Boys from the valley roll up for an international win



Above: Elwyn Rees ponders his next shot for Wales. Jackie Pryor and Eric Church hope for an England win.



St Dunstaner Bob Osborne aims for a good green.

**A**LTHOUGH WE WERE down in numbers, due to illness and other problems, the quality of the spring bowling was very good. Unfortunately, Bert Brantingham and David Humphrey had to go into hospital and we all wish them both a speedy recovery.

A pleasant surprise during the second week was meeting Eamonn Holmes when he visited Ovingdean. He came on the green to meet the boys and we found him very friendly.

We were pleased to see Lillian and Brian James, our callers, who again did a great job, as did Frank Smith and Jackie Pryor who were on the green helping everyone, together with Iain Millard. Also thanks to the staff at Ovingdean. What would we

do without Marjorie Mills and Doris Callaghan who are on call serving the teas and coffees.

During the tournament an "international" took place between England and Wales. Sponsor Eric Church and I am pleased to say Wales won! The team for Wales was Bob Osborne, Mansel Lewis and Elwyn Rees. England were represented by Jackie Pryor, Frank Smith and Alf Callaghan. They met up again later in the bar to share a drink.

## Spring Results

### Singles

Winner Craig Neller  
2nd Ted Arnold

### Pairs

Winners Marjorie Scott and Craig Neller  
2nd Iain Millard and Elwyn Rees

### Triples

Winners Bob Osborne, Mansel Lewis and Syd Wisdom  
2nd Peter Hammond, James Poole and Craig Neller

Joan has just asked me to thank you for her beautiful flowers. It was nice to meet old friends and we hope more will join us at the next tournament which will be on Oct 26th-Nov 11th.

**Bob Osborne**

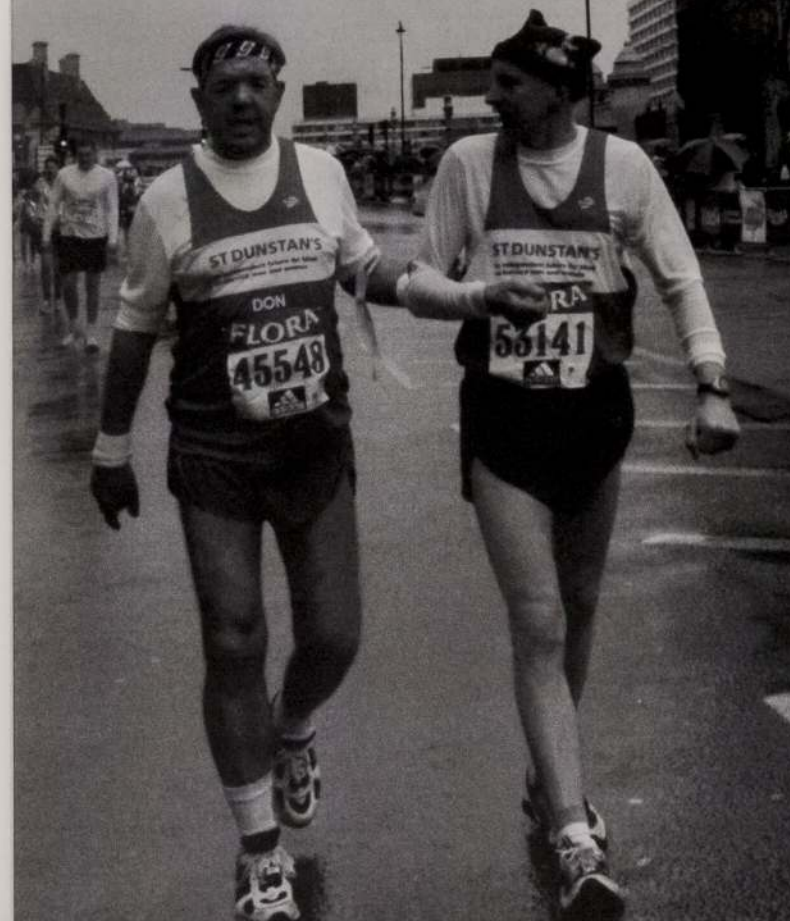
# Wet, wet and wetter!

Simon Rogers reports

APRIL SHOWERS failed to diminish the running powers of three St Dunstaners taking part in the London Marathon on April 18th – they held their pace over 26.2 miles in which the rain rarely gave up and winds over 20mph gusted across them. The Marines found their way across the finish line first, St Dunstaner Steve Sparkes, running with Ceri Lewis (who served with Reg Perrin), in 4hrs 44 minutes. They were followed soon after by Iain Millard and staff member Andy Alliston. Poole St Dunstaner Don Planner, running with Terry Haughey, kept going through the worst of the rain for a finish in under six hours. Our thanks go to other runners who had taken up St Dunstan's as their cause in the event.



**Main Picture:** After 25 miles Don Planner and Terry reach Westminster. **Above:** Steve Sparkes in Docklands. **Below:** Andy Alliston and Iain Millard.



# PENDLETON'S PANTRY

Blind chef **Stephen Pendleton** tries out an easy dessert!

## Mixed Fruit Crumble

Probably the easiest dessert in the world. This recipe serves four portions.

## Ingredients:

**1lb of mixed fruit, the choice of fruit is up to you.**

**2oz of granulated sugar.**

**8oz of flour.**

**4 oz of margarine.**

**4 oz caster sugar.**

**I like to liven up my crumble with a sprinkling of mixed spice or cinnamon. However, this is up to you.**

## Method:

Wash and prepare your fruit, in other words peel it and cut into small chunks. Then leave it in a bowl of cold water, this will stop the fruit from discolouring.

Sieve the flour into a medium sized mixing bowl.

Rub the margarine into the sieved flour, until it is the texture of fine breadcrumbs, then add the caster sugar, rubbing this in also.

Put half of the fruit into a pie dish, and then sprinkle over the fruit with the granulated sugar, then place the other half of the fruit on top of the sugar. It is at this point that I like to add a pinch or two of mixed spice or cinnamon, sprinkling it over the fruit.

Smooth the crumble mixture over the fruit and level it off.

Place the crumble in a pre-heated oven at 220C for approximately 15 to 20 minutes. It should come out of the oven nice and golden brown. The traditional way to serve this dessert is with a nice dollop of custard. There you have it! The easiest dessert in the world.

This is a very sweet dessert! To make it a bit more healthy, leave out the sugar. The crumble has enough natural sugars in the form of the fruit. Doing this will also make it more agreeable to people with diabetes.

So what about that dollop of custard? Custard sauce, or if you want to impress your friends with the French term, 'Crème Anglaise'. See, even the French have to admit that custard is English. This recipe will serve four portions.

## Ingredients:

**275ml of low fat single cream or milk.**

**3 eggs.**

**1 level teaspoon of corn flour (optional).**

**1 level tablespoon of caster sugar.**

**A few drops of vanilla essence (or lemon or lime juice, the choice is up to you).**

## Method:

Thoroughly blend together the eggs, sugar and vanilla essence. Do this in a medium sized mixing bowl. If you wish you can also use the corn flour. Use of corn flour helps to stabilise the custard and also helps to prevent curdling. However, if you keep a close eye on the cream when whisking this should not happen, so I choose to leave out the corn flour, but the choice is up to you.

Put the cream or milk on to the boil, making sure you are whisking all the time. If you do not give the cream your undivided attention at this stage the cream will easily scorch, resulting in burnt custard. To tell when the cream is boiling, listen out for bubbles breaking rapidly on the surface of the liquid.

When the cream has come to the boil, gently pour it into the egg and sugar mixture, whisking it in all the time. When this is achieved, return the custard to the saucepan. Heat the custard gently, making sure you are whisking all the time until the custard starts to thicken, this should only take a minute or two. Serve the custard warm.

## Next Month:

**Poached Eggs with Chicken.**

# Derby St Dunstaners make fine start to 2004 Reunion season



Walter Durrant, with his wife Peggy, receives his Jubilee badge from Ray Hazan at the Norwich Reunion.

THE ST DUNSTAN'S Reunion season made a good leap-year start in Derby on March 24th. Member of Council David Knowles presided over a gathering of 34 St Dunstaners and 12 widows at the Midland Hotel, Derby, Derbyshire. Retiring staff member Marion Lurot was presented with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of all the St Dunstaners she had worked with during her years with the organisation.

St Dunstan's Ovingdean was enlivened by 26 St Dunstaners and 10 widows on March 31st. St Dunstan's Chairman Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox presided over the first of the Brighton Reunions.

There was a hearty round of applause for Royal Navy St Dunstaner Walter Durrant of

Norwich, Norfolk on April 14th. As the presiding Member of Council at the Norwich Reunion, Ray Hazan presented Walter with his Golden Jubilee badge, paying tribute to his 50 years as a St Dunstaner. There were 28 St Dunstaners and nine widows at the Swallow Nelson Hotel, Norwich which features original timber from HMS *Victory* amongst its decorations.

## Ron Priestly

WE REGRET TO announce the death of Ron Priestly on June 4th last year. For many years, Ron worked out of St Dunstan's Headquarters dealing with the needs and welfare of those working in the Physiotherapist community. We send our sympathy to his family.

# BALANCING THE BOOKS

by Ted Bunting

## Angela's Ashes

Author: Frank McCourt

Reader: John Cotmack

Catalogue number: TB11434

Duration: 9 hours, 12 minutes

Fate was very unkind to Frankie McCourt; his very conception was an "accident"; he was born amid the squalor of a 1930's New York slum and poverty and want were daily companions for many years. But why the family moved back to Ireland is difficult to say for their living conditions and prospects are not improved at all. So this story is one of deprivation and an endless uphill struggle to survive, it is a tragic and terrible chronicle of hunger, illness and premature death – and I've not had so many laughs in years! If this is not the funniest book for a decade, I'd dearly like to meet its superior. Using humour to underline a serious issue has been used by Charles Dickens and George Orwell, but even they are surpassed here. Viewed through the eyes of a developing boy, not a single aspect of his grim existence escapes his notice: his drunken father, the hovel they inhabit, the pettifogging officials at the Assistance Board, the pig's head for Christmas day, teachers, nurses and priests all receive due treatment. *Angela's Ashes*, was awarded the prestigious 1997 Pulitzer Prize; I'm not in the least surprised, for me it's a real winner.

# Welcome to ST DUNSTAN'S

**John Ainsworth** of Thetford, Norfolk served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1953 to 1956.

**Stephen Cooke** of Andover, Hampshire served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1978 to 1986 leaving as a Corporal.

**George Francis** of Yelverton, Devon served in the Royal Artillery from 1934 to 1946. He served in France, North Africa, Italy, Palestine and Israel.

**Charles Greenwood** of Halesowen, West Midlands served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1947.

**Stephen Hanlon** of Sunderland, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1946 to 1948. He was based in the UK.

**George Holt** of Gillingham, Kent served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1958 to 1960. He was based in the UK.

**Leopold Kaye** of Mill Hill, London served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1943 to 1949 leaving as a Sergeant.

**Bruce Kenrick** of Isle of Iona, Argyll served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1940 to 1946, leaving as a lieutenant.

**Albert Lee** of Falmouth, Cornwall served in the Royal Artillery from 1941 to 1943

and thereafter with the Royal Signals until 1946. He served in France, Germany, Belgium and Holland.

**Anthony Male** of Gosport, Hampshire served in the Royal Navy from 1961 to 1963. He served on HMS Pembroke, Hermes, Centaur and Victory.

**Trevor Nathan** of Streatham, London served in the Army Catering Corps from 1949 to 1954.

**Herbert Nicol** of Uxbridge served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1971 leaving as a Corporal. He served in the UK, Kenya, Egypt and Singapore.

**John Owen** of Rochester, Kent served in the Royal West Kent Regiment, Devonshire Regiment, Royal Artillery, Royal Indian Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1946. He served in India and Burma.

**James Petre** of Wolviston, Billingham, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946. He served in Canada, Australia and UK.

**Iorwerth Roberts** of Anglesey, North Wales served in the Royal Tank Regiment from 1937 to 1948. He served in the Western Desert, Europe and the Mediterranean.

**Leonard Rogers** of Torquay, Devon served in the Royal Air Force from 1935 to 1968 leaving as a Squadron Leader.

**Walter Rosser** of Lovedean, Waterlooville, Hampshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1938 to 1946 and again from 1951 to 1972, leaving as a Flight Lieutenant.

**Donald Scott** of High Wycombe served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1986 leaving as Group Captain. He served in Europe, North America, the Arctic and in the Near, Middle and Far East.

**Christopher Spellacy** of West Kingsdown, Kent served in the Royal Navy as an Able Seaman from 1942 to 1946.

**Peggy Suttlng** of Thetford, Norfolk served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in the UK as an Aircraftwoman II from 1942 to 1944.

**John Townend** of Westbury, Wiltshire joined the Royal Navy in 1941 and served in the South Atlantic, Indian Ocean, UK and Far East.

**Eileen Thompson** of Doncaster, South Yorkshire served in the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1962 to 1964.

**Roy White** of Yeovil, Somerset served in the Somerset Light Infantry from 1958 to 1960.

**George Woodger** of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Army Service Corps in the UK and Middle East from 1939 to 1946.

## Quiz answers from page 11

1) Anglesey; 2) Birmingham; 3) The Wright Brothers, Orville and Wilbur; 4) Helicopter; 5) Trams; 6) Australia, on the Nullabar Plain; 7) Denver, Colorado, hence its nickname "The Denver Boot"; 8) Schools; 9) *Trains and Boats and Planes*; 10) Kissing.

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

#### Congratulations on the birth of:

Elysia on September 5th. She is the great-granddaughter of *Bob and Joan Osborne* of Saltdean, Brighton.

Olivia Alice Dent on March 5th. She is the granddaughter of *Alan and Lesley Dent* of Northampton, Northamptonshire.

### WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

*Paul and Jillian Chadwick* of Colyton, Devon who were married on January 21st.

Sammie and Alan on May 22nd. Sammie is the eldest granddaughter of *David and Doreen Humphrey* of Brighton.

### DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

*Violet and Bill Nairn* of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire on March 25th.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

*Leslie and Doreen Thompson* of Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Canary Islands who celebrated 61 years of marriage on March 22nd.

*Hugh and Mary Hartley* of Southampton, Hampshire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on March 24th.

*John and Irene McDermott* of Urmston, Greater Manchester who celebrated 61 years of marriage on April 3rd.

*Arthur and Mabel Porter* of Bognor Regis, West Sussex who celebrated 62 years of marriage on April 4th.

*Ted and Iris Miller* of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire who celebrated 64 years of marriage on April 7th.

*Howard and Joyce Edgar* of Carlisle, Cumbria who celebrated 65 years of marriage on April 8th.

*Thomas and Edith McLoughlin* of Spital, Wirral, Merseyside who celebrated 61 years of marriage on April 10th.

*Hildegard and Sydney Spring* of Amersham Buckinghamshire who celebrated 64 years of marriage on April 16th.

*Charles and Gladys Pay* of Maidstone, Kent who celebrated 61 years of marriage on April 17th.

### DEATHS

#### We regret to announce the death of:

**Laal Beck** on March 27th. She was the wife of *Shahri Beck* of Oxford, Oxfordshire.

**Kay Chitty** of Taunton, Somerset on March 13th. She was the widow of *William Chitty* of Hove, East Sussex.

**Margaret Halse-Hearn** of Hythe, Kent on January 31st. She was the carer of late *St Dunstaner Thomas Gray*.

**Margaret Thornton** of Edgbaston, Birmingham, West Midlands on March 25th. She was the widow of *Walter Thornton*.

**Peggy Conner** of Sidcup, Kent on March 26th. She was the widow of *John Conner*.

**Irene Bunting** of Sudbury, Suffolk on March 27th. She was the widow of *William Bunting*.

**Sylvia Charlton** of Brighton on April 4th. She was the widow of *William Charlton*.

**Our condolences go to their family and friends.**

# 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.

## Adrian Monk

Merchant Navy

Adrian Monk of Llanddewi Brefi, near Tregaron, Dyfed died on March 5th, aged 84. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2001. Joining the Merchant Navy in 1933, he signed up with the Pacific Steam Navigation Company as a Deck Apprentice. Having gained his 2nd Mates Certificate, he elected to remain in the Merchant Navy on the outbreak of war. He served on oil tankers, sailing to New Zealand, Australia, Bombay and across the Atlantic. His ship was torpedoed on Atlantic Convoy but, luckily, he was picked up by a Canadian destroyer. After the war, he became Chief Officer on the Falkland Island Steamer. In 1949, he became a sheep farmer on the Falkland Islands. His interests have included playing chess, horse riding and painting. Our sympathy goes to his widow Norah, their son and daughter and all of the family.

## Andrew Newman

Royal Navy

Andrew Roy Newman of Coventry, West Midlands died on March 15th, aged 87. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and became an Electrical Artificer. He served at Normandy and later in the Far East before being discharged in 1946. In 1952, he was diagnosed as having diabetes, which ultimately led to his loss of sight and the amputation of both legs. During stays at Ovingdean, he enjoyed swimming and bowls. Our sympathy goes to his widow Sylvia Olive, their daughter and all of the family.

## Albert Boyes

Royal Army Service Corps

Albert Boyes of Chorleywood, Hertfordshire died on March 19th, aged 90. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2001. He served in the Suffolk Regiment from 1940 to 1942 and the

Royal Army Service Corps from 1942 to 1946. He was initially deployed on coastal defences before transferring to the RASC. Posted to Sicily, he was involved in the Cassino Campaign and was in Venice when the war ended. In civilian life, he became a carpet fitter though he soon returned his pre-war trade of upholstery, establishing his own business. His interests included swimming, bowling and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his son Robert, daughter Ann and all members of the family.

## Derek Hagger

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Charles Derek Hagger of Brighton died on March 27th, aged 74. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2000. Having joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1947, he was deployed to Germany where he maintained tanks. He later became a driving instructor, completing his army career in Bicester in 1952. He was recalled to duty for the Suez Crisis, but the conflict ended before he was deployed. In civilian life, he became a freelance construction engineer, working in Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Iran, West Africa and the UK. His interests included fishing, tennis, walking, bowls and acoustic rifle shooting. A member of St Dunstan's Archery Club, he became British Champion in the B2 Compound class, breaking several records in the process. Our sympathy goes to his widow Betty, their daughters and all of the family.

## James Moffatt

Honourable Artillery Company

James John Moffatt of Ovingdean, Brighton died on March 29th, aged 88. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2000. Having joined the Honourable Artillery Company (11th Regiment Royal Horse Artillery) in 1940, he was deployed with the 8th Army. He was wounded during the defence of Tobruk, suffering severe shrapnel wounds, fractures and burns from a German tank attack. After his discharge, he joined the Super Lamp Metallic Company, an electrical wholesaler and remained with them as branch manager until he retired in 1974. Our sympathy goes to his sons and all of the family.

## Clarence Payne

Royal Air Force

Clarence Payne of Northfield, Birmingham, West Midlands died on March 30th, aged 92. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946. He had two brothers serving with the RAF and volunteered to join them on the outbreak of war. After training he was posted to Fighter Command in Essex. However, the base was destroyed in a bombing raid and he was moved to join his brother at RAF Lindholme, York. Training as an armourer, he spent three years on station before training on the Bofors gun and being posted to Dimchurch where they used the guns to engage V1 missiles. In civilian life, he returned to his position as a printer with the Birmingham Post and Mail. Our sympathy goes to his widow Viola and all of the family.

## Frank Andrews

Somerset Light Infantry

Frank Edward Andrews of West Heath, Birmingham, West Midlands died on March 31st, aged 80. He started his working life as a Telegram Messenger. Having joined the Somerset Light Infantry in 1941, he was taken prisoner by the Germans and held in Hauptlager Compound at Stalag 7A in Moosburg near Munich. He was released by American Forces and returned to the UK for discharge in 1946. In civilian life, he worked for Cadbury and also as a bus driver. His interests included bowling. Our sympathy goes to his widow Iris and all of the family.

## Arthur Halestrap, MBE

Royal Signals

Arthur Halestrap of Kings Sutton, Banbury, Oxfordshire died on April 2nd, aged 105. Born in Southampton in 1898, he tried to enlist on his 16th birthday, but this was refused. After two years working in the Post Office, he joined the Royal Engineers in 1916. He was posted to the Signals Section providing communications between the front line infantry and Headquarters. In Belgium and France, he was frequently under fire and experienced the horror of gas attacks. After the Armistice, he was stationed in Cologne and Rotterdam before being discharged in 1919. After the war, he worked for Marconi, developing communication links across the world, including

India, Australia, Canada and the Falkland Islands. Later he ran a small farm producing a variety of vegetables. In 1942, he was commissioned into the Royal Signals, working in the intelligence field as trainer and chief signals officer. At end of the war, he went to Germany as part of the Control Commission. Five years later, he returned to the UK and joined the Foreign Office, continuing his communications work through the height of the Cold War. He was awarded the MBE for his work in this field in 1963, supposedly his retirement though within a few months he was back at work, finally retiring in 1970. His interests included Freemasonry, choir singing, cat shows and campaigning for Oxeyes – The Oxfordshire Association for the Blind. In recent years, he spoke of the Great War on television documentaries such as *The Trench* and the *First World War in Colour*. Last November, he returned to Mennin Gate for the Remembrance Service and was feted by the *Daily Telegraph* for his reading of Binyon's Exhortation. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

## Duncan Newland-Smith

Royal Army Medical Corps

Duncan Kenneth Newland-Smith of St Albans, Hertfordshire died on April 6th, aged 89. He served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1940 to 1941 and then the Royal Army Medical Corps. An optician in civilian life, he initially trained as a vehicle mechanic but was posted to the Middle East and transferred to the RAMC. He served with them as a Sergeant in Tripoli, Naples, Rome and the UK. Demobbed in 1946, he returned to his work as an optician. He maintained active interests in the National Trust, Talking Newspapers, Citizens' Advice Bureau and the Footpath Society. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joyce and all of the family.

## Bernard Hodgetts

Royal Marines

Bernard Hodgetts of Stourbridge, West Midlands died on April 13th, aged 75. He served in the Royal Marines from 1946 to 1948. In civilian life, he worked for ICI and later in retail furnishing. He used to enjoy electrical maintenance and repairing radios. Our sympathy goes to his daughter and all of the family.

# Colour scanner indicates bright future for Eamonn



Mark Threadgold introduced Eamonn Holmes to the colour tester in the Training Kitchen.



Eamonn asks Albert about the birdhouses he was making.

**Above right:** Gaye Staff and Lloyd Bell discuss some of the technology that can restore independent living for a visually impaired person.

**Bottom right:** Billy Orr tells of his experience as a prisoner during the Korean War.

MORNING TELEVISION presenter Eamonn Holmes got a brief taste of what it is like to be blind during a recent visit to St Dunstan's. He donned sim specs and entered the uncertain world all too familiar to St Dunstaners. A failed attempt to make a cup of tea with a liquid level indicator and a lesson in using the long cane left him feeling unsure of himself, but admiring those people who reclaim their daily living skills. Eamonn's visit was not without moments of humour. Trying out a colour tester on his tie, face and head provided some accurate if unexpected results.

During his visit, Eamonn presented St Dunstan's with £5,000 raised by readers of *The People* to support the organisation's work.

