

December 2004

www.st-dunstans.org.uk

ST DUNSTAN'S Review



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

New President

Forewords on Page 4:

St Dunstan's President Colin Beaumont-Edmonds announces his retirement. Messages from the new President, Chairman and Chief Executive follow.



Cover story:

Which bright Sparky thought of this?

Two Sparkies - both Marines - wade along a stream during the Royal Marines Commando Challenge in Bicton, Exeter. St Dunstaner Steve 'Sparky' Sparkes is guided through mud, sludge and water by Cliff 'Sparky' Maitland, MBE. Take note of the full St Dunstan's team above, we can assure you that they won't be that clean for much longer.

Join the mud track pack over on page 20.

Top tots for Nelson's day Eye tee with some Mayo

Real Navy rum was issued to toast the immortal memory on Trafalgar Day. **Raise your glasses over on page 18.**

St Dunstaner Mike Mayo has a wet but enjoyable game of golf in the EPGA's Eye to Eye Challenge. **Details on page 24.**

Noticeboard

Starting on Page 6:

Seasons greetings!
Advice on medication
Inspection report
HMS Sultan
Upgrade for doors
Calling Ex-POWs
Globe & Laurel on tape
WWII 60th Anniversary
Talking Books go digital
Composer needed
Staff changes
What's On 2005
Large print diary
Cadet challenge
Free passports
Gym Xmas opening hours
Calendar for sale
Ilse of Man Parish Walk
Problem solving
Trevor Anderson

Plus St Dunstan's Contacts, Balancing the Books, Ten Questions, Letters to the Editor, Poet's Corner, Pendleton's Pantry and more!!!

We shall remember them



An estimated 10,000 veterans marched at the Cenotaph in London on November 14th for the annual ceremony of Remembrance. St Dunstan's contingent recalled the fallen from two world wars and peace time conflicts. **A report on St Dunstan's part in the proceedings starts on page 28.**

Greene King Mr Blach retires as our fisher prize Ophthalmologist

St Dunstaner Terry Martin wins beermaker's prize in trout fishing contest.

Details on page 25.

Rolf Blach retires after nearly 40-years of specialist eye care for St Dunstan's.

Farewell on page 27.

Cadets march for St Dunstan's!

St Dunstaner Steve Finlay with Cadet Sgt Marsh and Bombardier Martin Cricket and other cadets pass a water tower on Shooters Hill as they near the halfway point of a 12 mile sponsored walk (mainly uphill) through the Kent-London borders.

Trot across to the back page for the full story.



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A message from the President retired

IT WAS ABOUT two years ago that I first spoke to the Chairman about my retirement as President of St Dunstan's for I was approaching my eightieth birthday. He kindly persuaded me to carry on for a while, but I now feel that with all the changes that have taken place it is time to hand over to a younger person.

It has been a privilege to hold this office for 18 years, and Joyce and I have enjoyed meeting so many St Dunstaners, their wives, and widows, not only at Reunions in England and Wales, but also in Australia, Canada and New Zealand, where we have attended their national conferences. Our only regret is that we never managed to visit South Africa, although I have kept in touch with all their activities by receiving their newsletter.

Bearing in mind the aims of our Founder, I continue to marvel at the range of employment and sporting activities which St Dunstaners do, and the various organisations to which they belong in their local communities, often holding an office.

Finally, may I thank everyone, St Dunstaners, their families, and the staff for their generous support and for enabling Joyce and myself to show in a practical way our thanks for all that St Dunstan's has done for me.

Colin Beaumont-Edmonds

From the President



I BECAME A St Dunstaner in 1973 after an IRA parcel bomb deprived me of a colleague, my sight, right hand and some of my hearing. From the first moment I arrived at St Dunstan's, six weeks later, a light began to shine at the end of a tunnel! I shall be forever indebted to those St Dunstaners who did and still continue to inspire me with hope, encouragement and optimism.

I hold this appointment above all others. It is one of the proudest moments in my life. This honour will enable me to continue to serve both St Dunstan's and, above all, my fellow St Dunstaners into the future. I know that my wife Robbie, colleagues and friends will be there to support me along the way.

Robbie and I take this opportunity to wish all members of the St Dunstan's family a very Happy Christmas and fulfilling New Year.

Raymond L. Hazan

From the Chairman

AT THE COUNCIL meeting held on October 28th, our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds MC, announced his retirement after 18 years in the post. At the AGM following the meeting, I expressed our heartfelt thanks to Colin, who has been constantly supported by his wife Joyce, to whom we are also extremely grateful. He brought dignity, knowledge and experience to the job. He has been a dedicated and hard-working ambassador for St Dunstan's and a fine example of all that our organisation stands for. We are truly indebted to him.

St Dunstaner Ray Hazan was unanimously elected to the position of President in his place, and we wish him every good fortune in what will be an

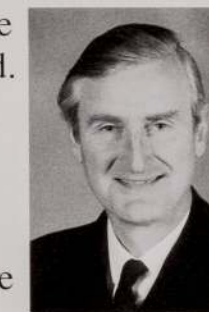
onerous and highly important role, and for which he is very well suited.

Mr Rolf Blach, our Consultant Ophthalmologist, retires after very many years of running clinics for St Dunstan's. We are deeply grateful for all that he has done for us and wish him another peaceful retirement!

I also welcome Air Vice Marshal Richard Kyle as a new Trustee of St Dunstan's. He has recently retired from the RAF and a pen picture will appear in a future issue.

Once again, St Dunstan's can look back on a full and busy year. Our extension of facilities to St Dunstan's Sheffield, will extend our ability to train

newcomers in the North of England. This will help enormously to give initial training to newcomers in the Midlands and North and, judging by the mail we receive, I can be confident that we are still helping St Dunstaners achieve dignity and a degree of independence. I thank St Dunstaners, their families, our staff and supporters for all that they contribute to our organisation.



Jenny joins me in wishing you all a happy Christmas and a successful and fulfilling New Year.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

From the Chief Executive

THIS WILL BE my fifth Christmas since I came to St Dunstan's and it must be a measure of how much I enjoy being amongst you all, since I cannot believe how the time has flown by.

Time, of course, goes incredibly quickly if one is busy and there can be no doubt that it has been an incredibly busy year for all the staff. In addition to the work that has to go on day by day, we are expecting to admit over 400 new St Dunstaners this year, Ovingdean has been 95 per cent full over recent

months and we are developing our new Training Centre in Sheffield. It is wonderful to be part of such a thriving and dynamic organisation and to be able to see the difference that St Dunstan's often makes to peoples' lives.

Christmas, that special time when we give presents and thanks to celebrate the birth of the Christchild, is a good time for me to be able to give thanks and acknowledge the excellent and often exceptional work that is done by our staff. Their commitment and dedication

does them great credit and I am hugely grateful to them all for their hard work, their friendship and loyalty.



I wish all St Dunstaners and other Beneficiaries a very happy and blessed Christmas and look forward to seeing you again soon, either at Reunions, Ovingdean or elsewhere.

Robert Leader

Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information



SEASONS GREETINGS FROM ST DUNSTAN'S

HAVE A JOYFUL CELEBRATION THIS FESTIVE MONTH: All staff at Headquarters, Ovingdean and around the country wish the members of the St Dunstan's family a very Happy Christmas. We trust everyone will enjoy good health and happiness during the coming year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!



RULES FOR MEDICATION WHEN VISITING OIVINGDEAN

HELP US TO HELP YOU: St Dunstaners and their spouses visiting Ovingdean should note that nursing staff cannot administer tablets or other medicines unless they are in their original packaging as issued by the pharmacist and, they state the frequency and quantity of dosage on the bottle or box. If bottles or packets are unlabeled then the staff are not covered professionally to administer the medication as there is no prescription or evidence of dosage.

We ask that anyone staying on the Nursing or Residential wings, bring three days supply of their medication in correctly labelled bottles, be it their original box or a nomad system and a fresh prescription with them for the drugs required for the remainder of their stay. Many St Dunstaners visiting Ovingdean bring in repeat order forms as opposed to prescriptions and these are not acceptable for obtaining medications from our pharmacist. The Ovingdean doctors cannot

supply repeat prescriptions for non-resident patients. The three-day supply of medication that is clearly labelled is requested to cover the period between admission and filling the prescription. Any remaining drugs will be returned to the St Dunstaner.

Visitors to the Holiday wing who do not require any assistance from staff to take their medication are advised to bring an adequate supply of their own tablets and continue with their normal practices as recommended by their own doctor. Ovingdean staff are unable to obtain prescriptions for visitors to the holiday wing.

All nursing staff are under obligation to follow statutory regulations when administering medicines, which is why they require a clear indication of any prescription. If you follow these simple guidelines during your visit then it helps us to maintain a well-organised and safe service to St Dunstaners and their spouses while recognising the regulations governing Care Homes in the United Kingdom.

**Jackie Greer,
Head of Care**

CSCI COMPLEMENTS OIVINGDEAN STAFF

INSPECTORS' VERDICT ONLINE: St Dunstan's, like all registered care homes, is inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) on a minimum of two occasions each year. Subsequently, the CSCI publish their findings on their website. These reports enable prospective applicants to see what services the home offers and how the CSCI views them. The CSCI can make requirements, which the home must meet in order to retain its registration for care. They can also make recommendations to the Charity on how they feel these services can be improved upon.

Following an inspection on July 23rd, the CSCI complemented St Dunstan's Ovingdean on the services and environment provided for residents. Following on from previous inspections, there were no requirements, but two recommendations that St Dunstan's has acted upon by employing nine additional care staff to address the increased work load associated with increased occupancy.

The current report and details of previous inspections can be obtained on the CSCI website on www.csci.org.uk in pdf (portable document format). If you have any queries regarding the content of the report, then please ring St Dunstan's Head of Care Jackie Greer on 01273 391420, she will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

HMS SULTAN 2005

CALLING ALL CAMPERS: The next HMS *Sultan* Summer Camp runs Friday, July 29th to Saturday, August 6th. Any St Dunstaner wishing to attend should contact Dave Burrows by May 1st. Write to him at 18 Portsmouth Road, Lee on the Solent, Hampshire PO13 9AG, or telephone on 02392 550532, or send an e-mail to DAVEBURROWS808@aol.com.

UPGRADE FOR ENTRANCE DOORS AT OIVINGDEAN

BETTER ACCESS FOR WHEELCHAIRS: St Dunstan's has recently received planning and listed building consent to carry out much needed improvements to the entrance at Ovingdean. The revolving door will remain unchanged but the adjacent side doors, which can be awkward to handle when opened for wheelchair access in windy weather, will be replaced by fully automatic folding doors. The new doors will make access much easier and safer for all St Dunstaners and visitors. Doors are under construction and we expect installation to take place early in the new year.

CALLING EX-PRISONERS OF WAR

EX-POW GET TOGETHER: The Annual Reunion of St Dunstan's Ex-POWs will be held at Ovingdean from April 8th-11th 2005. All St Dunstaners who are Ex-POWs are welcome to attend. This is not a club as such, just a company of Ex-POWs who meet to have a good time. Any Ex-Prisoner of War wishing to attend should contact the Hon Secretary, Tom Hart at 15 Whitefriars Meadow, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9AS. Tel: 01304 612771. We need to have some idea of the number of people who will be attending in order to make arrangements for the Reunion Dinner. As this event is usually very popular, it is advisable to let Tom Hart know as early as possible. It is also very important that you book accommodation at Ovingdean for the weekend.

**A.W. Lockhart,
Hon. Treasurer**

GLOBE & LAUREL

MARINE MAGAZINE ON TAPE: Globe & Laurel will be available on tape in the New Year. Contact Ray Hazan at HQ on 020 7723 5021 if you would like to be added to the mailing.

WWII 60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION ON JULY 10TH 2005

DRAW RESULTS: In the September issue of the **Review** we asked for names of those interested in attending events to mark the 60th anniversary of VE and VJ days. We received an encouraging response. Inevitably, there were more names than the 26 places allotted. The following people had their names drawn:

Westminster Abbey Nominations:

Anthony Rudzki	Charles Hanaway
Richard Walker	Peggy West

Lunch at Buckingham Palace Nominations:

John Harris	Dennis Busby
Frances Casey	Alfred Lockhart

Horse Guards Parade Nominations:

Wallace Burnet-Smith	Thomas Hart
Paul McCulloch	William Habberfield
Mabel Haynes	Bessie Parkin
Norman Kerlake	Olive Bushell
James Byrne	William Edgar
Alfred Dodgson	William Shea
Norman Killick	Walter Rosser
Frank Swindell	Stanley Ludkin
Ernest Firth	Brenda Tyzack

Westminster Abbey Reserves:

William Goodwin	Ted John
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Lunch at Buckingham Palace Reserves:

Edna Thomas	Ernest Phillips
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Horse Guards Parade Reserves:

James McGoff	Christopher Spellacy
Evelyn Lucas	Bill Holland
John Townend	Lionel Broughton

Standard Bearer: Arthur Carter

All have been notified and will receive formal invitations in due course.

TALKING BOOK SERVICE CONTINUES DIGITAL SWITCH

THREE-QUARTERS OF USERS TAKE UP DAISY PLAYERS: The RNIB Talking Book Service are continuing their programme to transfer members to the digital service. According to Talking Books 40,221 members make use of their facilities (with 28,418 using Daisy machines). As of August 31st there were 7,729 digital titles available for loan.

The Service will continue to write to members over the next few months to transfer them to the new machines. However, they encourage members to make contact and request a transfer even if they haven't heard from Talking Books yet.

At the end of September, Talking Books introduced a new Talking Book player, the Plectalk PTN1. They add that it is not possible to offer members a choice of PTN1 or Victor Reader Classic on loan. However both machines and other Daisy players are available for sale from the RNIB.

Anyone wishing to transfer to the digital service should telephone 0845 300 6277 or e-mail tbtransfer@rnib.org.uk. A catalogue of available titles is available in a variety of formats and can be obtained from Talking Book Customer Service on 0845 762 6843.

HELP ME TUNE THIS SONG

MUSIC MAESTRO PLEASE: St Dunstaner James Robinson of Preston, Lancashire is hoping to make contact with a musically-minded St Dunstaner. He has written several verses which he hopes could be put to music. If anyone has an interest in composing music they can contact James care of the **Review** at St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

STAFF CHANGES

KATY BARRETT



Katy Barrett joined St Dunstan's as Head of Rehabilitation and Training on November 1st. She joins us from the South Downes NHS Trust where she was the Head Occupational Therapist for Working Age Mental Health Services. Having worked in the health service for 21 years, this is

her first venture into the charity sector. She has been thrown into the thick of things with the impending opening of St Dunstan's Sheffield and has been recruiting ROVIs for the new centre. When not at work, she enjoys singing and arts and craft such as stone carving, mosaic and stained glass. She has two teenagers, and has an ambition to fly in a hot air balloon.



RUTH LOEBL

Ruth Loebel has been seconded from the RNIB to advise St Dunstan's on approaches to helping St Dunstaners explore employment opportunities. She has previously worked at RNIB Liverpool on employer technical assessments. In her spare time she enjoys badminton and claims to be able to unicycle. As a prelude to her project, Ruth would like to talk to St Dunstaners who are currently in employment. She can be contacted at Headquarters on 020 7723 5021.

MARY SCOURFIELD

Mary Scourfield retired on October 29th after 18 years as a friend and mentor to St Dunstaners honing their artistic talents in the Craft Workshop. She was feted by a large contingent of St Dunstaners who gathered, alongside her colleagues, in the lounge to wish her the best for the future. Mary was presented with several tokens of appreciation. St Dunstaner Frank Tinsley paid tribute in poetic form and also presented Mary with an example of the kind of work she has inspired St Dunstaners to produce. Mary had to tear through foil wrapping paper to uncover a wooden relief work version of Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*.



SUE WILKS

Sue Wilks left St Dunstan's in November after seven years as Secretary of the Midlands Estates Office.

MICHAEL WATSON

Admissions and Pensions Manager Michael Watson is retiring to the Isle of Man for family reasons. However, he will remain active as a consultant on admissions, responsible for contacting new St Dunstaners.

JOHN ISHERWOOD

Chief Surveyor John Isherwood left St Dunstan's in November to become Resources Manager at the Royal United Kingdom Benevolent Association, a national charity which helps older people on low incomes hold on to their independence.

WHAT'S ON NEXT YEAR

A SELECTION OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR: These are just some of the events and activities that make up St Dunstan's 2005 calendar. Details of other meetings will appear in future issues. For some club events at Ovingdean participants should note that arrival and departure dates may be one day before and after those published. All holiday and club activity bookings should be made via Jackie Castle, Bookings Coordinator on 01273 307811 ext 1422 or e-mail jackie.castle@st-dunstans.org.uk. Those booking in for club activities are reminded that reserved rooms are only held up to one month prior to the commencement of the activity. Provisional dates have been marked (*tbc*) to be confirmed and further information will be published when available.

2004

Christmas 'Week' Dec 19th-29th 2004
 New Year 'Week' Dec 30th 2004-Jan 8th 2005

2005

JANUARY

Skiing (Italy) January 15th-22nd
 Amateur Radio (I) January 16th-22nd
 Archery Club (I) January 28th-Feb 6th

FEBRUARY

Writers' Forum February 5th
 Music 'Week' February 20th-25th

MARCH

Writers' Forum March 5th
 Bowling (I) March 7th-21st
 Computer Club (I) March 22nd-23rd
 Derby Reunion March 23rd
 Amateur Radio(II) March 24th-31st
 St Dunstan's 90th Anniversary March 26th
 Easter Day March 27th
 Brighton Reunion (I) March 30th

APRIL

Writers' Forum April 2nd
 Ex-POW Reunion April 8th-11th
 Dutch Memorial - Laying of Flowers April 11th
 Norwich Reunion April 13th
 London Marathon April 17th
 Historical 'Week' April 17th-22nd
 Bisley Shooting Challenge April 20th
 Masonic Weekend April 22nd-24th
 London Reunion April 26th

MAY

Army v Navy Rugby Match May (*tbc*)
 Gardening 'Week' May 1st-7th
 Leeds Reunion May 4th
 Writers' Forum May 7th
 Sportsboat and RIB Show May 6th-8th
 VE Day May 8th
 Blackpool Reunion May 10th
 Liverpool Reunion May 11th
 Exercise Ironman May 11th
 Blind & Handless Reunion May 11th-17th
 Celebrity Soccer Sunday May 15th (*tbc*)
 Newcastle Reunion May 17th
 Arts Weekend May 19th-22nd
 Writers' Forum Day May 21st
 Cardiff Reunion May 24th
 Hampshire & Dorset Reunion May 25th
 Archery(II) May 27th-June 6th
 Edinburgh Reunion May 31st

JUNE

Walking Week (*tbc*)
 Brighton Reunion(II) June 1st
 Ribex June 3rd-5th
 Writers' Forum June 4th
 Widow's 'Week'(I) June 6th-11th
 Chichester Reunion June 8th
 Exeter Reunion June 15th
 Isle of Man Parish Walk June 18th
 Surrey Reunion June 21st
 Eastbourne Reunion June 22nd
 International Festival of the Sea June 24th-27th
 Bristol Reunion June 29th

JULY

Writers' Forum July 2nd
 Veterans Awareness Week July 3rd-10th
 Amateur Radio(III) July 9th-16th
 VE/VJ celebrations July 10th
 Ladies Reunion July 17th-23rd
 Royal Marines Band Concert July 20th
 HMS *Sultan* July 29th-Aug 6th

AUGUST

Writers' Forum August 6th
 VJ Day August 15th
 Sporting Activities Week Aug 20th-26th (*tbc*)
 Archery Club (III) August 26th-Sept 4th

SEPTEMBER

Southampton Boat Show September
 Writers' Forum Sept 3rd
 Kent Reunion Sept 14th
 Cornwall Reunion Sept 21st
 Physiotherapists Weekend Sept 23rd-26th
 Aylesbury Reunion Sept 28th

OCTOBER

Writers' Forum October 1st
 Birmingham Reunion October 5th
 Computer Club (II) October 5th-6th
 Amateur Radio(IV) October 7th-14th
 World Sight Day October 14th
 Widow's 'Week'(II) October 16th-22nd
 St Dunstan's Challenge October 22nd-23rd
 Bowling (II) October 27th-Nov 9th

NOVEMBER

Writers' Forum November 5th
 Remembrance Sunday November 13th

DECEMBER

Writers' Forum December 3rd
 St Dunstan's Day December 9th
 Christmas 'Week' December 18th-28th
 New Year 'Week' Dec 29th 2005-Jan 7th 2006

For events at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, please allow a day either side for travel. Arrangements will be made to maximise use of Ovingdean vehicles. Bookings will be confirmed two months before the event. Where there is insufficient space to accommodate everybody, decisions on priorities will be made with club officials.

Visitors to Ovingdean can hear a recorded weekly programme of events. The speaker is on the left of wall between the door to the lounge on your right and the dining room on your left. It has a prominent button to initiate the recording.

BIG DATES FOR 2005

LARGE PRINT DIARY NOW ON SALE: The diary is A4 ring-bound and printed in large black print on yellow paper. Offering a week to view, laid across two pages with plenty of room to write in, it has a plastic pocket for extra notes or information and a useful numbers section, as well as notable dates and contact information for St Dunstan's. Priced £6.95 each (inc P&P if necessary) the diary can be ordered by sending a cheque, made out to St Dunstan's, to Large Print Diaries, St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. The diary is also available from the Rehabilitation and Training department at Ovingdean. Please call Siân Roberts on 020 7616 7958 if you have any queries.

CADET CHALLENGE

CAN YOU GO THE DISTANCE: The gauntlet is being thrown down to Cadet units – particularly in the London area – to see if they can tackle the St Dunstan's Challenge 2005, a 12-mile walk (so if there is a cadet group near you, let them know). Anyone interested in stretching their legs to support blind ex-Service men and women should call Clare Furnival on 020 7616 7966 or e-mail fundraising@st-dunstans.org.uk. The pace was set by 80 cadets from South-East London. Find out how they fared on the back page.

FREE PASSPORTS FOR WARTIME GENERATION

BRITAIN'S WARTIME GENERATION CAN APPLY FOR FREE PASSPORTS: In recognition of the sacrifices made by World War II veterans and civilians, every British Citizen born on or before September 2nd 1929 will no longer have to pay for a UK passport.

Many veterans have already received free one-year passports to enable them to revisit battlefields in the 60th anniversary year of the D-Day landings. The Home Secretary, David Blunkett, announced earlier this year that this would be extended to cover everyone who played a part in the war effort. They will now receive free passports for life.

"The years of the Second World War were amongst the darkest in our nation's history. We must never forget the sacrifices made and bravery shown by the entire wartime generation," said Mr Blunkett. "They endured the horrors of the battlefield, terrible losses and unremitting hardship at home to secure our country's freedom and prosperity. Next month we will observe Remembrance Day, an annual reminder of their dignity and pride.

"I want to thank and honour every adult who helped us defeat the Nazis and their allies - not just those in our brave armed forces, but those who played their part on the home front. Now the wartime generation - some 4.5 million people - will receive free passports for life in recognition of what they gave to secure our nation's liberty and democracy."

Brigadier Ian Townsend, Secretary General of the Royal British Legion, added: "The Royal British Legion warmly welcomes this new scheme which, through the generosity of the Government, will enable all those who lived through and remember World War II to travel the world and visit places they may remember, countries which were liberated by the Allies, or beyond."

If you are a British national born on or before September 2nd 1929 you can apply for a free ten-year passport from the UK Passport Service. If you have applied for a passport since May 19th 2004 and are eligible for the scheme you can apply for a refund. For further information about obtaining a free ten-year passport, or to apply for a refund, call the Passport Adviceline on 0870 521 0410.

NEW GUIDELINES FOR PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPHS

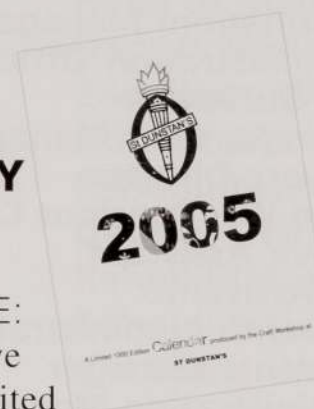
NEW MOVE TO FIGHT FRAUD: The UK Passport Service (UKPS) has announced new requirements for passport photographs, in order to meet recently agreed international standards for travel documents that call for a facial image biometric to be introduced into passports. The facial image and data will be incorporated in a chip in "ePassports" which will be read by border control equipment, so that automated controls at international borders are faster but more secure. The UKPS is also introducing the latest facial recognition technology into its passport processes to prevent identity fraud.

Existing passport holders will not need to have their current passports updated, but will have to comply with the new guidelines when they renew their passports. Among the specifications set out, applicants are instructed to submit two identical photographs, which must have been taken in the last six months; The photos should be printed on normal photographic paper, be 45mm x 35mm in size, and show a close up of the applicant's head and shoulders. It should be taken against a white, cream or light grey plain background so that the applicant's features are clearly distinguishable against the background. It must show their full face, looking straight at the camera, with a neutral expression, with their mouth closed; Photographs must be printed at 1200 dots per inch resolution or better if they are digital or scanned photos.

FESTIVE SPORTS SCHEDULE

WORK OFF THAT PUDDING: Changes to the Opening / Closing hours of the Sports Department at Ovingdean over Christmas are as follows: December 17th - Pool and Gym will be closed from 12:00 noon. On December 27th-28th, the Pool will be open 9:30-10:30am and then from 14:00 -15:00pm. The Gym will open 11:00am to 12:00 noon and then again from 15:15-16:00pm.

ST DUNSTANERS ART CELEBRATES OUR ANNIVERSARY



LIMITED EDITION CALENDAR NOW ON SALE: A team of St Dunstaners have produced art work for a limited edition 2005 calendar marking the 90th anniversary of the charity all-year round. Each month is illustrated by a montage of handicraft techniques that they utilise daily in the Craft Workshop at Ovingdean. The story behind the calendar featured in the October issue of the **Review**.

It can be ordered from the Craft Workshop, St Dunstan's Ovingdean, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton BN2 7BS. The cost is £8.50 plus £1.50 for P&P. Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's.

ST DUNSTAN'S REVIEW TAKES A BREAK FOR JANUARY

NEXT ISSUE OUT AT START OF FEBRUARY: There will be no edition of **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** published during the month of January (Simon Rogers is on holiday for the duration of December). Tape, CD and disk readers are asked to return their wallets before January 20th so that we can send the next issue out. The **Review** will be back, in all formats, in February 2005 with more news, features and information. In the meantime, all comments, suggestions and contributions are extremely welcome. Write to Ray Hazan, **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD or e-mail ray.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk.

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, covering 85 miles in the process. 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.

HELP WITH PROBLEMS

PEER GROUP ASSISTANCE: The St Dunstaners mailing list offers help with any problems to do with being visually impaired, be it frustration with a computer or a problem with day-to-day living. There is usually someone on the list who has the answer. To join the list send a blank e-mail to vi-std-subscribe@topica.com.

TREVOR ANDERSON

A champion of Veterans' welfare in Australia, Dr Robert Trevor Anderson died on October 29th. He was President of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind and the Victorian Blind Soldiers' Association. A full obituary is on page 39.

ST DUNSTAN'S Contacts

ST DUNSTAN'S HEADQUARTERS

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SECRETARIAT

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Leader, Robert
McCrow, Richard

PA to Chief Executive and Chairman
Chief Executive
Manager Secretariat

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Anthony, Nicola
Belaire, Belinda
Byrne, Michael
Dolan, Jenny
Gascoigne, John
Hazan, Ray
Hinton, Jeremy
Kokonos, Niki
Madumere, Ngozi 'Engy'
Nichol, Lexie
Payne, Caroline
Porter, Barry
Reinhold, Michael
Rogers, Simon
Sawyer, Fiona
Woodgate, Carole
Position vacant
Position vacant

Estates Department Administrative Manager
Admissions Assistant
Housing Services and Benefits Administrator
Project (Information) Manager
Welfare Administration Officer
Acting Chief Surveyor
St Dunstaners Services Manager, Editor, Review
Service Delivery Director
Reunions and War Pensions Coordinator
Administrative Assistant
Admissions Assistant
Welfare & Grants Administrative Officer (PA to SDD)
Welfare & Grants Manager
Estates Administration Manager
Assistant Editor, St Dunstan's Review
Admissions Assistant
Head of Grants
Admissions & Pensions Manager
Estates Administrative Assistant

DIRECTORATE OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Dell, John
Hazan, Roberta
Scott, Charles
Scullard, Eric
Position vacant
Position vacant

Purchase Ledger Administrator (Grant Payments)
Archivist
Director of Resource Management
Insurance Manager and Estate Coordinator
Financial Controller
Property Accountant (Rent Accounting)

DIRECTORATE OF FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Bullingham, Terry and Maria
Footer, Graham
Furnival, Clare
Mitchell, Karen
Roberts, Siân
Robinson, Anna
Saunders, Vivienne
Shadwell, Rebecca
Tait, Sarah
Ward, Nick
Position vacant
Position vacant

Public Speaking
Services Coordinator
Fundraising, Volunteers and Events
Marketing Coordinator
Website and Intranet Coordinator
Head of Public Awareness (PR)
Legacy Administrator
Public Awareness and Events
Fundraising Manager
Director of Fundraising and Communications
Donor Care & Development Officer
Services & Departmental Administrator

ST DUNSTAN'S O VingDEAN

Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton BN2 7BS
Tel: 01273 307811 Fax: 01273 302704

Barley, Amanda
Barley, Linda
Barrett, Katy
Birch, Wendy
Blackman, Diane
Blake, Angie
Bradby, Sue
Castle, Ray
Castle, Jackie
Evans, David
Faithfull, Jim
Gillam, Ben
Gillam, Glynis
Golds, Velda
Green, Claire
Greer, Jacqueline
Hartley, Paul
Hebborn, Ian
Henrickson, Sue
Hordell, Michael
Innes, Carol
Janering, Steve
James, Paul
Jarron, Sarah
Lake, Dick
Lyth, Bill
Mobsby, Eileen
Morgan, Neil
Mullins, Lyn
Otterwell, Rev Tony
Richardson, Trevor
Shail, Martin
Sharp, Janis
Smith, Grant
Thorpe, Marion
Timms, Louise
Tinkl, Diane
Town, Sandra
Vinall, David
Young, Vanessa
Position vacant
Position vacant

Rehabilitation Officer
PA to Ovingdean Manager
Head of Rehabilitation and Training
PA/Secretary - Special Projects Manager
Head of Human Resources
Cashier/Accounts Assistant
Care Coordinator
Maintenance Supervisor
Bookings Coordinator
Deputy Residential Care Supervisor
Head of Maintenance
Deputy Residential Care Supervisor
2nd Floor, Ward Manager
Housekeeping Supervisor
Rehabilitation & Training Coordinator
Deputy Ovingdean Manager/Head of Care
Rehabilitation Officer
Rehabilitation Officer Supervisor
3rd Floor, Ward Manager
Special Projects Manager
Head of Housekeeping
Security Supervisor
PBK Catering
Craft Supervisor
Ovingdean Manager
Head of Security
Wills & Trusts Coordinator
Deputy Head of Transport
Activities Coordinator
Chaplain
PBK Catering
Support Worker (Trainees)
IT Supervisor
Rehabilitation Officer
Practice Development Nurse
Sports Supervisor
Residential Care Supervisor
Housekeeping Supervisor
Head of Transport
Rehabilitation Officer
Rehabilitation Officer
Social Worker

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.

Cornea grafts required a still patient!

I wish to clarify a couple of points arising from the article 'Heroic Reconstruction' in the November **Review**. The article mentioned after some operations patients were strapped down and supported by sandbags. This was incorrect! The operation when sandbags (small) were placed either side of the head to restrict movement was following a cornea graft transplant. This was done in the 1940's-50's when cornea transplanting was in its infancy. In any type of transplant there is always the possibility of rejection - fairly high in those days. The less pressure on the eye by any unnecessary movements of the head hence the sandbags together with the patient laying still was considered to be of the utmost importance for the end result - a perfect graft. Jimmy Wright underwent a number of these operations unfortunately without success.

The leading eye surgeon in those early years was Sir Benjamin Rycroft who looked after both Jimmy and myself. Over the years there has been a great improvement in cornea transplants with new techniques, drugs and eye drops giving a high rate of success. There is

an eyebank at the Queen Victoria Hospital, held within the Blond McIndoe Centre.

My second point is about the Blond McIndoe Centre. All the research mentioned is carried out at the Centre. The Head of Research is Dr Liz James. The Blond McIndoe Centre is a charitable trust and similar to St Dunstan's in that it has to rely on public support by fundraising, donations, grants and legacies. There is no Government support!

Recently a new "clean room" has been opened at a cost of £500,000. This was to conform to an EU directive otherwise the centre would not have been able to continue with the research they now undertake which benefits mankind.

All Guinea Pigs are great supporters of the centre as it continues to improve upon the work carried out to such great

effect by Sir Archibald McIndoe.

The McIndoe Surgical Centre you mention is, in fact, for private patients and is not linked to the Blond McIndoe at all.

Finally, I have a very close liaison with the Centre as I am a Trustee/Director of the Queen Victoria Blond McIndoe Research Foundation.

**Bill Foxley,
Crawley, Sussex**

■ The BBC documentary *The Guinea Pig Club*, was short-listed for November's Grierson 2004 Documentary Awards in the Science and Natural World category. However, it was beaten by *Horizon: Project Poltergeist* which examined the quest to build a trap for the neutrino and how a 40-year old experiment challenged fundamental theories of what the Universe is made of.

Letter was great comfort

Myself and my daughters would sincerely like to thank the Chairman and all at St Dunstan's for their letter of condolence on the sudden and unexpected death of my dear

husband, Alf Callaghan. It was much appreciated and was of comfort to us all.

**Doris Callaghan,
Gravesend, Kent**

Exams were gruelling experience!

After spending three weeks at Brighton, I wish to thank Gaye for her patience. She put me through gruelling computer exams, which when I could see I never thought I would ever succeed. I would also like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement.

Again, the staff are very helpful and friendly as is meeting other St Dunstaners who help each other in gaining

confidence to take home till the next visit for a further boost. I would like to thank the Gym staff for also giving me a boost in the Gym, pool and on the RIB - this was an experience never to forget, better than any white knuckle ride at Blackpool Pleasure Beach!

**Maria Pikulski,
Preston, Lancashire**

■ Find out how Maria fared in Family News on page 38.

Best wishes to our guardian angel!

It would be churlish were we to allow this moment to pass without our expressing a fond farewell and a load of thanks to our erstwhile guardian angel, namely, Welfare Officer Sue Prior. As far as our area is concerned she is gone but well remembered. We take solace in the hope that we will meet at the next reunion.

To Dianne Wye we extend a hearty welcome. We wish her well with her new charges and assure her of smiles and a permanent coffee pot!

May we take this opportunity to thank everyone at Ovingdean for all the friendships we have enjoyed in the past and to extend our gratitude to all members of staff in all departments for their kindness and understanding during tutorials and holidays.

Enquiries have shown that the beach at Sheffield is 60 miles distant and the Marina is dry and bereft of a Chinese restaurant! No doubt we shall become accustomed to this change.

**Ron and Margaret Wilson,
Leeds, West Yorkshire**

Typing out a difference to my life!

A year ago, I never dreamt that I would be typing a letter to the editor of the **Review** because firstly, I could not use a typewriter, and secondly, I had my sight. So when I suddenly lost my sight I was devastated and didn't know what to do. My wife suggested that I apply to join St Dunstan's. I was accepted and that's when my life changed. I was invited to Ovingdean for rehabilitation training where they taught me how to type and they

loaned me a typewriter to practise on. They also loaned me a Smartview machine to enable me to read. So it has made a big difference to my life. I met some wonderful people at Ovingdean and I gained a lot of inspiration from them. I feel privileged to be called a St Dunstaner and will always wear my badge with pride.

**Chris Spellacy,
Westkingsdown, Kent**

Crypt-ic name

Further to my message last month, I recalled that, when I was living in Aberystwyth, the superintendent of the municipal cemetery had the very appropriate name of "Tom Stone". His favourite boast was that he had more men under him than any other employer in Aberystwyth.

**John Lappin,
Wakefield, West Yorkshire**

The signs are out there!

I want you to know how very much I have enjoyed reading the October **Review**, especially the East Anglian Archeology story and the account of the working trip to Antarctica. As an addendum to Harry Beevers' article "Signs of the times", I can add in Luton, Bedfordshire there is a car park with "Multi-storey Toilets" and a ladies hairdresser in Dunstable called "Curl up and Dye".

**Aubrey Jones,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire**

It strikes me...

with Gog and Magog

Gog hears of a spot of chicanery during a recent clay pigeon shoot. One St Dunstaner was put out by his lack of success when firing at the flying clays. His helper also seemed unusually unhelpful as he missed shot after shot. Our disappointed lad retired from the line as other St Dunstaners scored six or more out of ten. However, the twist-in-the-barrel was revealed a week later when a lady St Dunstaner announced that she had arranged to load his shot gun with blanks!

Magog hears of further woe for that selfsame St Dunstaner. His final words on leaving the bar in the Sergeants' Mess in the wee small hours were "I know where I am going." However, some three hours later, around 06:00, he is helped out from between the perimeter fence by an NCO. Rehab & Training will soon be introducing an advanced course in avoiding barbed wire and electrified fencing.

Gog hears that some lady St Dunstaners were left adrift when a mechanical fault developed in the RIB. However, it seems they were disconsolent when the problem was fixed and the boat was underway again. Magog understands that they were quite looking forward to the prospect of being winched aboard a Sea King by a hunky air-sea rescue crew. Next time girls, next time!

CALL TO "UP SPIRITS" HAS A REAL TOT FOR TOAST



Royal Navy St Dunstaners Ted Pepper and Pegitha Sebastian lead the toast to Nelson's memory with Ovingdean Manager Dick Lake and Welfare Officer Debbie MacKenzie.

ST DUNSTANERS TOASTED the "Immortal Memory" with a drop of Nelson's Blood on Trafalgar Day, October 21st - and they were knocking back a ration of real Navy Rum! The 'tot' came courtesy of Belinda Elliott whose late husband Herbert served on HMS *Ramilles* during

WWII. They bought a supply of Naval issue rum at auction in 1978 after it had been phased out on ship.

An old salt himself, Ovingdean Manager Dick Lake told the assembled St Dunstaners that rum was originally used to sweeten stale water on long

Simon Rogers reports

voyages. Originally this was done with beer or wine, but as Jamaica and Barbados became popular ports, attention turned to rum. Although it was in common use, rum only became part of the "Regulations and Instructions Relating to His Majesty's Service at Sea" in 1731 - and then only for ships in the West Indies! Eventually, it was issued to ships in other areas and directions of dilution were added. The call to 'Up Spirits' was heard aboard Royal Navy ships for more than 200 years.

Dick also revealed that as a young Midshipman he had taken part in a ceremonial burial at

sea for the "Last Tot" after the ration was withdrawn in the 1970's. The final bottle was placed in a sealed casket and lowered over the edge of HMS *Dido*.

As it was the anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, won by Nelson's Fleet in 1805, a toast was raised to the "Immortal Memory" in respect of Admiral Nelson who commanded the ships that confronted the Franco-Spanish fleet east of Cadiz.

Napoleon had ordered the attack with the declaration "If you are only here for 24 hours, all will be over, and six centuries of shame and insult will be avenged."

Nelson, a slight, one-armed man, blind in one eye, dispensed with conventional attack formation - with ships moving in parallel lines, firing broadside at a single opponent. Instead he set up two groups - one to attack sections of the enemy line, the other to approach at right angles cutting off retreat options. It was a successful strategy although Nelson was mortally wounded (His body was preserved in a casket of rum, which is how the drink became known as Nelson's Blood).

The toast was led by two naval St Dunstaners - Ted Pepper who served as a Petty Officer and Pegitha Sebastian who served as a Wren.



Cruel and unusual punishment! Does making Frenchmen Fabrice Daniel and Jean-Claud Brunet, currently working for PBK, take part in a Trafalgar Day toast constitute a war crime?

Ten questions on...

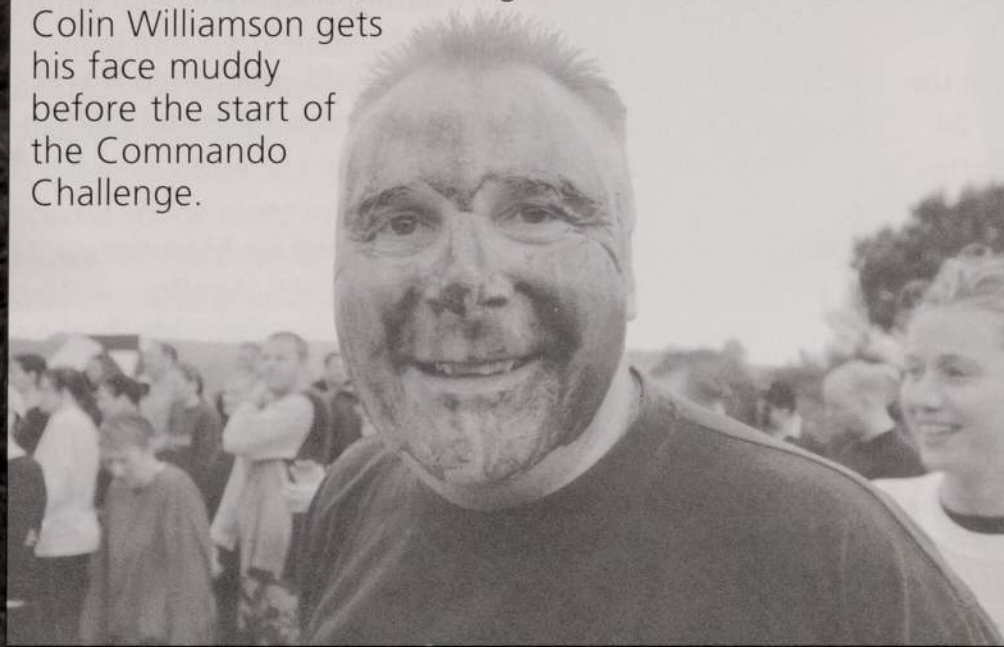
The subject of Entertainment

Not just a song and dance from Harry Beevers!

- 1) In which television series does actress Patricia Routledge play the character Mrs Bucket?
- 2) Which veteran entertainer is a former Australian junior backstroke swimming champion?
- 3) Born in 1901, Grace Stansfield sang at ten Royal Command Performances between 1928 and 1978, under what name?
- 4) Which actress who married John Le Mesurier, played Sophie Tuckshop in *ITMA*, Agatha Dinglebody in *Educating Archie*, Grizelda Pugh in *Hancock's Half Hour* and the sister of Eric Sykes on television?
- 5) When comedienne, actress and singer Sue Pollard of TV's *Hi-Di-Hi* fame came second in the *Opportunity Knocks* talent programme, who was the winning competitor, a talking budgerigar, a singing Jack Russell terrier or a man who flexed his muscles?
- 6) Which Welsh recording artist sang at the opening of the 1999 Rugby Union World Cup at Cardiff?
- 7) Born in 1921, which Jazz trumpeter had a top 20 hit with *Bad Penny Blues*, was educated at Eton, served as Grenadier Guards Officer in World War II and still presents a popular radio comedy series?
- 8) Which entertainer who died in 1977 was appointed as a special agent of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs by President Nixon in 1970?
- 9) Which star of the old Music Hall is associated with the songs, *Oh Mr Porter, I'm one of the ruins that Cromwell knocked about a bit, A little of what you fancy* and *My old man said follow the van*?
- 10) In which country in Asia were television sets banned as immoral in 1998?

Answers can be found on page 37.

Does he know what's coming?
Colin Williamson gets his face muddy before the start of the Commando Challenge.



by Simon Rogers

St Dunstaner Pete Walker remains chipper even though he is up to his waist in the waters of the aptly named Peter's pool! Andy and Louise also stay on the trail.



Going up! Dave Powell claws his way up through the bright mud of the Crocodile Pit.



It's not over yet. The team head upstream.



FOUR ST DUNSTANERS threw themselves into The Royal Marines Commando Challenge at Bicton, Exeter at the end of October, ploughing through three hilly miles of water, mud and tunnels with determination and distinction. Royal Marine St Dunstaner Steve Sparkes was joined by Colin Williamson who served in the Royal Artillery, Para Dave Powell and Sapper Pete Walker. They teamed up with a quartet from the Commando Training Centre at Lympstone - Sgt Si Wright - who obviously wasn't put off by the skiing trip - Cliff 'Sparky' Maitland, MBE, Pete McGinley and Stu Pears. The team was enhanced by Gabby Wright and St Dunstan's Andy Alliston, Brian Muggridge and Louise Timms.

Over 2,000 die-hards commit themselves to the challenge each year. It is held on behalf

of the Gemini Radio Charitable Trust who selected Crimestoppers as their charity of choice for 2004.

The ambience for the 'Fun' Challenge on October 23rd was set when the heavens opened unleashing a near torrent of rain that sustained itself through the morning. The team set off with Colin Williamson in the lead, moving downhill through thorny bushes. The next part of the

Sparky in the mud.



track required wading downstream through running water which brought the team through the Crocodile Pit, a bowl of red muddy clay that was all too fluid.

Dave Powell and Sparky somehow slipped, slid and skidded onto the bottom of the next hill. "I used to do this for a living! I must have been mad!" said Sparky with a

manic laugh. The others took a route that didn't involve quite so much mud (though the distinction might not have been quite so obvious).

Another water trail, slightly deeper, came next, followed by a pebbly slope that most just slid down. Then it was into the darkness, crawling through a series of tunnels that had been cut into the Exeter countryside.



Left: Colin Williamson prepares himself for the sheep dip. **Middle inset:** He's through and the Marine is pulling him up. **Middle:** Air at last! **Right:** On yer feet, man!

Another slope down and the team were into Peter's Pool, a block of water surrounded by muddy bog. Depending on the height of the team members it was either waist high or shoulder high.

Heading uphill, exposed to the rain and wind, the team closed on their next obstacle – a two metre concrete pipe completely submerged in water. Dubbed the Sheep Dip, it required our St Dunstaners to step into a trough of water. Having done this, Dave Powell jumped over the concrete dividing the two halves only to be called back by a Marine in a wetsuit.

Instructions were given, alongside some tactile help from the Marines manning the post. "Place your palms on the top of the pipe. Get ready, take your breath ..." and with that heads were thrust down into the murky brown water and into the pipe. On the other side, a corresponding Marine reached in to pull each contestant up, spluttering into

the air. Gabby Wright was pulled up by her hair.

However, that wasn't the end. The team were back on the trail running uphill once more, this time through an oily black bog before the trail firmed up and brought them back to the finish with an exuberant cheer and applause from spectators.

It could be said that some people are gluttons for punishment, because Pete Walker went back for a second dose – the 'Marine' Challenge on October 24th. He was accompanied by Brian, Andy, Louise and Gabby. This time



they started two miles away from the assault course, running through farmland, past the birthplace of Sir Walter Raleigh, before taking an uphill track to the first of the tunnels.

The rain held off this day, but of course the previous deluge was already soaking the bog and the pools and streams that they had to get through. And then it was a two-mile run back to the finish – a seven-mile course in all!

A vote of thanks was rendered to the Sergeants' Mess at RM Lympstone for hosting the weekend.

AND THE WINNER IS ...



Dennis Busby, Frank Smith, Peter Hammond, Elwyn Rees, Bob Osborne, Peggy West, Eric Church and Iain Millard.

ANOTHER ENJOYABLE bowls tournament has just finished with games played from October 28th to November 11th. We were pleased to welcome Norman Perry, Graham Johnson, Dave Harrower, John Powell to our club and I am sure they will prove to be a great asset. We have some new 'faces' amongst our winners which is great to see.

Since our March tournament, we have lost three bowling friends – our youngest Craig Neller, our oldest Bert Brantingham and also Alf Callaghan. They will be sadly missed!

Again we have to thank Marjorie Mills, with the assistance of the wives, for looking after us during the tea breaks and for their help with the marking of games. We had two new callers from the Saltdean Bowling Club, Jack and Roger without whom we would

have been in great difficulty. And they were great company. Many thanks to them and to Frank Smith, Iain Millard and Dave Humphrey who also helped out with calling the games. And to the staff who assisted us in many ways.

Joan would like to thank 'her boys and girls' for never grumbling when games had to be altered and for the beautiful basket of flowers they gave her.



St Dunstaner Peggy West feels for the cord which allows blind bowlers a degree of orientation.

The original dates for the next tournament have been altered and it is now starting on Monday, March 7th, running to March 21st. So book soon!

It just remains for me to wish you a happy and healthy 2005 with good bowling.

Bob Osborne, Chairman

RESULTS

Singles

- 1st Ted Arnold
- 2nd Mansel Lewis

Pairs

- 1st Marjorie Scott and Syd Wisdom
- 2nd Peter Hammond and John Hopkins

Triples

- 1st Cyril Stanley, Dennis Busby and Elwyn Rees
- 2nd Alan Mitchell, Dave Humphrey and Mansel Lewis

Weather fails to stop golf fun!



Mike Mayo (centre) with Team Highlander.

ST DUNSTANER MIKE Mayo took part in the Bausch & Lomb Eye to Eye Challenge at Stoke Park Golf Club in Slough, Buckinghamshire on October 20th. The event was held to support the English Blind Golf Association. "Although the weather was damp and cold

everyone had a fantastic day with each member of the EBGA being teamed up with a celeb," said Mike. "After being teamed up last year with Neil 'Razor' Ruddock, I had the great pleasure of teaming up with Dave, a local business man, Liza Walters, a young and stunning PGA Professional Golfer and the very funny and surprisingly tall John Frankome. I also had the great pleasure of the lovely Sylvia Lang who very kindly acted as my caddy/guide. This was arranged by EBGA Chairman Barry (the Bad!) Ritchie who alongside Mike (the Crusher) Loten, and Derrick (the dangerous) Sherridan, MBE, helped put the day together.

"It was great to play golf with the top ex-Jockey as my brother Gary has a racehorse, Mornin Reserves, which John seemed to know a lot about. We had a great day's golf and the team event was won by EBGA's Jay Cookson beating Masters Champion Simon Cookson on count back.

"Thanks to the celebs, their caddies and all the other players Blind Golf was supported with honour and pride and I am so proud to have played golf with such a wonderful bunch of people who with a disability such as sight loss prove that you can still achieve things in life and have a good time in the process. I salute them all!"

Michelle raises cash by mugging people

THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF a St Dunstaner has helped support the work of the charity by mugging people - that is she was selling them personalised mugs in which they could have a nice cuppa! Michelle Austin raised £400 which she presented to St Dunstan's Vice-President Sir Henry Leach and St Dunstaner Nigel Whiteley at HMS *Excellent* on October 20th. Michelle is the granddaughter of Royal Navy St Dunstaner Gordon MacDonald of Formby, Merseyside.



Michelle Austin with Graham Footer, Sir Henry and Nigel.

Sir Henry had another event to attend that day. The Princess Royal opened the new headquarters building of the

Commander-in-Chief Fleet at Whale Island, Portsmouth. The Henry Leach Building is a five-storey structure designed to bring together Fleet HQ staff who were spread over

different locations. It is named after Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach who was First Sea Lord during the Falklands Conflict. He was also Chairman of St Dunstan's from 1983-98.

Terry keeps hooking the prizes for trout!

ST DUNSTANER TERRY Martin has had a good year for coarse fishing. As October closed he won £20 for catching a 7lb rainbow trout during the Big Fish Weekend at Coltsford Mill in Oxted, Surrey. This was soon after he won the medal for best fish - a 10lbs 2oz brown trout - during the Greene King Weekend at the same venue. "The beer was £1 a pint which was good thing," said Terry. "That was after the competition mind you."

The Royal Signals St Dunstaner made a similar catch earlier this year and is eagerly anticipating future competitions.

Having been introduced to fishing by his father, Terry has remained a keen angler, usually going with his brother or brother-in-law. He has been fishing at Coltsford Mill for around 13 years.

"It's a very friendly club. If I need any help then someone will come and help me," said Terry. "Otherwise, fishing is the same for a person without sight as it is for a person with sight."

Terry's catch was taken down to a smokery and divided up into half-pound portions.



St Dunstaner Dennis Busby presented Dick Lake with a plate which commemorates the 60th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings (1944 - 2004) at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on November 2nd.

Comparing braille notes

Chief Executive Robert Leader, presented a St Dunstan's plaque to Les Stocker, Chief Executive of the Braille Institute of America when he visited Ovingdean on November 5th. The Braille Institute has several rehabilitation centres in California and also provides a US-wide free braille book service, so his UK visit was an opportunity to compare notes.



New Head of Rehabilitation and Training, Katy Barrett accompanied the two CEOs on their tour of Ovingdean.

Buswells Lodge pupils raise £1,000 for St Dunstan's



Headmaster Ken Judd with Billy Baxter and Stan Bowers.

Kristen Tyler reports

SCHOOLCHILDREN AT BUSWELLS Lodge Primary School in Beaumont Leys, Leicester raised £1,000 to support the work of St Dunstan's through initiatives such as cake sales, a Christmas concert, and various class activities. As a result of their efforts, Headmaster Ken Judd presented a cheque to St Dunstaner Billy 'the Whizz' Baxter during a morning school assembly.

The presentation was a return visit for Billy, as the children of Buswells Lodge Primary first met him through St Dunstan's Schools Education Programme. Following a St Dunstan's Citizenship Presentation given by Billy, the students were inspired to adopt St Dunstan's as their chosen charity, raising an amazing figure of £1000.

Billy is a regular speaker for the charity and its Schools Education Programme.

PENDLETON'S PANTRY

Blind chef **Stephen Pendleton** on cooking times for meat!

AT THIS TIME of year, most people are busy in their kitchens making all the Christmas Fare. Sadly, however, this is also the time of year when most cases of food poisoning are admitted to hospitals throughout the country.

One of the main reasons for this is because of under cooked meat and poultry. So this month I will give you the cooking times for all the popular joints of meat. Remember to pre-heat your oven before cooking.

Turkey and Chicken

Poultry should be cooked for 15 to 20 minutes per lb, in a moderate oven, 180C or gas mark 4 (350F).

Lamb

Cook in a hot oven, 225C gas mark 7 (425F) for 20 minutes per lb. After cooking leave out for 20 minutes to aid carving.

Beef

Cook for 20 minutes per lb plus add another 20 minutes on top. When roasting beef, cook at 230C to 250C gas mark 7 (425F) hot oven.

Pork

Cook at 250C or gas mark 7 (425F) hot oven for 25 minutes per lb, plus add another 25 minutes on top.

When roasting a chicken, you will be given the advice "Cook until the juices run clear."

This is good advice, but as I can not even see the chicken, let alone the juices, this statement goes by-the-by, so this is how I get over this particular problem.

After cooking the joint for the recommended time, I leave the meat out to cool for a short while, about 15 to 20 minutes. This is to aid carving. I then put the portioned meat into a baking tray with some homemade gravy. The portions then go back in to the oven to cook for another 4 to 5 minutes. This ensures the meat is thoroughly cooked and you will not have to make an unscheduled visit to the hospital.

COUNTDOWN TO DARKNESS

AS CHRISTMAS 1914 approached, there was growing unease with the constant killing. In parts of No Man's Land a truce was called to allow both side to retrieve their dead from the battlefield. But in some places along the Western Front, Allied and German Forces set aside hostilities, exchanged gifts and even played football.

Lieutenant Bruce Bairnsfather wrote of taking part in the truce, his dream of a little peace and goodwill on December 25th 1914 apparently made manifest.

"I clambered up and over our parapet, and moved out across the field to look," he wrote.

"Clad in a muddy suit of khaki and wearing a sheepskin coat and Balaclava helmet, I joined the throng about half-way across to the German trenches.

"This was my first real sight of them at close quarters. Here they were - the actual practical soldiers of the German army.

"There was not an atom of hate on either side that day; and yet, on our side, not for a moment was the will to beat them relaxed. It was just like the interval between the rounds in a friendly boxing match."

Later, Bairnsfather would pledge his cartoon character Old Bill to a fundraising campaign for St Dunstan's. Old Bill was an irascible old Sergeant made famous by his advice to a young Private while they were stuck in a foxhole under fire: "If you know of a better hole, go to it!"

Mr Blach retires



Ophthalmologist Rolf Blach with Ray Hazan.

ST DUNSTAN'S OPHTHALMOLOGIST Rolf Blach, MD, FRCS, FRCOphth, retires this month having provided nearly 40 years of specialist eye care to St Dunstaners. Educated at Berkhamstead and Trinity College, Cambridge, his medical career spans five decades. Appointments at St Thomas' Hospital and Moorfields Eye Hospital were broken by National Service. He completed his term as a doctor in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1957 to 1959, serving in Libya and Cyprus.

He returned to civilian life to become senior Registrar at Middlesex Hospital and Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at St Mary's Hospital. Specialising in the retina and diabetic eye disease, he was Dean of the Institute of Ophthalmology,

part of the University of London from 1985 to 1991 and has written on aspects of patient care.

His association with St Dunstan's began in the mid-1960's and he became the charity's Ophthalmologist in 1967. "I have always enjoyed the ambience and the people," he said.

Mr Blach has long had an interest in history and points out that it can be closer than we might expect. "As a young doctor I had an elderly patient whose late grandfather could remember the French Revolution in 1789," he said. "That's an example of how recent history can be."

St Dunstan's Services Delivery Director Jeremy Hinton feted Mr Blach for his support. "Mr Blach has been an outstanding servant of St Dunstan's whose enthusiasm for his profession has assisted a great number of St Dunstaners," he said. "He has left no stone unturned in pursuing scientific research in support of different diagnoses and in pursuit of war pension claims. He has a great deal of knowledge about St Dunstan's and he will be sorely missed. We wish him all the best in his retirement."

BALANCING THE BOOKS

Ted Bunting on the **best** and **worst** of the Talking Books currently available

Rosy is My Relative

Author: Gerald Durrell
Reader: Anthony Parker
Duration: 9 hours 30 minutes
Catalogue Number: TB 1453

Being well acquainted with the likes of Samuel Pickwick, Whackford Squeers, Sarah Gamp, Uriah Heep and Newman Noggs, all lovers of Charles Dickens will be accustomed to unusual, even preposterous names. They will also, however, know that the storyteller's art requires much more than a silly name or two; a self-evident fact that seems to have escaped Gerald Durrell completely, for although there are outlandish names in abundance there is very little else in the book. The story line, so far as it exists, follows the pointless and nonsensical journey of a young man with a dipsomaniac elephant but since it is devoid of humour, originality or a spark of wit it would disgrace the cheapest children's comic on the market. (The good old *Dandy* and *Beano* would spurn it without a second glance.) And as if all that was not enough, the reader has taken it unto himself to endow all the silly characters with an even sillier voice, screaming and ranting like an inmate of the funny farm. The book in a word is rubbish, in my opinion it is the greatest waste of time since that Christmas Eve of yesteryear when we waited for Santa Claus to come down the chimney.

REMEMBERING WITH GRATITUDE



In his first official duty as President of St Dunstan's, Ray Hazan joins Chairman Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN and St Dunstaner Mike Tetley as they lead the St Dunstan's contingent towards Whitehall for the 2004 ceremony of Remembrance.

Ray Hazan reports on Remembrance Sunday, November 14th 2004

A CRISP, SUNNY morning welcomed the 108 St Dunstaners and 17 widows as they marched into Whitehall. Indeed, the sun was so warm that scarves were discarded and gloves tucked away as we paraded on Horse Guards.

No doubt minds were filled with a tumult of images as the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery field gun crashed out the start of the two-minute silence, spoilt for me by the setting off of a car alarm and the chugging of a generator. Images of lost comrades, memories of late St Dunstaners, moments in time burnt into our memories

and the desolation of wondering if the world had learnt any lessons in view of the atrocities still being perpetrated around the world went through our minds.

Under the guidance of Company Sergeant Major Kevin Mayne, Irish Guards, the St Dunstan's column marched off smartly down Whitehall.

The Chairman escorted Mike Tetley and newly elected President, Ray Hazan. Billy Griffiths and Arthur Carter handed over the wreathes and St Dunstan's gave a good display of itself, not unfortunately captured by the television cameras! The Garrison Sergeant Major was heard to comment that the "eyes left" at the Cenotaph was a highlight of the parade. As usual, the spectators were numerous and the applause warmly given. Instead of marching back onto Horseguards, we continued

past the saluting dais, paying our respects to HRH The Princess Royal, before crossing the Mall and back to the coaches. Everyone had done really well as it was a long two and a half hours on their feet. It was a relief to arrive at the Marriott Hotel, Swiss Cottage, a new venue.

Comments about the hotel appear to have been satisfactory. Most of the space used is on one level and the service friendly and efficient. The dining-room was a little cramped and warm, but 308 diners create a lot of heat!

With an eye on the time, speeches started whilst the meal was still in progress. The Chairman, Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN, was loudly applauded as he announced the largest contingent yet of modern times. He picked out highlights of the St Dunstan's year including the Blind Ambition campaign, the London Eye event, the new Sheffield training centre and the retirement of our former President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, MC.

Our Vice-Patron, Air Chief Marshal Sir Roger Palin, KCB, OBE, then rose to address the gathering. He deemed it a great privilege to accompany the St Dunstan's contingent down Whitehall and thanked his 'guide' Bob Taylor for ensuring a straight line! He went on to talk about Arnhem and how it exemplified the courage and bravery shown throughout the war. He congratulated St Dunstan's on



Vivien Jerome, widow of a WWI St Dunstaner, and Jean Morton, widow of a WWII St Dunstaner at Horseguards.



Bill Griffiths, MBE, who lost sight and hands in a Japanese POW camp laid the first of St Dunstan's wreathes.



The Band of the Irish Guards move towards the Royal Artillery Monument as St Dunstaners march up Birdcage Walk.



St Dunstaner Fred Bentley and General Sir Peter de la Billière.



The loud crack of the cannon was the signal for silence.

how it had participated in these 60th anniversary events; Jerry Lynch and Fred Bentley's visit to Normandy, Ray Sheriff's jump into Arnhem and the 7000 cards received with their authors' memories of D-Day.

Sir Roger went on to say how St Dunstan's epitomises the attitude of looking forward. "It treats blindness as a challenge to be overcome, an opportunity to learn new skills, so that an individual can lead a full, interesting and above all, an independent life," he said. He listed a range of achievements on land, on water and in the air as well as in the handicraft room, on the golf course or on the bowling green. "As a Vice-Patron, I am full of admiration for St Dunstaners everywhere, but also for those who take part in this enterprise. In essence, where would we be without them? Long live the familyness of St Dunstan's."

Ray Hazan gave the response on behalf of St Dunstaners by claiming that "we are the luckiest people in the country", which drew much agreement. He went on to list six reasons why visually handicapped St Dunstaners should be called 'lucky'. Others had lost their lives, but we still had ours and we should be very grateful for that. "Whilst standing in Whitehall, I think of those St Dunstaners from the two world wars, including the husbands of the widows present today, who have passed on but who were an inspiration to succeeding



Navy St Dunstaner Arthur Carter placed the second wreath at The Cenotaph.



Normandy veteran Eric Church and Tom Hart, taken prisoner at the fall of Calais.



Eyes right! St Dunstan's Contingent arrive back at Horseguards Parade for the last salute.



Alan Gibson, Ian Sheriff, Eric Sayce, Steve Moseley, Major-General Andrew Keeling, Billy Baxter, Stephen Menary and Dave Humphrey turn towards the Princess Royal.



St Dunstaner Anthony Rudzki, Vice-Chairman Michael Delmar-Morgan and St Dunstaner Ernest Phillips.

generations and a credit to St Dunstan's. Their memories are with us today."

Other blessings included the presence of our Vice Patron,

our wives and husbands without whose support "life would be so very different"; our volunteers who help throughout the year, the staff who organised the weekend

and the fact that we were members of the family of St Dunstan's and all that that represented.

He concluded, "Today is a day for remembering and a day upon which to express gratitude. We give thanks for the memories of those no longer with us; we give thanks for the wonderful gift of life, which we have and we give thanks for the wonderful gift, which we call St Dunstan's."

It was with very mixed emotions that St Dunstaners, escorts and staff, who having enjoyed a day of comradeship and fellowship, dispersed throughout the country having paid tribute to fallen comrades. Hopefully, we did them proud!

REMEMBERING AT ROTTINGDEAN



St Dunstaner Maurice Bowley holds St Dunstan's Standard high during the service at Rottingdean War Memorial.

The Service at the Cenotaph was repeated around the country, indeed, around the world. A group of St Dunstaners at Ovingdean joined the local community at Rottingdean War Memorial for one such ceremony of Remembrance that day.



Alf Waters lays a wreath on behalf of all St Dunstaners.

Bill Holland muses on coincidence and the nature of war

It's a small world!

ON A RECENT Respite Holiday at Ovingdean whilst sitting in the inner garden, I heard Martin Shail describing to visitors (or new St Dunstaners) the wooden statues in the garden. I had not been aware of the existence of these statues - which I gather, comprises a Dutch lady in traditional costume shaking hands with a soldier. This statue was sponsored by Combat Stress of Eindhoven, Holland but carved on site by English sculptor Trevor Roberts. This statue has triggered the following reflections:

I have the greatest admiration for the Dutch people (and this is not because my surname happens to be Holland!). With hindsight I now realise the brave Dutch people were invaded by the Nazi army, not once but twice. First when the Nazi blitzkrieg overran Holland and then again when the same armies were retreating back to Germany. The Dutch people suffered immense shortages of everything and in 1945 were reduced to eating bulbs from the garden. At this time the Royal Air Force mounted "Operation Manna" which in cooperation with the German authorities on the ground before VE Day allowed low level "bombing" runs to drop food to the starving people of Holland.

May 4th became known as Liberation Day rather than May 8th VE Day. Not only were the Dutch people invaded by the Nazi hordes but they also suffered bombing raids by the RAF in which I took part.

Bombing the docks at Rotterdam on two occasions and also the factories of Philips of Eindhoven. In 1941, as a callow youth, I was ignorant of the hardships which the Dutch people suffered at my hands in addition to the Nazi invasions. Over the ensuing years with more maturity and time to think, I have recognised the heroism and hardship they suffered stoically and the many casualties they suffered in resisting the Nazis by organising escape routes for aircrew shot down into the Zuiderzee.

The Zuiderzee had for centuries been another enemy, being almost a funnel-mouth allowing the angry North Sea to break down the dikes and flood the country. With a historical aspect the map of Holland's coast before 1920 would have shown the original extent of the Zuiderzee. About this time a famous-Dutch civil engineer Dr Cornelius Lely began a huge project to place a barrier across the Zuiderzee to form an area known as the IJsselmeer and since then the Dutch have been reclaiming land within this barrier. The Zuiderzee was regularly used as a turning point for bombers heading into Europe. It was heavily defended by ack-ack guns and many British and allied aircraft ended their flights in the Zuiderzee. During

subsequent reclamation of land within the IJsselmeer, the Recovery and Identification Unit of the Royal Dutch Air Force came across a bent three bladed aircraft propeller. This was installed temporarily above the spot where it was unearthed.

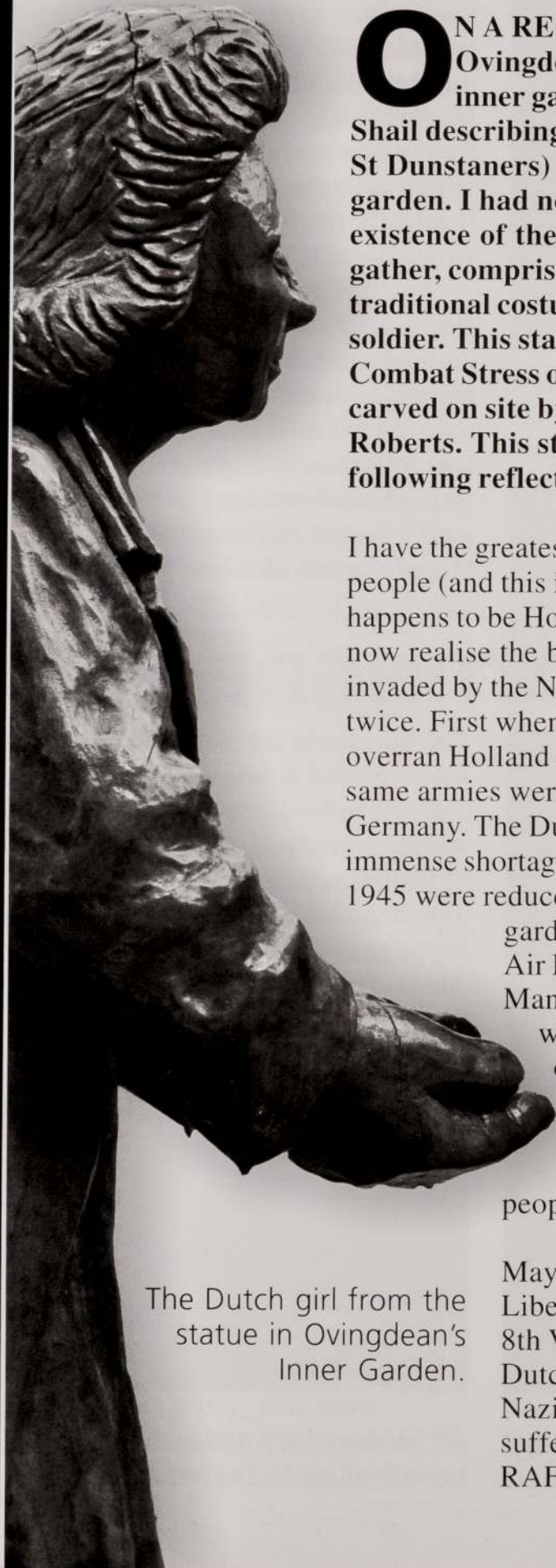
It was eventually identified as the propeller from a 214 Squadron Lancaster. Further investigation identified the graves of six of the seven crew from this aircraft. These were subsequently brought together in a War Graves Cemetery. The seventh member of this crew was a Canadian mid-upper gunner called Pingle. The land which had been reclaimed became known as Flevoland on which the two main towns were called Lelystad (in honour of Dr Lely) and Dronten. In this latter town, two streets were named Lancasterstrasse and Pinglestrasse. Many years later the Dutch people managed to trace Pingle to Canada and surreptitiously persuaded his family to send him and his wife on a holiday to Holland and on landing at Skipol they were met by the Burgomaster and members of the Town Council. (Later still, whilst visiting my niece in Bowmanville in Canada I was able to contact the cousin of Pingle.)

About 30 years ago, an ex-air gunner was caravanning in Flevoland and came to Dronten where he found, in front of the Town Hall, a war memorial which incorporated the three bladed propeller. On enquiring of the local people the history

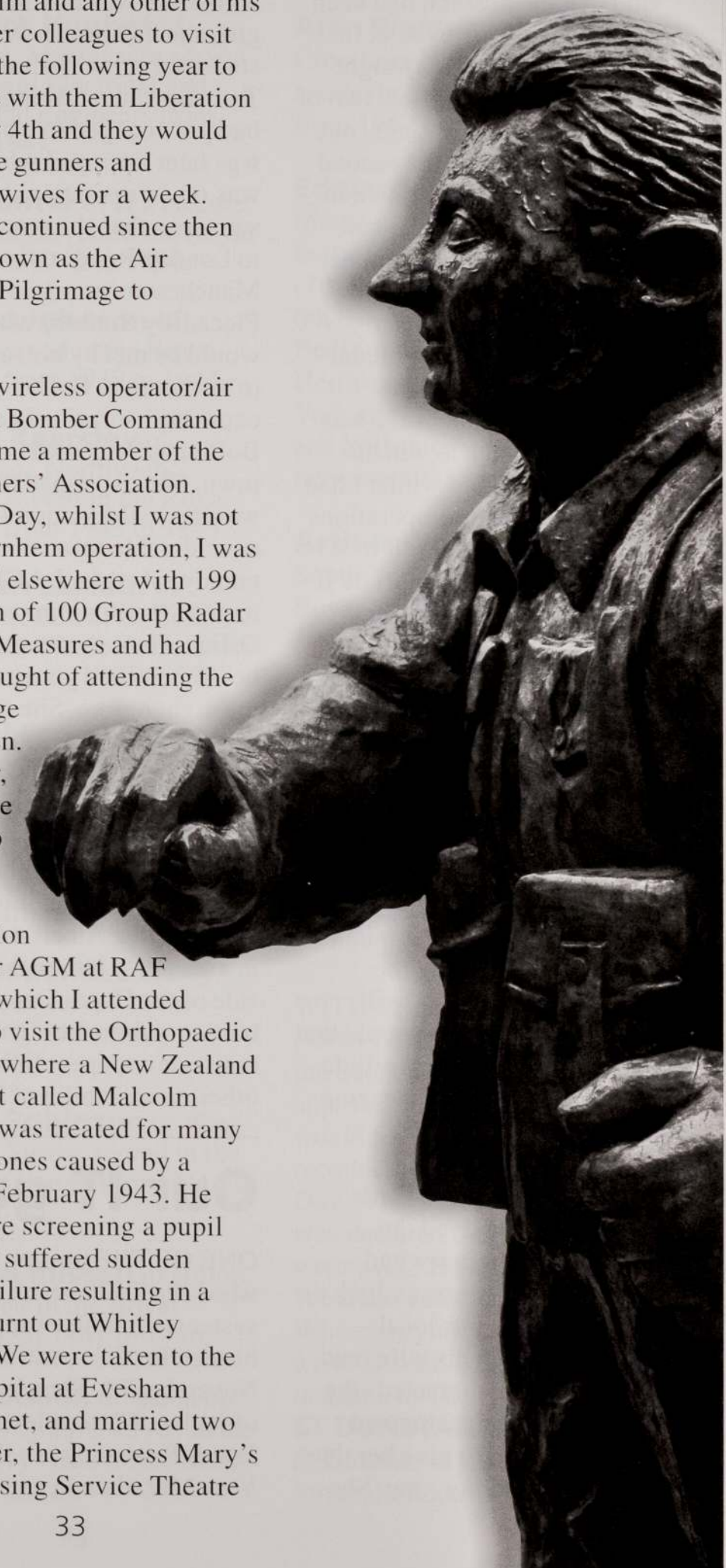
of this, he described how he was shot down on the Arnhem raid. The local people then invited him and any other of his air gunner colleagues to visit Dronten the following year to celebrate with them Liberation Day May 4th and they would host these gunners and partners/wives for a week. This has continued since then and is known as the Air Gunners Pilgrimage to Dronten.

I was a wireless operator/air gunner in Bomber Command and became a member of the Air Gunners' Association. After D-Day, whilst I was not on the Arnhem operation, I was occupied elsewhere with 199 Squadron of 100 Group Radar Counter Measures and had never thought of attending the Pilgrimage to Dronten. However, about nine years ago the Air Gunners' Association held their AGM at RAF Cosford which I attended hoping to visit the Orthopaedic Hospital where a New Zealand staff pilot called Malcolm Petersen was treated for many broken bones caused by a crash in February 1943. He and I were screening a pupil crew, but suffered sudden engine failure resulting in a broken burnt out Whitley bomber. We were taken to the RAF hospital at Evesham where I met, and married two years later, the Princess Mary's RAF Nursing Service Theatre

Opposite is the Tommy, who is greeted as a liberator by the Dutch girl.



The Dutch girl from the statue in Ovingdean's Inner Garden.



Sister and Malcolm Petersen met and married his nurse at Cosford. I was disappointed to find that the hospital had been demolished. However, at the dinner on the Saturday night there were three raffles; two of which were oil paintings, one of a Lancaster and the second one, a Stirling going down in flames at Arnhem. This had been painted by an air gunner who dedicated it to a fellow air gunner who had been awarded the Military Medal for helping to rescue the paratroopers on board. I was fortunate enough to win this latter painting and whilst I had carried out several operations on board Stirlings I felt it would be more appropriate if it were to hang in the Air Gunners' Room in Dronten Town Hall. I therefore applied for a place on the next visit and at the Civic Reception on our first day I handed over this painting to the Burgomaster and it now resides in the Air Gunners' Room.

On my two visits to Dronten I was so impressed by the friendliness and goodwill shown by the Dutch people that I wrote an anonymous article for the Wallingford magazine about the pilgrimage.

A couple of hundred yards from my house lived the Campbells whom we had known for 40 years; as Jock Campbell was our local postman. When his wife read the article she contacted -the editor of the magazine and persuaded him to give her the name of the author - me. She

then dashed round to my house, showing great interest in the article. She explained that whilst she was a Wallingford girl, she had been a WAAF, stationed at the Operational Training Unit at Abingdon and had got engaged to a pupil. It was later arranged when he was on an operational squadron that she would travel to London Road station in Manchester (now known as Piccadilly Station) where she would be met by him and taken to his home in Bolton. I expressed surprise because Bolton was my own home town. She explained that after waiting in the station for some considerable time, the station tannoy asked for LACW Green to go to the Stationmaster's Office. Here she learned that her fiancée had gone missing the night before. She went on to explain that his name was Albert Rostron and I again surprised her by saying that I went to school with Frank Rostron who was Albert's younger brother. It is a small world is it not? She also said that Albert was buried in a cemetery just on the German side of the Dutch/German border and she brought to my house newspaper cuttings and other memorabilia of her lost

Our IT guy runs NY

ONE OF THE unsung heroes who keep St Dunstan's computer systems running swapped the hi-tech for the roadtrack on November 7th. Showing no signs of jet lag, IT troubleshooter James Browning ran the New York Marathon in a net time of

love. She later married Jock Campbell who had been a prisoner of the Japanese.

Many of my colleagues died in the Zuiderzee - the Dutch resisted the Nazis and suffered many more casualties in organising escape routes for air crews who crashed and escaped, and this article is a tribute to the heroism and friendship of the Dutch people during the 1939-1945 War. It has been on my conscience for many years how I took part in bombing friendly countries. At the time youthful ignorance made no distinction between bombing friendly or enemy targets, being more interested in self preservation. With maturity I want to acknowledge my debt to the Dutch people for their continuing friendship and forbearance.

My qualms of conscience were finally assuaged when I succeeded in finding a copy of a small booklet entitled *Verse from the Turret*. In this little book is a poem entitled *Sky over Holland* written by Maria Ten-Horn which thanks airmen for making their flights, even bombing runs, knowing that it brought close the day when the invaders would flee.

4hrs, 57min and 33 seconds. He was the 26,210 person to cross the finish line, so there were roughly a thousand people beside him each mile of the run through America's Big Apple. James, did the event as a sponsored run raising £1,000 for St Dunstan's.

Welcome to ST DUNSTAN'S

Patricia Brown of Chorley, Lancashire served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1949.

Robert Bysouth of Southchurch, Southend-on-Sea, Essex served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

Henry Chapman of Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1940 to 1946.

Roderick Coates of Belbroughton, Stourbridge, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1950.

Peter Friend of Fetcham, Surrey served in the Polish Forces under British Command and then the British Army from 1942 to 1946.

Fredrick Gregg of Perry Barr, Birmingham, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1948.

Robert Gregson of Morton, Blackpool, Lancashire served in the Royal Signals from 1940 to 1946.

Helen Harmon of Hoghton, Preston, Lancashire served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1979 to 1992.

Joseph Hirsh, CBE of Bedford Park, Chiswick served in the Royal Signals from 1941 to 1946. He was a FEPOW.

Alan Hirst of Darlington, Co Durham served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 to 1946.

Frederick Hughes of Liverpool, Merseyside served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1944 to 1947.

John Hunter of Hucclecote, Gloucester served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1954.

Leonard Johnson of London served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1944.

Brenda Kearsley of Weaverham, Northwich, Cheshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1943 to 1945.

Kathleen LaPlain of Downham Market, Norfolk served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

Michael Lee of Ashford, Middlesex served in the Royal Air Force from 1962 to 1967.

Edward Manville of Brighton served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

Eric Mortland of Selsey, West Sussex served in the Grenadier Guards from 1938 to 1946.

Joseph Robinson of West Molesey, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Kenneth Russell of Bilton, Hull served in the Royal Signals from 1941 to 1946.

Albert Sisson of Aston on Trent, Derbyshire served in the Royal Navy Air Service from 1947 to 1954.

Alan Wainwright of Crossland Hill, Huddersfield served in the Royal Signals from 1952 to 1954.

Edward Williams of Machynelleth, Powys served in the Royal Welch Fusiliers (7th Battalion) (TA), the 1st/6th Essex Regiment, the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, the York and Lancashire Regiment and Yorkshire Regiment between 1938 and 1946.

Arthur Wood of Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE END OF THE WAR?

WITH THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY of the end of the Second World War approaching, the **Review** would like to hear your recollections of VE Day and VJ Day. Where were you when it was declared that hostilities were over? How did you react? What did you do next? Whatever your answer, please write or send a tape in the first instance to The Editor, **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

Ray movie wins critical acclaim



Jamie Foxx as legendary blind musician Ray Charles.

A MOVIE ABOUT the life of blind musician Ray Charles proved a great success in US cinemas – but blind and visually impaired movie goers may have to wait a bit if they want to check out the background on the internet.

Called *Ray* the two-and-a-half hour biography has the blessing of the singer's family. Despite being passed over by several major film studios it has won that magical mix of critical acclaim and financial success. When it opened in America, it took over \$20,000,000 from

cinema audiences in three days. Much of the acclaim has been generated by the performance of actor Jamie Foxx who wore prosthetic lenses to render himself sightless during filming.

Born in Georgia, Ray Charles went blind at the age seven but built a musical career that covered jazz, blues, gospel, rock'n'roll, country and orchestral themes. He died in June this year, aged 73, leaving an unparalleled legacy of musical inspiration.

Despite celebrating the life of a blindman, *Ray's* US website (like that used to promote *Daredevil*, Ben Afflek's outing as a blind superhero), locks out blind computer users who rely on software such as JAWS and HAL to read the onscreen text.

However, UK blind web surfers may have better luck in the lead up to the film's release

this side of the Atlantic. Deborah Sheppard, Marketing Director at UIP told the **Review** that they intend to have a VIP accessible site up before *Ray* is released in UK cinemas on January 21st.

Details of screenings with audio description will be highlighted on the website www.yourlocalcinema.com/ad.html.

BLIND MUSIC GOES BEYOND THE SUN

The music of another blind bluesman is going where no man has gone before. *Dark was the night*, written and performed by Blind Willie Johnson is part of a selection of music being carried on the Voyager 1 space probe. Launched in 1977, the probe conducted a "grand tour" of the Solar System and is now heading out into deepest space, still transmitting data back to Earth. It is more than twice as distant as Pluto, farther from Earth than any other human-made object and speeding outward at more than 38,000mph.

Johnson was born in Texas and blinded as a seven-year-old when his stepmother threw lye in his face. He developed his music on the streets with a leaning on Christian songs. He died of pneumonia caused by exposure in 1947. His track is recorded on a "Golden disc" offering a portrait of life on 20th Century Earth should the probe ever be encountered by other life forms.

POETS' CORNER

SOLDIERS OF THE SOMME

Soldiers of the Somme
As in countless graves you lie
Little did you know that day
How soon you were to die

"Over the top -
to Honour and Glory, boys" they said
But soon the soil of no-man's land
Was soaked with the blood you shed

The flower of youth expended
By fools the world now claims
Solid as the stones erected
On which to carve your names

Survivors of those bloody days
Now remain but few
"Soldiers of the Somme" look down
As we look up to You.

John E. Ellson

THE TRENCHES

I can still remember those horrible trenches,
As we sat on those disgusting benches,
All I could hear were enemy gunshots
Oh, those horrible gunshots.
Please wear the poppy with pride,
For all those brave men that died,
I was one of those strong men,
Serving and fighting for them,
Think of what their loved-ones think
To receive a letter written in ink,
How I lived those horrible days
Thinking I'd be back in May,
Two years went quickly by
Thinking that I would die,
Luckily I lived the painful bleed,
But sadly now I cannot read,
Please wear your poppy with pride,
For all those brave men that died.

by Josh Gunston
(aged 11)

Ten Answers

From page 19.

- 1) *Keeping up Appearances*;
- 2) Rolf Harris;
- 3) Gracie Fields;
- 4) Hattie Jacques;
- 5) A singing Jack Russell terrier;
- 6) Shirley Bassey;
- 7) Humphrey Lyttleton, presenter of *I'm sorry I haven't a clue*;
- 8) Elvis Presley;
- 9) Marie Lloyd;
- 10) Afghanistan.

FAMILY NEWS

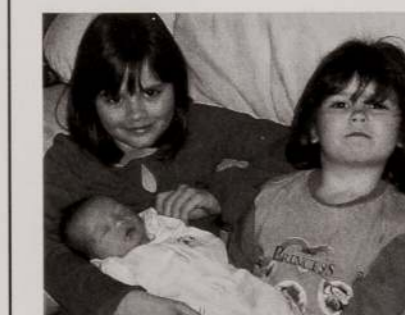
BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Ellie May Ryder on June 29th. She is the great-granddaughter of Margaret Smith of Lancing, West Sussex and the late *Leslie Smith*.

Eve Jessie Carnson on September 24th. She is the great-granddaughter of Marjorie Humphrey of Crosby, Isle of Man and the late *Joe Humphrey*.

Madeleine Daisy on October 12th. She is the fourth grandchild of *George and Pearl Holt* of Gillingham, Kent.



Ieuan Tomas Jones on November 13th. He is the son of *Clive and Stephanie Jones* of Market Drayton, Shropshire. Ieuan is pictured with sisters Bronwyn and Megan.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Stanley and Florence Rickard of Southwick, Trowbridge, Wiltshire on November 8th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Lawrence and Lilian Wilcox-Howell of Brighton who celebrated 62 years of marriage on October 24th.

DVD audio description redeemed at Shawshank

AN UPLIFTING PRISON drama has set a new standard for DVDs with audio description. The 10th anniversary re-release of *The Shawshank Redemption* carries a talking interface which allows a blind person to find the audio described version of the film. It also allows access to scene selection. Although not the first

DVD to have audio description (additional dialogue to provide detail of cast, action, scenery or costume) it is the first to address the problem of how a visually impaired person can activate the feature without help from a sighted viewer. Based on a Stephen King novel, *The Shawshank Redemption* stars Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman.

George and Ann Taylor of Maidstone, Kent celebrated 64 years of marriage on November 9th.

Richard and Peg Wadey of Hoo, Rochester, Kent who celebrated 65 years of marriage on November 11th.

Dennis and Olwen Landin of Rhly, Denbighshire celebrated 61 years of marriage on November 13th.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Maria Pikulski of Preston, Lancashire who has received a First Class Pass in her Pitman's Word Processing Essential Level Exam.

Ray Hazan of London who has been named as a Paul Harris Fellow by his chapter of Rotary International. The award is considered a high honour in Rotarian Circles.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Olive Hagger on October 13th. She was the wife of *Geoffrey Hagger* of Overstrand, Norfolk.

Mary Harris on October 21st. She was the wife of *Stewart Harris* of Andover, Hampshire.

Kitty Watkinson on August 9th She was the wife of *Raymond Watkinson* of Horsham, West Sussex.

Pat McQuaid on November 10th. She was the wife of *Francis McQuaid* of Allestree, Derbyshire.

Lilian Chubb of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire on October 19th. She was the widow of *Kenneth Chubb*.

Olive Springell of Castleford, West Yorkshire on October 29th. She was the widow of *Reginald Springell*.

Margaret Martin of Peacehaven, East Sussex on November 3rd. She was the widow of *Arthur 'Tiger' Martin*.

Our sympathy goes 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.

Kevin McKeogh

Royal Australian Engineers

Kevin Riley McKeough of Wingham, New South Wales, Australia died on August 18th, aged 87. He was a truck driver before joining the Royal Australian Engineers in 1940. As a Sapper in 2/12th Field Coy, 8th Division, he was taken prisoner by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore, serving time in Changi, on the Burma-Thailand Railway, and in the coal mines in Japan. Our sympathy goes to his widow Daphne, daughter Judy, son Dale and all the family.

Alexander Tarpley

Royal Air Force

Alexander Charles Tarpley of Oldswinford, Stourbridge, West Midlands died on August 23rd, aged 84. He worked as a tailor before joining the Royal Air Force in 1940. He served in France with 81 Squadron as part of the British Expeditionary Force. Returning to the UK, he was stationed in Shropshire, Wiltshire and Yorkshire before being posted to Egypt with the Aeronautical Inspection Servicing Unit. He was discharged as Sergeant in 1946. Back in civilian life, he returned to tailoring but later switched to engineering and joined British Steel. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Valerie and all other members of the family.

William Kennaugh

Royal Army Service Corps

William Henry Kennaugh of Mawdesley, Ormskirk, Lancashire died on October 14th, aged 90. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1939 and was deployed to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force, moving on to Belgium before being evacuated from Dunkirk. Back in the UK, while working on the distribution of stores, he was promoted to Corporal and was posted to company stores in Kirkham before his discharge in 1944. Back in

civilian life, he ran his own upholstery shop in Liverpool and later started to manufacture furniture. In later years, he moved into furniture retail. Our sympathy goes to his son William, daughter Patricia and all members of the family.

George Wright

Merchant Navy

George Wright of Preston, Lancashire died on October 26th, aged 97. He had worked in the wool trade and then in communications before joining the Merchant Navy in 1942. He spent his time at sea on the Atlantic Convoy and troop ships. After being discharged in 1946, he worked at GCHQ.

Reginald Jones

Royal Artillery

Reginald Douglas Jones of Carshalton, Surrey died on October 27th, aged 85. He joined the TA in 1936 and was later embodied into the Royal Artillery. Deployed in Europe, he was taken prisoner of war in Italy. Discharged in 1946, his interests included sports and radio. Our sympathy goes to his widow Jean and their sons.

Arthur Green

Royal Artillery

Arthur Alfred Green of Battersea, London died on October 28th, aged 93. He worked in Victoria's Army and Navy store before joining the Royal Artillery in 1940. After training in Newquay, he was stationed in Gloucestershire before being sent to North Africa. He fought through Italy and on to Germany. Discharged in 1946, he returned to Army & Navy, eventually becoming a buyer. His interests included gardening, radio and reading. Our sympathy goes to his son Derek, daughter Shiela and all other members of the family.

Dr Trevor Anderson

Royal Australian Regiment

Dr Robert Trevor Anderson of Port Melbourne, Victoria, Australia died on October 29th, aged 63. He joined the 6th Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment in 1964. While serving in South Vietnam as their Regimental Medical Officer he was blinded in 1969 when he and others entered into a minefield to attend to the wounded. A "jumping-jack" mine exploded

killing some comrades and leaving him badly wounded. Back in Australia, he learnt braille and touch-typing and passed a specialised degree in psychiatric medicine at first attempt. In 1988, he qualified as a Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatry. Working as a Consulting Psychiatrist at Peter McCallum Hospital, he also taught medical studies at Melbourne University and helped to develop the Vietnam Veterans' Counselling Service. His work in this area led to a position on the National Advisory Committee to the Minister of Veterans' Affairs. In 1991, he was declared ANZAC of the Year by his peers in the Returned Services League. A member of the Victorian Blind Soldiers' Association, he became their President in October 1998 and was also President of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (RVIB). Our sympathy goes to his widow Janice, their son Hamish, daughters Penelope, Virginia and Emily and all other members of the family.

Denis Tufnell

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Denis Campbell Tufnell of Painswick Gloucestershire died on October 29th, aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1941. He was nearing the end of a four-year engineering course at Bristol University when he joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1939. Mobilised on outbreak of hostilities, he was posted to 43 Squadron – the Fighting Cocks - as a Pilot Officer. Responding to a raid on the coast of Aberdeen in January 1941, his windscreen was struck during aerial combat. Hit by the splinters, he suffered injury to his left eye, nose and lost his right eye. While training at St Dunstan's Church Stretton, it was arranged for him to take his final exams for an Engineering BSc. Soon after, he joined the Bristol Aircraft Company and was subsequently promoted to Production Engineer. The firm later became part of British Aircraft Corporation and he was seconded to the Concorde project which created the world's only commercial supersonic airliner. His interests included DIY and travel. Our sympathy goes to his widow June, son Christopher, daughter Penelope and all other members of the family.

HALLOWEEN HIKE!



Billy, guided by Leading Cadet Rhea Warner, marches with the cadets after their 12-mile walk.

Eighty cadets from the boroughs of Greenwich and Lewisham put their best foot forward to support St Dunstan's on October 30th. Aged between 13 and 18 years old, they stepped out on a 12-mile sponsored walk that took them through three London boroughs, often on an uphill path.

Starting from the Royal Artillery Headquarters in Woolwich, cadets from 97 Royal Artillery walked out with St Dunstaner Billy Baxter, while another group, uniting 94 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (Blackheath), 91 REME

(Charlton), and 92 Westminster Dragoons (Catford) were joined by St Dunstaner Steve Finlay, taking turns to push his wheelchair. Their path through the Kent- London borders took them uphill and down, to Well Hall and then on through Eltham to Welling. Then Shooters Hill, favoured by highwaymen and hangmen alike, loomed ahead and the cadets united with gusto to move Steve up the steep incline. "I never want to see that hill again - and I can't see it - but if I come back I want it flat," said Steve.

Steve Finlay and the cadets outside Charlton Hall - reckoned to be the most haunted house in SE London!

The walk concluded, just over four hours later, back at Woolwich with a snap to attention and a brisk march across the parade ground.

Billy and Steve praised the cadets for their efforts which are expected to raise in the region of £3,000 to help blind ex-Service men and women.



Cadets Watson and Ryan march home to base.