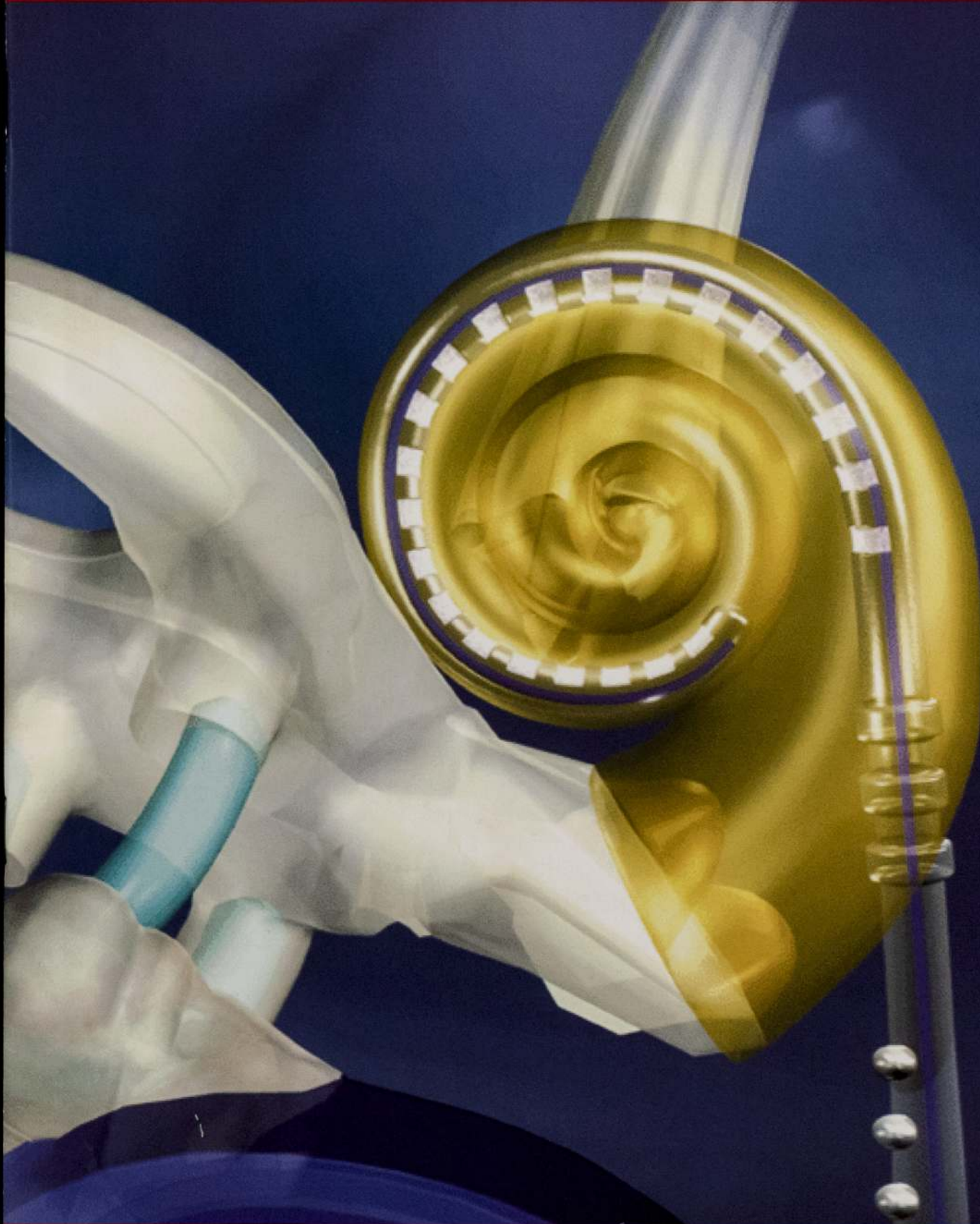


February 2005

www.st-dunstans.org.uk

ST DUNSTAN'S Review



Cover picture courtesy of Cochlear Europe Ltd.

FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

February 2005

Cover story:

Turning the sound back on!

St Dunstaner Colin 'Woody' Oakes has re-opened a window on the world after having an electrode array surgically implanted in the temporal bone behind his ear. The diagram on the cover shows how the electrodes are introduced into the inner ear. The electric current passing through the electrodes triggers the auditory nerve and allows the user to hear again. **Woody tells his story on page 12.**

Zoom, zoom, zoom!

St Dunstan's Welfare Officer Pam Wait muses on the joys of the Kent countryside and meeting St Dunstaners and their families in the south. **Drive round to page 14.**

A welcome visitor

Arthur Pearson's great-granddaughter pays a visit to St Dunstan's. **More on page 10.**

RAF have got it wrapped

RAF inject Christmas spirit into fundraising for St Dunstan's. **Details on page 11**

A drive to remember

Billy Baxter puts the pedal to the metal for the Top Gear show. **More on page 20.**

Plus Noticeboard, Balancing the Books, Ten Questions, Letters to the Editor, Pendleton's Pantry and more!!!

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

From the Chairman



The Chairman introduced our Founder's great-granddaughter and the High Sheriff of East Sussex to St Dunstaners in the Craft Workshop. Details on page 10.

THIS YEAR, ST DUNSTAN'S celebrates the 90th anniversary of its foundation. This will be mainly marked at the area reunions, details of which will be publicised later. Other events will include the planting of a tree in the garden of Winfield House in London's Regents Park, where the original site of St Dunstan's first Training Centre was located. There will also be a walking tour of the buildings used by St Dunstan's in London, culminating in laying a wreath at the grave of Sir Arthur Pearson in Hampstead cemetery.

St Dunstan's can look back with satisfaction over what has been achieved in helping blind ex-Service men and women. Every decade seems to offer a new challenge; age, medical advances, technology and attitudes all bring new influences to bear. Our strength lies in the creation, over the years, of this remarkable family in which St Dunstaners and widows help each other, rather than just staff administering to them. It is crucially important that we maintain this team relationship to support both existing and future family members.

By now, you should have received a personal letter about Welfare Grants and Admission charges. If you have any concerns or queries, please contact either Jeremy Hinton, Barry Porter or Ray Hazan at Headquarters.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

ST DUNSTAN'S Calendar

Writers' Forum	February 5th
Indoor Bowling	February 16th
Indoor Bowling	February 18th
Music 'Week'	February 20th-25th
Indoor Bowling	February 25th
Writers' Forum	March 5th
Indoor Bowling	March 7th
Bowling (I)	March 7th-21st
Computer Club (I)	Mar 22nd-23rd
Amateur Radio(II)	March 24th-31st
St Dunstan's 90th Anniversary	March 26th
Writers' Forum	April 2nd
Indoor Bowling	April 6th
Ex-POW Reunion	April 8th-11th
Dutch Memorial	April 11th
London Marathon	April 17th
Historical 'Week'	April 17th-22nd
Indoor Bowling	April 18th
Bisley Shoot	April 20th
Masonic Weekend	April 22nd-24th
Army v Navy Rugby	May (tbc)
Celebrity Soccer Sunday	May (tbc)
Gardening 'Week'	May 1st-7th
Leeds Reunion	May 4th
Sportsboat/RIB Show	May 6th-8th
Writers' Forum	May 7th
VE Day	May 8th
Outdoor Bowling	May 9th
Exercise Ironman	May 11th
Handless Reunion	May 11th-17th
Arts Weekend	May 19th-22nd
Writers' Forum Day	May 21st
Archery(II)	May 27th-June 6th

Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

REUNION DATE CHANGES

THREE DAYS REARRANGED: Three of the area reunions listed in the December **Review** have been rescheduled. The Hampshire & Dorset Reunion is now the Burley Reunion and will be held on May 26th. The Brighton (II) Reunion will now be held on July 14th, while the Birmingham Reunion will be held a day earlier on October 4th. Details of specific times and venues will be sent out in due course.

ACTIVITIES WEEK 2005

IDEAS FOR ACTIVITIES WELCOME: Can any St Dunstaners who are interested in participating in the Activities Week please contact Andy Alliston in the Sports & Recreation department at Ovingdean as soon as possible. He is hoping to get an idea of numbers and would also welcome the chance to hear any positive suggestions on the type of activities people might like to try. Please be aware that anyone wanting to take part must be available for the whole week (expected to be August 20th-26th). Contact Andy on 01273 391463.

CUP FINAL TICKET DRAW

WHO WILL WIN?: The FA Cup Final will take place in Cardiff on Saturday, May 21st 2005. It is possible that St Dunstan's will be allocated tickets. Any St Dunstaner wishing to go should send their name and address to Caroline Payne at St Dunstan's Headquarters by April 11th.

PLEASE DISPLAY BLUE BADGE

HELP US WHEN YOU PARK: Would all "Blue badge" holders parking at Ovingdean please display their identification badges when using the designated bays. This will assist the Security staff in reducing the amount of drivers who are parking illegally. We would be grateful if permits with photographic ID are visible at all times.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Bill Lyth
Head of Security

BRAILLE FOR BANGLADESH

EDUCATIONAL ITEMS NEEDED: The All Book Corporation helps handicapped people on the poverty line in Bangladesh. If you have any spare Braille matter, particularly educational titles, then please send it post-free under 'Articles for the Blind' to Mrs S.M. Shanti, Executive Director, All Book Corporation, 12/E, 7/2, Mirpur, Pallabi, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh.

ISLE OF MAN PARISH WALK

LATER DATE: The Isle of Man Parish Walk commences at 9am, Saturday, June 25th 2005, a week later than previously advertised. Participants have to touch the lynch gates of all parish churches on the island within 24 hours, covering 85 miles in the process. Anyone interested in taking part, should contact Ray Hazan at St Dunstan's HQ on 020 7723 5021.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS FOR FRIENDS OF ST DUNSTAN'S

RECOGNITION FOR BLIND AND SERVICE WELFARE: Our congratulations go to three friends of St Dunstan's who were amongst those feted in the New Year's Honours. Lieutenant-General Sir Maurice Johnston was made a CVO (Commander of the Victorian Order) having stepped down as Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire. Sir Maurice served on the Council of St Dunstan's until last year.

Mike Brace, Chief Executive of Vision 2020 and Chairman of the British Paralympic Association has been made an OBE for his services in the field of disabled sport.

Major George Correa, who some St Dunstaners will remember from occasions when he has joined our contingent for the Remembrance Sunday parade, was made an MBE for services to the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund.

THE BRITISH 10K LONDON

CAPITAL RUNNERS WANTED: The British 10k London road race will be taking place on Sunday, July 3rd, starting at Hyde Park and finishing near Whitehall, passing London's major landmarks on route. St Dunstan's is looking for interested runners to take part and join our running team. If you are interested or would like any further details, please contact Clare in Fundraising on 020 7616 7966 or e-mail fundraising@st-dunstans.org.uk.

FANCY A GAME OF DARTS

CLUB AND LEAGUE MATCHES: Any St Dunstaner with an interest in playing darts should contact Tom Hatt in the Gym at Ovingdean (01273 391463). He is examining options for club games and possibly a league.

TAKE YOUR PARTNERS ...

COME DANCING: St Dunstaner David Schofield is hoping his peers will grasp the opportunity to form a dance/social club and make use of the ballroom at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. "If you have danced in the past, sequence, ballroom, latin or old time and would like to start again, or have another go at it, why not come along and try," said David. "I did not dance until I lost my sight. It was a challenge I overcame to learn the steps, but I have derived great pleasure from it. The Scots come and tell us how to do the eightsome reel, gay gordons etc." St Dunstaners who are interested in setting up a dance club should contact Jenny Dolan at Headquarters on 020 7616 7922 or e-mail her at jenny.dolan@st-dunstans.org.uk.

JOIN THE RESISTANCE

BLIND CAST THROW SPOTLIGHT ON BLIND WARRIOR: The extraordinary true story of a blind resistance leader in occupied Paris provides the background for a unique play touring British theatres in March and April. *Resistance* - by blind writer Maria Oshodi - is performed by six blind and visually impaired actors. Contact your local venue for times, ticket prices and workshop details.

Clock Tower, Croydon	March 4th-5th
Bowen, W Beds	March 6th
Newcastle (UL) New Vic	March 10th
Town Hall, Loughborough	March 11th
Hawthorn, Crawley	March 14th
Swan, Worcester	March 15th
Old Town Hall, Hemmel Hempstead	March 16th
Phoenix, Leicester	March 31st
Sallis Benny, Brighton	April 2nd
Contact Theatre, Manchester	April 6th
Wolverhampton Arena	April 19th
Hereford Courtyard	April 20th
The Castle, Wellingborough	April 21st
Plough, Torrington	April 22nd
Hammersmith, Riverside	April 26th-May 1st

HELPING THE HEROES RETURN

APPLY BY MARCH 31ST: Applications for funding under the Heroes Return scheme need to be made by March 31st 2005. The initiative aims to enable Second World War veterans and widows commemorate the 60th anniversary of the events that led to the end of that conflict.

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

As a first step, call the Veterans Agency free helpline on 0800 169 2277. They will provide detailed information on eligibility and advice on how to submit an application. Should you require further advice please contact St Dunstan Services Manager Ray Hazan at St Dunstan's HQ on 020 7723 5021.

GREAT ESCAPES IN LAMBETH

THE MYTH AND THE REALITY: The Imperial War Museum London will host a series of events to coincide with *Great Escapes*, a special exhibition exploring ingenious and audacious escape attempts made by Allied prisoners of war during World War II. The exhibition, which runs until July 31st, spotlights The Great Escape, the Wooden Horse and Colditz Castle. It includes recently discovered artefacts from Stalag Luft III.

Entry for adults is £6.00, concessions £5.00, children free. Call 020 7416 5439 for details.

On February 6th, 2:30pm, Professor Peter Doyle will talk about the first archaeological excavation at Stalag Luft III. Adults £5.00, Friends of the IWM and concessions £4.00, Children £3.00. Pre-booking on 020 7416 5439 essential.

CAMP OUT AT HMS SULTAN

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.

CHEAPER DATES FOR 2005

PRICE CUT FOR LARGE PRINT DIARY: St Dunstan's large print diary has been reduced in price to £5 (inc P&P if necessary). 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. It 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.

DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

CALLING CHURCH STRETTON ALUMNI: Joan Batten, but known as BATS, served with the British Army. In the early part of the 1940's she went to St Dunstan's at Church Stretton to read to St Dunstaners at the weekends.

She now lives in New Zealand and wonders if anyone remembers her. If you do, please drop Robbie Hazan a line at St Dunstan's, Collections & Archives, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD or e-mail her on roberta.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk.

Welcomes at Headquarters and a farewell at Ovingdean

STAFF CHANGES

DAVID HABERSHON



David Habershon joined St Dunstan's on January 4th as Admissions & Pensions Manager. "I joined the Royal Navy as a seaman officer in 1968 straight from school," he said. "One of my special early memories was supervising the last rum issue, 'the tot', as Duty Midshipman onboard HMS *Lincoln* in 1970. I subsequently served on the minesweepers HMS *Laleston* and *Brinton*, the frigates HMS *Lincoln*, *Sirius* and *Ariadne* and the destroyer HMS *Southampton*. I did loan service with the Sultan of Oman's Navy in 1977-78 and was onboard HMS *Blake*, the last of the Royal Navy's 6" gun cruisers, as damage control officer during her final commission in 1979. I was also privileged to serve as First Lieutenant of HM Yacht *Britannia* for two years - this included her last world circumnavigation in 1988 covering the Australian Bicentennial celebrations attended by HM The Queen and HRH Prince Philip.

"Finally sent ashore, I filled a variety of MOD and NATO staff appointments which included a spell on the Directing Staff of the Royal Naval College Greenwich and a happy final four years with the Directorate of Naval Reserves. This busy period saw the mobilisation of 400 RNR officers and ratings for the 2003 Iraqi conflict and the celebration of the RNR centenary in the same year. I retired from the Navy as a Commander in 2004 after 36 years.

"I am married to Libby and we have three adult sons. Living in Emsworth, Hampshire, we enjoy sailing our Drascombe longboat in Chichester harbour during the summer months as well as skiing and the occasional game of golf."

JENNY LOW



Jenny Low is presented with a St Dunstan's plaque by Head of Care Jackie Greer.

Care Assistant Jenny Low retired on January 12th having worked with St Dunstaners for 28 years and three months.

In her spare time, Jenny is a keen photographer and archer, and has been known to compete against St Dunstaners with the Greenways team. Significantly, during her time at St Dunstan's, she has been on duty for all 29 New Year's Eves that have been celebrated. St Dunstaners, staff and friends gathered in the Winter Garden to wish her a long and healthy retirement.

STEPHEN CHAMBERS

Stephen Chambers joined St Dunstan's on January 10th as Head of Estates. He previously worked with property consultants Allsop & Co. As Head of Estates he will be responsible for buying and managing homes for St Dunstaners. A keen skier, Stephen is married with four adult children.



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.

You have to be there to appreciate it

In November, I was very fortunate in going up to London for the service at the Cenotaph. We received a lovely warm and friendly welcome when we arrived at the hotel and that seemed to set the pace for the whole weekend. So thank you all to everyone who helped us enjoy it.

Being on the parade ground on Sunday morning was something which I feel one can never get the true atmosphere unless you are really there. It was tremendous and I shall never forget it. A large screen had been erected so that bystanders

and people with sight could see what was going on during the service. After that when we started to march past, doing our eyes left at The Cenotaph and seeing all the poppies and the wreaths laid there and then on we marched up Whitehall with all the crowds clapping us as we walked past. When we got to where the Princess Royal was standing we gave her the eyes right and we marched up to where the coaches were waiting for us.

**Sally Diamond,
Selsey, West Sussex**

Speedy assistance at Albert Hall was most welcome

I would like to thank all of the people who helped me to attend the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall on November 13th. Owing to security measures, the coach could not take us to the door. Someone took my arm and tried to help me walk up, but I soon became distressed. Suddenly a wheelchair appeared and what a relief that was. Many thanks to the 'runner' for it came out of the night at breakneck speed. I have no names that I can thank personally – just a big thank you to all.

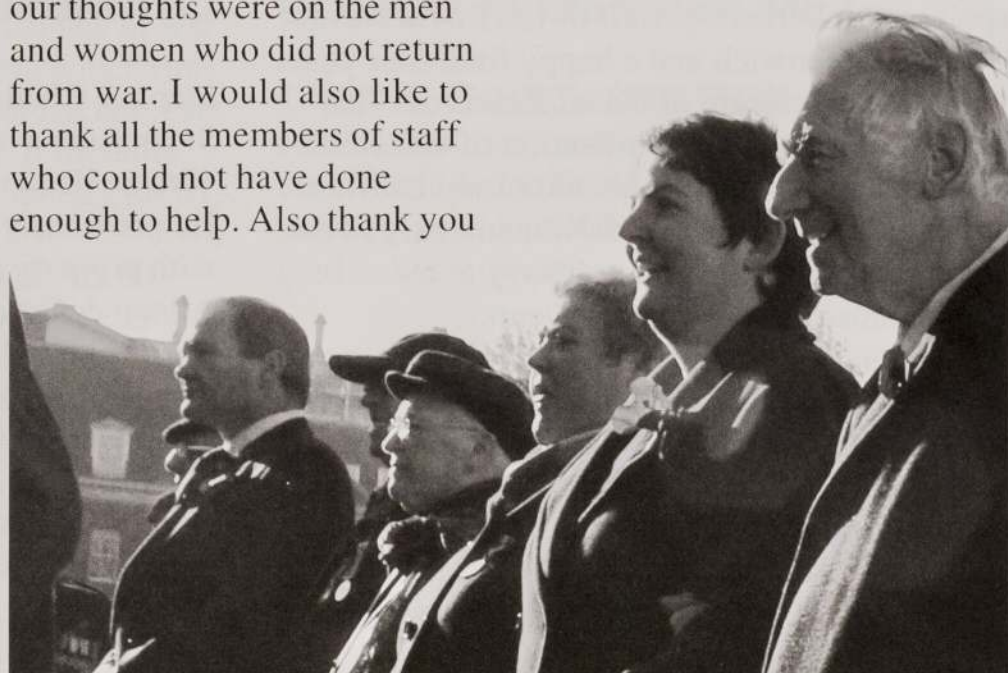
**Marjorie Hordyniec,
Winchester, Hampshire**

Our chance to say 'thank you' to the men and women who did not return

A very big thank you to St Dunstan's for organising such a fantastic festival of remembrance. As the mother of a St Dunstaner it was with great pride that I escorted my daughter, Moira, on the parade down Whitehall. I know that our thoughts were on the men and women who did not return from war. I would also like to thank all the members of staff who could not have done enough to help. Also thank you

to Lt Col Hinton who kept us all right when walking on parade. A very big thank you. Now I know why my daughter says that she has two families.

**Susan McGrath,
County Down,
Northern Ireland**



Joining my fellow veterans at Cenotaph was a privilege

I am writing to thank all concerned for the opportunity to attend the Cenotaph Parade as a St Dunstaner on November 14th. I was not quite sure of my expectations but from the moment I joined my fellow veterans and was accepted as one of them, I was at my ease. I felt very privileged to have been invited to join them.

The whole ceremony was reflective, joyous and even at times almost heartbreaking, but the company of such wonderfully understanding comrades made it one of the most moving experiences I have ever encountered. My sincere thanks to all involved.

**Mabel L. Haynes,
Nuneaton, Warwickshire**



Christmas favourites as performed by Ovingdean staffers.

What a performance!

What a terrific performance put on by staff, assisted ably by St Dunstaners, at the 2004 Christmas concert. My wife and I were impressed greatly by the enthusiasm and professionalism of all taking part, this of course includes all the "invisible army" of helpers and coordinators.

This was our second concert and judging by the improvement over last year we think that by 2006 Cameron Macintosh will be bidding to put the show on in the West End. Thank you all for a lovely day.

**Gerry and Maureen Jackson,
Worthing, West Sussex**

In memory of a devoted wife and mother

Vanessa Roden passed away peacefully in her sleep on December 29th at St Peter and St James Hospice. She was a devoted wife to Derek and loving mother to sons Christopher and Oliver.

Vanessa was a very kind and loving person and cared very much for her animals. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

**Derek Roden,
Hassocks, West Sussex**



Alan Dent (second from right) with other patients at the Queen Victoria Hospital.

Queen Vic's caring approach left a lasting memory

We are writing to say how much we enjoyed the article in the November **Review** about the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead. Alan was a patient there in the late 1960's and underwent two corneal grafts. He stayed in one of the "huts" and sat outside in the sunshine. It was all very informal, and despite the hospital environment, great fun.

There was also a convalescent home some distance from the main site where some of the patients were sent to recover before going home. I think it was called Oakleigh Annexe. He stayed there too.

Sadly the corneal grafts were unsuccessful, but we still remember the care, kindness and camaraderie of the Queen Victoria Hospital.

**Lesley and Alan Dent,
Northampton,
Northamptonshire**

It strikes me...

with Gog and Magog



Gog hears that a blind man in Romania has been arrested for car theft, not once, but twice! First time out, the 24-year-old drove for about a mile before crashing into a tree. When he stole a second car soon after, he managed to travel 25 miles with a sighted passenger offering directions. However, his journey was still cut short when he collided with a tree. Newspaper *Adevarul* - Spatamanal de cultra si atitudine (and we will find an appropriate prize for the best translation) - quoted the blind driver Alin Prica as saying "I just wanted to prove to myself that I could do anything I wanted, despite my handicap. I only crashed because I wasn't sure of the way home."

We have news of a St Dunstaner racing off behind the wheel on page 20.

Magog can assure readers in the Southern hemisphere that the courage and sacrifice of two generations will always be remembered. Except we do have cause to wonder about the Sydney tour guide who tells his patrons that the ANZAC Bridge is named after Australia's favourite biscuit!

Anniversary year starts with visit from founder's great-granddaughter



Rebecca, Cork and Orrery alongside a painting of her great-grandfather, Sir Arthur Pearson, founder of St Dunstan's.

AS ST DUNSTAN'S APPROACHES its 90th Anniversary in March, St Dunstan's Ovingdean was pleased to receive a visit from the Countess of Cork and Orrery who is also the great-granddaughter of Sir Arthur Pearson. Having launched the *Daily Express*, saved the *Daily Mirror* and set up a media empire which is still prevalent today, Pearson became a tireless campaigner for blind welfare after losing his sight to glaucoma. He was moved to set



The High Sheriff of East Sussex, Philip Avery, inspects the mosaic work of St Dunstaner Eric Church.

up a dedicated organisation for servicemen blinded in the trenches of the First World War. His great-granddaughter found out how the organisation has progressed during a tour of facilities on January 5th. Also visiting that day was the High Sheriff of East Sussex, Philip Avery and his wife. Our guests met St Dunstaners in the Craft Workshop and met with residents as they were introduced to some of the techniques and technologies that can help, as Pearson put it, "achieve victory over blindness".

RAF wrap things up after a ride on the RIB

OFFICERS FROM RAF Uxbridge were thrown in at the deep end when they visited St Dunstan's Ovingdean on November 30th. They went for a spin on *Ad Astra*, the St Dunstan's rigid inflatable boat. Flt Lt Kevin Nicholls, Chairman of the Station Charities Committee, Flt Lt John Hetherington and other Royal Air Force officers went out on the boat. During a tour of facilities at Ovingdean, they met up with St Dunstaners such as Stan Grimsey, Arthur Lowe, Moira Meekins and Maria Pikulski. The RAF team declared that they had enjoyed their visit and gained a new insight into the way in which St Dunstan's supports visually impaired ex-Service men and women. They added that they had found the atmosphere positive and upbeat.

Personnel from RAF Uxbridge also hit the streets near a local shopping centre in December for a novel fundraising exercise. Accompanied by St Dunstaner Alan Brown, members of the RAF Central Band played carols while others offered help with gift wrapping presents for Christmas shoppers.

That will do nicely, sir



Steve Trangmar (above) and Tony Beckett for the Travellers Cheque Group of American Express (AMEX) presented a cheque to St Dunstan's for £1,500. The sum was accepted by Ovingdean resident, Billy Orr. Some 90 members of AMEX staff raised the donation through various events, which included car boot sales, selling home made chocolate eggs and race nights.

Ten questions on...

The subject of World War II

Quizmaster Harry Beevers poses some questions on the Forties conflict!

- 1) Which radio series ran from 1939 until 1949 and included the characters Mrs Mopp, Colonel Chinstrap, Mona Lott and Funf?
- 2) Which war-time slogan encouraged women to repair and alter garments rather than buy new ones?
- 3) Which German word meaning "Coat of mail" was given to certain heavily armed units of the German army?
- 4) In 1945, in which two months were VE Day and VJ Day celebrated?
- 5) Which Government scheme first put into action over the first weekend in September 1939 was given the code-name "Operation Pied Piper"?
- 6) Which formation of the British army used as its insignia the Greater Egyptian Jerboa?
- 7) How was William Joyce known to radio listeners during World War II?
- 8) What was the claim to fame in World War II of the actor M.E. Clifton-James?
- 9) Cognac with lemon, ice and Grenadine makes a cocktail which shares its name with which weapon of World War I and II?
- 10) After a six week siege, which became the first major German city, the most westerly in the country, to be taken by the Allies in October 1944?

Answers on page 19

Implanting some hope!

How Colin 'Woody' Oakes is learning to hear again



An external microphone picks up sounds and relays them to a speech processor which translates them into electric signals. These are relayed to the Cochlear Implant inside the inner ear. The nerves are stimulated creating an auditory sensation which the user must learn to interpret.

Colin 'Woody' Oakes was injured in Aden in June 1966 whilst serving with the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry. He became a St Dunstaner in 1992.

WHEN VISITING MY friend Woody, who is profoundly deaf, and also registered blind I was surprised to find that he was not smoking. On enquiring why, he informed me that wheels had been set in motion for a cochlear implant and on the advice of the consultant had quit smoking. I then asked him how he had managed that and had there been any withdrawal symptoms? He said he had done it "Cold Turkey". Somehow that didn't surprise me! Woody admitted that he

was a bit "twitchy" the first night and out of humour for a day or two afterwards. Woody added that after a week the food tasted different, he was not sure if it tasted better or worse but it was different. The most noticeable benefit from quitting the habit was to his bank balance but no other side effects. Because I enjoy a cigarette myself, I was somewhat apprehensive that Woody would become one of those annoying reformed smokers and not want people smoking near him, but I need not have worried. I asked him if I could smoke and he said "You can smoke or burst into flames if you want to." Typical!

For the next fourteen months Woody had to endure numerous

journeys, with drivers of doubtful ability, travelling to and from hospital out patient departments. There were appointments with therapists for speech, hearing and a Trickcyclist, X-rays, CT and MRI scans plus other tests for balance and hearing. The net result of all these examinations was positive. Not one to suffer the fool easily, Woody maintained a keen sense of humour throughout all the trials and tribulations.

LONG WAIT

That sense of humour was sorely strained at the interview with the ENT consultant. With one remaining appointment with the consultant, Woody was anticipating that he would be

given an admission date for the surgery. The consultant confirmed that they were committing themselves to go ahead with the implant and asked if Woody had any questions. Woody had only one question for the consultant "When?" The consultant answered "in one year, possibly longer."

There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that Woody was very disappointed but true to form he didn't let it show he just carried on as normal. "Flying on autopilot" is the phrase he would use. The whole saga of Woody's cochlear implant was being followed with interest by the regulars in his local. The news that Woody had to wait another year was received with stunned disbelief by the regulars. Personally, I gave a sigh of relief for the respite. The cochlear implant is "major surgery" and can last for three or four hours. If there are no complications the follow up program extends for another 18 months or longer. I didn't have to worry, just yet.

READY FOR SURGERY

The calm that I felt was short lived because early in July Woody received 12 days notification that the surgery would take place by the end of the month. I was informed when Woody asked me to "sit on the cat" for him. At first I thought he was off on one of his "Walks" for a few days but then he said it was for the implant. Woody insisted that it was "no big deal" and was



Woody Oakes demonstrating a hand-carved telephone when he was unable to use the real thing.

very laid back about the whole thing (at least on the outside).

Woody was admitted to Hospital at 15:00hrs on Wednesday, went into surgery at 09:30 on Thursday and was discharged at 14:30 on Friday - less than 48hrs in hospital. When I visited him all he had to show for it was an impressive scar behind the right ear. I did think that Woody might want some peace and quiet but I was wrong about that since we made a beeline for the local.

Some of the regulars were under the wrong impression that Woody was going to be able to hear straight away and I

was hard pressed to explain that only the surgery had been completed and that it would be a month before the speech processor was tuned in and even longer before it could be used effectively. Woody had been profoundly deaf for 16 years when I first met him and I have known him for more than six years now. Profoundly deaf and with severely restricted sight but even with these problems, or perhaps because of them I have come to regard him as one of my closest friends. There when I needed advice and guidance, providing a safe harbour when I needed shelter from the storms of life. Life has not always been kind to him but a keen sense of humour has been his forte. For my own part I am thankful that the surgery went well and that there are no adverse side effects. Woody is still Woody and I am looking forward to having a normal conversation with him.

Woody takes up the story:

The implant is working fine and I am now able to converse with people on a one to one basis. To begin with all I could hear was "Aussie Tin" with a Bristolian accent. "Aussie" because the implant is made in Australia and Bristolian because it was fitted in Bristol. I can now recognise the sounds around the house and traffic on the road, which makes it safer for me walking into town. I have also heard a bird's call for the first time in 30-odd years. One of the strangest things I had to get used to was hearing my own voice.

Image courtesy of Cochlear Europe Ltd.

A car in the life of ...

Welfare Officer **Pam Wait** enjoys life on the open road

DESCRPTIONS OF MY rainy days on the M25, traffic congestion through accidents and queues to cross the Dartford Tolls would somehow not be sufficiently gripping to whet your appetite to hear about what we, the St Dunstan's Welfare Officers get up to. Nor can I be undiplomatic, not to say unprofessional, by

revealing some of those original and endearing qualities of my St Dunstaners, although that would make more entertaining reading. So my dilemma is, whilst attempting to give a little profile on the Welfare Team, I can't, as it were, go into the "nitty gritty's". You



Name that car! Pam Wait stops off in London Docklands en route to visit a St Dunstaner or two.

see, we as a group meet every single member of St Dunstan's and the essence and core of our work is that which is based on trust and warm professional relationships which are developed over years of visiting. Someone said to me that the Welfare Team was like the nervous system of the St Dunstan's body, not controlling people but helping them to retain independence at home, whilst knowing that we are there to help.

Suffice to say we have all shared moments of humility and poignancy seeing how our people deal with a variety of loss and disability and revisiting important long distant life events. This is countered by laughter on brighter more hopeful days. Moreover what talent lurks in this organisation. During visits I have been played accomplished organ music, also the piano with vocals; I have been shown how to dance properly; I have heard recitals of poems known and unknown; been presented with stories or books by the authors to take away and read, viewed art and craftwork made to a high standard. I have frequently reflected on the multi-talented folk who make up the St Dunstan's family. You are truly an inspiration.

Since I started working for St Dunstan's in 1996, I have had the pleasure of meeting three hundred or more St Dunstaners, as I have changed areas from time to time. I have pounded the

tarmac of roads in London and the South East and have driven 160,000 miles in the execution of my duties. That's equivalent to travelling around the world at least 20 times!

I am currently on my third company car and I can't advertise the make but it is the most reliable of friends. With its responsive turbo-diesel it sets me on my way, zoom, zoom, zoom, past the local farm vehicles, sedately past police motorway patrols, always of course within the legal limits (the cruise control button makes sure of this). Moreover my car knows all the highways and byways in my patch, including detours, short cuts and ladies powder rooms. Naturally as I spend more time in my car seat each day than in any other chair, my car and I have become best friends. I eat lunch in it, write reports, sing or cry or laugh listening to Radio 4 or Classic FM (am I giving my age away?). Between visits I have thinking time to sort out what I need to do for St Dunstaners, and make calls on my mobile if necessary.

Frankly though, most of the driving is tedious, but the whole point of it is the contact at the end of the journey and that makes the job worthwhile.

A final thank you to those of you who live in Hastings (you know who you are) for you give me the opportunity of a lovely journey – no motorways, no urban congestion for a change.

Here are the lanes of Kent, going via the Royal Military Canal and then through the wide open spaces of Romney Marsh before reaching the two wonderful hill top towns, both Royal Cinque Ports, namely Rye and Winchelsea. Then I climb steadily higher up the Greensand hills and just before reaching Hastings there on one side is the coastline, the sea and France, and on the other spectacular English countryside.

It beats the M25 any day!

PS I have given you a clue to the make of car by the advertising slogan, have you got it?

St Dunstan's Archers represent UK in Italy

FOUR ST DUNSTANERS represented the UK in the third European Visually Impaired Archery competition held in Italy this January. They were part of the British Blind Sport Archery team and contested a VI 18 Round - that is five dozen arrows shot at 18 metres (60ft) on a 60cm(2ft) face. St Dunstaners David Poyner, Steve Moseley, Nigel Whiteley and Terry Ottewell joined Roger Rees-Evans, Sandra Nesbitt and Ian White in Massa-Carrera, Italy on January 28th-29th. Results next issue.

PENDLETON'S PANTRY

Blind chef **Stephen Pendleton** cooks up a winter warmer!

Hot Diced Lamb

This recipe serves three. This meal is excellent for freezing, so why not make up a big batch and put it in the freezer for a cold day!

Ingredients:

One onion, sliced.
One clove of garlic, crushed and chopped.
1lb of diced lamb.
half a fresh chilli, finely chopped.
1 teaspoon of mixed herbs.
2 teaspoons of tomato puree.
Level teaspoon of beef flavoured gravy granules.
Salt and pepper to taste.

Method:

Slice the onion, crush and chop the garlic. De-seed the chilli pepper and finely chop. Place all these ingredients in a bowl and set aside.

In a hot wok, fry off the lamb until it has completely sealed. Add the onion, chilli and garlic to the wok. Fry for another four minutes.

Transfer the contents of the wok to a thick-bottomed pan.

Cover these ingredients with water, until completely immersed. Then add the tomato

puree, gravy granules and the mixed herbs. Cover the pan and cook this for two hours over a medium heat, 180C (350F) or gas mark 4 making sure to stir it regularly.

Add salt and pepper to your taste. It is always best to add the pepper just before the end of cooking. This is because if you add it at the start of the cooking, the pepper will get stronger through out the cooking process, therefore making the dish hotter than you might wish it to be.

Serve the Chilli on a bed of rice.

Will Ray be an Oscar winner?

COULD A MOVIE about a blind musician sweep the decks at the Oscars? *Ray the Movie* – the life story of Ray Charles – was nominated for two awards in the Golden Globes, best film and best actor. The award ceremony, held on January 16th is often regarded as a litmus test for the outcome of the Oscars.

Further to the report last issue, UIP's UK website for *Ray* now includes a link to a screen reader friendly version - www.yourlocalcinema.com/ray.movie.access.html. Text can be displayed black on

white or white on black and includes production notes, cast details, testimonials to Ray Charles, links to other websites, and details of audio described cinemas. There is also a Windows media format audio described trailer for the film which can be downloaded.

HERE COMES THE NINJA ROVI

Zen mysticism and chop-suey whacks add a new dimension to the art of the ROVI in another recent film release - *Elektra*. Having recovered from her death in the critically

savaged but financially successful blind superhero film *Daredevil*, Jennifer Garner's character resumes life as an assassin with a few tips from a British actor. Terrence Stamp plays a blind martial arts guru called Stick (though we don't know if his fondness for archery is retained). Following *Daredevil's* example, the promotional website for *Elektra* cannot be used by anyone using a screen reader. However, the film is being shown at selected cinemas with audio description, details of which can be found on www.yourlocalcinema.com/ad.html.

Christmas started early in Bexley



WO Pam Wait with Kath Woods.

FESTIVE SPIRIT STARTED early at Bexley Sports Club on December 10th. Kath Woods of Dartford, Kent hosted an evening of dance and cabaret in memory of St Dunstaner Butch Sageman who passed away last year. Kath had cared for Butch for over 40 years. He was wounded while serving in North Africa with The Buffs during WWII. The evening she organised proved a merry mix of music, cabaret turns and good humour, raising £295 to support blind ex-service men and women in the process.



Simply the best! Could it be Tina Turner?



Spirit of the blitz.



Let's dance the night away!

BALANCING THE BOOKS

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

The Farrans of Fellmonger Street

Author: Harry Bowling.

Reader: Anne White

Duration: 21 hours 5 minutes.

Catalogue Number: TB11297

Whoever said nostalgia was a thing of the past? The time-honoured formula of the fairy story can still be successfully applied today; as Harry Bowling has ably demonstrated in this charming novel of struggle against adversity set in London's East End around 1950. Unfortunately in this harsh and evil modern world of ours it is less easy to believe in the inherent goodness of the human race than once it was, but in a way that fact only adds to the pleasure of hearing here, of people who are essentially good at heart. Not everyone, I hasten to stress, for no self-respecting fairy tale is complete without a bogeyman or two, and let me tell you this one can hold up its head with the best of them. Nevertheless, it is the universal rule in fables of this kind that "all the nasty ones shall get their comeuppance" and even in a very adult story, (as this most certainly is) the rule still applies. How, and through what agencies the mandatory happy ending is arrived at I will not divulge for fear of spoiling your enjoyment; for enjoy it you surely will if your memory goes back to the magic of youth.

Welcome to ST DUNSTAN'S

Christopher Attwood of East Looe, Cornwall served as Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Navy from 1967 to 1997.

Lt Cdr Frank Baldwin, BEM of Havant, Hampshire served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1970.

Tony Boden-Hook of Dronfield, Derbyshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Arthur Branson of Blackpool, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

Kezia Brinkley of Huntingdon, Cambs served in the Royal Air Force in 1942.

Robert Brittles of Liverpool, Merseyside served in the King's Own Royal Regiment from 1953 to 1955.

Bryan Chapman of Oxborough, King's Lynn, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

Joseph Cheesebrough of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

Eric Cooper of Sheffield, Yorkshire served in the Royal Fusiliers, the Royal Army Service Corps, the Sherwood Foresters and Royal Hampshire Regiment from 1944 to 1948.

William Crabb of Leigh on Sea, Essex served in the Middlesex Regiment from 1940 to 1942, then the Manchester Regiment until 1946.

Jack Cracknell of Putney, London served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

Keith Crosby of Newhaven, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1974.

George Ebbs of Brighton served in the General Service Corps, Essex Regiment and Royal Norfolk Regiment between 1946 and 1947.

George Fuller of Reigate, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1948.

Robert Gardner of Hove, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

William Glenn of Sidley, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1959. He also served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1960 to 1969.

Edward Greenleaf of Hartley Wintney, Hampshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1930 to 1958.

James Hall of Peacehaven, East Sussex served in the Westminster Dragoons from 1932 to 1934.

Robert Hammond of Diss, Norfolk served in the Royal Norfolk Regiment and the Royal Signals between 1942 and 1947.

John Henry of Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire served in

the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and Royal Irish Fusiliers between 1940 and 1949.

Bernard Holden of Ditchling, East Sussex served in the Royal Engineers from 1941 to 1943.

Edwin Holmes of Billingford, Dereham, Norfolk served in the Royal Marines from 1938 to 1952.

John Huntley of Weedon, Northamptonshire served as Corporal in the Pioneer Corps from 1941 to 1944.

David Lester-George of Wymondham, Norfolk served in the Coldstream Guards from 1960 to 1966.

Frank Lord of Fakenham, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1949.

Walter McGreevy of South Shields, South Tyneside served in the Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1950.

Stanislav Mackiewicz of Hook, Hampshire served in the Polish Forces under British Command from 1942 to 1947, and then the Polish Resettlement Corps until 1948.

Frederick Matthews of Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot, Devon served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Donald Morton of Quedgeley, Gloucester, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Engineers, Royal Artillery,

South Staffordshire Regiment and Herefordshire Regiment between 1938 and 1946.

Angela O'Reilly of Longbridge, Birmingham served in the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1952 to 1955.

Harry Pollitt of Lytham, Lytham St Annes served in the Pioneer Corps as Lance Corporal from 1940 to 1946.

Henry Poulson of Olney, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Air Force as Squadron Leader from 1936 to 1975.

Ebenezer Reeves of Brighton served in the General Service Corps in 1973.

John Richards of Worsley, Manchester served in the Yorkshire and Lancashire 8th Regiment from 1945 to 1947.

Louis Rowberry of Exeter, Devon served in the Royal Marines from 1936 to 1963.

Gordon Slater of Luton, Bedfordshire served in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment from 1945 to 1948.

Charles Smith of Elmtree, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

Leonard Soar of Prestbury, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire served in the Sherwood Foresters and Rifle Brigade between 1939 and 1946.

Alfred Stansfield of Northwich, Cheshire served as Corporal in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Joseph Swinton of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire served in the Royal Sussex Regiment and Royal Artillery between 1941 and 1948.

Alan Tait of Cheam, Sutton, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

Barbara Tate of Sevenoaks, Kent served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1946.

Derrick Taylor of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire

served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1949.

Trevor Walbridge of Yeovil, Somerset served in the Royal Air Force from 1960 to 1961.

Joseph Williams of Prestatyn, Denbighshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1955 to 1959.

Thomas Wilding of Northwich, Cheshire served as in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Ten answers **COUNTDOWN TO DARKNESS**

From page 11.



1) *ITMA - It's that man again!* There were 310 programmes in all, the last one being broadcast three days before the death of comedian Tommy Handley. He is pictured talking to Norman Perry and other St Dunstaners after a 1943 performance.

- 2) "Make do and mend."
- 3) Panzer; 4) VE Day or Victory in Europe on May 8th, VJ Day or Victory over Japan August 15th; 5) The evacuation of children from cities;
- 6) The Desert Rats;
- 7) Lord Haw Haw;
- 8) He acted as Field-Marshal Montgomery's double;
- 9) Depth charge; 10) Aachen.

PUBLIC OPINION turned on the Royal Navy in December 1914 when the coastal towns of Scarborough, Hartlepool and Whitby came under bombardment from German ships. Eighteen civilians were killed and there was some disbelief that defences had been breached. Another sortie was planned for January 1915 but this time the German fleet was intercepted by the Navy. Both sides claimed the Battle of Dogger Bank as a victory.

Over recent issues of the **Review**, we have charted the politics, the failure of diplomacy and the tensions that threw a generation into a conflict of unparalleled dimensions. Next issue, we will examine a group of people who determined to improve the prospects for those blinded on the battlefield.

Festive celebrations at Ovingdean

THE FESTIVE SEASON at Brighton has been as usual a very busy time of the year for us with the house full to bursting and visits from local St Dunstaners too.

We kicked off the Christmas season with our annual visit from Southover School Choir on December 14th. The children entertained us with a mixture of modern and traditional carols and after the concert spent time chatting to St Dunstaners. Later on in the week the Salvation Army Band came in one evening to entertain us with carols and Christmas readings. In fact, the run up to Christmas was full of festive entertainments and fun.

Christmas day activities started with a service led by Father Tony Otterwell in the Winter Garden and was followed with sherry and a visit from Father Christmas with bags of presents in the lounge. PBK as usual did us proud with a fantastic Christmas lunch with all the trimmings

and for those still awake in the afternoon there were traditional board games to play.

New Year's Eve was, as usual, an opportunity for everybody to get dressed up to the nines and party the night away - and they did - until 1pm on New Year's Day morning! The music was provided by the Park Lane Duo who helped us see in the New Year with the countdown to midnight and a rousing verse or two of *Auld Lang Syne*. We also acknowledged the fact that it was Jenny Low's 29th New Year's Eve at St Dunstan's and wished her well in her retirement accompanied by a chorus of "She's a jolly good fellow"!

PBK supplied a plentiful buffet and we had a quiz about events in 2004 and a grand raffle.

All in all we had an excellent New Year's Eve and everybody at Ovingdean would like to wish all a very happy and healthy 2005.

Slow Wogan gave Billy chance to speed

WHEN RADIO'S TERRY Wogan and quiz host Richard Whitely drove round Dunsfold track at a leisurely pace for BBC2's *Top Gear*, someone exclaimed that a blindman could do better. And ready to prove the point, cue St Dunstaner Billy Baxter who took up the timed lap challenge in a "reasonably priced car."

Billy drove with presenter Jeremy Clarkson and 'The Stig' round the Dunsfold racing track. "In some ways it was just like taking my driving test again. It was that kind of feeling. They were very welcoming and I think they learnt a few things about guiding a blind person."

With directions from 'The Stig', Billy was driving a Suzuki Liana. "My best lap was 1 minute and 59 seconds, but they used 2 minutes and 2 seconds on TV because someone gave Jeremy Clarkson the wrong

paper," said Billy. "Still it was a privilege to go around the track. They put their trust in me and it was great to have the chance to drive aggressively again. It's surprising how much you can remember though I think I had more trouble with the straight lines than the curves. I was anticipating the braking points."

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Olivia Nicole Planner on September 7th. The daughter of Dan and Esther. She is the granddaughter of *Don and Sharon Planner* of Poole, Dorset.

Tyler Wilson on November 3rd. He is the first great-grandchild of Doris Madgwick of Crawley, West Sussex and the late *Frank Madgwick*.

Guy Bradley Sendell on December 4th. He is the great-grandson of *Noel Wharf* of Stourport on Severn, Worcestershire.



Olivia Margaret Rose Williams on December 14th. She is the daughter of *Carl and Louise Williams* of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. She is also the great-granddaughter of *George and Margaret Price* of Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire.

William on December 31st. He is the great-grandson of *Colin and Pearl Mills* of Wath-upon-Dearne, Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Congratulations to:

Adelaide Martyn of Amersham, Buckinghamshire who celebrated her 102nd birthday on December 31st. She is the widow of First World War RAMC St Dunstaner *Sgt Herbert Martyn*.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

John and Jean Askew of Norwich, Norfolk on November 30th.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Charles and Elizabeth Hanaway of Brighton on January 9th.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

John and Helen Hunter of Gloucester, Gloucestershire on January 8th.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

William and Nancy Phillips of Saltdean, Brighton on November 25th.

Kathleen and Russell Berwick of Norwich, Norfolk on November 30th.

Gerry and Kay Brereton of East Molesey, Surrey on December 16th.

William and Constance Faulkner of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands on December 16th.

Conrad and Janet Slade of Weymouth, Dorset on December 21st.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Edward and Alice Hartley of Littlehampton, West Sussex who celebrated 64 years of marriage on December 21st.

Ronald and Kathleen Spathaky of Chesterton, Cambridgeshire who celebrated 67 years of marriage on December 21st.

Gwenllian and Ernie Obern of Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan who celebrated 65 years of marriage on December 23rd (and many happy returns to Ernie who celebrated his 90th birthday on January 2nd).

Robert and Di Stewart of Downham Market, Norfolk who celebrated 61 years of marriage on December 24th.

Kenneth and Anne Goulding of New Moston, Manchester who celebrated 64 years of marriage on December 28th.

Frederick and Dorothy Collingwood of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on January 1st.

Tom and Doris Adams of Newton Abbot, Devon who celebrated 64 years of marriage on January 4th.

Henry and Joan Williams of Brighton who celebrated 63 years of marriage on January 10th.

Charles and Betty Smith of West Kirby, Wirral, Cheshire who celebrated 64 years of marriage on January 11th.

Veronica and Maurice Mathe of Bognor Regis, West Sussex who celebrated 61 years of marriage on January 17th.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Moira Meekins of County Down, Northern Ireland and *Maria Pikulski* of Leyland, Preston, Lancashire on passing their Computer Literacy and Information Technology certificates. They are the first candidates to complete CLAIT since St. Dunstan's became a registered examination centre.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Dorothy Morrison on September 20th. She was the wife of St Dunstaner *John Morrison* of Grange Over Sands, Cumbria.

Dorothy Garbutt on November 13th. She was the wife of St Dunstaner *Thomas Garbutt* of Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

Ruby Butler on November 17th. She was the wife of *Leslie Butler* of Ringwood, Hampshire.

Ethel Searchfield on December 8th. She was the wife of St Dunstaner *Maurice Searchfield* of Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire.

Gladys Davies on December 9th. She was the wife of *Glyn Davies* of Holywell, Flints.

Vanessa Roden on December 29th. She was the wife of *Derek Roden* of Hassocks, Sussex.

Monica Claydon on December 31st. She was the wife of *William Claydon* of Ovingdean, Brighton.

Phyl Ellaway on January 6th. She was the wife of *Harry Ellaway* of Worthing, Sussex.

Catherine Morris on January 12th. She was the wife of *William Morris* of Bournemouth, Dorset.

Ethel Fone of Enfield, Middlesex on November 26th. She was the widow of *George Fone*.

Kathleen Mead of Kettering, Northamptonshire on December 7th. She was the widow of St Dunstaner *Alfred Mead*.

Joyce Forster of Wrenfield, Wakefield, West Yorkshire on December 12th. She was the widow of *Robert Forster*.

Edith Todd of Luton, Bedfordshire on December 18th. She was the widow of *James Todd*.

Doris Morrison of Sherborne, Dorset on December 31st. She was the widow of St Dunstaner *Herbert Morrison*.

Joy Sparks of Saltdean, Brighton on January 11th. She was the widow of *Jim Sparks*.

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.

Jack Finn

2/20th Infantry, Australian Imperial Force
Jack Finn of New South Wales, Australia died on November 21st, aged 93. He was a hotel manager before joining the 2/20th Infantry, Australian Imperial Force in Sydney in 1940. Posted to the Far East the following year, he was serving as Corporal when taken prisoner at the fall of Singapore. Initially incarcerated in Changi Gaol, he worked on the Burma Railway prior to being shipped to Japan to labour in mines under the sea and in an iron foundry. During this time he sustained injuries to his right eye, and subsequently lost its use. He also witnessed the dropping of the atom bomb on Nagasaki. Discharged in 1946, he resumed work as a hotel manager in New South Wales and Victoria until the sight in his left eye deteriorated. He maintained an independent life and studied pottery. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Carole and all members of the family.

Frederick Harris

Royal Army Ordnance Corps
Frederick Harris of Alcester, Warwickshire died on November 25th, aged 80. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1942. Deployed to India and then Burma, he fought at Imphal and through

the Burma campaign before contracting malaria. He returned to the UK as Sergeant in 1946. In civilian life, he was a lorry driver and later turned to car repairs. Our sympathy goes to his son and all other members of the family.

Martine Freestone

Auxiliary Territorial Service
Martine Freestone of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire died on November 27th, aged 80. She served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946. She was a cook for a Royal Artillery Ack-Ack unit on Wimbledon Common. After the war, she worked in a broom factory and then a café before marrying and raising four sons. Our sympathy goes to her husband Albert, their sons, her brother St Dunstaner Roy French and all of the family.

Hedley Richards, CBE

Royal Tank Regiment
Hedley James Gordon Richards, CBE of Purley, Surrey died on November 27th, aged 84. He joined the Royal Tank Regiment in 1939 and was subsequently deployed to North Africa. Initially using Matilda tanks, he fought at Knightsbridge and saw action at El Alamein where he commanded a Flail tank. After the African campaign, he landed at Normandy on D+10 equipped with Sherman tanks. Leaving the Army in 1946, he returned to the Home Office initially working with the Police. Later he joined the Immigration Department and was Head of the Service when he retired. A volunteer for Mencap and SSAFA, he also enjoyed walking, fly fishing and painting. Our sympathy goes to his widow Janet, their daughters and all other members of the family.

Thomas Ledward

Royal Air Force
Flight Lieutenant Thomas Richmond Ledward of Plympton, Plymouth, Devon died on November 29th, aged 77. He joined the South African Air Force in 1943 and flew Sunderland Flying Boats. Moving to the UK, he was attached to the Royal Air Force with Transport Command and was wounded after sinking two torpedo boats off Norway. After the war, he returned to South Africa to work the family

farm. However, in 1947, he became a Regular with the RAF, completing tours in Egypt, Cambridge, Northern Ireland and taking part in the Berlin Air Lift. Commissioned in 1954, he retrained as an Air Traffic Controller, serving in the Middle East, Fighter Command and MOD. After retiring in 1985, he joined the Liaison Information Centre at RAF Northolt. Our sympathy goes to his widow June, their son and daughters and all members of the family.

James Pegler

Pioneer Corps

James Pegler of Ovingdean, Brighton died on December 6th, aged 88. He joined the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps in 1940 (five months before it was renamed the Pioneer Corps) and served as an ammunition handler for artillery shells and free-fall bombs. He took part in the Normandy landings and operations through to Germany. After his discharge in 1946, he worked for Barnet Council painting street name plates, motorway bridges and other road signs. He enjoyed football, was a keen Liverpool supporter, and had an interest in boats.

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Gardiner, OBE

Royal Corps of Transport

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Reginald Gardiner, OBE of Southsea, Hampshire died on December 10th, aged 85. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1934, attending the Duke of York's Royal Military School and then the RASC's apprentice school. On the outbreak of hostilities, he was sent to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force and was subsequently evacuated via Dunkirk. After attending No 202 OCTU at Bournemouth, he was posted as Captain to the Western Desert where he was captured in 1942. He was held prisoner in Italy but moved to Bavaria, Czechoslovakia and finally Germany where he was liberated by American troops. Continuing his army career, he served in Greece, Egypt, Singapore and Malaya. In 1965, he transferred to the Royal Corps of Transport, serving as Lieutenant Colonel until his discharge in 1971. In civilian life, he became a lecturer at Bournemouth College. His interests included walking and he was a boxing judge. Our

sympathy goes to his wife Elizabeth, their sons and all members of the family.

Thomas Adams

Royal Artillery

Thomas Eimer Adams of Hampton, Middlesex died on December 12th, aged 87. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939 and served in the UK, Italy and Greece. He was a Lieutenant when discharged in 1946. Having trained as a chartered surveyor, he moved into property management and joined the Trafalgar House Group. His interests included bridge and freemasonry. Our sympathy goes to his widow Marie, their son and all of the family.

Thomas Moody

Royal Navy

Thomas Joseph Moody of Hove, East Sussex died on December 12th, aged 82. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 flying Mosquitos on night sorties. He was discharged in 1942 after a spell in hospital but joined the Royal Navy in 1944. He trained as a radio mechanic instructor and became a Petty Officer before his discharge in 1948. In civilian life, he was a technical author with EMI and then PYE. He joined EKO and eventually became head of their technical writing department. Our sympathy goes to his sons and all of the family.

John Meredith

Royal Air Force

John David Meredith of Bishopsteignton, Teignmouth, Devon died on December 13th, aged 87. Having worked as an engineer and in insurance, he joined the Royal Air Force in 1939. Starting with a Tiger Moth, he moved onto flying twin-engined aircraft such as the Harvard and Oxford. He also flew Whiteleys and Stirling Bombers. He left as Flight Lieutenant in 1946 having been mentioned in dispatches. He continued to fly in civilian life, as a charter airline pilot and as a test pilot. Our sympathy goes to his son Geoffrey and all of the family.

James Swan

Royal Navy

James Roland Swan of Wreckington, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear died on December 15th, aged 79.

He joined the Royal Navy in 1943, serving as Able Seaman on a light Destroyer, HMS *Ulster Queen*. Manning the guns, he sailed in the Middle and Far East, later joining the air craft carrier HMS *Indomitable*. He took part in the D-Day landings and was discharged in 1947. In civilian life, he was a taxi driver. Our sympathy goes to his son and all members of the family.

Stanley Parratt

Royal Artillery

Stanley Ernest Parratt of Portslade, East Sussex died on December 17th, aged 89. He worked as a delivery driver in Brighton before joining the Royal Artillery in 1939. He specialised in chemical warfare and was an instructor. Discharged in 1946, he became an interior decorator. His interests included cricket and mechanics. Our sympathy goes to his widow Patricia, their daughter Christine and all other members of the family.

John Bell

Royal Air Force

John Lloyd Bell of Market Drayton, Shropshire died on December 22nd, aged 83. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 serving at various stations throughout the UK. Part of Bomber Command, he trained as a ground wireless operator maintaining links with aircraft. After D-Day, he moved to Europe as a mobile operator in support of forward airfields. He was discharged in 1946. In civilian life, he worked as an electrician, including nine years with the RAF, before joining Polethorps as Engineering Supervisor. His interests included photography and motor rallying. Our sympathy goes to his daughters and all of the family.

Enid Cavanagh

Royal Army Pay Corps

Enid Cavanagh of Wolverhampton, West Midlands died on December 26th, aged 83. She served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1942 to 1946. In civilian life, she worked for the Midland Bank before going to Bahrain with her husband. After his death, she returned to Maidstone, Kent and taught children with learning difficulties. Our sympathy goes to her son and all other members of the family.