

June 2005

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

# ST DUNSTAN'S Review



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

**Cover story:**

## A memorial for the next millennium

Representing all St Dunstaners, past, present and future, Arthur Lowe places a shovel full of soil on an oak sapling in the grounds of Winfield House, once home to St Dunstan's Lodge. The tree commemorates 90 years of St Dunstan's and since the common oak is known to live for a thousand years, it could still be a living memorial in the next millennium.

**Ray Hazan reports on page 16.**

## A Newcomer at St Dunstan's Lodge

How was the blinded First World War Serviceman met at St Dunstan's? An item from the June 1916, **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** meets us at the doorstep. **Turn to page 21.**

## This is a much better Battlefield

Colin Beaumont-Edmonds recalls life at Church Stretton. **Details on page 23.**

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

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

## Waugh story

We feature the last of the prize winning stories selected by Gwen Moffat from our story writing contest.

**My Best Friend starts on page 26.**

## Our History

St Dunstan's, Normans, Tudors, Napoleon, WWII and some slick tunes.

**Full report on page 14.**

## A united lodge

St Dunstaner Masons unite for a ceremonial occasion at Brighton.

**Details on page 32.**

## Voice in the hole

Bank unveils talking cashpoint for blind customers in Belfast.

**Details on page 25.**

## From the Chairman



The Chairman and Chief Executive with the group from St Dunstan's at Sir Arthur's graveside in Hampstead.

I WAS VERY pleased to have been able to attend a unique day in St Dunstan's history. We planted a living memorial to Sir Arthur Pearson on the original site of St Dunstan's in 1915, represented by a traditional English Oak. Later in the day we paid our respects at his grave in Hampstead Cemetery. It was a fitting and moving tribute to one who was and continues to be an inspiration to blind ex-Service men and women both here and abroad, and I hope a beacon to the blind community as a whole.

May 8th marked our victory over evil at the end of the Second World War in Europe, and it also marked the start of many individual battles against handicap. Most of these skirmishes have also been won to the admiration and respect of those who come into close contact with St Dunstaners. Our thoughts go out to all who were touched by that dreadful war and contributed to those victories.

*Michael Gordon-Lennox*

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

## ST DUNSTAN'S Calendar

Archery(II)	May 27th-June 6th
Writers' Forum	June 4th
Fishing Club	June 6th-9th
Widows' 'Week' (I)	June 6th-11th
Outdoor Bowling	June 9th
Outdoor Bowling	June 13th
L-B Bike Ride	June 19th
Outdoor Bowling	June 20th
Festival of the Sea	June 24th-27th
Writers' Forum	July 2nd
Veterans Awareness	July 3rd-10th
Walking Week	July 4th-8th
Amateur Radio (III)	July 9th-16th
VE/VJ celebrations	July 10th
Outdoor Bowling	July 15th
Ladies Reunion	July 17th-23rd
Fishing Club	July 18th-21st
Indoor Bowling	July 18th
Royal Marines Band	July 20th
Outdoor Bowling	July 20th
Sailability	July 23rd
HMS Sultan	July 29th-Aug 6th
Writers' Forum	August 6th
Sailability	August 6th
VJ Day	August 15th
Outdoor Bowling	August 15th
Sailability	August 20th
Activities Week	August 22nd-26th
Archery Club (III)	Aug 26th-Sept 4th
Outdoor Bowling	August 30th
Sailability	Sept 3rd
Writers' Forum	Sept 3rd
Fishing Club	Sept 5th-8th
Outdoor Bowling	Sept 22nd

# Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

## CHANGE TO INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

**CONTACT MATTHEWS COMFORT DIRECT:** The Insurance Department of St Dunstan's has transferred to Matthews Comfort. They have handled all the insurance arrangements of St Dunstan's for many years and are very experienced in dealing with all our requirements. In the future, will all those who currently have their insurance arrangements handled by St Dunstan's, please contact them direct and ask for Mrs Pam Soper or Mr Richard Soper. They are both Directors of the Company and will be able to assist you. Their address is 6 St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1DL and the telephone number is 01865 208024. Mrs Soper can also be e-mailed at [soperp@mcomfort.co.uk](mailto:soperp@mcomfort.co.uk).

I left St Dunstan's on May 13th and would like to thank you all very much for your kindness in all our dealings. I wish you all the very best in the future.

**Eric Scullard,  
Insurance Coordinator**

See Staff Changes on page 6.

## RADIO REVERB IN BRIGHTON

**COMMUNITY RADIO STATION BROADCASTS ON SATURDAYS:** RadioReverb is a Brighton based non-profit community radio station that broadcasts each Saturday on 1431AM and via a website [www.radioreverb.com](http://www.radioreverb.com).

## ST DUNSTAN'S JOINS LIVING MUSEUM AT VAW CENTRE

ST DUNSTAN'S EXHIBITING AT ST JAMES'S PARK FOR VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK: Commemorative events for the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War will be taking place across the country in early July. In London, a special site will be built in St James's Park for veterans and visitors (July 4th-10th), at which St Dunstan's will be present, along with Combat Stress and BLESMA. The site will include a 'Living Museum' with enactments, information and displays. There will also be a charities section.

Admission is free and the exhibitions will be open 11am to 7pm from Monday July 4th to Saturday July 9th. It will only open from 9am to 12 noon on Sunday July 10th.

## EASY CCTV WITH MONOMOUSE

**HAND-HELD AND PORTABLE:** The Monomouse, made by Bierley Associates, is a handheld CCTV Magnifier that is similar in size and shape to a computer mouse. By simply connecting the device to a TV set it is possible to read and view black and white pictures and words on the screen. It offers 13x magnification on a 20inch set (about 32mm of text). It can be used to read books, bills or other items. Monomouse is available from RNIB Customer Services, (Ref HC03, priced £99.99) who can be contacted on 0845 7023 153 or e-mailed at [cservices@rnib.org.uk](mailto:cservices@rnib.org.uk).

## VETERANS LAPEL BADGES

### APPLY TO VETERANS ASSOCIATION:

Those who served in the UK Armed Forces in the First and Second World Wars are entitled to a Veterans Badge. Other groups are also entitled as follows:

- Cyprus Regiment;
- Merchant Navy Seamen;
- Home Guard;
- Polish Forces under UK Command;
- War Widows and Widowers who are getting a war widows pension.

To apply for a badge, call the Veterans Agency in Blackpool on 0800 169 2277.

There is also an application form online at [www.veteransagency.mod.uk](http://www.veteransagency.mod.uk) but this needs to be printed off, signed and dated before being faxed back or sent by post.

Another option is to write to the Veterans Agency for an application form at Veterans Badge, Veterans Agency, Room 6108, Norcross, Thornton-Cleveleys, FY5 3WP.

## A NEW LOOK AT NELSON

**UNIQUE DISPLAY:** The first exhibition devoted to Nelson and Napoleon, featuring international loans, unseen objects and new research opens at the Nation Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London on July 7th. The exhibition will explore together the lives of two dominant leaders and adversaries, Horatio Nelson and Napoleon Bonaparte and commemorates the 200th anniversary of Nelson's victory and death at the Battle of Trafalgar. 'Nelson & Napoleon' runs until 13 November 13th. The Exhibition will be open seven days a week and admission prices are Adults - £9, concessions - £6, children - £4. Family tickets: Two adults & up to three children - £22.00, one adult & up to three children - £14.

## RAIL MAP FOR PEOPLE WITH REDUCED MOBILITY

### A RAMP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION:

National Rail have produced a map of mainland Britain which charts stations that are accessible to people with reduced mobility. From Thurso and Wick in the far north of Scotland to Pwllheli in Wales, down to Penzance in the south of England, it indicates stations where it is possible to get to all platforms without using steps and those that have steps to some or all platforms.

The map advises contacting the train operator at least 24 hours before the journey if assistance is required and lists helplines for 24 rail firms. It adds that more information about stations and their facilities can be found at <http://nrekb.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/> or by telephoning 08457 484950.

## INTERNATIONAL DRUMHEAD CEREMONY AT SOUTHSEA

**HONOURING MARITIME VETERANS:** The International Drumhead Ceremony, will be held on Southsea Common on June 29th, providing an opportunity to honour maritime veterans of all nations. The ceremony will commence at 11:00 and finish at 12:00, and will involve youth participation, including displays of artwork and creative objects used by 'veterans in schools' projects. The ceremony will also include a more formal Drumhead multi-faith religious service before finishing with a fly-past. Tickets are free and required for admission of two people (veteran and guest) to the ceremony itself and to the adjacent Veterans Centre on June 28th-29th. To request tickets, contact the IDC team on 023 9272 6625 or via e-mail to [t200veterans@a.dii.mod.uk](mailto:t200veterans@a.dii.mod.uk). Further details on the IDC or any other Trafalgar 200 events can be found on the Trafalgar 200 website: [www.t200.co.uk](http://www.t200.co.uk).

### STAFF CHANGES

#### MIKE HORDELL

At the end of April we bade farewell to Mike Hordell who had served St Dunstan's well over the past 15 years. Mike (pictured right with Robert Leader) held a variety of posts all related to making sure that things went smoothly in St Dunstan's.



When I first knew him he was the Facilities Manager with responsibility for all the infrastructure: maintenance, transport, purchasing, reception, etc. He was also responsible for all major development work and was part of the management triumvirate at Ovingdean.

Over the past couple of years Mike came to work much more closely with me as Special Projects Manager, overseeing all major project work for the Organisation, the final one being the purchase and conversion of Port Hall as an annexe to Ovingdean.

Mike had a serious health setback last year, from which he thankfully made a good recovery, but this made him rethink his priorities and he decided to retire slightly early to enjoy life with his four children and his grandchildren. To 'kick-start' his retirement and to the envy of his friends and colleagues, Mike and his wife Ronnie (who also worked for St Dunstan's in the Cashiers Office at Ovingdean) are setting off on a two-year tour of Europe, from the Arctic Circle to the Mediterranean, in an enormous caravan.

We wish them well for the future, await the occasional postcard and look forward to seeing them again on their return.

**Robert Leader**

**MAGGIE WALTON**  
Maggie Walton joined St Dunstan's in February as a Welfare Officer covering Liverpool and Merseyside areas. She has previously worked with members of all three Services as a Social Worker with SSAFFA Forces Help, working overseas and in the UK.



**ERIC SCULLARD**  
Eric Scullard left St Dunstan's on May 13th. He originally joined us from the Royal Bank of Scotland in June 1994 as Insurance and Estates Records Coordinator. We wish him all the best of the future.

**STARR TURN FOR LINDA**  
Linda Barley, PA to Ovingdean Manager Dick Lake, became a Starr on May 7th. She married former Ovingdean staff member Tony Starr in St Dunstan's Chapel in a service conducted by our Chaplain, Father Tony Otterwell.



#### THERE'S A FRASER IN THE HOUSE



And Steve Martin, who keeps the computers running at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, has his hands full with a different kind of download. He is pleased to report that Fraser Martin was born on April 30th at 12:51pm weighing 8lb, 3oz. Fraser and mum Francesca are doing fine.

# 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.

## Braille system restores our basic literacy

It was extremely refreshing to read Steve Pendleton's article, about the possible obsolescence of the braille system, in the May **Review**.

I strongly support all the points he made. Without wishing to be controversial, I would suggest a blind individual who cannot read either braille, or alternatively moon, is illiterate.

The advocates of talking books (in whatever form) tend to forget that books are not usually written to be read aloud. Furthermore, the tactual input to the brain has an impact far more akin to the visual pathway, rather than audio which has a tendency to lose significance after a short time.

An advantage of the braille system is its inherent flexibility. It may be written discreetly with a simple one-line frame or more quickly through a variety of keyboard devices, both mechanical and electronic. It can be impressed on several materials; papers, plastic, 'Dymo' tape, and metal. There will, of course, be those who cannot access the system for a variety of reasons. In the current electronic age, we are indeed fortunate to be able to use alternates, however, as the humble ball-point pen has not lost its utility, nor has braille.

If one had access to only 10-hours rehabilitation training (as St Dunstaners we are

fortunate to have more), would it be preferable to receive grade-1 braille, or indoor mobility? Personally, I would prefer to have my basic literacy restored.

It is ironic, that even during Braille's lifetime, there was a distinct resistance to his system, principally amongst sighted individuals involved in blind welfare. It might be argued that the system is promoted and taught more effectively by a blind person, who uses it on a daily basis. To the best of my knowledge, I don't think our own Rehabilitation Department employs such individuals any longer?

**Terry Bullingham,  
Smethwick, West Midlands**

## In memory of Henry Perrett

I was thrilled to see the photograph and read the report in the 90th Anniversary supplement of my father Henry Perrett taken from a visit to Devises in 1995. My father passed away at Ovingdean in 1996. He always talked of how much he owed to the care and teaching he received from St Dunstan's. My husband and I always look forward to the **Review** each month and reading about all the good work being done by St Dunstan's.

**Joyce Weston, Devises, Wiltshire**

■ Blinded by a trench mortar in Ypres in 1917, Henry Perrett was a St Dunstaner for nearly 79 years, longer than anyone to date. After training at Regent's Park, he worked as a boot repairer and also made camouflage netting for use during World War II.

## Listening pleasure

I would like to say that the May **Review** was a pleasure to listen to. I liked the stories of WWII. They were very brave men and women who fought for our freedom. I also enjoyed the adventure of Norman Perry and the story of RSM Lord by Ray Sherrif. I feel very lucky to be a part of St Dunstan's.

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

## Friends helped me back to normal life

Having read the article *Relationships between St Dunstaners and Staff* by Dick Lake in the April edition of the **Review** I feel I must respond to what I consider to be a ridiculous ruling.

I attended St Dunstan's in the summer of 1995 to complete a six-week course in rehabilitation which then included subjects like basic living skills, computer training and Braille, to mention just a few. The aim of the six-week course was to help me adjust to my recent loss of sight, to learn new skills and I guess provide me with the opportunity to gain professional skills that I could use in the 'outside world'.

I was a 35-year-old ex-Royal Marine who had never been away from his family since losing his sight, I was nervous, even afraid at times. Had it not been for the relationship that I had developed with a number of very influential staff members, at both junior and senior level I have no doubt that I would have never completed my training and therefore never gone onto University and would now probably be depending on the welfare state to keep me today. But because of these people I am proud to be able to provide a living for my family. I will always owe a great debt to St Dunstan's for providing me with this opportunity. Even more importantly, I owe a bigger debt to the staff that

became my friends, my confidants, they introduced me to a social life that I had not experienced for many years. They even gave up their own time just so that I could experience a 'normal' life. I never thought I was outside the boundaries of the law by buying a friend a 'pint'. It wasn't a gift, it was what we did.

I don't often visit Ovingdean anymore. I'm lucky that my life has moved on, but I really do

feel for those who continue to visit either on a training course or for respite. They really do need to form relationships, they need friends who understand what they are going through. Please don't take that away. I was always led to believe that St Dunstan's was a family, that family included the Staff and the St Dunstaners. It is important that at times the family spend time together.

**Tony Haskey,  
Poole, Dorset**

## Commemorative recordings appreciated

I must write to say a very big thank you for another excellent talking **Review**. So many very interesting articles and stories, extremely well narrated, and some so very amusing. The collection of Commemorative recordings was much appreciated and will give many enjoyable listening time.

**Brenda Tyzack,  
Harpenden, Hertfordshire**

■ The St Dunstan's 90th Anniversary collection of commemorative recordings, narrated by Sir Donald Sinden, Kt, CBE is still available in audio cassette or audio CD. To receive a copy, on tape or compact disc, contact Ray Hazan or Simon Rogers at St Dunstan's Headquarters on 020 7723 5021.

## CCTV restores fun of poems

Sue Prior from St Dunstan's Has just been out to see If there is anything else That they can do for me Since getting my CCTV What else had I done Apart from writing letters I wrote poems just for fun I said that I'd sent

one to the **Review** That I had a message On the phone from you. So she started telling me Of this special man

Now who do you think this man is? Why it is Ray Hazan She said that at the **Review** You kept a high standard And in more ways than one You did it 'single handed' Sue said that I would meet you At Newcastle-upon-Tyne But due to my poor health I've had to decline

**Frank Lodge,  
Chester-le-Street,  
County Durham**

## Cherished memory of a true character

As we get to this stage of life, we realize that there are few amongst us that qualify as a true character. Jack Pryor was without any doubt one of those few. You will all have many cherished memories of him.

The outstanding memory for me though, is a story I have told to just about anybody who cared to listen. It may come as a surprise to some that Jack liked his occasional glass of beer. So, the normal routine, when we visited Jack and Rita, was for Jack and I to think of some excuse to "pop out for a while" and find a friendly Maidstone pub. I quickly learned that it was impossible to go into a pub without someone calling out from a quiet corner "Hi Jack - how's everything?" A

second later, after a swift voice analysis, Jack's reply would be "Great Arnold (or Peter or Trevor) - haven't seen you for about 12 months."

However, one particular evening, we very nearly didn't make it to the pub. Jack proudly announced that we were going to a little pub out in the country and he would give me directions! No surprise there, right? We got out into the Kentish countryside with very little hassle. "Now there is a park on the right, at the end the road bears to the left. After the houses, turn right into Fraters Lane. There is a factory on the left and then a crossroads where you have to stop."

There was and I did.

"I can't see anything coming this way," said Jack - and I was halfway across the road before I realized what he'd said and slammed on the brakes!!!

He just knew I was giving him a very dirty look and his only comment was "Well, I couldn't see anything coming - now let's get a drink"!!

That was the Jack Pryor that I remember and will always remember.

Good Luck Jack - See you later for a pint.

**David Hipkiss,  
New Zealand**

■ Jack Pryor passed away on April 27th. An obituary appears in **In Memory** on page 31.

## Our waistlines still expand in Sheffield

Margaret and I enjoyed the company of Joan and Harry Beevers as we journeyed towards a totally new venue. Memories of visits to St Dunstan's Ovingdean and its five-star facilities, fellowship, and security were uppermost in my mind. I felt somewhat apprehensive as we travelled through the suburban streets of Sheffield. Upon arrival my fears were displaced by a truly St Dunstan's welcome and introductions made to all the staff and trainees. We were given a tour of the building and found nothing wanting. Our bedroom was all that could be desired, adding to our general delight. Lunch was to be served in a very impressive dining room as staff and visitors were seated around a T-shaped arrangement of two banqueting tables. A lively family atmosphere prevailed as old friends were greeted and the general hub-bub denoted seeds of new friendships being sown and quickly growing. A hush, followed by many

exclamations of gratitude, denoted our appreciation of the mouth-watering food being dispensed by two charming waitresses. The assistance rendered by our two, also charming, care workers made us realise that we had been designated VIPs (Very Important People). The Chefs are also worth special mention for following the Brighton tradition of waistline expansion. The meal over, I had to buckle down to computer training under the eagle-eye of Gaye. I now know that all St Dunstan's IT tutors are issued with rulers! Our days were full of learning and being gourmets. The ladies of our party had the option of visiting the town centre. Evenings provided a choice of games, TV, chit-chat, or crosswords, in the lounge. All in all we had a satisfying and enjoyable sojourn and we owe a vote of sincere thanks to every member of staff at St Dunstan's Sheffield.

**Ron Wilson, Leeds, West Yorkshire**

## After the Victory grog, we were confined to barracks

I was an air mechanic and armourer, one of the Wrens at HMS *Jackdaw*, Fife. King George VI ordered to us to 'splice the mainbrace' when victory was declared - all sailors were given an extra tot of 100 per cent spirit rum from the barrel. Women were given grogs - a mix of rum and water. Safer for ladies! When news of VE Day came through, the matelots were pretty merry. There was a huge bonfire in the middle of parade ground. Chairs and table went on, even the ship's bell. Flames were leaping high. They were dancing round the fire having a great time. Meanwhile, to save our virtue, Wrens were ordered into quarters and locked in. Forty wrens in 22 two-tier bunks in a nissen-style hut. All the way down each side were windows just above ground level. As the Petty Officers anticipated, once the sailors got drunk they made for the Wrens' Quarters! One of my funniest memories - a girl in the top bunk was just above a window. It

was slightly open and every time a sailor's head appeared she bonked him with a slipper!

Another anecdote that comes to mind concerns an official weekend that Mr Churchill ordered in the spring of 1946. I was at HMS *Daedalus* in Lee-on-Solent. HQ of Admiral (Air) was in charge of the Navy air defences. (That is not his name but rather his title.)

We had a lovely dance in the hanger on Saturday night. Sunday morning there was a big celebration, a church service and a parade. We had to muster on the parade ground where Admiral Air was going to take the salute. We were ready to march off, standing to attention. A few hundred personnel in full uniform, the Royal Marines Band from Portsmouth marched onto parade ground, they set off to march and lead us.

It was a very windy morning. We all had to put chin straps on to anchor our hats. As they



Sheila Rodman during her days at HMS *Jackdaw*.

marched off, a little man in the middle was banging a great big drum - the straps broke off his drum. And off went the drum rolling across the parade ground! With wind blowing it along, and the small chubby man (bit like Harry Secombe!) in hot pursuit. I don't know if the Admiral laughed, we were trying not to because we were at attention. He finally retrieved drum and got back it, fastened it and we started off again. Would have made a wonderful cartoon.

**Sheila Rodman,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire**

## End of the Blackout was wonderful time

As an 80 year old War Widow, I can clearly recall VE day. I was a 20-year-old nurse in the middle of my general nursing training. We were not attached to any ward as we were in the nursing school in Darlington Memorial Hospital. On the morning, we helped with a blood transfusion session, collecting

blood. In the afternoon we heard Winston Churchill speak on the radio, then we were free for the rest of the day.

A group of us went to the local Odeon picture house, where there was a resident organist, and had a session singing all the popular songs. We raised the

roof. I cannot remember what film was playing. Then we went two or three streets away to a Fish and Chip shop. You could go into the rear living room and eat your fish and chips.

We heard there was going to be dancing in the main town park which was quite a distance away.

We walked there and saw all the people dancing but by this time, I am afraid we were all tired so we decided to go home back to the Nurses' home.

Another thing I recall, when all the street lights came on again we were on night duty. During our break we went out of the hospital at the back entrance, down a side street to the main road and walked right round and back in the front. With all the street lighting being back on, it was so wonderful after the darkness of the Blackout.

People now days have no idea how everything was so limited during the war. My parents worked on a farm. The workers

were supplied with a pig by the farmer, which was bought. And my wage for the first three months of 1943 was £9 (this was pocket money as we paid for our board and the hospital provided us with all our meals. There was no buying meals as there is today).

They were very happy years but it is such a long time ago.

Remembering Church Stretton, my late husband John Robinson was there to be assessed by St Dunstan's but he wasn't taken on as he had no pension when he first came out of the Army. I would be interested if there were any photos of this time.

**Olive Robinson,  
Darlington, County Durham**

## What would you want on the flipside?

IF YOU WERE marooned somewhere with no contact with the outside world, with nothing to do but while away the days flipping discs, what ten records would you want with you to while away the time?

Any similarity with a long running radio show is purely coincidental. Send your choice of music, stating why you want that record, to Top Ten, **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

**History Week was excellent!**

My wife and I would like to thank Robbie and Lynn for organising such a wonderful Historic Week that we recently took part in (April 17th-22nd). The visit to Winfield House for the tree planting ceremony was wonderful. The laying of the wreaths in Hampstead cemetery was very moving. The next day, our visit to Dover Castle was very interesting - thank you Deena for pushing me in my wheelchair through all the tunnels under the cliffs and up the banks. The visit to

Despite their location, outside the entrance to the Underground Hospital at Dover Castle, Walter and Thelma were not in need of medical attention.

Michelham Priory the following day was interesting and we enjoyed a lovely cream tea. On the last day of the week, we all went into the Blue Room to listen to Ernie Phillips talking about the music that went to war. Thank you all, once again, for a wonderful week.

**Walter and Thelma Scott,  
Hartlepool, Cleveland**

■ There are more details on the tree planting at Winfield House on page 16 and the History Week on page 14.

## It strikes me...

with Gog and Magog



Wyn Jordan discuss the heritage of the gentleman in the oil painting behind her.

Gog finds himself considering George Washington's Ask after a brief return to the site of St Dunstan's Lodge. The grounds are now part of Winfield House, home to the American Ambassador. Naturally, they celebrate their founding father with a portrait in oils and Wyn Jordan was keen to point out that his heritage was up north in Tyne and Wear - George was a Geordie (or at least his plantation owning parents were)! Since the tongue of the Angles persists in Geordieland to this day, it makes us think that when George tested that ask, he had to say "Awy mon, aah cannae lie, t'wy hoo coot doon tha cherry tree." The ask (that's axe for non-Angled people) itself is said to lie in an American museum, but both blade and handle have been replaced several times.

A report on the visit to Winfield House is on page 16, while anyone who shares George's passion for Freemasonry should turn to the back page.

## Devils praise Ray for jump



Captain Truit congratulates Ray on his parachute jumps. Is it really the last one?

ST DUNSTANER Ray Sherrif has been feted for his jump at the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem by the Red Devils. Ray has jumped with members of the Parachute Regiment's Display Team the past and some were involved with the drop in Holland last year. A framed and signed photograph of the current team, assembled in delta formation by their plane and support cars, was presented to Ray at RMA Sandhurst recently. The presentation was made by Captain Al Truit, CO of the Parachute Regiment's contingent at the Academy.

## Are your ears burning?

ST DUNSTANER Iain Millard recently completed a course in thermal aricular therapy, also known as Hopi Ear Candle. This alternative therapy was developed by the Hopi tribe from Northern Arizona in the United States of America.

The Hopis originally used ear candles for spiritual practices, as well as easing physical ailments. The Ear candles are

made from beeswax, honey, oils and herbs, and are intended to draw out impurities. A candle is inserted into the ear and the therapist lights the end of the candle. Over 20 minutes, the hollow candle creates a vacuum to draw out debris from the ear. The candle has a special plug to catch dripping wax and the heat is said to be gentle and painless creating a soothing effect, stimulating blood circulation.

## Initiative to look at care homes

A MEETING of the Veterans Plenary on March 23rd, provided an update on the work of the Veterans Initiative and discussed plans for 2005. It was presented by Malcolm Lingwood, Director Veterans Policy Unit and Major General Mike Shellard, Chairman of

COBSEO (Confederation of British Service and Ex-Service Organisations). A project led by The Royal British Legion will consider ex-Service care homes and trustees' intentions for them. A second piece of work will address financial issues, including grants and charitable funding.

## Our Bryan cracks the Dudley Trail

A ST DUNSTANER was one of 2,707 people who enjoyed a walk through the May Day sun in Dudley on May 1st. Bryan Durber of Halesowen, West Midlands took part in the 25th Dudley Borough Trail, tackling the 12 mile route. The walks go through spots such as the canal towpaths, Wrens Nest and Fens Pool Nature Reserves and Sedgley Beacon. Walkers can choose between six, nine, 12, 18 or 26 mile routes.

"I entered and completed 12-mile route and have a certificate to prove it," said Bryan who served in the Royal Navy. "I'm very proud of my achievement which was only made possible with the help of my friend and guide Stan Jones."



St Dunstaner Harry Beevers has been in training for the London to Brighton Bike Ride on June 19th. Meanwhile, rumours have it that Steve Nixon is after a different tandem experience ...

## Splash on Archie, boy!



SIX MONTHS into his training with Guide Dogs for the Blind, Archie has taken a shine to playing in the water. Our soggy doggy was 'donated' by a donor who wanted to help finance the training of a dog on the behalf of the blind ex-Service men and women at St Dunstan's.

## Ten questions on...

The subject of three letter words

Quizmaster Harry Beevers wants to hear ten three letter answers

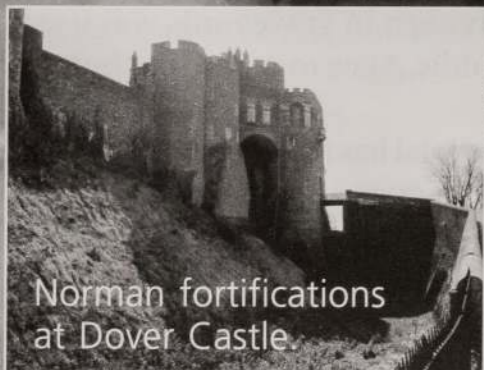
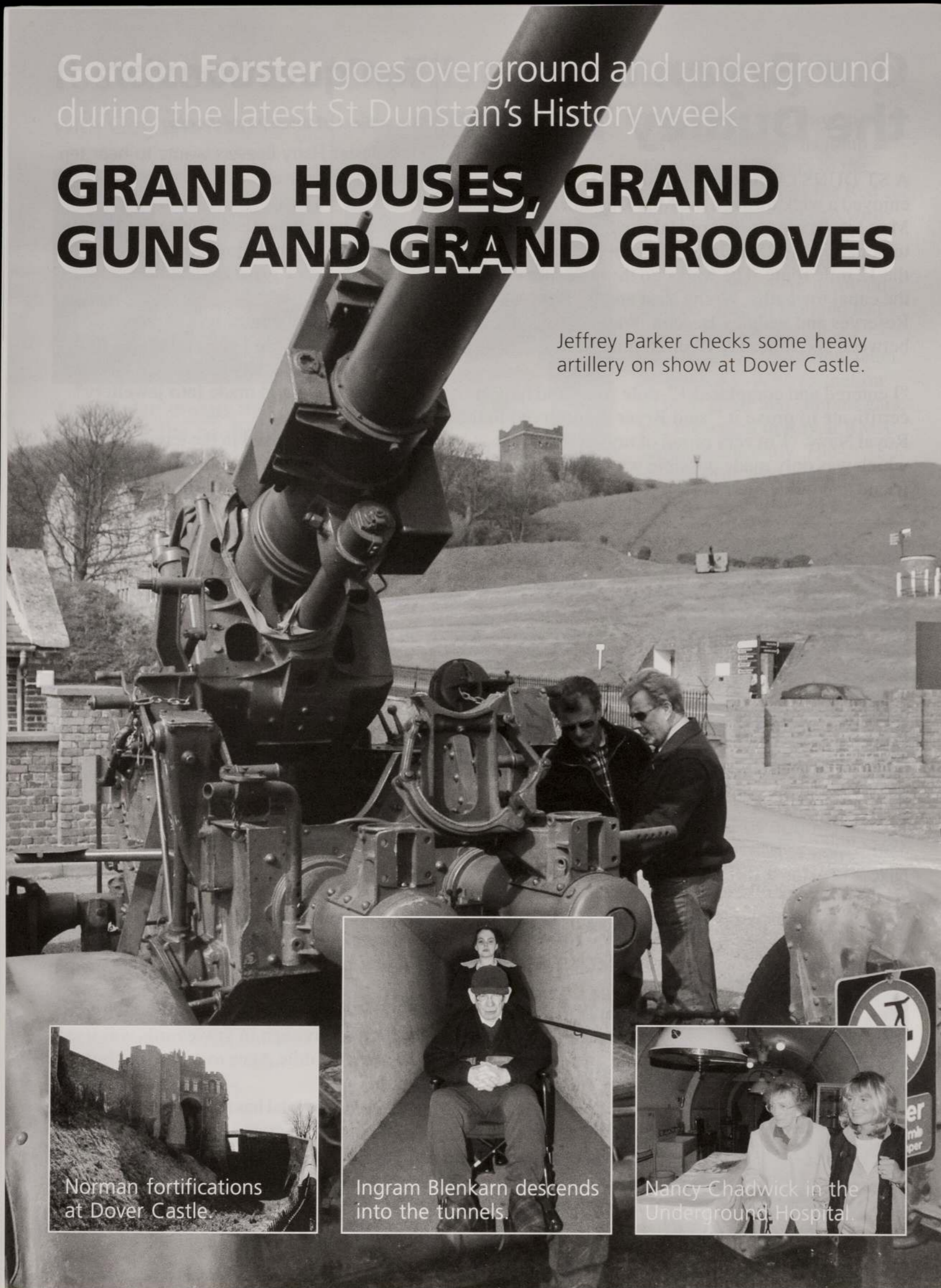
- 1) What was the profession of James Herriot in the book and television series *All creatures great and small*?
- 2) What kind of engine was patented by Frank Whittle in 1930 and shares its name with a variety of lignite which can be polished and made into jewellery?
- 3) What term is used in the game of lawn tennis when the ball touches the net during a serve and still falls into court?
- 4) The reticulated python is a large snake which gets its name from the pattern on its back, a pattern resembling what?
- 5) Which word in the English-Oxford dictionary has 127 definitions, more than any other word in English?
- 6) In sewing, what is the name for a short piece of metal with a sharp point at one end and is used as a temporary fastening?
- 7) On which racecourse is the Scottish Grand National usually held?
- 8) Between the years 1729 and 1751, eight laws were passed in this country that were intended to limit the consumption of which alcoholic drink?
- 9) The close-grained wood of which tree frequently seen in graveyards was used in the Middle Ages to make longbows?
- 10) Which animal has the skeleton of a bison, the hair of a goat, the head of a cow, the tail of a horse, grunts like a pig and gives pink milk?

Answers on page 28.

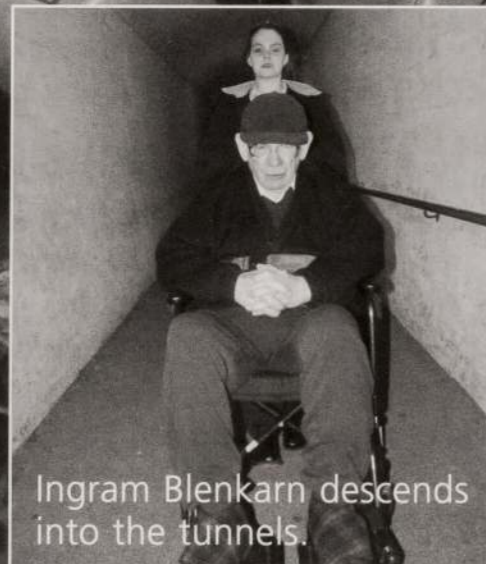
Gordon Forster goes overground and underground during the latest St Dunstan's History week

# GRAND HOUSES, GRAND GUNS AND GRAND GROOVES

Jeffrey Parker checks some heavy artillery on show at Dover Castle.



Norman fortifications at Dover Castle.



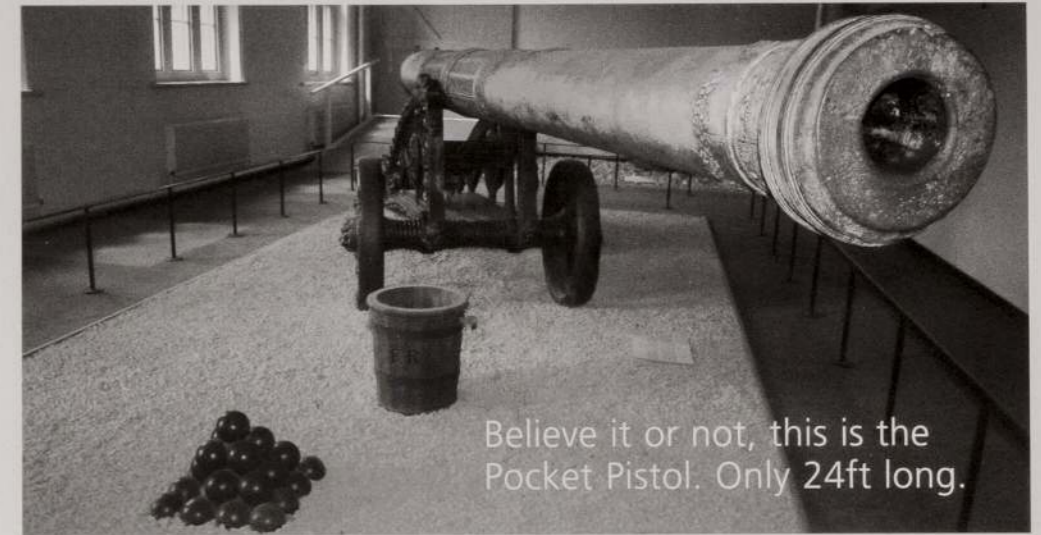
Ingram Blenkarn descends into the tunnels.



Nancy Chadwick in the Underground Hospital.

**S**T DUNSTAN'S 90th Anniversary became the highlight of the 2005 History event when the President's wife Robbie Hazan organised a trip to London. We first visited Winfield House, now the American embassy, the site of St Dunstan's Lodge where Arthur Pearson founded the organisation in March 1915. We were made most welcome by the embassy staff in their magnificent neo-Georgian home, then proceeded into their extensive gardens where a commemorative English Oak sapling had just been planted. After Ray Hazan explained the ceremony various representatives of our organisation shovelled more earth around the roots. A suitably inscribed plaque now marks the event. Following lunch at Headquarters we visited other places around Regent's Park, Queen Mary's rose garden and St John's Lodge. It put a special meaning on our Service origins which we had all heard about in the past. Lastly, as a special mark of respect, wreaths were ceremoniously laid on Sir Arthur Pearson's grave in Hampstead Cemetery.

Lyn Mullins had again arranged all the other events. On Wednesday, we were bussed to Dover Castle in Kent, an extensive complex of Anglo-Saxon to modern buildings overlooking the harbour. However, the main attraction was the old four levels of tunnels much used in WWII. They were originally



Believe it or not, this is the Pocket Pistol. Only 24ft long.

built in Napoleonic times, but extended and reinforced during the Second World War, they became the centre of operations for the May 1940 evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force and French troops from Dunkirk's beaches. Despite a rather cool offshore breeze this was a worthy visit.

On a sunny Thursday afternoon, the moat-surrounded Augustine Michelham Priory in Sussex was the venue. Sacked by Henry VIII, the later Tudor buildings are well preserved with many original and replica artefacts. We were particularly fortunate to have a guide who was aware of the needs of visually impaired people and encouraged all to touch many of the exhibits – a rare occurrence! Before our departure we were all treated to a luxury cream tea in their 17th century home farm barn.

The week finished with a talk by St Dunstaner Ernie Phillips about the 16inch, 78rpm 'V' discs distributed to American Forces broadcasting networks during the last war. The were

colour-coded, red white or blue according to Service and were the first records to be made of vinyl rather than shelac. Larger disks were used to send shows such as the *Jack Benny Show* to the BBC. We also listened with interest to many nostalgic audio samples from some of those disks.

Many thanks are due to the St Dunstan's organisers, the venues which welcomed and put themselves out to help us, the volunteer escorts and contributing St Dunstaners. A much appreciated week.



Ernie with an Artie Shaw V-Disc and a GI Jive radio show.



# A DAY TO REMEMBER

Ray Hazan returns to the grounds on which St Dunstan's first raised new hope for blinded Service men and women



On March 26th 1915, St Dunstan's Lodge in Regent's Park became a beacon of hope for blinded Soldiers and Sailors. On April 19th 2005, representatives of St Dunstan's returned to plant a living memorial to those First World War pioneers and everyone who has followed in their footsteps.



The Chairman, Arthur Lowe, Marjorie Humphrey, Eileen Killick and Chief Executive each represented a different facet of St Dunstan's as they shovelled earth onto the sapling oak.



**T**HERE ARE PERIODS of time when days slip by one after the other with great rapidity and blur one into the other. Then the unexpected happens and there is one day which stands out from all the rest. St Dunstaners participating in the history week were to make history themselves by taking part in a unique day in the life of our organisation.

On the journey to Winfield House in London's Regent's Park, Lyn Mullins, Activities Coordinator, at St Dunstan's Ovingdean read out some historical facts prepared by Robbie Hazan, the Collections & Archives Manager, who had organised the day in great detail. The notes covered the history of the park from half a century before the Norman Conquest and the building of eight villas designed by John Nash, which included St Dunstan's Lodge. The story

of the clock from St Dunstan-in-the-West in Fleet Street and how it gave its name to our organisation should be well known by our readers. In 1936 St Dunstan's Lodge was partly destroyed by fire and it was purchased by Barbara Hutton, heiress to the Woolworth fortune.

The Crown Estate gave permission for the old building to be pulled down and a red brick Georgian style house was built. In 1946, due to various reasons, Barbara decided to

give the house to the United States government to be used as the official residence of the American Ambassador. Following extensive repair work Winfield House has been the official residence since 1954.

The day started with a forecast of April showers but as the coach party of St Dunstaners and staff arrived at Winfield House, so the sun came out. The house lies on the site of St Dunstan's Lodge, our original training centre established by Sir Arthur Pearson in 1915.

We were met by the Minister Councillor of Public Affairs with typically warm American hospitality. A welcome cup of

coffee and cookies were available in one of the reception rooms and those there for the first time were able to wander around the impressive interiors. St Dunstan's has enjoyed the privilege of two previous receptions there.

An electric buggy was even on hand to ferry some across the lawn into the extensive garden (some 12 and a half acres in total) to where a young tree awaited its official planting.

Ray Hazan first read out the plaque, which was affixed to a

The President and Chairman spend a moment of silent contemplation at the graveside of our Founder Sir Arthur Pearson.



stake next to the tree. The stake was also made of oak and had been beautifully crafted by Geoff Bateman, the maintenance technician at Ovingdean.

"English Oak, Quercus Robur, planted in celebration of the 90th anniversary of St Dunstan's, the organisation for blind ex-Service men and women, which was established on this site on 26th March 1915"

He went on to say that the tree was both a living memorial and very symbolic. "For it was here that Sir Arthur's vision took root and flourished - the vision that, given training, rehabilitation, employment skills and encouragement, blind ex-Service men and women could regain their place in society and lead satisfactory, productive and fulfilling lives. This was a novel idea in its time, for up to then, visual handicap was tantamount to a disease!"



St Dunstaner Robert Baillie and Jeremy Hinton at the Fraser Memorial Bench.

The branches of the tree represented St Dunstan's organisations across the Commonwealth and St Dunstaners were the leaves on the branches - all feeding and deriving sustenance from the main trunk, the body of St Dunstan's.

Representatives of the constituent parts of the St Dunstan's family then placed a shovel of earth around the tree - our Chairman represented Past Presidents, Chairmen and Trustees of St Dunstan's; Arthur Lowe represented St Dunstaners past and present throughout the world; Marjorie Humphrey, widows and widowers; Eileen Killick, wives, husbands and families and our Chief Executive represented members of staff, past and present.

After a brief lunch back in Harcourt Street, the party set out again for Regent's Park. Our first stop was the Queen Mary's Garden in which stood a bench dedicated to Lord Fraser, our late Chairman. Some of us were at first baffled by a seemingly incomprehensible Braille inscription on the bench, until it was fathomed out that it was upside down and was meant to be read from behind! It read as follows:

**In Memory of  
Lord Fraser of Lonsdale C.H.  
Chairman of St. Dunstan's  
from 1921 to 1974  
and of Lady Fraser**

At the dedication ceremony in 1984, it was explained by Sir



Backbencher! The braille sign on Lord Fraser's Memorial Bench is easier to read from behind.

Henry Leach, our Chairman at the time, when he read an extract from a speech Lord Fraser gave at Grosvenor House in 1972, 'If anybody thinks it worthwhile making a memorial for me, I would like it to be a garden seat in Queen Mary's Garden in Regent's Park where so much of our history has been written and where I myself have lived most of my life, and which, if well-made and well-placed might live forever.'

From there we walked to St Dunstan's second centre, St John's Lodge, which we moved into in 1921. It is now leased to the Sultan of Brunei. Nearby was the Secret Garden, which was opened to the public in 1930. It is a delightful area and promises a riot of colour later in the season.

On our way to the final event

of the day an article reproduced from a 1916 edition of **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** entitled 'The Newcomer at St Dunstan's Lodge' was read out and is reproduced in full on page 21. It is well worth the read!

The party moved on to Hampstead cemetery where Sir Arthur Pearson was buried on December 13th, 1921. He had drowned following a fall in his bath on December 9th, 1921.

The grave forms a square enclosed by black iron railings. A plain cross in white marble with the torch of St Dunstan's on the cross part, stands on a tiered plinth on which is carved the words 'For Ever Blessed' surmounted by a massive marble foot stone. There is an inscription on this foot stone, which reads:

"Out of the darkness he arose as a light and by his example of courage and self reliance gained victory over blindness and the homage of the world". At the graveside of Sir Arthur and his family, our Chief Executive gave a moving eulogy:

"We have come here this afternoon, to the grave of Sir Arthur Pearson, as the climax to a day of remembrance and thankfulness for the life and achievements of a man who died eighty four years ago but whose legacy still lives on through the lives of succeeding generations of St Dunstaners.

"Sir Arthur's blindness only afflicted him for the last seven

years of his life, but it was his determination to be 'the' blind man rather than 'a' blind man that set him apart. It was also that same determination that led him not only to overcome his own disability but also to enable so many others to overcome theirs.

"Two important symbols of that road back to independence survive, in St Dunstan's, to this day.

"The first is the watch, given to every St Dunstaner, as Sir Arthur presented a watch to that blinded Belgian soldier, as his first step towards independence, when he lay in his hospital bed unable to tell whether it was night or day.

"The second is the, in my experience, unique 'Family Ethos' of St Dunstan's. The bond of brotherhood that he developed through his personal contact with each and every St Dunstaner that came to him for help and training. He was truly a man who 'could walk with Kings nor lose the common touch'.



St John's Lodge was also home to St Dunstan's.

"The history and tradition of St Dunstan's is well known to all of us, particularly after our experiences today and others, who knew Sir Arthur, have written far more eloquent tributes than I could ever write.

"Helen Keller, who was herself an amazing example of someone, born without speech, sight or hearing, who overcame her disabilities and was an inspiration to so many, wrote to Sir Arthur, thanking him for some Braille books he had sent to her.

"She said: 'You are probably tired of being told that you are the most wonderful example in the world of victory over blindness. But I should like to tell you this again. Your accomplishments will always be an incomprehensible mystery to me, though, they are, after all, only the supreme proof of a point, which I am never tired of making, that the greater the handicap, the greater the will and ability to surmount it, provided it is faced in the right spirit.'

"And after his death in 1921

newspapers throughout the land paid extraordinary tribute to a man who had been one of their own.

“From *The Daily Express*: ‘Arthur Pearson was one of those rare men who are born for a purpose and who, having achieved that purpose, are taken away to be remembered as flaming examples to posterity.’

“From *The Star*, a description of the scene at this very graveside, on a December morning, all those eighty four years ago: ‘In little groups of twelve and twenty, blinded men from every part of the kingdom, from Aberdeen and Penzance, from Newcastle, Bristol and Plymouth, came along to Hampstead Cemetery to pay final tribute to the man who was, above all others, their benefactor and friend.

“ ‘Never before had such a moving scene been witnessed at a public funeral. It enhanced, if that were possible, the pathos of Sir Arthur Pearson’s tragic end.



The Chairman laid a wreath on behalf of St Dunstaners.

“ ‘Addressing the strange gathering, relieved in its sombre hue here and there by the brighter uniforms of the Guardsmen, the chaplain to St Dunstan’s, spoke a glowing eulogy of him they had gathered to mourn.

“ ‘As he began to repeat the opening prayer, every head was bared, and there was not a movement among those who had come to hear, not to see. With slightly bowed heads they remained in reverent attention.

The silence was intense. Only the remote din of distant traffic broke, now and then, the hush.

“ ‘It was a strange morning, but one which they had spent with one thought - to pay tribute to their helper in the darkness.’

“So let us now, eighty-four years later, spend a few moments here, in silence, giving thanks for the life and the vision of this greatest of men; the founding father of St Dunstan’s, whose legacy of courage and independence in the face of his own blindness, inspired the lives of St Dunstaners past and which will continue to inspire the lives of St Dunstaners today, tomorrow and forever.”

Following the silence, St Dunstaner Reverend David Youngson said prayers and then wreathes were laid on behalf of all St Dunstaners and St Dunstan’s organisations worldwide.

It was truly, a unique day.



SDD Jeremy Hinton laid a wreath for St Dunstan’s worldwide.

## The Newcomer at St Dunstan’s Lodge, the Hostel for Blinded Soldiers & Sailors

What happens when he arrives, what is done for him and what he has to do

As told in **ST DUNSTAN’S Review**, June 1916



Sir Arthur Pearson introduces the Prince of Wales to the Merry Men of St Dunstan’s at Regent’s Park.

**T**HE BLINDED SOLDIER who is intending to come to St Dunstan’s may be interested in a short account of what happens to him on his arrival.

The first thing he may be sure of is a hearty welcome from everyone. He is received at the front door by Boy Scouts, who take care of his luggage, pay his taxi and pass him on to a VAD, who sits in the Hall registering arrivals and departures.

He reports to the Matron, who apports him his bed and ward, shows him where to put his clothes, hands him a copy of the Rules, which are printed in Braille as well as in print and then introduces him to his fellows in the Lounge, where he is made to feel at home at once. Needless to say, a meal is ready for him if he desires it, and any friends who come with him are treated as guests for the day.

He is not worried with too many particulars or instructions. At first he is allowed such time as he

chooses to settle down and get used to his surroundings. All the devices for his convenience and comfort are explained to him.

The strips of carpet that guide him from the front door to his dormitory, or the Dining Room, or the Lounge, or wherever else he may want to go are carefully explained so that he can begin at once to find his own way about indoors without assistance. Out of doors there are handrails to guide him to the Workshop, the Poultry Farm, or the Braille Room, thus enabling him to get to each of these places by himself.

He can spend his first day becoming used to these various aids, which at once make him feel independent and self resourceful.

In the course of the first

morning, a message is brought to him making an appointment with Sir Arthur Pearson, who receives him, usually at 12 o’clock noon, in his private office. He has a long and friendly chat with him, in which he discusses the various trades that are taught, and decides with the newcomer, which he will choose to take up for his future occupation. Sir Arthur Pearson points out that there is no hard and fast line about this, and that a man may try first one occupation and then another until he hits upon the one that suits him best.

If he requires medical attendance of any kind, he is introduced to the Dispensary under the charge of Nurse Read. He will receive all necessary attention from the nurse in charge in a cheerful and kindly way.

At 6.30am the newcomer will find that there is boating on the lake in the summer months, and physical drill or walking during the winter months. Breakfast is at 8am, the morning paper is read at 8.45am and a whistle is blown for work to start at 9.30am. At noon, if he is in the Lounge, he will find a sudden inrush of cheery fellows from the Poultry Farm, the Workshops, and the Braille Room, who cease work of all kinds at this hour. They are then free to do as they like until lunch time at 1pm which is heralded by a bell. He will find that many of them go for walks with friends or visitors while others go for walks by themselves, write letters, chat or play musical instruments, of which many are on hand for the free use of the men.

It is frequently the case that concerts are provided from 1.30pm to 2.30pm by professional singers and instrumentalists of the very front rank.

At 2.30pm a whistle is blown, which indicates that work begins again, and then the men troop off to their various occupations, requiring nobody to show them the way owing to the numerous facilities provided for their convenience.

At 4.30pm work of all kinds ceases for the day. The men can go out to tea if friends invite them or stop in if they prefer it. Many of them take walks, go rowing on the lake, or amuse themselves.



On Mondays and Thursdays in the winter months, there are concerts from 5.30pm till 6.30pm.

Supper is at 8 o'clock and at 8.30pm the evening newspaper is read to those who like to hear it. For the others, there are willing Sisters to read stories to them, write letters, help them to play cards or dominoes, or practice music or anything reasonable that they desire to do. At 9.30pm the orderlies appear to conduct them to their various dormitories and by 10pm everyone is expected to be in bed.

On Monday nights there is a Domino Tournament, with prizes. In the winter months there are dances on Tuesday and Friday evenings. On Thursday evening there is a Debating Club, at which the men discuss various subjects of interest to them, with the object of encouraging them to speak readily in public.

It will be seen that the days are full both of work and amusement, and so far as the latter is concerned it is entirely optional, so that a man need not take part in any particular thing unless he wishes to.

St Dunstan's Lodge.

At week-ends any men who desire it are allowed leave to be away either with relations or friends. With regard to a new man, if, as often happens, he wants to go home for a short spell, Sir Arthur Pearson arranges for him to be taken or sent and his fare paid. On Saturday afternoons, those who do not go away for the week-end can attend concerts, matinees of music halls or theatres, for which free tickets are provided. Or should they so prefer, the men can see their own friends, and are allowed leave until 9pm.

It is advisable for each newcomer to make himself acquainted with the Rules, which are short and simple. They are devised for the comfort of the men and not with a view to any unnecessary restriction.

It may be added that the wives or other relatives of inmates are invited to pay visits to St Dunstan's. Their fares are paid, and they are provided with free board and lodging for a week at a time. Everything is done to make them comfortable, and special leave is given to their husbands, sons, or brothers during their stay.

Colin Beaumont-Edmonds found a much better Battlefield at St Dunstan's Church Stretton

## Blind taught blind at St Dunstan's battlefield

I JOINED ST DUNSTAN'S in 1943, and being an officer, lived in Battlefield along with five other officers. Battlefield was a very pleasant private house, on the other side of the Church Stretton valley to The Longmynd Hotel, where all other trainees lived.

We were under the care of the matron, Mrs Irvine, who had been a VAD with St Dunstan's in Regent's Park during the First World War. Lord Fraser's butler, Mellor, was responsible for seeing that we men were well turned out, and took care of our clothes; he also assisted Mrs Irvine in serving the meals and waiting at table. Further help was provided by Ian Hay, a man probably in his forties, who arrived after breakfast and spent the rest of the day with us acting as a reader, guide or assisting in any way that was needed.

Other VADs would come to Battlefield as required, and I recall how one came to help me to and from the Training Centre by the railway station in the town centre during the first week that I was there, after which Charles Cooper, another totally blind trainee was asked to teach me how to go to the Centre on my own; an important part of training at St Dunstan's that the blind teach the newcomers.

When Lord and Lady Fraser visited the Training Centre, they stayed with us at Battlefield, and it was very much like a large family, and at the evening dinner the ladies would always retire to the drawing room for coffee while we men remained to enjoy a port with our coffee chatting around the table for 20 minutes or so before joining them.

For a short time our numbers exceeded the available accommodation, and when this happened two or three officers would be accommodated next door at "The Bishops". I assumed the house was owned by a bishop, but I can never remember any occasion when any of us ever met him.

On a day-to-day basis most of us had a particular VAD whom we could call upon to read the paper or books to us, take us for walks, tandem rides or just visiting Shrewsbury for shopping or to see films, while Mrs Irvine would often take two or three of us to concerts there.

Since those days Battlefield has been knocked down and an old people's residential home built on the site. A resident from the home told my wife and I that it had the same happy atmosphere that we had known in the original house when St Dunstaners were at Battlefield.

## BALANCING THE BOOKS

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

### Much in Evidence

Author: Henry Cecil  
Reader: Robin Holmes  
Duration: 9 hours 15 minutes  
Catalogue Number: TB 245

A man is lying in bed one night, apparently minding his own business, when his room is suddenly invaded by two masked men who tap him on the head with a spanner and steal £100,000 which just happened to be in his safe. Fortunately the money was insured but unfortunately for the claimant the insurance company believed the claim was bogus, "a put up job".

And that, in a nutshell, is how Henry Cecil is able to describe the most hilarious court case I've ever heard. A judge who can't keep quiet, a solicitor who can't keep sober and a witness who won't answer the question are just a sample or the comic characters in this marvellous book.

Whether it is possible to identify typical "British humour" I really don't know but I am tempted to say this is it. From the sublime to the ridiculous but very, very clever with it it is a royal feast of mirth from beginning to end.

# PENDLETON'S PANTRY

Blind chef **Stephen Pendleton** tries out a fruity desert

## Fruit Cheesecake

You will need an 8inch flan tin for this recipe.

### Ingredients:

4oz of digestive biscuits.  
2oz of butter.  
8oz of cream cheese.  
4oz of double cream.  
4oz of natural yoghurt.  
1 orange jelly.  
¼ of a pint of water.  
Cointreau.

### For the Topping:

1 orange.  
4oz double cream.  
4oz chocolate.

### Method:

Melt the butter in a shallow frying pan. Crush the digestive biscuits and place them in a mixing bowl, then add the melted butter and combine the two. Firmly press the biscuit base into the bottom of the flan tin and then allow it to set.

Melt the orange jelly with the ¼ pint of water. Lightly whip the double cream and natural yoghurt. When the jelly is nearly at setting point, add the cream, cream cheese, yoghurt and Cointreau, combine this until it is a smooth consistency. Pour into the flan tin with the biscuit base, place into the fridge to cool and set.

Decorate with a rosette of double cream and segments of orange.

# Welcome to ST DUNSTAN'S

**John Colborn** of Durseley, Gloucestershire served in the Grenadier Guards in 1953.

**Cecil Denny** of King's Lynn, Norfolk served in the General Service Corps, Royal Artillery and Middlesex Regiment between 1942 and 1945.

**Trevor Dewhirst** of Fordingbridge, Hampshire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1952 to 1954.

**Lionel Dockerill** of Felixstowe, Suffolk served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

**Albert Hedgcock** of Grassmoor, Chesterfield

served in the North Staffordshire Regiment from 1940 to 1944 and then the Durham Light Infantry until 1945.

**Robin Horsfall** joined the Local Defence Volunteers as a 16-year-old at the start of the war, but then served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1944 to 1947.

**Leslie Lightfoot** of London served in the Royal Air Force from 1934 to 1946.

**Colin Margetson** of Foulsham, Dereham, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1957.

**Robert Mathieson** of Riccall, York served in the

Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1944.

**John Powell** of London served in the Royal Engineers and Middlesex Regiment between 1940 and 1946.

**Herbert Roome** of Chislehurst, Kent served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

**Harold Simmons** of Northfield, Birmingham served in the General Service Corps, Royal Army Service Corps and Wiltshire Regiment between 1942 and 1947.

**George Wilson** of Chelmsford, Essex served in the Royal Corps of Signals from 1945 to 1948.

# NEW FACES AT WESTMINSTER

A NEW MINISTER for Veterans has been appointed following last month's General Election. Former Hove MP Ivor Caplin did not stand for re-election. He is succeeded at the Ministry of Defence by Don Touhig, Member of Parliament for Islwyn, Wales.

A former journalist and editor-in-chief of the Pontypool-based *Free Press* series, he first became an MP in 1995. He was Private Parliamentary Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown from 1997 to 1999 and later became the Government Whip for Wales.

Mr Touhig is married with four children and enjoys cooking, music and reading. He is a member of Mensa, Mencap, and Amnesty International, and is also a Papal Knight of the Order of St Sylvester.

He has been Vice-Chairman of the All-Party Penal Affairs Group, Secretary of the All-Party Police Group and chair of the All-Party Alcohol Misuse Group. He has also spoken on Home Affairs, Trade and Industry and Health.

The Ministerial team at the MOD is headed up by the Rt Hon Dr John Reid who was Minister for Health in the last Government. He is no stranger to the MOD having been Minister of State for Armed Forces in 1997.

The current Minister of State for Armed Forces remains Adam Ingram, MP.

The new Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Defence Procurement) is Lord Drayson who has a background in engineering. He enjoys racing and fencing and was educated at St Dunstan's College.

The Rt Hon David Blunkett has been made Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. He has overall responsibility for all work and pensions matters.

Anne McGuire, MP for Stirling has been made Parliamentary Under Secretary (Disabled People). She was the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Scotland, has served as an Assistant Government

Whip and was appointed a Lord Commissioner to the Treasury in June 2001. She has been involved with Constitutional Affairs with responsibility for Scotland and active in child protection issues. She is married with two grown up children.

Other Ministers at Work and Pensions are: The Rt Hon Margaret Hodge MBE, who has responsibility for Welfare Reform; Minister of State; Stephen Timms, MP, Minister of State, who has responsibility for Pensions and extending working lives; Lord Hunt of Kings Heath OBE, Parliamentary Under Secretary who represents the DWP in the House of Lords; and James Plaskitt, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary who has responsibility for benefits.

## Bank unveils ATMs for blind

A NORTHERN IRELAND bank has become the first in Europe to provide cash machines for blind people.

The Northern Bank is equipping two ATMs in Belfast with a device that allows blind users to plug headphones into a jack at the front of the cash point machine when they access the service. Text to Speech software will then activate an automated voice to talk the user through their transaction, guiding them to the exact

locations of keypad numbers and the cash dispenser. A pilot scheme will run for six months at the Donegall Square North branch and Connswater Shopping Centre. Sister bank, Clydesdale are also due to test the system in Edinburgh. The technology was developed by Canadian company Phoenix Interactive and Northern Bank consulted with blind users before "going live" with the service.

If trials are successful they will consider extending the scheme.

**THE THIRD PRIZE** in the **Review's 2004 Story Competition (£20)** was won by **St Dunstaner Ken Waugh of Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear**, who wrote his tale under the name **Barcus**. Our judge, travel and crime writer **Gwen Moffat**, whose latest novel *Dying for Love* was published in March, said "*My Best Friend* is unusual if far-fetched with a climax illustrating the extraordinary lengths a man will go to in order to serve his friend. The action leads to a startling finish, all is correct from a literary point of view however immoral. The early part would have been better for some pruning but suspense goes a long way to balance the fault."

# MY BEST FRIEND

**B**OBBY DIXON and I met on our first day at school, at the tender age of five. We sat next to each other in a double desk. I suppose it's quite normal to feel a little nervous on such a day, but not Bobby. Right from the beginning he was full of confidence. This was to remain with him all his life. Within a very short time we got to like each other and became good friends.

Happily, his family moved to our street. This meant we could play together after school and during weekends. As the years went by we became very close, Bobby and I. However, I was always the plodder. Whereas Bobby was the go-getter, the highflier. I suppose we were more like the tortoise and the hare, except in our case, Bobby always came first.

Even so, in some ways we were very much alike. For instance, we both took a dislike to most grown ups, but not our first teacher, Miss Robin. Bobby and I vied with each other for her attention, for we loved her with an undying love. This lasted until we moved up to the Juniors and

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by **Barcus**  
(**Ken Waugh**)

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we met Miss Swift. In no time, our undying love was switched to our new teacher. However, it didn't last long, for Miss Swift lived up to her name when it came to administering punishment. Woe betide any lad who stepped out of line. As likely as not, he would get a sharp rap over the knuckles with a ruler. There were very rare times though, when one of us would get a pat on the head.

By the age of eleven, we had formed a small gang of about six. Even so, we still regarded each other as our best friend and always took each other's side in any squabble which might develop in the gang.

During the summer holidays we spent most of our days on our bikes. Usually, if the weather was fine, we rode down to the Coast for a swim in the sea. The North Sea is very cold so we never stayed in very long. On this particular day, we left the water and started to dry ourselves. I turned to speak to

Bobby but he wasn't there. Just then one of the gang shouted, "It's Bobby. He's still out there." Looking out, I could just make out a head bobbing about in the waves. Even at that age, I was already a strong swimmer, Bobby wasn't. Quickly I waded into the sea and swam towards him. However the current which had caught Bobby, now caught me. Consequently I had quite a struggle to reach him.

"I'm here Bobby." I panted. "I'll get you back."

Hearing my voice, he ceased to struggle and let me get hold of him. Turning on my back I managed to pull him ashore. The lads waded in and carried Bobby out of the water and laid him down on the sand. While I sat trying to get my breath back the others started to rub Bobby down with their towels. In a little while he had recovered sufficiently to sit up.

"I'll never forget today Jimmy," he said. "You've saved my life and some day I'll repay you. That's a promise."

We were young and the episode

was quickly forgotten, at least by me. Later, it was to have a great significance in our lives.

After those holidays we were elevated to attending the local Comprehensive School. There isn't much to say about that. Neither Bobby or I were much on academic subjects and we both left at the age of sixteen.

Fortunately we both managed to gain employment with the same company. At the beginning we didn't have much of a job. However, Bobby was a good talker and quickly rose up through the ranks, pulling me up behind him. We remained the best of friends. At the age of twenty-five I got married, and Bobby did the same one year later. We were best man at each other's wedding, but whereas mine was a simple affair with just families and a few friends, Bobby's was a grand occasion.

He had bought rather a large house and had a marquee put up in it's grounds to accommodate all the guests.

Neither of us were blessed with children, which was just as well. My wife Elsie had become a shrew who was always upcasting Bobby to me. Why couldn't I be more like him. Look at the house they live in, why don't we live in one like that? And look at Emma, and her clothes and their BMW, they have that, while we have to manage with an old banger? I'm ashamed to go out in it.

This went on for years and

divorce wasn't an option.

Bobby's wife was different. Emma was gentle and kind with never a word of reproach to her husband, whatever he did. And he did get himself into various scrapes, usually involving money. Sometimes he would come to me and tell me all his troubles, and when I could, I loaned him money to help him square things up.

The last time he came to tell me his troubles was ten years ago. "I've got myself into a hole again, Jimmy," he told me. I asked him, "How much?"

"No, not this time. The hole is too deep. I've been using the firm's money to bet on the gee ges. Normally I would be able to repay it, but the auditors are coming in next week. I'm for the high jump, I'll have to disappear."

That was the last time I spoke to Bobby. Arriving home from work two days later, I found the house strangely quiet. There was no cooking smell. Nothing.

But there was a letter.

It ran, "James, I am sick of having to put up with your ways. Bobby has always been kind to me, He has got another promotion which means he will have to live in Bristol. He is leaving Emma and has asked me to go with him, so I have. Elsie."

I couldn't understand it, my best friend, how could he do this to me. I rang his house and spoke to Emma. She said

Bobby was away on a business trip to Bristol and would be back within a few days. I didn't tell her he had taken Elsie with him, because I just couldn't take it in. Still mystified, I hung up and started making myself something to eat.

As I was about to sit down there came a knock on the door. Opening it I was confronted by two policemen. "May we come in, sir?" asked one. They refused to sit down but suggested that I do. Having done so, the first one spoke in a soft tone. "We have some bad news for you sir. There's no easy way to say it, but your wife Elsie is dead."

"Why, what's happened?" I gasped out. He told me all the facts as they knew them. Apparently she was with a friend, a Mr Robert Dixon in his car. They were travelling south by the coast when the car left the road and plunged over the cliffs, hitting the rocks sixty feet below. Both were killed instantly.

I was more bewildered than ever. I always knew Bobby to be a safe driver. So what made him lose control and leave the road?

Next morning I received a letter which explained everything. It was in Bobby's hand writing. It read, "Dear Jimmy, years ago you saved my life when I was drowning. I vowed then that someday I would repay you for risking your life. That day has now come. I am taking Elsie out of your life. My intention is to crash my car over the cliffs at

Seacombe. This is my only way out. It will be an accident. You will always be my best friend, Bobby. PS Please look after Emma for me."

Well as I said before, that was ten years ago today. I burned Elsie's note and Bobby's letter, after showing them to Emma. I didn't want her to believe Bobby was running out on her. The fall over the cliffs was treated as an accident and as Bobby was well insured, all the missing money was replaced. Three years after Bobby's death, Emma and I got married. I know she doesn't love me as she did Bobby, but she has still been a good wife to me.

So I'm content. After all I was always second to Bobby in everything.

On this tenth anniversary Emma and I will drink a toast before dinner, as we have done these last nine years. She will drink to Bobby, the husband she loved and lost, and I will drink to Bobby, my best friend.

## Ten answers

Answers to the quiz on page 13.

1) Vet; 2) Jet; 3) Let; 4) Net; 5) Set; 6) Pin; 7) Ayr; 8) Gin; 9) Yew; 10) Yak.

## WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE ...

Overheard in the bar: "Whenever I hear that song it carries me away," says one St Dunstaner. "Can anyone whistle it?" asks another.

## REUNION ROUND-UP

THERE WERE about 90 people, including 35 St Dunstaners and nine Widows at the London Reunion which was held at the RAF Club in Piccadilly on April 26th. Tim Bacon was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding and St Dunstaner Mike Tetley responded. BBC motor racing commentator Simon Taylor was guest speaker, ruminating on the value of radio for blind people.

Another group, this time of 13 St Dunstaners and six Widows attended the Leeds Reunion at The Holiday Inn, Bramthorpe, Leeds on May 4th. Colin Low, CBE, was the member of St Dunstan's Council presiding, while Harry Beevers delivered an entertaining response. Guest speaker Eric Foster, a Past President of Leeds Rotary, gave an interesting speech on the sinking of the Lusitania and the medals that were subsequently struck from recovered metal.

Major General David Joliffe, CB, FRCP made his debut as the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding at the Blackpool Reunion on May 10th. There were 33 St Dunstaners and nine Widows gathered at the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool. Tony Parkinson made the reply on behalf of St Dunstaners. The guest speaker was Blackpool's Official Town Crier Barry McQueen who enlivened events with his ukulele and other instruments (but did he bring any Boddingtons, we want to know?).



Robert Leader applauds Carol Henderson on 25 years of work with St Dunstaners.

There were 34 St Dunstaners and eight widows gathered at The Gladstone Hotel for the Liverpool Reunion on May 11th. Major General David Joliffe, CB, FRCP was once more the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding. Harry Docherty made the reply on behalf of St Dunstaners, while the Rev Dr Ben Rees spoke about Liverpool. Chief Executive Robert Leader took the stand as he made a special presentation to Carol Henderson who has completed 25 years service as a Welfare Officer for St Dunstan's.

On May 17th, there were 48 St Dunstaners and eight widows at the Newcastle Reunion held at the Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. Andrew Lyburn, OBE, ME, FCIA was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding and Cecil Green made the reply.

## DAY OF THE ROBOTS

COMPUTER SCIENTISTS in America have developed a robot that could help blind people to shop or find their way around large buildings. It uses radio frequency identification tags to locate items and a laser range finder to avoid collisions.

Built by Professor Vladimir Kulyukin at Utah State University it has been tested on the shop floor of a Utah supermarket.

"We refer to it as a robotic shopping assistant," said Professor Kulyukin. "The idea is that you simply come to the grocery store, grab the shopping assistant and it leads you to the different products. When you leave the store you leave it behind."

The first prototype was a push-along array of computer and radio transmitter which detected radio tags on selected items. It also used a braille interface which is to be replaced by synthetic voice software because non-braille readers were unable to use the device.

Professor Kulyukin says the device will never replace guide dogs, but over in Atlanta, contestants were lining up for the RoboCup US Open 2005. For the third year running, teams of robotic dogs were pitted against each other in a series of football matches. The contest hides a serious objective to promote research in artificial intelligence, robotics and computational perception. Any one ready to change that tin of Chum for some Duracells?

## Describing Stevie's fuss

Stevie Wonder has adopted audio description for his latest music video, *So What The Fuss*. The new video has a second, descriptive audio track, recorded by hip hop star Busta Rhymes, to be made accessible to people who are blind or have low vision. "Until now music videos have been very one dimensional for those who are blind or with low vision," said Wonder. "Now all music video fans will be able to apply their vision to my video thanks to the descriptive technique and of course, a great narration by Busta Rhymes. For me, the entire concept is indicative of what happens when you go beyond the status quo and open yourself up to what's possible."

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

#### Congratulations on the birth of:

Evie on April 12th. She is the great-granddaughter of Nancey Taylor and the late Tom Taylor of Leyland, Lancashire.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

Charles and Valerie Dancer of Bexhill, East Sussex on May 5th.

### DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

Ron and Cynthia Murray of Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Cleveland on April 23rd.

William and Rose Lockert of Brighton on May 15th.

William and Mary Burnett of Maidstone, Kent on May 19th.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

Silas and Agnes Morum of Cobham, Surrey who celebrated 62 years of marriage on April 28th.

Ronald and Rita Hitchcock of Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on May 2nd.

Robert and Marjorie Coupland of Hessle, Northumberland who celebrated 61 years of marriage on May 13th.

George and Margery Allan of Grundisburgh, Suffolk who celebrated 63 years of marriage on May 16th.

*Dick and Bett Hall* of Hassocks, West Sussex who celebrated 63 years of marriage on May 16th.

## DEATHS

**We regret to announce the death of:**  
**Mary Braithwaite** of Hove, East Sussex died on April 26th. She was the widow of Sapper St Dunstaner *Frank Braithwaite*.

**Wyn Thompson** of Bradford, West Yorkshire died on April 19th. She was the widow of Gunner St Dunstaner *Oswald Thompson*.

**Etty Simpson** of Britwell, Slough, Berkshire died on May 15th. She was the widow of Army St Dunstaner *John Simpson*.

**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.**

### **Arthur Thomson**

Royal Artillery

Arthur Thomson of Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland died on December 17th, aged 87. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2000. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 and after training was placed with 23 Light Ack-Ack Regiment. He was posted to Singapore which fell while they were still at sea. Other ships in the convoy were lost to submarine action, but his made it to Freetown. After a spell in Durban, Bombay and Ceylon, they returned to India and deployed into Burma, advancing as far as Rangoon. Discharged in 1946, he joined the GPO, supervising telephonists for over 30 years. Our sympathy goes to his son and daughter and all other members of the family.

### **Reginald Rhoades**

Royal Tank Regiment

Reginald Raymond Rhoades of Chichester, West Sussex died on April 4th, aged 89. Having

worked for a wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Merchant, he joined the Royal Tank Regiment in 1940. Training in Bovington and Lulworth, he was posted to the 3rd Battalion and became an instructor on engines and driving. He served in North Africa before being discharged in 1945. In civilian life, he worked as a driver and later as a market gardener. Our sympathy goes to his widow Pam and all members of the family.

### **William Nelson**

Royal Air Force

William Thomas Nelson of Heysham, Morecambe, Lancashire died on April 14th, aged 77. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2001. Having been an Air Cadet during the Second World War, he volunteered for the Royal Air Force in 1945. After training, he was posted to Blackpool and later to Manchester. He was discharged as Aircraftman II in 1948 and then worked in retail until retiring. He maintained an interest in cricket. Our sympathy goes to his daughters Julie and Paula and all other members of the family.

### **Thomas Atkinson**

Royal Engineers

Thomas Atkinson of Monk Bretton, Barnsley, South Yorkshire died on April 15th, aged 87. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1939 and served in France, North Africa and Italy. He was discharged as Sapper in 1946. Our sympathy goes to his wife and all the family.

### **Joseph Boddice**

Royal Air Force

Joseph Stanley Boddice of Aldridge, Walsall, West Midlands died on April 17th, aged 84. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946 in North Africa, Italy, India and the UK. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

### **Frederick Buxton**

Devon Regiment

Frederick Buxton of Norwich, Norfolk died on April 24th, aged 84. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 and served in Europe and the Middle East. He was transferred to the Devonshire Regiment in 1945 and discharged in 1946. In civilian life, he was a construction

engineer. His interests included boxing. Our sympathy goes to his brother Leslie and all other members of the family.

### **Jack Pryor**

Royal Navy

Jack Pryor of Peacehaven, East Sussex died on April 27th, aged 75. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1952. Originally a clerk with a Turf Accountant, he joined the Royal Navy in 1948 and served as Signalman. Discharged in 1950, he became a telephone operator after training at St Dunstan's, a profession he maintained for over 30 years. For many years, he was a dominant figure in St Dunstan's Bowling Club. He was three times winner of the National TB Bowling Championship and represented England in the sport during the Commonwealth Games in Canada in August 1994. He won the bronze during that match. His other interests included music, woodwork and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his widow Rita, daughter Susan and all of the family.

### **Kathleen Risebero**

Auxiliary Territorial Service

Kathleen Risebero of Richmond, Surrey died on April 29th, aged 91. Originally, she worked as an assistant in a pharmacy but later became a wages clerk. She married in 1941. Joining the Auxiliary Territorial Service at Fenham Barracks, Newcastle upon Tyne in 1942, she was posted to the Army Training Technical Group. She left the ATS as Corporal in 1943 when expecting her first child. She later became an Office Manager for a garage. Her interests included gardening, music and knitting. Our sympathy goes to her daughters Maureen and Ann and all other members of the family.

### **Jack Ryder**

Royal Air Force

Edward John Ryder of Easton-on-the-Hill, Stamford, Lincolnshire died on May 1st, aged 88. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1972. Having joined the Royal Air Force in 1940, he was posted to the Far East where he was captured by the Japanese in 1942. Held in camps in Java and Amboya, the malnutrition and privation he experienced would later cause his loss of sight.

He was discharged as Sergeant in 1946 and joined the Marley Tile company before becoming a buyer in the furniture industry. Our sympathy goes to his widow June and all of the family.

### **Henry Derrett**

Rifle Brigade

Henry Derrett of Norwich, Norfolk died on May 3rd, aged 97. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2000. He joined the Rifle Brigade as a 16-year-old in 1924 and spent the first seven years on the Northwest Frontier in postings at Ladi Kota, Khyber Pass, Jullunder and Dalhouse Foothill station. He returned to the UK in 1931 and became a Theatre Assistant at Whitechapel Hospital. He rejoined the Rifle Brigade in 1939 and served in the UK, Egypt, Algiers, Belgium and Germany. He was discharged as WOII in 1945 and then worked as a company accountant. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

### **George Evans**

Royal Artillery

George Evans of Brampton, Cumbria died on May 10th, aged 82. He joined the Durham Light Infantry in 1942 and later transferred to the Lincolnshire Regiment in 1943. He served in Italy and was taken prisoner at Cassino. After being liberated from a German camp, he transferred to the Royal Artillery in 1945 and was discharged in 1947. In civilian life, he was a steelworker. Our sympathy goes to his widow Elizabeth, their son and daughters and all other members of the family.

### **Alice Gimbrere**

Women's Royal Naval Service

Alice Gimbrere of Ovingdean, Brighton died on May 17th, aged 79. She had been a St Dunstaner since 1948. She served as a Wren in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1944 to 1946. She trained as a Physiotherapist through St Dunstan's and also became a skilled braillist. She and her late husband Leo moved to Montreal for 18 years. Her interests included reading, typing, knitting and other handicrafts. She also took part in boating events with Sailability. Our sympathy goes to her sons Peter and Edward and all members of the family.



David Youngson reports on St Dunstan's Masonic Weekend

# St Dunstan's Brothers conduct demo ceremony at host lodge

**T**HE FOURTH SATURDAY in April saw members of the Fraternity gather at Ovingdean for the annual visit to Temple Lodge in Brighton. It was good to see new faces and renew friendships from times past. In all some 16 Freemasons from Lodges across the country were present. At the business session we stood as a mark of respect to two Brethren who had recently died remembering their contribution in the past and regretting their absence.

As usual, on arrival at Temple Lodge the welcome was cordial and later the cordial was welcome! We had been invited to give a demonstration ceremony and eight St Dunstaners from different Lodges performed a Ceremony which was acclaimed by all present. The Dinner, which followed, was of the usual high standard and all present parted in a happy mood looking forward to the next occasion.

Our Annual Luncheon in the Winter Gardens next day brought old friends together in a social atmosphere and admirably chaired by Cecil Green. Thanks have to be extended to David Vinall for getting us to Brighton and back to Ovingdean safely and the PBK Caterers for a splendid lunch.



Ron Freer and Cecil Green greet their guests at Ovingdean.



Fred Cox and Robert Bysouth.



Robert Strickland and Bill Miller.



St Dunstaner Ralph Still and his family at the Masonic lunch.