

August 2004

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# ST DUNSTAN'S Review



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

ST DUNSTAN'S  
**Review** No 938  
**August 2004**

Cover story:

## Brighton or Bust!

St Dunstaner Clive Jones and Sports and Recreation Supervisor Louise Timms after 17 miles of the London to Brighton Bike Ride. Only 49 miles to go. **Find out if they went the distance on page 13.**

## Meteor storms the sky!

The Royal Air Force kick started the jet age 60 years ago this month. We recall a unique aircraft. **Take off on page 14.**

## Hot to trot! Sultan win!

St Dunstan's Walking Club enjoy sun, food and mountain air in the Austrian Tyrol. **Stroll over to page 16 for details.**

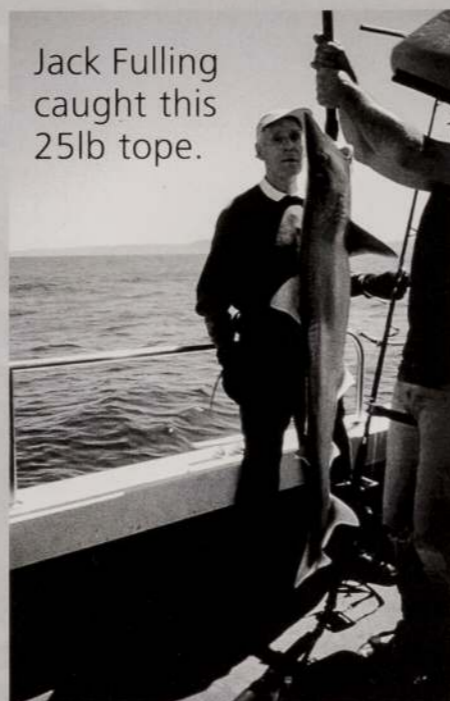
HMS Sultan take top prize in golf challenge, while Reg Perrin wins the Logan Trophy again. **Tee off on the back page for details.**

Plus Noticeboard, Balancing the Books, Ten Questions, Pendleton's Pantry, Letters, and other favourites!!!

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 on audio cassette, floppy disk and via e-mail.



Jack Fulling caught this 25lb tope.

## Hooked from the deep!

This Fishing Club mix sea and river fishing in Devon. **Details on page 10.**

## From the Chairman

A few carrots later, Ray Sheriff tells the Chairman of his plan to parachute at Arnhem once more.



WE HAVE NOW held 16 of the 19 area reunions for this year. It has been a good turnout and I congratulate all who have been able to attend and make them a success.

I know that there have been a few cases where new St Dunstaners have met others for the very first time. They have found the occasion to be both helpful and inspirational. Surely this is what is meant by the 'family of St Dunstan's'? A practical suggestion, a helping hand, a compassionate and understanding ear is what fellow St Dunstaners do best amongst their other achievements.

I attended the Ex-POW Reunion and was privileged to sit next to Ray Sheriff, busy planning what his wife hoped would be his final parachute jump into Arnhem. As the main course drew to a close he asked me what was left on his plate. I replied, "Some very good looking carrots."

"Oh good," he said. "They help you see in the dark!"

Food for thought, indeed!

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

## ST DUNSTAN'S Calendar

HMS Sultan	July 30th-Aug 7th
Writers' Forum	Aug 7th
Outdoor Bowling	Aug 5th
Outdoor Bowling	Aug 16th
Activity Week	Aug 16th-20th
Archery Week	Aug 28th-Sept 4th
Outdoor Bowling	Aug 31st
Writers' Forum	Sept 4th
Kent Reunion	Sept 15th
Cornwall Reunion	Sept 22nd
Outdoor Bowling	Sept 23rd
Physio Weekend	Sept 24th-26th
Aylesbury Reunion	Sept 29th
Writers' Forum	Oct 2nd
Computer Club (II)	Oct 6th-7th
Amateur Radio	Oct 8th-15th
World Sight Day	Oct 14th
Widows' Week (III)	Oct 18th-25th
Bowling Club(II)	Oct 28th-Nov 11th
Writers' Forum	Nov 7th(tbc)
Remembrance Sunday	Nov 14th
Christmas Week	Dec 19th-30th
Writers' Forum	Dec 4th
New Year Week	Dec 30th- Jan 8th
Amateur Radio (I)	Jan 16th-22nd
Archery Club (I)	Jan 28th-Feb 6th
Writers' Forum	Feb 5th
Music 'Week'	Feb 20-25th
Bowling (I)	Feb 25th-Mar 12th
Writers' Forum	Mar 5th
Computer Club(I)	Mar 22nd-23rd
Amateur Radio(II)	Mar 24th-31st

# Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

## POET TAKES UP RESIDENCE AT ST DUNSTAN'S O Vingdean

VERSE BUILDING IN BRIGHTON: ArchiTEXTS, an organisation that places writers in architectural environments, has chosen St Dunstan's as one of its buildings. Poet Julia Copus will be joining the Writers' Forum for a morning of poetry on Saturday August 7th. Julia will be the St Dunstan's Writer-in-Residence for the weekend and will also be spending time with St Dunstaners and staff to learn all she can about her surroundings. "ArchiTEXTS is about enabling writers to respond to the architecture, the vision and or the purpose of each venue," said coordinator, David Kendall. The organisers plan to bring together the photographs, plans, archive material and writings inspired by St Dunstan's and to put them on their website for everyone to read.

Writers' Forum report on page 12.

## "AIN'T NO HILL OR MOUNTAIN WE CAN'T CLIMB"

VIP CLIMBING: The Mountaineering Council of Scotland Visually Impaired "Summer Skills" Course will be held at Glenmore Lodge on September 5th - 10th. For more information and booking forms contact the Coordinator, Norma Davidson, c/o MCoFS, The Old Granary, West Mill Street, Perth PH1 5QP. Tel: 01356 660242 E-mail: norma@mountaineering-scotland.org.uk.

## HOSPITAL REDUCTION OF UNEMPLOYABILITY SUPPLEMENT

RE-CALCULATION BY VA: The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his budget speech that from May 21st 2003, some benefits would only be reduced when customers had been in hospital for more than 52 weeks.

This new initiative applies to War Pensioners in receipt of:

- Unemployability Supplement (Un Supp)
- Additional Allowance for spouse paid with Un Supp
- Additional Allowance for adult dependant paid with Un Supp

The change will benefit War Pensioners who have had a hospital reduction applied to their Unemployability Supplement for either themselves, their spouse or adult dependant from May 21st 2003. The hospital reduction only applies if admission was to a hospital, Care Home or similar institution where care is partly or wholly paid from public funds.

No action is required as the Veterans Agency is making arrangements for War Pensioners who had reductions made to their Unemployability Supplement from May 21st 2003 to receive arrears of payment. All cases will be looked at again and re-calculated to apply the new 52 week limit. Old rules will still apply to those War Pensioners who had been in hospital eight weeks or more prior to May 21st 2003.

## CHEQUE PAYMENTS AVAILABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

ALTERNATIVE TO PIN PAD PAYMENT: The Works and Pensions Minister, Chris Pond, MP, has announced that people who are unable to use the Direct Payment system adopted last year will be paid by cheque, which can be cashed at the Post Office.

Under the Benefit Payments Exception Scheme, cheques will be issued on a weekly basis to home addresses and are cashable at Post Office branches as well as being paid into bank accounts. People who receive more than one benefit will, where possible, receive payment in one cheque. "This is not an alternative option for those who can operate an account but a way of ensuring those who cannot, continue to get their money once the switch over to Direct Payment is complete," said Pond.

Cheque payments will start in October and until then affected customers can continue to use their order books says the Department of Works and Pensions. Existing claimants are expected to be transferred to the scheme by April 2005.

The decision to phase out payment books in favour of direct payment to bank accounts came under fire from organisations such as the CAB, Help the Aged, Mind and Age Concern, who were worried about the welfare of people without bank accounts. The introduction of PIN pads which could not be used by blind people also attracted criticism from the RNIB.

"Before the introduction of PIN pads, the majority of blind and partially sighted people collected their benefits independently from the Post Office," said Steve Winyard, RNIB's Head of Public Policy. "We will continue to press for specific detail in the exception scheme to restore blind and partially sighted people's independence, confidence and freedom of choice when receiving their money."

## TV AD SERVICE EXTENDED

BBC C4 AND ITV DESCRIBED ON SATELLITE: The BBC, Channel 4 and ITV have announced that they are making Audio Description available via digital satellite television. Audio Description, or AD, provides additional audio commentary to describe what is happening on screen for blind viewers. The television stations have been working on a system known as "Receiver Mix" as used in the Netgem set top box (Review, April 2004) but have now agreed to provide commentary via the "Broadcast Mix" system used by BSkyB. The volume of Receiver Mix AD can be adjusted separately to that of the programme (or headphones used to avoid disturbing other viewers) while Broadcast Mix is delivered as part of the programme.

## ISLE OF MAN PARISH WALK

FROM CHURCH TO CHURCH: This is an annual road walk during which participants have to touch the lynch gates of all the parish churches on the island within 24 hours. This year, some 1,000 people (one in seven islanders) took part and around 100 completed the 85 miles within the allotted time, the winner taking just over 15 hours! Running is prohibited and sponsorship is the name of the game.

A Mr H. Silva has offered to arrange sponsorship, organise back-up and generally assist with advice. He could also provide a local escort.

The walk commences at 9am Saturday June 18th 2005 and participants complete as much of the course as they can by 9am the following morning. Preparation and training is essential. Medical certificates may be required and St Dunstaners would be expected to pay their own fares.

If anyone is interested in taking part, would they please contact Ray Hazan at St Dunstan's Headquarters on 020 7723 5021.

## CHANGES TO THE PAYMENT OF FUNERAL EXPENSES

UPPER LIMIT: With effect from April 12th 2004 there were two changes to Funeral Expenses as offered by the Veterans Agency. These changes will allow the Veterans Agency to pay overseas funeral expenses and introduce an upper limit for individual cases in all locations.

The Veterans Agency may be able to pay Funeral Expenses to a widow or widower, next of kin or person responsible for the funeral, to assist with the cost of a simple funeral up to a maximum of £1,400 for any ex-Serviceman if:

- death was due to service,
- War Pensions Constant Attendance Allowance was being paid or would have been paid if the war pensioner had not been in hospital when they died,
- Unemployability Supplement was being paid at the time of death and VA had assessed a War Disablement Pension at 80 per cent or more, or
- the person died while they were in hospital having treatment for a disablement they received a War Disablement Pension for.

Applications for help with the cost of a funeral can be initiated by contacting the Veterans Agency free Helpline on 0800 169 22 77. A claim must be made within three months of the funeral.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TNAUK

TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS ON TAPE: The Talking Newspaper Association of the UK recently celebrated 21 years of its national newspaper service. The organisation offers over 200 newspapers, journals and magazines on audio tape, computer disk, e-mail, internet download and CD-ROM for visually impaired people. Call 01435 866102 for more details.

## VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK

CELEBRATE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE VETERANS COMMUNITY: Ivor Caplin, MP, Under Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Veterans has announced that a Veterans Awareness Week will be held in the week of July 3rd-10th 2005. He expressed the hope that such an event, culminating in the nation's commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II, will contribute to raising the profile of the Veterans Community.

## FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

BOX OFFICE OPEN SOON: The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance is an annual event to honour those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country. The Festival comprises a service of Remembrance and an observance of the Two Minute Silence. The 02:00pm performance is open to the Public and tickets will be available via the Royal Albert Hall Box Office from September. Telephone 020 7589 8212.

## WORLD SIGHT DAY

FOCUSING ON GLOBAL BLINDNESS: World Sight Day on October 14th focuses attention on the problem of global blindness. It is coordinated by VISION 2020: The Right to Sight, a joint global initiative of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) which aims to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020.

World Sight Day aims to raise awareness that 80 per cent of blindness could be prevented or cured and to encourage governments, corporations and other funding sources to invest in global blindness prevention.

## STORY WRITING COMPETITION

CELEBRATE YOUR CREATIVITY WITH AN ANNIVERSARY YARN: It could be golden or it could be silver. We'll take paper, wood and sugar too. The subject and title are yours to decide but entries for the new **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** story writing competition must involve an anniversary of some kind. The occasion or event under scrutiny is entirely up to you!

Submissions may be fiction or non-fiction and should not have been previously published. The competition is open to St Dunstaners, their wives, husbands, widows or widowers or members of the Diana Gubbay Trust.

Please follow these steps when submitting entries:

- 1) Entries should be typewritten and should not exceed 1,500 words.
- 2) Please submit your entry under a nom-de-plume.
- 3) Please write your nom-de-plume and your real name and seal them up in an envelope, which should accompany your entry. Envelopes will not be opened until the judge has made his or her decision.
- 4) Only one submission per person. Multiple entries will be disqualified.
- 5) Entries must be received by the Editor, **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD by Wednesday, December 1st, 2004.

The winner will receive £50, runner-up £30 and third story selected £20. The winning stories will be published in the **Review**.

## NUGGETS IN BRAILLE

TACTILE READING: Braille monthly *Nuggets* is available on request. Contact Roberta Hazan on 020 7723 5021 for more details.

## LEGION SEEK AMENDMENTS TO NEW SERVICES COMPENSATION SCHEME

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR INJURIES, ILLNESS OR DEATH AFTER APRIL 6th 2005: The Royal British Legion is seeking amendments to legislation that will underpin changes to Pension and Compensation arrangements for those in the Services. They argue that abandoning the current policy of 'reasonable doubt' for a 'balance of probabilities' method shifts the burden of proof from the MoD to the claimant. The Legion contends that, combined with a five-year time limit, this will reduce the number of successful claims.

The Armed Forces (Pensions and Compensation) Bill has successfully cleared the House of Commons stage and has had two readings in the House of Lords.

The new scheme replaces current arrangements for attributable benefits under the War Pensions Scheme and Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) for injuries, illnesses or deaths caused on or after April 6th 2005. "It will provide modern, fair and simpler arrangements, focusing help on the more severely disabled," says the Veterans Agency. It will cover all members of the Armed Forces, including serving members. The War Pensions Scheme will still exist for those injuries, illnesses or deaths that occur prior to April 6th next year.

Supplementary allowances will no longer be payable under the new scheme, claimants will be eligible to claim the corresponding state benefits. Improvements to dependants' benefits include death-in-service lump sum benefit rising to four times pensionable pay; widows being able to keep their pensions for life on remarriage, whether or not the death is due to service; and an extension of benefits to unmarried partners, including same-sex partners, where there is a substantial relationship.

## Wishing May a 100th happy birthday!

NO ONE COULD doubt that it was May's day on July 5th in Horsham last month. St Dunstan's widow May Flynn of Horley, Surrey was surrounded by family and friends wishing her the best on her 100th birthday.

Four generations of her family joined in a birthday celebration at the Skyline hotel, Horsham. May thanked St Dunstan's very much for their good wishes and the lovely bouquet of flowers. "They were beautiful," she said.

May's late husband St Dunstan Ernest Flynn served as a Rifleman in the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) from 1920 to 1924.

### SUMMER JAZZ AT CHURCHILL HQ

LATE NIGHTS IN THE BUNKER: The Cabinet War Rooms, Clive Steps, Charles Street, London SW1A 2AQ will be open until 20:30pm every Wednesday in August. The South London Jazz Orchestra will be playing popular tunes for visitors on August 4th. For full details telephone 020 7930 6961.

## 100 YEARS OF THE UNION JACK CLUB

RENOWNED FOR offering "a scrap of comfort" to many a Serviceman and their families, The Union Jack Club in Waterloo, London celebrated a century in July. The anniversary stems from the day in July 1904 when The Prince of Wales laid the foundation stone of the Union Jack Club. In 1907, as King Edward VII he would officially open the premises. Since then around 15 and a half million people have stayed there.

The impetus for the Club came from Ethel McCaul, a Royal Red Cross nurse, who was serving in Field Hospitals during the South African war at the turn of the 20th Century. She was adamant that her brave servicemen should be shielded from the "debauchery and wickedness" which abounded in London, particularly around Waterloo, and that they and their families should have somewhere to stay. After all, the officers had

their clubs so why should not those below commissioned rank. Waterloo seemed the obvious place as this was the principal railhead leading to the ports and garrisons which served the Empire.

A magnificent Edwardian building soon rose at No 91 Waterloo Road, which was completed towards the end of 1904. It was demolished and replaced by a completely new building in the 1970s.

## Lords on deaf-blind

THE GOVERNMENT'S TRACK record on measures taken to assist deaf-blind people was debated by the House of Lords on June 8th. The debate was opened by Lord Ashley of Stoke who quoted a study by Sense, the organisation for deaf-blind people, that more than 50 per cent of deaf-blind people have not even been identified by local authorities and that more than 95 per cent of deaf-blind people do not have the services of communicator guides.

Speaking for the Government, Baroness Andrews replied: "Figures from the Social Services Inspectorate show that in 2001 there was not a single senior manager responsible for deaf-blind people; now 98 per cent of councils have such a manager. Some 89 per cent of councils now make information available in formats accessible to deaf-blind people and 82 per cent have a database that identifies deafblind people.

"I am the first to agree that a lot more needs to be done, but we are starting from a very low base. It is entirely due to my noble friend that deaf-blindness is recognised as a unique condition which needs a unique set of services. I hope that he will take some comfort from that and will look forward to more progress being made."

# 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.

## Help and understanding was excellent!

Since becoming a St Dunstaner, I found that going to Ovingdean for my introduction week was an excellent opportunity to get to know people, to talk to people, listen to their experiences and how they felt. I feel I made many friends there. The staff were so helpful, so caring and I really enjoyed it. The food was excellent – too good – because I definitely think I put on weight while I was down there!

They've helped me with my equipment; CCTV and talking calculator, so that I can still do my finances, and dictaphones, so I can give myself some messages to remember. My rehabilitation officer, Grant, did an excellent job while I was

down there. He was understanding, very helpful. Also a big thank you to the people who manned the lift, Peter and Brian, they did an excellent job. Also the drivers, Tracey in particular, who picked me up from home, they are all so friendly and chatty.

I also went to my first reunion in Blackpool on May 12th. That was a good experience. It was wonderful speaking to people and putting faces to names of people I have spoken to on the telephone. That was a really good help. I enjoyed the whole afternoon.

**Maria Pikulski,  
Leyland, Preston, Lancashire**

## An experience to remember!

May I thank, on behalf of myself and my son Richard, St Dunstan's for arranging our visit to the Service at St Paul's for the Order of the British Empire celebration and dedication. We had a most wonderful time and also, of course, we went back to the

Union Jack Club and stayed there and that was an experience in itself.

Thank you again, very much indeed.

**Elsie M. Scullion, MBE,  
Horsham, West Sussex**

## Thanks, Jock!

Fred Bentley and I would like to thank Jock Carnochan for helping us to make the journey back to Normandy for the D-Day Commemorations in June. It was a whirlwind tour and we really couldn't have managed without Jock's assistance.

**Jerry Lynch,  
Horsham, West Sussex**

## Some torture and abuse is worthwhile

Pearl and I would like to thank the Chairman, the staff and St Dunstaners and wives, for their greetings, the flowers and congratulations, on the occasion of our Golden Wedding.

Our family put a party on for us at the local club, and the same applies here in St Dunstan's as I told them in my thank you speech. It

re-emphasised how fortunate we are to be part of such a wonderful family. It almost makes the torture and abuse I have had to bear over the last 50 years worthwhile.

Our best wishes and thanks to all.

**Colin and Pearl Mills,  
Rotherham, South Yorkshire**

## It strikes me...

with Gog and Magog



In the ditch.

Gog and Magog, like several St Dunstaners, have often wondered why the **Review**'s Simon Rogers has never taken up driving. However, after a recent incident during the St Dunstan's Golf Club Open Invitation Day at Rusper Golf Club, they feel that keeping our hapless hack away from the steering wheel is a sensible option. It's only a tiny turn from the club house to first hole, but in an instant Simon managed to put a golf buggy in the ditch, demolishing some fencing at the same time.



Safe behind the wheel?



St Dunstaner Martin Shail, left, hooked a red gurnard. Jack Fulling, right, with one of the trout that he caught.



## Good fishing in Devon

### Stan Bowers reports

FOUR ST DUNSTANERS spent a week in mid June catching fish on the Devon coast. Phil Dobson, Martin Shail, Gary Ogden and Jack Fulling spent two days at sea off the coast of Ilfracombe, hooking at least seven varieties of fish.

Jack Fulling caught a 25lb tope, while Alan Mitchell snared a ten-pounder. Meanwhile, Martin caught a 5lb red gurnard.

The group were staying at the Osborne Hotel, Ilfracombe and later in the week, Nick the owner, introduced Phil and Jack to a fly-fishing venue. It wasn't long before five trout

had been hooked and pulled up on the river bank. Two of them were cooked that night back at the hotel for a delicious slap-up meal.



The Skipper takes care of Alan's catch.

## Archers heat up the Burntwood during a wet weekend



St Dunstaner Harry Docherty using a tactile sight during a recent archery shoot at Ovingdean.

ON A VERY WET weekend four St Dunstan's archers Harry Docherty, Tony Parkinson, David Poyner and Tom Roddy went to Orrel for the Lancashire County Championships. On Saturday June 19th, Tony shot a new national record for the Burntwood VIIR (visually impaired international round). Sunday started incredibly wet but despite this David of Sale, Manchester and Tony of Blackpool, Lancashire shot new National records for the Burntwood York rounds. Tom of Darlington and Harry of Lancaster shot well and Harry, having suffered a serious equipment failure, still managed to finish the round.

Tom, Tony, and David were awarded medals for first place in their respective categories. Harry was awarded a voucher for a concealed score prize.

"Our thanks must go to the valued support of our spotters, Len, Jenny, Wyn and Lindsay. Also thanks to the organisers of the weekend and all the other archers who made us all so welcome," said David.

## Ten questions on...

The subject of Cities

This month Harry Beevers has some metropolitan mindbenders

- 1) Which Scottish city is known as "Athens of the North"?
- 2) In which city is England's oldest university?
- 3) In June 2003 it was announced that which English city in the North-West would be the European City of Culture in 2008?
- 4) In March 1993, former Football Manager Brian Clough was given the freedom of which English city, famous for its annual Goose Fair?
- 5) In which city of the Middle East do pilgrims walk the Via Dolorosa?
- 6) Alphabetically, which is Britain's first city?
- 7) Complete the following line of nursery rhyme with the name of an English city, "The Man in the Moon came down too soon and asked his way to ...".
- 8) In which Oscar-winning film of 1939 is the city of Atlanta in Georgia burnt to the ground?
- 9) Which English city has England's tallest cathedral spire and one of the world's oldest working clocks dating back to the 14th century?
- 10) Which Asian city gave its name to the practice of drugging and kidnapping unsuspecting men and shipping them abroad as sailors?

Answers can be found on page 24.

# Donna Vaughan opens the pages on the Writers' weekend! PUTTING PEN TO PAPER



Gladys and Ron Oakley outline a life changing scenario.

**H**ENRY IS STUCK in a miserable relationship with an overbearing wife. He lacks confidence in his ability to do anything about his situation until the day he is pressed into jury service. What happened during that time to make him change his perspective on life?

That was just one of the questions posed by Ron Oakley. He had many ideas about where his story would go, but the enthusiasm shown by the St Dunstan's Writers' Forum for the tale is now driving him on to complete it.

Ron was taking part in a meeting of Writers' Forum, which celebrated its first anniversary by having a weekend of creative writing and role-playing.

On the Friday evening we were pleased to have local

publisher, Joan Stanley along to provide knowledge and guidance on everything from the kind of writing that she prefers to publish to how to present our work for publication. She runs the 'smut free' publishing company Red 'n' Ritten. Joan's particular interest is in producing short stories in book and tape form, but her aim is to make the stories available in an electronic format that can be read by anyone with a hand held computer.

On Saturday, we were thrilled by the skills of actor, writer and director, Chris Orr whose talents included the ability to take on the role of any of the characters that the St Dunstaners described. His "mask on, mask off" demonstration showed how someone would behave outwardly and then how they would feel inwardly. He displayed the depth to which we needed to understand the personality of our character and how to make them truly believable.

On our final morning we read and commented on many of the short stories that have been written in the past year including ones from Joan and Harry Beevers, George Oliver, George Childs and even the **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** Competition's winning entry



Edith made connections.

from Edith Barton. Edith revealed the truth behind her tale that gave us an understanding of how a story can be developed.

Basically, Edith had connected an old boot she had once seen in her garden with stories she had heard about her father's experiences in the trenches... Amazing how little things can stir the imagination!

In the short time that the group has been meeting they have produced a variety of work from autobiographies to short stories and poems. The St Dunstan's Writers' Forum was set up to encourage St Dunstaners to develop their writing skills. We meet for two hours on the first Saturday of each month to read and discuss the short stories, poems, autobiographies and articles written by St Dunstaners. All St Dunstan's writers are welcome to attend.

As for Ron's story? Stay tuned!

# HARD RIDE TO BRIGHTON

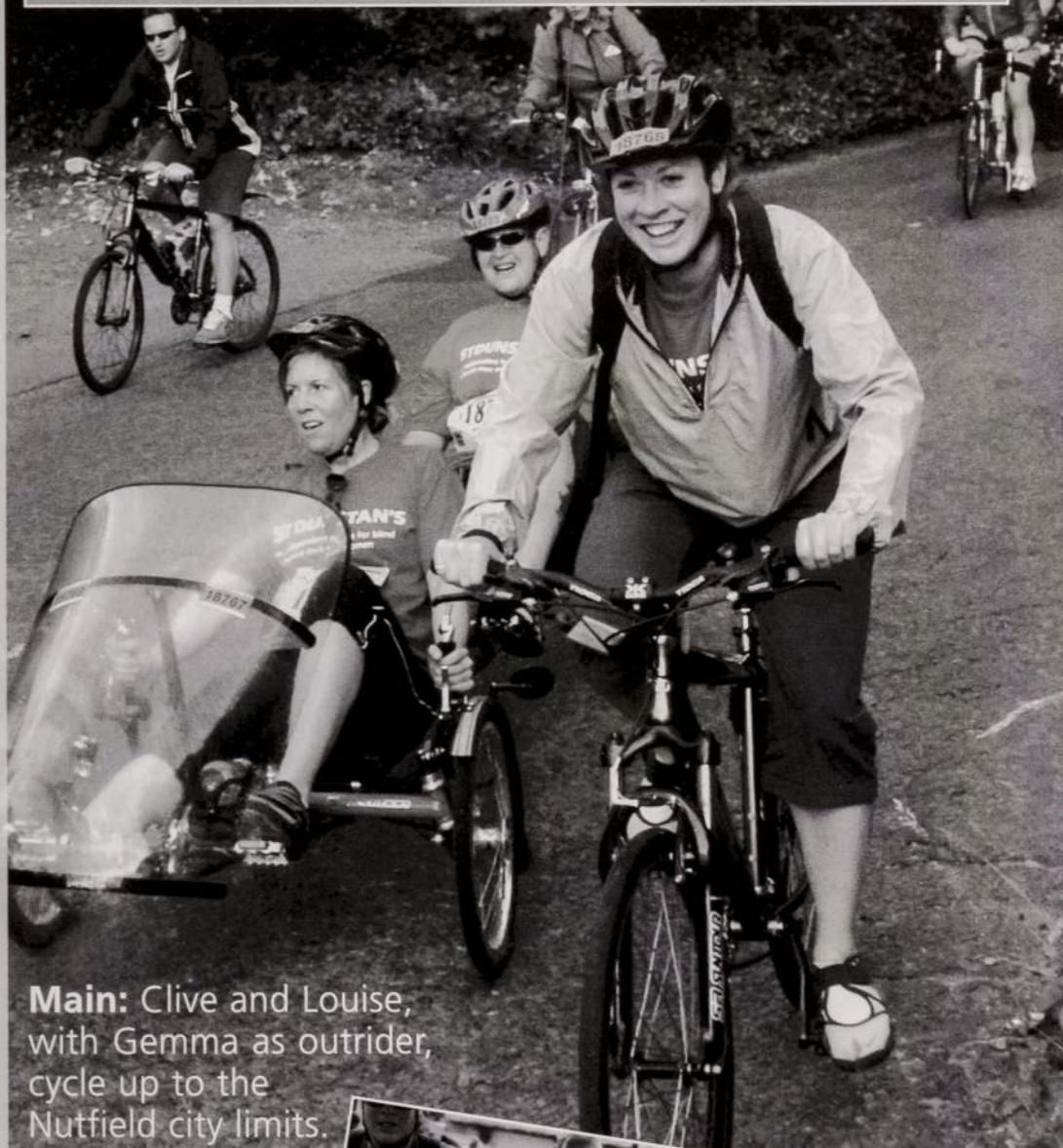
**S**T DUNSTANER CLIVE Jones, cracked the 2004 London to Brighton Bike Race on Sunday June 20th. Aided by Sport and Recreation's Louise Timms and Gemma Kirkwood, he pedalled the 56 miles from capital to coast in St Dunstan's recumbent tandem. The unique bike has the cyclists seated in a horizontal position as they ride.

"Despite several months of training, nothing could have prepared me for this," said Clive. "It's simply the hardest physical achievement that I have done to date.

"The race start time was delayed, so we started at about 09:30, instead of 08:30. There were a lot of hills, one mountain formally known as Ditchling Beacon, and several rain and hail storms." Despite this, Clive and the girls pedalled on and they finished the ride around 18:00.

"I would like to thank Gemma and Louise for their hard work on the day," said Clive. "Without them I personally wouldn't have made it. Also thanks go to Andy and Mark from the gym, and Stan Bowyers who drove the back up vehicle.

"Looking back on the day as a whole, it was very enjoyable, however not something to be taken lightly. I would also like to thank everyone who helped in their own little way by sponsoring me for the event."



Right: The trio roll towards the finish in style.



60 years ago this month, the RAF pilots made aviation history with the only Allied jet fighter to serve in WWII

# BLAZING METEOR CLAIMED THE SKIES!

**O**N AUGUST 4th 1944, Flying Officer "Dixie" Dean was locked in aerial combat. His guns had jammed and quick thinking was required. The Second World War was in its fifth year, so dog-fights between Allied and Axis forces were commonplace.

However, on this occasion, the German aircraft was a flying bomb, unmanned but loaded with High Explosive. Dean's aircraft was likewise unique because it too relied on jet propulsion to keep it flying.

He manoeuvred his plane under the wing of the bomb and flipped it off guidance. It hurtled down to the ground away from its target.

Dean was flying the Gloster Meteor, a twin-engined jet aircraft that had been under development since before the Battle of Britain. Another Meteor pilot shot down another flying bomb later that day (this time with cannon fire).

Another 13 kills would be recorded before the month was out. A pittance in terms of the thousands of flying bombs that were launched, but pure gold in the propaganda war against the Germans. More significantly it was a sign that the age of jet powered flight was just around the corner. The



grail had been set in the 1930s. Engineers could see that piston-engined aircraft would reach a maximum speed around 500mph. However, the propellers that provided thrust would lose efficiency around 300mph. The effect increased with speed - not a desirable prospect when flying.

St Dunstaner James McGoff of March, Cambridgeshire recalls great excitement about rumours in 1941 that a plane which did not use propellers was being tested at RAF Cranwell. "It was done under great security. As engineers we were excited about the lack of propeller because as far as we were concerned if it didn't have one it wouldn't fly."

Inside the hanger, Frank Whittle's turbojet was being put through its paces. Although

he witnessed some of the tests, it would be another four years before James saw the practical results of those experiments.

In the meantime, the Gloster Aircraft Company was asked to submit a design for a turbojet powered high-altitude fighter. Their concept followed conventions of the day, though the tail was raised clear of the jets and wingspan was particularly generous to aid manoeuvrability at high altitude. The Meteor design called for a body 41ft long with wheels placed like a tricycle. The Air Ministry placed an order for 12 prototypes to be built.

Originally, the new plane was to be called the 'Thunderbolt' but the USAF introduced a plane of that name. The British aircraft was quickly rechristened as the Meteor.

In 1943, St Dunstaner David Saunders was one of the Royal Air Force engineers selected to work on the nascent jet fighter. "Myself and a friend were told to report to the gatehouse at 8am. When we got there the chap said 'Someone will be coming to get you.' I asked 'Where are we going?' He said he didn't know. Eventually a pilot turned up saying he had come to collect two bods and I asked him where we were going? He said 'I don't know, I won't get my orders until we get up in the air.' So we took off not knowing where we were going.

"We landed at Norton Valance and were taken under armed escort to a dog training school. I thought 'There must be some mistake, they can't want us here.' Anyway after several hours they came and took loads of photographs of us and then took us up to a hanger."

The hanger contained three Meteors and a CO who offered David and his comrade the opportunity to work on them. "So I worked on the line for several years," said David.

"The first Meteor didn't have a compressor for the breaks. You filled the tank up with air and if you used the breaks that was it. I remember the pilot went over to Hornchurch, I

don't know if he was told to land but he did. When he came back there was no air left. Some one suggested that we stand out on the runway and catch him which wasn't a sensible idea. Anyway the runway at Boscombe Down is long enough so he was able to land safely."

Did David have any idea that this was the future of aviation? "No, but I wish we had ear muffs. We never had them in those days and those engines are loud when you are stood next to them all day. It hasn't done my hearing any good."

The German deployment of the V1 in June 1944 created a new urgency to get a Meteor squadron in the air. They launched from RAF Manston in Kent in July but had little success in initial sorties. Squadron 616 maintained a standing patrol through daylight hours, though they seemed bedevilled by technical hitches. When Flying Officer Dean destroyed that first V1, it was as if a curse had been lifted and the Meteor pilots soon proved that they were a force to be reckoned with.

The Meteor could achieve speeds of around 500mph and heights of 30,000ft.

"It was an exceptional aircraft," said James McGoff.

"I worked on them in the 50's when I was serving in the Auxiliary Air Force. It was good and reliable, the pilots liked them."

That thought is echoed by St Dunstaner Wallace Burnet-Smith of Brighton who flew the Meteor during the late 1950s. "Handled with care it was very good aircraft," he said. "I flew the Meteor Mk10 and the 3. The 10 was pressurised, the 3 wasn't. I used them as a conversion, moving up to Canberras. It had a good gun platform, four cannons, some had machine guns. A lot of people used to piston-driven planes tended to expect the power to be there immediately, but you had to let it build up. Even now with jets there is a 3-4 second delay. They were better at altitude and you had to remember to keep your speed up. I remember doing a loop-the-loop, starting at 10,000ft - on a piston-driven plane you could do it within 3-4,000ft - but with a jet it was 5-7,000ft so you had to remember to keep a bit of space between yourself and the ground.

"You had very good all-round visibility, almost 360 degrees, and you could look down vertically very easily, which is what you want in a fighter."

The Meteor remained in front-line service until 1961.



# Bloated, Blistered and Blotto!

Ramblin' Ray Hazan on the Walking Club holiday in Seefeld, Austria

**W**E TALKED AND we walked; we travelled by train and by plane, on gondola and funicular; we imbibed and survived, so much so, that they might want to do it again next year! This was the most varied Walking Club holiday (June 16th-23rd) we had ever enjoyed.

Seefeld, in the Austrian Tyrol, lies on a plateau on the north side of the valley above Innsbruck at about 1,100 metres above sea level. The German border is only ten miles or so further north. The village itself is pedestrianised and full of shops, cafés and bars. There are some 2,800 inhabitants with beds for 9,000 tourists and visitors. Snow-capped mountains, lakes and forests surround the plateau and once away from roads the only sounds are those of the birds and the occasional tinkle of cowbells.

All 20 members of the group checked in at Heathrow at 06:00am. We were delighted to welcome several new faces – Dorothy Docton, Terry and Avril Ottewell, Chris and Joyce Ottewell, Colin and Brenda Williamson, Win Jordan, and Chris Tanswell. They joined veteran walkers John and Sue Lilley, Bill and Betty Weisblatt, Jean and Leslie George, Marjorie Scott,



Photograph: Win Jordan & Robbie Hazan

We love to go a' wandering along the mountain track! The Walking Club members in effervescent Austria.

George and Catherine Johnston, Ray and Robbie Hazan. We were very sorry that Ted and Beryl John were unable to join us this year.

We chose to fly to Munich, bearing a cheaper route than Innsbruck. One participant couldn't wait to get into training. They hopped onto the wrong moving walkway at Munich airport and were last seen frantically trying to walk back to the start against the flow!

The two-hour coach ride took us through Garmisch-Patenkirchen, past the Olympic ski jump, whose summit seems to touch the clouds. The Bavarian village of

Mittenwald was typical of the area with many houses bearing paintings on their walls, including false 'painted stonework' around the windows. It seemed in no time at all that we were checking into the Hotel Bergland and heading into the village for a bite to eat. Ahead lay a whole free afternoon!

Our first walking day dawned with a bright blue sky. This was a 'DIO' (do it ourselves) walk, with Robbie as leader, this being her third visit to Seefeld. We tramped along sand and gravel paths, through woods and along roads. There is a heavenly mixture of sounds and senses – the chatter of the group, the



Colin Williamson improvises a sun shield for his nose.

crunch of boots on gravel, birdsong and crickets, the breeze in your hair, the warmth of the sun all to the accompaniment of the mountain vistas for the sighted members of the group.

On most days, we took picnics – ready-made rolls purchased at the local supermarket. To sit on a bench, surrounded by the peace and tranquillity of the Austrian Tyrol, interrupted only by a rushing stream or the sounds of the woods, is surely as near to perfection as one can get!

For the remainder of our walks, we were guided by Ida, a local resident with a fountain of knowledge of the area and a love for her environment. She regaled us with local history, pointed out the wild flowers, though most were hidden by long grass at this time of year. Her advice even extended to the suggestion of a leaf tucked under the bridge of your sunglasses so as to stop your nose getting sunburnt!

Ida was full of jokes, but they

had to be 'non-slip'. I am not sure how the word 'slippery' in reference to a joke insinuated itself. 'Slippery' meant 'near the knuckle' and so we used a non-slip mat to ensure no offence was given!

On Friday, we passed an enclosure of reindeer who fed greedily from our hands. We passed many anthills, made from pine needles, and wisely left the forest cleaners to their tasks. We slowly wended our way alongside the railway line leading down to Innsbruck but stopped at the gorge under the railway bridge where *Von Ryan's Express* was filmed.

Saturday was a day off and some of the group dispersed to Innsbruck, only a short and dramatic train ride away. Others went to Mittenwald, with its closed violin museum! Some of us even went walking!

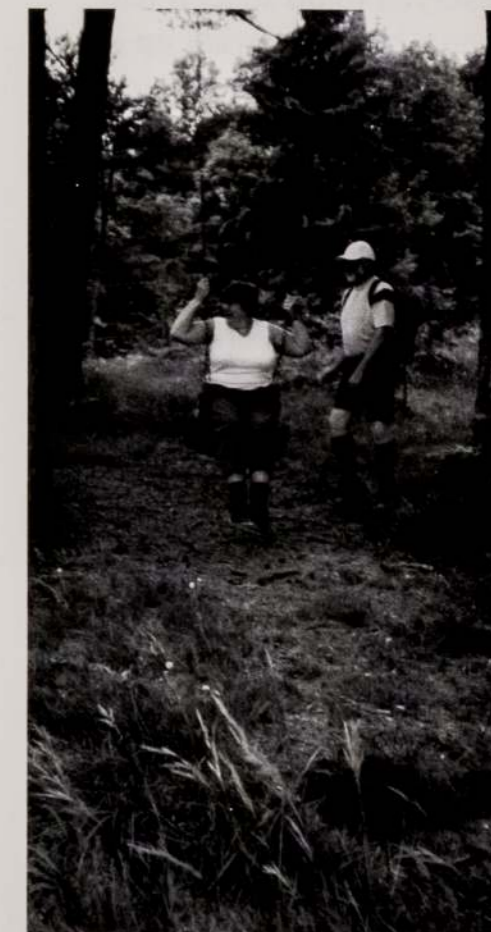
Although Sunday met us with a torrent of rain, it did not stop the majority from carrying on what they had come to do. The paths through the woods allow the rain to soak away, so there is little or no mud.

Warm weather again on Monday and we walked nearly to the German border. Some took the train back to Seefeld at lunchtime, after all, the week is not a marathon! Others walked up to the top at 1,459 metres (4,741 ft) which had meant a climb of some 1,500 ft.

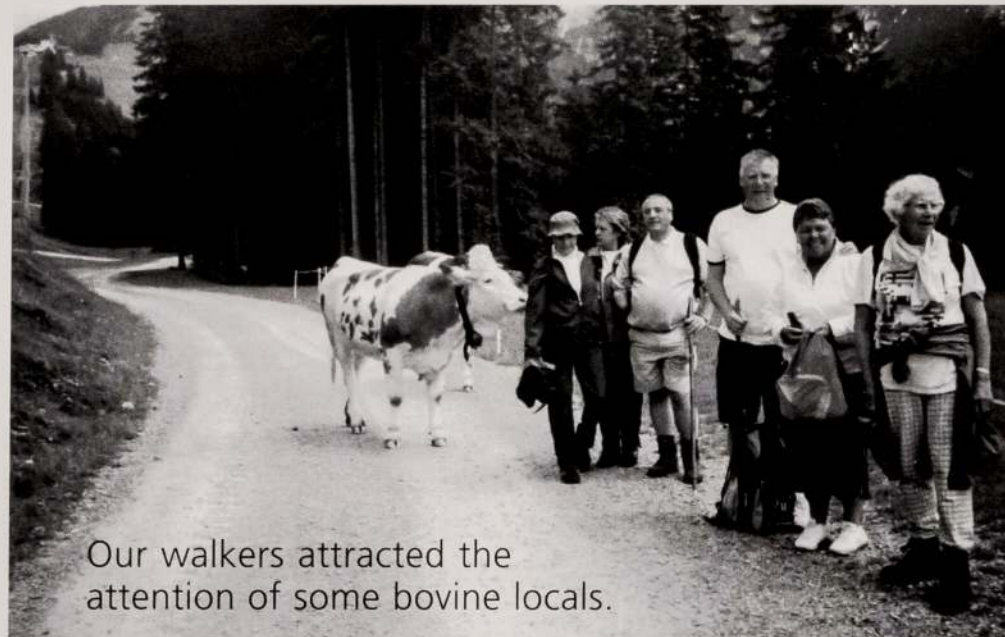
Bill Weisblatt takes up the story: "From Giessenbach the track wound upwards in a

south-easterly direction for nearly three-miles, at first following the river. At the top, after a tough but enjoyable trek, we arrived at Eppzirler Alm. This was a typical Alpine building, occupied only during the summer, from which the amiable Niederkircher family dispensed (at modest cost) beer, tea and apfel strudel.

"While consuming these on the terrace we were approached by a few Alpine Choughs, a pretty rare bird, like small crows, with curved yellow beaks and red legs, which to our amazement ate strudel out of our hands and jumped up on the seat backs demanding more. Being so successful, they called up their mates in large numbers, at which point we departed, not wishing to leave



Win Jordan enjoys a swing on the alpine trail.



Our walkers attracted the attention of some bovine locals.

our bleached bones on the mountainside. Since Ida had the train timetable in mind (and hand) we made the descent at remarkable speed. We claimed we had walked all the way back to Seefeld, but we eventually confessed to taking the train back to base." They truly deserved to do so as it had been a hot, long walk up – well done to all who succeeded!

As with all such enjoyable events, the first half generally passes more slowly than the second half, which then rushes by with unrestrained haste. Here we were on our last day, which started with indecision! To funicular or walk up? I guess the latter never stood a chance! The carriage rode up on a rail track, counter balanced by the down-coming vehicle. From there you could take a variety of gondolas to neighbouring peaks. One crossed a valley, with no supporting pylons and a fair drop below. Another took you up to snow level at 6800ft. Some of us, rashly or bravely, walked to the top of this latter

gondola. As we reached the top, gasping for oxygen, of course, we had a great view of the surrounding mountains and the village of Seefeld far below like model miniatures. Then the rain started, fog and mist came down with visibility cut to one metre. It was a relief that Ida was with us and an even greater relief to come down by the cable car! But we were bouyed up by the sense of achievement attained by two steel hips, three hearing aids and two glass eyes!

The majority of the party gathered for the walk down, spurning the funicular. As we descended through fields, cattle came to see and nudge us for food. The sun came out, and a pleasant day in the fresh air was our final reminder of the week.

Once again, if there was a comment to make, it was that the Bergland hotel fed us far too well with their five course meals mitigating any benefits gained from all our exercise. It never occurred to some of us to refuse any of the courses,

naturally! We were delighted to celebrate Dorothy's birthday; the hotel offered her a champagne breakfast – the first she had ever enjoyed – and we all joined in with "happy birthday" around the cake in the evening.

Several enjoyed the indoor pool after a warm day in the sun. It was rumoured that one of the group even used the exercise salon! Rooms were spacious, with large en suite bathrooms and balconies at a price for which one would get only B&B in the UK. No wonder we flock abroad! It was interesting to note that on the evening of the England v Croatia Euro football match, the lounge, which was normally full of people and chatter, echoed to the voices of just three of us. What bliss to be able to hear one another!

Ida joined us for our final meal and we presented her with a bouquet of flowers and a card signed by everyone.

A civilised 09:15 departure in the morning should have been a premonition! As we took off from Munich, the pilot warned us that, due to storms in the UK, planes were being delayed. We bumped, shook and swayed over Epping Forest where the plane was 'stacked'. But we hardly felt the wheels touch the runway in the end. But one man's delay is another's benefit. Colin and Brenda Williamson were last seen sprinting for their connecting flight to Newcastle, which they caught due to it being delayed as well. Colin was attending a ceremony that

evening as a contender for the Pride of South Tyneside's Role Model of the Year Award. He was runner-up - congratulations!

Like so many of the St Dunstan's get-togethers, it had been a week of banter, comradeship and the sheer enjoyment of a particular pastime. For some of us 'uninitiated', it was a week of

learning new Geordie vocabulary, all polite, from Colin, Brenda and Win! Did you know a 'gawk' was an apple core? Fresh air, exercise, soft water (it's good for the hair and skin, I am told), good company, sounds, sensations and smells, eye-catching views and new and different surroundings made it a real

feast for all the senses. Amidst the noise and bustle of modern life, the holiday was an oasis of peace inside the storm!

If you would like information about next year's walk when it becomes available, please contact Ray or Robbie Hazan at Headquarters on 020 7723 5021 to register your interest.

## PENDLETON'S PANTRY

Blind chef **Stephen Pendleton** has a freezer friendly dish!

### Potato Boat with Chilli Con Carne Mango and Walnuts

THIS RECIPE IS a variation on the traditional Mexican dish. Chilli Con Carne is suitable for freezing, so with this in mind I have done quite a large recipe, therefore you can save some for another day! This recipe serves 12.

#### Ingredients:

**2lb (1kg) of minced beef.**  
**12oz (300g) of onion, finely chopped.**  
**2 cloves of garlic, crushed.**  
**1 teaspoon of chilli powder.**  
**1 pint (½ litre) of beef stock.**  
**4oz (100g) of tomato purée.**  
**15oz (400g) of tinned kidney beans.**  
**1 tablespoon of mixed dried herbs.**  
**12 Long Boat Potato Skins.**

**Decorate the completed dish with mango chutney, chopped walnuts and sultanas.**

#### Method:

First, fry off the meat in a hot frying pan or wok. I prefer to use the wok, this is because the size and shape lessens the risk of you splattering yourself with hot fat. It only takes about three to four minutes to fry off the meat, then using a colander, strain off any of the excess fat.

Transfer the meat to a pan, adding the finely chopped onion, garlic, chilli powder and mixed herbs. Cook for a few minutes, making sure to keep the ingredients moving. This is to stop the meat from sticking to the bottom of the pan.

Add the hot stock, if you know how to make proper beef stock, then all the better, but if not just add some gravy granules to a pint of hot water. Then add in the tomato purée and kidney beans.

Cook for approximately 40 minutes, on a medium heat, giving it an occasional stir. Before serving check the

seasoning and consistency is to your taste. When this dish is ready, serve in the potato skins and top it with the mango chutney, walnuts and sultanas. "Job done!"

The Long Boat Potato Skins are very inexpensive and can be found in most supermarkets. However, if you do not want to pay out for them, all you have to do is cut a jacket potato in half long ways, then hollow out the inside with a teaspoon. Bake them in a hot oven for about 20 minutes. If you have bought yours from the supermarket, check the cooking times on the bag. Make sure they are all wrapped with tin foil before you place them in the oven.

Place your filled potato skin on a plate, then arrange a nice colourful salad around it. "It will look absolutely beautiful." As you can probably tell, I make a big batch of the Chilli and freeze individual portions.

## I WAS DRAWN IN BY TALE OF WIN AND WOE

THE FINAL PRIZE in the Review's 2004 Story Contest was won by St Dunstaner Harry Beevers of Castleford, West Yorkshire. Judging the contest, author Peter James said "I was instantly drawn into this story by the first

line, and the writer never let me go. I thought it was fine, quality writing and a very compelling read, and a great, unexpected ending.

"Please convey my congratulations to the

winners and my thanks to all the contestants -I enjoyed every story very much, and it was a great privilege to have been asked to judge them."

Harry won £20. A new story contest is declared on page 7.

# "Little by Little"

the autobiography of a record Football Pools prize-winner

**M**Y NAME IS George G. Little and my story is a sad one. I was born on Friday 13th January 1939 and it was on that date exactly twenty-eight years later that the misfortune took place which caused my downfall and turned my life into the tragedy it has become. It was the day scheduled for my wedding, a day my friends told me I would never forget, a day that would be one of the highlights of my life and one that would change everything. They were right but they were also wrong. It is now 1999 and my life is in ruins and I am now suffering as a result of what happened on that fateful day.

Born in a small terrace house in a mining village in the North of England I grew up and was educated at the small village school knowing nothing of the World War raging in Europe and the Far East. I lived with my mother and father, the latter being in a reserved occupation

**By George G. Little  
(Harry Beevers)**

working in the local coal-mine. I owe my full name, George Garibaldi Little to my mother whose choice caused a few eyebrows to be raised at my christening. Not that my mother was an admirer of Guiseppe Garibaldi the 19th Century Italian revolutionary. She knew nothing of his epic march on Rome in 1867 with his band of Red shirts, and Italian unification or Risorgimento was just a foreign word to her, but she did enjoy her Garibaldi biscuits. Whilst I was at school I learned to live with the name Garibaldi but I was grateful that she had no taste for Gorgonzola or Zabaglione.

The surname Little has a long and distinguished history and according to our family oral tradition a number of Littles have made not insignificant contributions to our national

heritage. John Little, of Robin Hood fame, known of course as Little John because of his mighty stature is a familiar character in myth and legend. Much less known is my many-times-great uncle Richard Little, locally known as Little Richard on account of his small stature. It was he who helped the future King Charles II into his hiding place in an oak tree after the disastrous Royalist defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651 thus enabling him to escape the pursuing Roundheads. Sadly, Richard himself was too short to reach the lowest branches of the life-saving oak tree and it was whilst he was searching for a suitable sapling in which to hide that he was discovered and slaughtered by Cromwell's men.

I left school at fifteen with an undistinguished academic record and began work as a sales assistant in the ladies' shoe department of the Co-operative Store in the large town seven miles from our

village. In the years that followed I must have been on my knees before more women than Don Juan, Lothario and Casanova combined and seen more bunions than the Senior Chiropodist at the town's General Infirmary.

At the age of eighteen I was rejected by Her Majesty's medical team after signing on for the compulsory National Service which was in force at the time. Neither the Army, Navy or RAF wanted me probably because of my flat feet, bottle-bottom spectacles and slight stammer which I blamed on my years in the ladies shoe department. In fact the female of the species always made me slightly nervous and I was reconciled at quite an early age to the fact that the life of a bachelor was to be my destiny. It appeared that I had very little to offer the few girls I knew in our village and it remained so until a fateful Saturday in November 1968. I was never a compulsive gambler but during the football season for a number of years I had speculated a regular modest half crown on one of the better-known pools coupons.

My favourite speciality was known as the "Easy Six"; all one had to do was forecast the results of six chosen matches, ingeniously selected so that they were really extremely difficult. It's not very often that Manchester United lost at home to Stockport County, Arsenal in their home fixture lost to Hartlepool and inconceivable

that Brechine City would draw at Ibrox Park against the mighty Glasgow Rangers.

But they did that week and I had all of them on my coupon. It was a record "Easy Six" win of an astonishing £14,000/7/6d, a veritable fortune in those days and it brought about a dramatic change to my life as Grizelda suddenly stepped into it.

Grizelda Grimsdyke had been my contemporary at the village school but until my financial good fortune she had had little time for me. Her father was a bank manager and the family lived in a detached house at the edge of the village. They had gardens with apple and pear trees, a greenhouse and a lawn with a tennis court and their bath had a room of its own whilst ours, hung on a nail at the back of the house. Grizelda had spent her final two years of her education at the St Catherine Establishment for Young Ladies, a sort of finishing school for the daughters of local middle-class businessmen. The epithets "lissom" and "nubile" did not slip easily from the tongue with regard to "Grizzly" as she was known by those who were well out of her earshot. The kindest description I would use is probably that she was "sturdily built". Once it became known in the village that I was now a man of substance, Grizelda made a beeline for me. At the Methodist Chapel Christmas Eve social she dragged me in a vicelike grip into the corner of the room which was festooned with mistletoe. I had heard of

the Primitive Methodists but it was on that night that I discovered how primitive some of their barbaric practices could be. The outcome was that shortly after my bruises healed on Twelfth Night I found myself engaged to the sturdy Grizelda.

Mrs Cordelia Grimsdyke was a formidable woman. She too was sturdy and rumour had it in the village that in her younger days she had worked as a bouncer at one of the nearby town's night clubs before being dismissed following her rough handling of two RU prop forward gate-crashers. She took over the forthcoming marriage arrangements and as preparations were made my spirits went down in direct proportion to the decline in my pools winning prize.

My stag night at our local hostelry "The Waddling Duck" was not a happy affair. Grizelda had decided to dispense with the traditional hen-party as it would clash with her Karate and weight-lifting class but I joined my proposed best man Fred in what proved to be a rather dismal twosome affair. I knew something would happen the following day during the marriage ceremony and I was right. It was well known in the village that I was of a superstitious nature, in fact it was once rumoured that when my Aunt Sally's parrot died I wished to carry out an autopsy to check the auguries. That wasn't true but I was certainly superstitious, possibly because

of my birth date, Friday 13th. I was a regular reader of the weekly magazine *The Stars and your Future*, I would often consult tea-leaves and tarot cards, and a trip to the seaside always included a visit to Gypsy Petulengro for a palmistry consultation. I noted in the horoscope section of the daily paper that on the following day Saturn would enter the orbit of Uranus and that a transit of Venus was a portent of doom.

The big day arrived, the sky was grey, my suit and tie were grey and looking into the mirror I realised that my

countenance was grey. Cordelia had arranged the music for the ceremony and when the service began, Wagner's wedding march was dispensed with and Grizelda and her father marched imperiously down the aisle to the strains of "See the conquering hero come". We sang Mrs Grimdyke's favourite hymn "O for a thousand tongues" and finally reached the point where the Minister said the fateful words, "And if anyone can show any just impediment why these two cannot be joined together in holy matrimony speak now or forever hold your peace."

There was a pregnant silence. Then the door at the back of the church opened with a squeak. Every head in the congregation turned to see a young woman entering and looking furtively around, I turned and when our eyes met I felt a terrible foreboding as a slow smile spread across her face. I recognised her immediately, it was Bella the barmaid from "The Waddling Duck" and my knees began to tremble. I knew that she held the key to my future happiness and I was right.

Then the blow was struck, Bella slowly looked around apologetically, took her seat and the ceremony proceeded.

over-Sands, Cumbria served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1946.

**Alfred Harris** of Stourbridge, West Midlands joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1947, but then transferred to the Intelligence Corps until leaving as Sergeant in 1949.

**Thomas Jones** of North Shields, Tyne & Wear served in the Welsh Guards from 1930 to 1937 and then 1939 to 1945.

**James Kay** of Luton, Bedfordshire joined the Royal Artillery in 1939, transferring to the Royal Army Service Corps in 1944. He was discharged in 1946.

**William Lang** of Crosby, Merseyside served in the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders (TA), the Durham Light Infantry, Lancashire Fusiliers and Searchlight Regiment, RA between 1936 and 1946.

**Geoffrey Law** of Kettering, Northamptonshire served in the Royal Engineers in the UK and Germany from 1946 to 1948.

**Derrick McIntosh** of Gloucester, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1946.

**Joan Manser** of Henfield, West Sussex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1944 to 1947.

**Frank Martin** of Cliftonville, Margate, Kent served in the Royal Navy from

1931 to 1939 leaving as a Stoker Petty Officer.

**Peter Moore** of Pillowell, Nr Lydney, Gloucestershire served in the Staffordshire Regiment from 1966 to 1973 leaving as a Lance Corporal.

**Joseph Reeve** of Solihull, West Midlands served in the Royal Navy Voluntary Reserves from 1944 to 1946, leaving as a Sub-Lieutenant.

**Kathleen Risebero** of Hampton, Middlesex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1943 leaving as a Corporal.

**Raymond Rogers** of Bournemouth, Dorset served in the Royal Navy as a Wireman from 1941 to 1946.

**Frieda Saunders** of Wrexham, Clwyd served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1948 to 1949.

**Derrick Simon** of Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1942, then transferred to the Intelligence Corps until his discharge in 1946.

**George Slater** of Farington, Leyland, Lancashire served with the Merchant Navy for three years then joined the General Service Corps in 1945. He joined the Black Watch in 1946 and was discharged in 1949.

**Edward Thatcher** of South Nutfield, Redhill, Surrey served in the Queen's Royal Regiment from 1945 to 1949.

**Donald Varley** of Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Regiment of Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

**Joseph Whitehead** of Brighton, East Sussex served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve from 1940 to 1941.

**Eric Woodcock** of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Cecil Wright** of Dulwich, London joined the Royal Air Force in 1931 and left as a Technical Sergeant in 1945.

**George Wright** of Preston, Lancashire joined the Merchant Navy in 1942, serving to 1946.

## Welcome to ST DUNSTAN'S

**Eric Ambrose** of Ramsgate, Kent served in the General Service Corps and Royal Army Medical Corps between 1940 and 1948.

**Arthur Bickerdike** of New Moston, Manchester served in the Lancashire Fusiliers, Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers between 1939 and 1946.

**John Bingham** of Highfield, Sheffield served in the Royal Army Medical Corps, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1940 and 1946.

**Frank Breach** of Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Derek Daniels** of Gorleston, Great Yarmouth served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

**John Davies** of Rotherhithe, London served in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, the Army Auxiliary Corps and the Parachute Regiment between 1941 and 1947. He was held as a POW.

**William Ditcham** of Hartlepool, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

**Ernest Easter** of Ramsgate, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

**George Evans** of Brampton, Cumbria served in the Durham

Light Infantry, the Lincolnshire Regiment and the Royal Artillery between 1942 and 1947. He was held as a POW.

**Kathleen Franck** of Thistleberry, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Jessie Gallagher** of Kettering, Northamptonshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1944 to 1947 leaving as a Sergeant. She was stationed in Italy.

**Kenneth Golding** of Weaversham, Northwich, Cheshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1944 until 1947.

**Charles Grealy** of Grange-

## EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES (even the tomatoes)

THE NEWLY DESIGNED garden at Ovingdean has yielded some interesting crops lately. Dorothy Wright has been growing chives and carrots, eating them fresh from the garden. An impromptu tomato growing competition was won by Moira Meekins, with the first ripe tomato being picked today. There have also been strawberries, while beetroot and radishes are coming on well.

Even the pied wagtails have done well - they've had three nests, including one in a hanging basket!

## BALANCING THE BOOKS

by Ted Bunting

### **An Unkindness Of Ravens**

Author: Ruth Rendell  
Reader: Pauline Munro  
Duration: 8.25 Hours  
Catalogue Number 5600

I IMAGINE Ruth Rendell must be very fond of Chief Inspector Wexford, her rather implausible middle-aged detective who bumbles around the fictional King's Markham. But I've never cared much for the man and now having suffered his company through all the turgid chapters of *An Unkindness of Ravens*, I have learned to heartily dislike him. It goes without saying, of course, that it is the writer who provides the claptrap he and other characters utter. There is a fair example of this in a search for a particular typewriter. We are subjected to a discourse on daisywheel and golfball printers; it's the sort of information you'd expect to find in a trade journal, not in the pages of a novel and it increases the yawn factor no end. The actual story is not too bad as murder mysteries go. The first victim is a bigamist, which is bit of a novelty, but apart from an improbable feminist group with tattoos on their arms it's all very ordinary and drab. Needless to say, the murderer is eventually brought to book and Wexford explains all in a denouement that, sadly, is as tedious as the book itself. If you were seeking a story devoid of pleasure or excitement it's just the ticket.

Part three of our series on the events that led up to the foundation of St Dunstan's. Diplomacy falters and Europe burns with the flames of war.

## COUNTDOWN TO DARKNESS

August 1914 opened with Germany declaring war on Russia. In previous years, Italy had entered into a treaty (the Triple Entente) with Germany and Austria-Hungary to provide military support if attacked by France or Russia. Now it declared that it would adopt a neutral role. On August 2nd, Britain warned Germany that it would go to war if Belgian neutrality was not respected. Germany responded by marching into Belgium on August 3rd and Britain declared war on Germany. The next day Austro-Hungary declared war on Russia.

On August 7th, Lord Kitchner appealed for 100,000 men to join the British Army, over the next six weeks, 500,000 answered his call. On August 10th, France declared war on Austro-Hungary, followed by a similar declaration from Britain on the 12th. On August 14th, the French Army invaded Lorraine

but were beaten back by heavy artillery and machine gun fire.

Around 120,000 British servicemen moved into France and Belgium between August 14th and August 22nd. Around 70,000 of the Expeditionary Force met the advancing German Army at Mons. With the infantry deployed east and west over 40km, battle commenced.

Over a six-day period on the other side of Europe, the Russians suffered serious defeat against the Germans. A 150,000 strong force was caught in a cordon at Tannenberg. About a third of the Russian army died in battle, 92,000 were taken prisoner and only 10,000 made a successful retreat.

On August 28th, The Royal Navy lured their German counterparts into a fierce sea battle at Heliogoland. The Germans lost three cruisers and a destroyer.

## Ten answers

Quiz solutions from page 11.

- |                |                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) Edinburgh.  | 6) Aberdeen.                  |
| 2) Oxford.     | 7) Norwich.                   |
| 3) Liverpool.  | 8) <i>Gone with the Wind.</i> |
| 4) Nottingham. | 9) Salisbury.                 |
| 5) Jerusalem.  | 10) Shanghai.                 |

## REUNION ROUND-UP

THERE WERE 29 St Dunstaners and ten widows gathered at Ovingdean for the Brighton (III) reunion on June 23rd. Colin Low was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding.

The first Bristol Reunion for some years united 23 St Dunstaners from Bristol, Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. They and their guests met at the Arnos Manor Hotel, Arnosville, Bristol, Avon on June 30th. David Knowles was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding.

## 50-YEAR BADGE

St Dunstaner John Whitcombe of Eastbourne, East Sussex was recently presented with his Golden Jubilee St Dunstan's badge. He served with the Royal Corps of Signals from 1952 to 1954.

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

#### **Congratulations on the birth of:**

Flynn James Moss on April 21st. He is the grandson of *Ken and Cheryl Moss* of Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

### RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

#### **Congratulations to:**

*Frederick and Joan Baker* of Liverpool Merseyside on July 11th.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

#### **Congratulations to:**

*Colin and Pearl Mills* of Rotherham, South Yorkshire on June 26th.

*Gordon and Norma Lawrence* of Birmingham, West Midlands on July 3rd.

### DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

#### **Congratulations to:**

*Maurice and Edna Bridgman* of Birmingham, West Midlands on June 24th.

*Roland and Anne Veysey* of Midhurst, West Sussex on June 29th.

*Harry and Edna Plater* of Hull, East Yorkshire on July 1st.

*James and Dorothy Sabourin* of Peacehaven, East Sussex on July 1st.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

#### **Congratulations to:**

*William and Daisy Higgins* of Eastbourne, East Sussex who celebrated 63 years of marriage on June 14th.

*Hugh and Jane Rance* of Rottingdean, East Sussex who celebrated 65 years of marriage on June 17th.

*Thomas and Grace Renshaw* of Radcliffe on Trent, Nottinghamshire who celebrated 64 years of marriage on June 23rd.

*Arthur and Clare Dickison* of Honiton, Devon who celebrated 63 years of marriage on June 28th.

*Charles and Dora Leat* of Maidstone, Kent who celebrated 64 years of marriage on July 6th.

*Richard and Jane Hollingsworth* of St Leonards, East Sussex who celebrated 64 years of marriage on July 7th.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

#### **Congratulations to:**

John Allan, grandson of *George and Margery Allan* of Grundisburgh, Suffolk, who has been awarded a degree (first) in computer science from the University of Sheffield. He is now studying towards a PhD in mathematics.

### DEATHS

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

**Rosa Wilkinson** on June 25th. She was the wife of *Henry Wilkinson* of Tadworth, Surrey.

**Reta Woon** of Taunton, Somerset on June 16th. She was the widow of *Preston Woon*.

**Our sympathy goes to their family and friends.**

# IN MEMORY

## **Thomas Johnson**

Royal Navy

Thomas Edgar Johnson of St Annes-on-Sea, Lancashire died on June 17th, aged 82. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1989. He joined the Royal Navy in 1941 and served in the Atlantic and other theatres of conflict. In 1944, he suffered a blow to his right eye in Scotland. He was discharged in 1946 and taught English and History until retiring in 1980. He was Vice-Chairman of his local Royal British Legion and Vice-President of the local Over 60s Club. Our sympathy goes to his widow Irene, sons Robert and Stewart, daughter Kay and all of the family.

## **Gerald Cluley**

Royal Artillery

Gerald Frank William Cluley of Leicester, Leicestershire died on June 18th, aged 88. He served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1942. After training, he was posted to the Leicestershire Yeomanry Ack-Ack unit in Hastings but later joined a rescue team in Hull during heavy bombing. In civilian life he was a butcher. His interests included gardening, woodwork and snooker. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joan, their sons and daughters and all other members of the family.

## **George Jackson, BEM**

Royal Marines

George Bradford Jackson, BEM of Waterlooville, Hampshire died on June 20th, aged 85. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2001. Having joined the Royal Marines in 1936, he became part of a mobile vehicle inspection team. Posted to Palestine in 1938, he joined HMS Sussex and was in Alexandria when war broke out. He later joined HMS Suffolk and was involved in chasing and sinking the Bismark. Later duties included Atlantic and Russian convoys before he landed with the Armoured Support Group on D-Day. After the war, he continued to be deployed to many trouble spots and operations, including Aden. He retired as Colour Sergeant in 1963. In civilian life, he became Chief Technician for

Highbury College of Technology. His interests included hockey and golf. Our sympathy goes to his son Martin, daughters and all of the family.

## **William Bodilly**

Fleet Air Arm

William George Bodilly of Ford, Plymouth, Devon died on June 23rd, aged 80. Coming from a Naval family, he joined the Royal Navy as a 15-year-old, starting an apprenticeship with the Fleet Air Arm in 1940. His term of indenture was shortened because of the war and he was posted to Arbroath in late 1942. He was then posted to the repair ship HMS *Unicorn* to maintain Swordfish, Hellcats and other aircraft such as the Walrus. He left the Service in 1949 having reached the rank of Petty Officer. In civilian life, he became an aircraft fitter and later set up a mobile steam cleaning business. Before retiring he supervised the night shift in a tool making and welding workshop. Fascinated by reptiles, birds and spiders, he had a collection of snakes, tarantulas, parrots and other species. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

## **David Coleman**

Royal Navy

David Coleman of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire died on June 24th, aged 83. He joined the Royal Navy in 1939 and trained as a telegraphist. He took part in the Dieppe Raid and sailed the Pacific and Indian Oceans. He was demobilised in 1946 and trained as a toolmaker before taking a job with Austin Motors. In 1954, he became deputy manager of Henley's store depot but later took a BA in Humanities and English Literature. He then taught privately until 1991. Our sympathy goes to the family.

## **Dorothea Clayton**

Queen Alexandra

Royal Army Nursing Corps

Dorothea Maude Clayton of Edinburgh died in June, aged 92. A Staff Nurse at the Edinburgh Royal Hospital, she joined the Queen Alexandra Royal Army Nursing Corps in 1942. She served as a Captain in the UK, India, Japan, Germany and Jordan until her discharge in 1949. She then studied for a nursing degree and returned to the Edinburgh Royal. She was

appointed Director of Nursing to the Jordanian Medical Corps in 1960 in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. She left in 1965 after suffering neck and spinal injuries in a motor accident. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

## **William Bray**

Royal Artillery

William Charles Philip Bray of Bassett, Southampton, Hampshire died on July 5th, aged 61. He worked in furniture removal and then at a builders' merchant, before he joined the army in 1960. Training at Oswestry, he was posted to Plymouth with the Royal Artillery. He was deployed in Kuwait and Aden. In 1963, he was discharged after being wounded in a training accident. He trained as a capstan lathe operator at St Dunstan's but later became a landscape gardener. He also worked as a stone refurbisher and a charge hand porter at the Royal Hants Hospital, Southampton. Our sympathy goes to his mother Queenie and all of the family.

## **Thomas James**

Royal Engineers

Thomas Donald James of Catford, London died on July 8th, aged 81. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1941 and lost his right eye when it was pierced by a bayonet during a training exercise. In civilian life, he sold shellfish as a street trader and also worked as a packer for the Ministry of the Environment. His interests included walking and cookery. Our sympathy goes to his sister Iris and all of the family.

## **William Marsh**

Middlesex Regiment

William Marsh of Hartlepool, Cleveland died on July 9th, aged 85. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1978. He joined the Middlesex Regiment in 1939 and was posted to France with the British Expeditionary Force. After the retreat from Dunkirk, he was deployed to Hong Kong where an undermanned garrison found itself fending off Japanese forces. Hong Kong fell and he was taken prisoner of war on Christmas Day, 1941. During his years as a FEPOW, he suffered malnutrition and contracted malaria which would later cause his loss of sight. He was demobbed in 1946. In civilian life, he was a

Fitter's Mate with British Steel. His interests included cooking, gardening, radio and racing. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mary, daughters Bernadette, Sheila and Marie, sons Peter, Philip and Kevin and all of the family.

## **Ernest Johnson**

Cambridgeshire Regiment

Ernest Francis Johnson of Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire died on July 11th, aged 84. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1991. He became an apprentice gunsmith on leaving school and joined the TA Battalion of the Cambridgeshire Regiment in 1936. Embodied on the outbreak of war in 1939, he was posted to India on Garrison duties. From there, he moved to Singapore and was involved in the Battle for Malaya. He was captured during the Fall of Singapore by which time his Battalion had been greatly reduced in number. He was originally held at Changi Gaol but became one of the first prisoners to be set to work on construction of the Burma Railway. He was returned to Changi towards the end of his captivity. After his discharge in 1946, he returned to work as a gunsmith. Our sympathy goes to his widow Eunice, son Martin, daughters Jennifer and Janice and all other members of the family.

## **Edward Peake**

Royal Armoured Corps

Edward Peake of Lea, Preston, Lancashire died on July 11th, aged 85. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939. He was posted with 137th Field Regiment to Malaya in 1941. The following year, they were deployed to Singapore and he was captured by the Japanese during the Fall. Having suffered facial wounds, he was forced to work on railway construction in Thailand during his time as a FEPOW. He also suffered from malaria, beriberi and malnutrition before being released. Back in the UK, he worked initially for ICI. He later worked for the Atomic Energy Commission and British Nuclear Fuels. In 1965, he joined the Royal Armoured Corps (TA), leaving four years later as Corporal. He was Chairman and President of the Blackpool FEPOW Association and a committed member of the Masons and Probus. Our sympathy goes to his widow Louisa, their daughters and all of the family.

# SULTANS OF SWING!

Derek Roden gets it in the hole.



Thank you to Jill Thornhill.



Reg, guided by his wife Denise, won the Alan Logan Trophy for the second year running.



A team from HMS *Sultan* swept the board at the 2004 St Dunstan's Golf Club Open Invitation Day on June 19th. Ten teams were competing at Rusper Golf Club in the annual challenge. REME, RAF Coltishall and Kingston Police also fielded teams who played alongside a St Dunstaner. Alan 'Reg' Perrin won the Alan Logan Trophy for Best Blind Golfer for the second year running. He was also a member of the winning team - *Sultan's* Mike Osborne, Simon Kay and Rod Newman (above).

A REME team, partnered with St Dunstaner John Stevens came second, while Kingston Police and Les Trout came third. A vote of thanks was voiced to Rusper's Jill Thornhill and Tony Blunden for organising the event.



Stephen Menary gets ready.

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by Simon Rogers

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