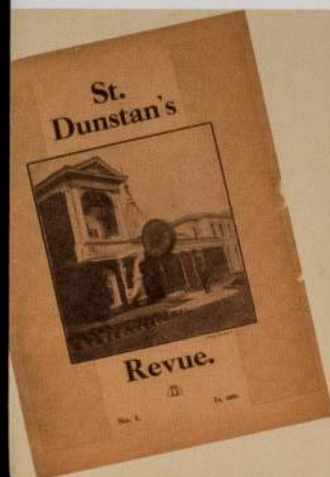


July 2005

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



# ST DUNSTAN'S Review

**Celebrating nine decades chronicling the lives and achievements of blind ex-Service men and women**



**FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN SINCE 1915**

# ST. DUNSTAN'S ... REVUE ...

No 1.

JULY 1915.

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## Editorial.

**S**T. DUNSTAN'S as you all know is a hostel for blinded soldiers and sailors. What then could be more desirable than a magazine for their benefit which is useless to them? Nobody wants it, and so I consider it my duty to bring one out.

It is not an advertisement of cheap wit, nor is it meant to make you laugh at the expense of others. It merely chronicles a few of the actual happenings at St. Dunstan's. You will, I am sure, agree with me in saying that when one sees such a large number and such a quaint assortment of people as one does here, their doings and sayings should not be allowed to sink unrecorded into utter oblivion.

It is hoped that none of our articles will be considered impertinent or personal, but everyone here is so jolly and full of fun that they cannot help being amused by all who come and go, and even those who stay.

It will probably be remarked "Why do they not bring out their magazine in Braille, so that the officers and men can read it?" That is what we also say, and so, dear reader, if you happen to know Braille we shall be more than grateful to you if you will carry out your own suggestion.

We should also much appreciate any articles for our next issue, and we hope—there being no tax on the hope—to answer all letters and inquiries, which may be addressed to "The Editor, 12, Kensington Gate, W."

ST DUNSTAN'S

# Review

No 948

# July 2005

## Queen of Sultan!

Elspeth Grant is made an MBE in The Queen's Birthday Honours List for her work with St Dunstaners. **Report on page 9.**

## Happy Birthday for the Review!

And so, St Dunstan's Revue, introduced itself to the men of St Dunstan's in July 1915. The spelling of the title changed slightly with a re-launch in 1916, but we trust that, whatever evolution has occurred in the intervening nine decades, the magazine continues to inform, educate and entertain while providing members of the St Dunstan's family with a forum to air their views and share experiences.

### Cover story:

## Getting to the art of the matter!

Mabel the Mermaid (not to be confused with little Marion who proved such a popular feature of the 2005 calendar) was one of the creative delights on display during the Brighton Fringe Festival Exhibition at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. She also became a focus of attention at St Dunstan's Sheffield, guarding the approach to the lawn where Sheffield's Master Cutler declared our Northern training centre to be officially open. **For news of the Art Exhibition turn to page 18 and then to page 20 for details of the opening of St Dunstan's Sheffield.**

## Return to the Longmynd! African reunion

St Dunstaners return to the Shropshire village that welcomed them in WWII. **Ray Hazan reports on page 22.**

Ray Hazan joins St Dunstan's South Africa for their reunion. **Details on page 16.**

Plus Noticeboard, Letters to the Editor, It Strikes Me, Balancing the Books, Ten Questions, Pendleton's Pantry and other features!

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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 made a special presentation to the Past President of St Dunstan's, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds.

Picture: John Corfield

JENNY AND I attended part of the Church Stretton reunion. It was a perfect gathering for those St Dunstaners and widows with war-time connections with the town. It was wonderful to see them enjoying themselves, recalling their memories and friendships with such enthusiasm. It was a real privilege to be allowed to sit on the fringe of such a major part of what is now our history, and see the St Dunstan's "family" in action.

After an excellent Dinner, Major General Arthur Denaro praised the courage and spirit of St Dunstaners, and reminded us all that one of the bastions of Army professionalism is the Battalion system, with which we tamper at our peril. We relearned the meaning of "going down the wire" as the means by which the blind men and women guided themselves down the steep hill to and from the pub!

The church service was a clever combination of formality and informality, attended by St Dunstaners, widows and townfolk alike. The strong emotional bond between St Dunstan's and Church Stretton was once more re-enforced.

My thanks to Ray Hazan who put much time into all the planning, and to all the staff who once again volunteered to give up their free time to assist.

*Michael Gordon-Lennox*

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

## ST DUNSTAN'S Calendar

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
Physio Weekend	Sept 23rd-26th
Sailability	Sept 24th
Writers' Forum	October 1st
Computer Club(II)	October 5th-6th
Amateur Radio(IV)	October 7th-14th
Sailability	October 8th
World Sight Day	October 13th
Widows' Week	October 16th-22nd
St Dunstan's Challenge	Oct 22nd-23rd

Veteran's Awareness Week | Air Show | VJ Day party | VJ Parade



# Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

### 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.

### BATTLE OF BRITAIN SHOW 2005

FLY PAST ON THE BUMP: The most famous RAF Fighter Station from WWII will commemorate the end of war in Europe and the Far East on September 3rd-4th. The Biggin Hill International Air Fair will gather veterans and aircraft from both theatres of conflict and many more. The Sea Harrier, currently in its last year of service with the Royal Navy, will also be in the air..

Tickets start from £16 (family rates available) and can be purchased by calling 0870 7563727. More information can be found online at [www.airdisplaysint.co.uk](http://www.airdisplaysint.co.uk).

### VJ DAY CELEBRATION AT DOXFORD HALL

60th ANNIVERSARY THANK YOU TO FAR EAST VETERANS: A party to honour Ex-Far East Prisoners of War and those who served in the Far East will be held at Doxford Hall, Alnwick, Northumberland on VJ Day – August 15th. The day will feature a variety of WWII style entertainment and a fish and chip lunch will be flown in by helicopter. Transport and accommodation may be available for anyone travelling on Sunday, August 14th and returning on Tuesday, August 16th. Any St Dunstaner who served in the Far East and wishes to attend the event should contact Lynn or Elizabeth on 0191 261 5135 before July 26th.

### SUNDERLAND TO HOST UK'S BIGGEST VJ DAY PARADE

SALUTE TO FAR EAST VETERANS: On Sunday, August 14th, the City of Sunderland will host what is expected to be one of the country's biggest parades marking the 60th anniversary of the surrender of Japanese forces and the release of British and Allied prisoners of war. A warm and fraternal invitation is extended to all St Dunstaners to take part in the event. Anyone within the north-east of England, Yorkshire or Lothian and Borders areas, requiring transport to the parade, in need of an escort, or further details should contact organiser Arthur Lockyear on 0191 444 1240 or 1272 (Fire Service HQ Sunderland) or at home on 0191 373 2035 or by e-mail: [artemusonparade@aol.com](mailto:artemusonparade@aol.com).

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED: I have seen a number of letters sent to the **Review** following Dick Lake's article on the relationship between staff and St Dunstaners. There seems to be considerable misunderstanding about this whole issue.

Dick's article was not designed to tell St Dunstaners what to do, nor was it intended to prevent a friendly relationship between staff and those who stay at Ovingdean. It was however designed to make clear the boundaries between people's professional and private lives and to protect those who may be older and vulnerable, from exploitation.

I don't for one moment believe that staff are in fear and trembling for their jobs as some letters have suggested, nor do I believe that there has been a change in the atmosphere at Ovingdean. This is not a big issue.

It is however very important to recognise that all the staff at St Dunstan's, including me, are paid to do a professional job without fear or favour to any individual. In short we need to treat everybody with the same level of helpfulness, friendliness and courtesy.

I am aware that we cannot control individual feelings and there have been many instances at St Dunstan's and elsewhere where people have met their future husband or wife. I would however expect any member of staff finding themselves in this position at St Dunstan's to tell their line manager so that appropriate working arrangements can be made.

It is regrettable that Dick should be attacked for trying to ensure that all St Dunstaners and other beneficiaries are treated with the professionalism that ensures a high standard of service for everyone, whilst protecting those

who are more vulnerable. He undoubtedly has the interests of the Organisation and St Dunstaners at heart and has a very difficult job trying to 'please all of the people all of the time' He needs our support in this, not our criticism.

**Robert Leader,**  
Chief Executive

## ST DUNSTAN'S SENIOR MANAGEMENT CONSIDERING EMPLOYMENT REPORT

EMPLOYMENT PROJECT HAS COME TO END: In October 2004, St Dunstan's launched an employment project, to investigate how St Dunstan's can play a more proactive role in providing a gateway and signposting towards the full range of employment options for St Dunstaners. Project Coordinator Ruth Loebel and RNIB Employment Officer John Simpson travelled around the UK, meeting St Dunstaners and staff. Six months have passed, and the project has now come to an end.

Ruth says: "We are very impressed at the amount of practical support that St Dunstaners are offered. In comparison with mainstream and statutory services available to blind and partially sighted people, St Dunstan's provision in rehabilitation, training, equipment, and financial and emotional support is quite outstanding.

"Over the last six months we have had the pleasure of meeting many St Dunstaners, who have been generous both with their knowledge and their time. John and I would like to thank sincerely those who shared their individual stories with us, and helped us to gain an understanding of St Dunstan's and the services it offers."

The St Dunstan's Senior Management Team has now received the completed project report and are actively considering the recommendations and how these may be fully implemented.

## MOTIVATOR WINS FOR RAY

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE WINNERS: For some it seemed that there was only one horse running in the 2005 Vodafone Derby at Epsom on June 4th and that conviction was justified when Motivator secured a five-length win. That was good news for St Dunstaner Ray Peart of Abbeydale, Gloucestershire who had drawn Motivator in the **Review's** Derby Sweepstake.

The draw was held at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on May 31st with ticket numbers being selected by random number generation and the names of 27 horses who made it past the forfeit stage being pulled from a cup. Our thanks are due to St Dunstan's Archery Club and their opponent teams from the Army and RAF for helping in this process.

As first prize winner, Ray claims £179.25. The second prize of £71.70 was won by Sheila Ostle of Cockermouth, Cumbria who drew Walk in the Park, while the third prize of £35.85 was won by Mary Quinn of Ripon, North Yorkshire who drew Dubawi.

The Starters' Prize was shared amongst Chris Spellacy of West Kingsdown, Kent; Marie Hamilton of Leeds, West Yorkshire; Charlie McConaghy of Belfast, Northern Ireland; Frederick Simpson of Chorley, Lancashire; Muriel Bough of Queensville, Staffordshire; Dorothy Jacobs of Wallasey, Wirral, Merseyside; Agnes Coston of Elm, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire; Sally Slade of Bognor Regis, West Sussex and Catherine Androlia of Birmingham, West Midlands.

## BALLROOM DANCING

COME DANCING AT OVINGDEAN: A week of ballroom dancing (including lessons) will be held at St Dunstan's Ovingdean from October 24th-29th. Contact Bookings Coordinator Jackie Castle (01273 391422) to book in.

## NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR BLIND

BRILLE AND MOON: The National Library for the Blind (NLB) provides library and information services for visually impaired people. More details can be found at [www.nlb-online.org](http://www.nlb-online.org) or by calling 0161 406 2525.

## RELISH THE RELICS

AN INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED: Nicola Dennies and Peter Taylor will be conducting a one-day course on August 14th at the Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project (SHARP) offering the opportunity to take part in the process of archaeological investigation with hands on experience of artefacts (especially pottery), animal bone and (if this is acceptable to you) human remains. You will learn about the variation found at Sedgeford and how this is used to interpret the past. There will also be a tour of the excavations.

The course costs £20 per participant. Tea and coffee will be provided free. Participants can take a packed lunch or join the team for lunch at an extra cost of £6 (book in advance if required). There is a pub nearby in the village. Parking is available on site.

For health and safety reasons (archaeological sites are literally full of pitfalls), SHARP ask that VI participants be accompanied by a carer. If you have special needs other than visual impairment, such as wheelchair use, please let the organisers know in advance.

Details can be found online at [www.sharp.org.uk/prospecus/prospectus.htm](http://www.sharp.org.uk/prospecus/prospectus.htm) or by contacting Brenda Huggins, SHARP Enrolment Secretary, 67 Victoria Avenue, Hunstanton, Norfolk PE36 6BY. She can also be contacted by e-mail at [tanze@supanet.com](mailto:tanze@supanet.com) or by telephone on 01485 532343.

## BLIND GARDENER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

READY STEADY GROW: Thrive and the RNIB are seeking out the UK's best blind gardeners! St Dunstaner Vincent Robins and BBC television's Monty Don are part of a panel of judges who will be deciding on the winners. The competition is open to blind and partially sighted people of all ages, experience and skills. You don't have to be an expert gardener to enter. Three categories will be judged: people with less than two years' experience, people with more than two years' experience, and younger people up to 18.

To register your interest, ring Lucy Morrell at Thrive on 0118 988 5688 or e-mail her at [info@thrive.org.uk](mailto:info@thrive.org.uk) mentioning the Blind Gardener Competition in the heading.

The closing date is August 15th, and winners will be announced in October. Prizes include greenhouses, a raised bed kit, compost tidy tray and Suttons Seeds vouchers. Trophies are being woodturned by St Dunstaners in the Craft Workshop at Ovingdean.

## SAILING ADVENTURES WITH JST

JUBILEE SAILING TRUST: Anyone who thrilled at the story of Norman Perry's Caribbean sailing trip in the May **Review**, may wish to consider their own adventure. The Jubilee Sailing Trust is a UK based charity that aims to promote the integration of able-bodied and physically disabled people through adventure tall ship sailing holidays. They have two specially designed tall ships the *Lord Nelson* and *Tenacious*. Further details can be obtained by writing to The Jubilee Sailing Trust, Hazel Road, Woolston, Southampton, Hampshire SO19 7GB or by telephoning Voyage Sales on 0870 4435783 or general enquiries on 0870 4435781.

## BATTLEFIELD TOURS NOW BOOKING FOR 2006

NORMANDY AND ARNHEM DATES FOR NEXT YEAR: Galina International Battlefield Tours have scheduled 26 different group tours to Battlefields in Normandy and Arnhem in 2006. They have tours to Normandy running through June and Arnhem in September. Prices start from £199. For more details telephone them on 01244 340777.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY ONE AND ALL

ANNIVERSARIES WORTH CELEBRATING: The **Review** and St Dunstan's are not alone in celebrating a milestone birthday. There are 34 St Dunstaners, one husband, three wives and 19 widows within the St Dunstan's family celebrating their 90th birthday this year. We wish them all many happy returns.

If you are looking for other reasons to celebrate, there are, of course, many events around the country commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II, with more specific VJ Day celebrations to follow next month.

Then, this year also marks the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar with events in Greenwich, Portsmouth and Southampton celebrating that Victory.

It is also the 400th Anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot. Details of Events in Essex, Warwickshire, Stratford-upon-Avon, Middlesex and London can be found on line at [www.royalgunpowdermills.com](http://www.royalgunpowdermills.com).

Finally, it is the 600th Anniversary of Dick Whittington making his walk to London. He became Mayor of London four times and his charitable work still benefits the Capital through the Mercers Company.

# An MBE for the Queen of Sultan

**E**LSPETH GRANT WAS made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in The Queen's Birthday Honours List on June 11th. She is being feted for services to blind ex-Service men and women, in particular her organisation of the annual summer camps at HMS *Daedalus* and HMS *Sultan* in Lee-on-Solent over more than 30 years.



Elspeth with Bill Miller and Sultan Camp helpers.

"It's overwhelming," said Elspeth. "I said I would accept it on behalf of all those people who have helped me over the years. It is their award really. So many St Dunstaners have rung to congratulate me. I also had calls from the Chairman, Michael Gordon-Lennox and Sir Henry Leach."

Before she retired, Elspeth was Assistant Matron at St Mary's in Paddington, London, but then became a Careers Advisor for the NHS. She first attended the Lee-on-Solent Camp, then at HMS *Daedalus* at the insistence of her cousin Avis Spurway. That introduction led to her taking up the mantle of Camp organiser in the early 70's. Since then, she has maintained a packed programme of activities for the attending St Dunstaners. It was only two years ago that she passed that responsibility over to Dave Burrows.

Dave was enthusiastic about Elspeth's award. "It's excellent news," he said. "She is a very humble lady and I can't think of a more deserving person to receive an award like this. It's

long overdue, but she has accepted with a grace and humility that only she can do."

Long time camper St Dunstaner Bill Miller voiced similar sentiments. "Quite delightful," he said of Elspeth's award. "She has put in a lot of work over 30 years, she's also a Governor of St Dunstan's so she's also helping out there. I am totally pleased for her, she is a lovely person."

Bridget Reed of Fareham, Hampshire, whose whole family have been dedicated camp helpers added: "I'm absolutely delighted and her acceptance was so humble, she said it was an award for everyone who has helped at the camp. That is so typical of Elspeth, it has been through all the time I've known her.

"It went beyond the camp, she used to keep in touch with St Dunstaners and widows through anniversaries, birthdays and many other things. She used to turn up at the camp laden with a big

heavy filofax and if you need to contact someone, chances are she had a number for them.

"She is a very caring person and that was reflected in everything she did at camp. Even if a St Dunstaner had one of the 'Dogs' with him, she would look around to make sure that they were getting a meal, or being helped, she made sure they were getting the attention they needed."

Congratulations also came from St Dunstaner Arthur Carter of Bolton, Lancashire. "I think it's wonderful. I remember her taking over the camp in the Seventies. She has worked very hard at the job and deserves the award. She is a delightful lady to know and very respected within the camp."

St Dunstan's Chief Executive Robert Leader concluded: "I am delighted that Elspeth has been honoured in this way and send her many congratulations and good wishes from all the staff and the many St Dunstaners who have enjoyed the fruits of her labours over 31 years."

## It strikes me...

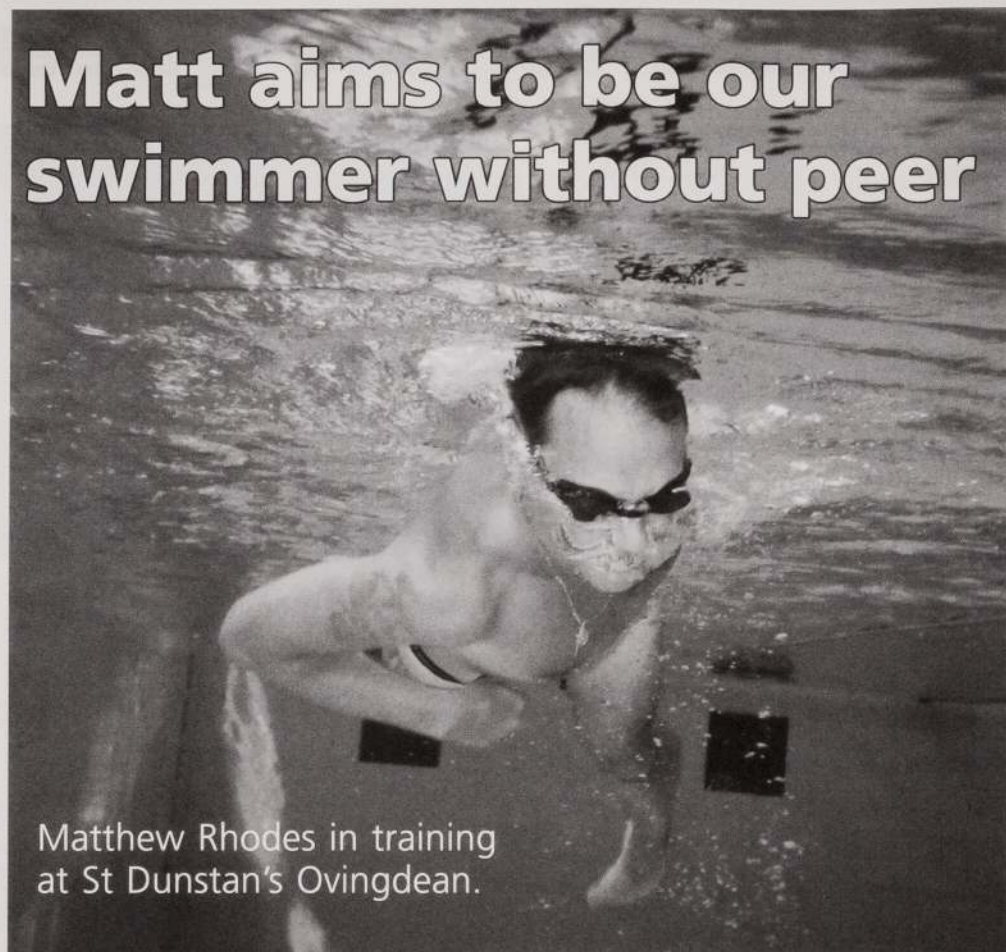
with Gog and Magog



GOG is heartened to hear that word of the work of St Dunstan's is reaching high places. When St Dunstaner Cecil Green met Prime Minister Tony Blair he was quick to mention the computer skills taught by our hardy crew of IT instructors. Take a bow, ladies and gentlemen.

Magog hears that for two ROVIs, the London to Brighton Bike Ride was a bit of a drag! It must be that sea air going to their heads, either that or they are mixing with too many Gunners. For several years running, members of Rehab & Training have hosted an activity day for a group of blind children and they are fundraising for the next event. Anyone wishing to sponsor Ian and Grant can contact them via Rehabilitation and Training at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. A full report on the Bike Ride will appear next issue.

## Matt aims to be our swimmer without peer



Matthew Rhodes in training at St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

HE IS A SWIMMER without peer, though he will be tackling the mile of water between two piers at the end of the month. St Dunstaner Matthew Rhodes of Peacehaven, East Sussex will attempt a swim from West Pier to Palace Pier in Brighton on July 30th.

The former Private from the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment will be swimming through the sea as a sponsored event supporting the work of St Dunstan's. The 30-year-old was invalided out of the Army after he suffered near-fatal injuries that robbed him of much of his sight and left him paralysed on one side of his body. Despite this, he has defied expectations by tackling a range of interests in the past. When he tried his hand at pottery the resulting

work was displayed at the American Embassy. Matt also proved to be a formidable golfer with a powerful backswing, defeating several national champions, when he joined St Dunstan's Golf Club.

Although he draws himself through the water with a similar one-handed stroke, Matt remains a confident swimmer. Recent weeks have seen him training for his new challenge in the pool at St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

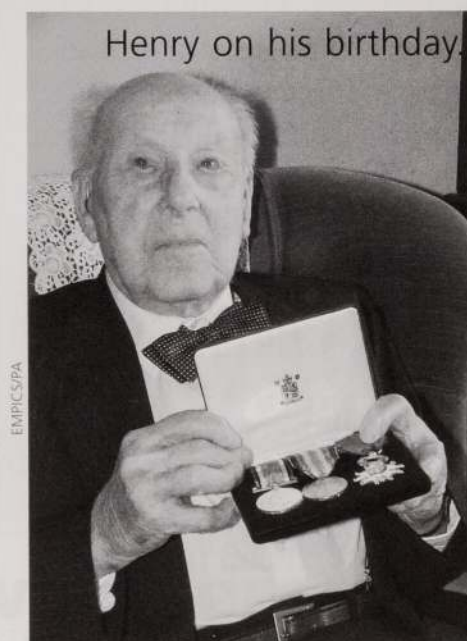
However, he is relishing the prospect of his outdoor challenge. "I find it easier to swim in the sea," he said, adding that sea water gives him some extra buoyancy. Hopefully the weather will be in his favour as he dives into the sea from the RIB *Ad Astra*.

## Henry is Britain's oldest man at 109

A ST DUNSTANER BECAME Britain's oldest man last month. Henry Allingham of Eastbourne, East Sussex celebrated his 109th birthday on June 6th. Pupils from a local school presented him with a birthday cake as friends and relatives helped him celebrate at a local hotel.

Henry received a birthday card from the Queen, presented by the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Mrs Thyllida Stewart-Roberts. Amongst the guests was Air Vice Marshal Peter Dye, Deputy Commander in Chief Personnel and Training Command. "It's been a real honour and privilege to be here with Henry. He is an inspiration to us all and we must never forget the sacrifices that Henry and his comrades made for us so that we can live our lives freely today," he said.

Another guest was nine-year-old Thomas Gibbons who was born exactly one century after Henry on June 6th 1996.



Henry on his birthday.

Henry served in the Royal Naval Air Service as an Air Mechanic during the First World War before transferring to the newly formed Royal Air Force in 1918.

Birthday greetings are also due to Anne Phillips of Southampton, Hampshire who celebrated her 101st birthday on April 30th. She is the widow of Royal Artillery St Dunstaner Albert Phillips. He served in the Army for 22 years and was a FEPOW.

## CBE for VI veteran

COMEDIAN ERIC SYKES received the CBE for services to drama from Her Majesty The Queen on June 7th. The veteran actor, who served in the Royal Air Force, is deaf and has failing eyesight. Despite suffering a stroke and

having a recent heart bypass operation, the 82-year-old continues to work on stage and screen. He joked that for his grandchildren, the honour surpassed his previous career high of doing voice-overs for the *Teletubbies* television show.

## Ten questions on...

The subject of medical matters

Doctor Harry Beevers is doing the rounds to test your grey cells with his Emergency Ward Ten!

- 1) In a hospital what is an I.C.U.?
- 2) Consumption is an old name for which disease?
- 3) Which complaint according to Lord Chesterfield is the distemper of a gentleman?
- 4) The oil of which tropical spice is also regarded as a cure for toothache?
- 5) What is the medical name for the complaint known as Lockjaw?
- 6) What name is given to the manipulation and massage of the feet to diagnose and cure various ailments?
- 7) Which medical discovery made Sir Alexander Fleming a household name?
- 8) A goitre is the medical term for an abnormal enlargement of which gland?
- 9) According to a Peggy Lee top ten hit of 1958, from which medical symptom was she suffering?
- 10) In July 2003, a team led by an Austrian surgeon performed the first successful transplant of which part of the human body?

Answers are on page 32.

## FEPOWS REMEMBERED IN NORFOLK

FAR EAST PRISONER of War St Dunstaner Alf Lockhart of Dagenham, Essex laid a wreath in memory of those who died in captivity during the Second World War on May 15th. He was representing St Dunstan's at an Annual Service of Remembrance for FEPOWs at the FEPOW Memorial Church in Wymondham, Norfolk.

The service was timed to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Relief of Rangoon and was led by Rt Rev Thomas M. Burns, SM, Bishop of the Forces. It was held at Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury, Wymondham, Norfolk which stands as a memorial to FEPOWs. It was established by Father Malcolm Cowin, former Roman Catholic Chaplain to the 2nd Cambridgeshire Regiment, a FEPOW himself who determined that he would build a church in memory of all those who died in Japanese POW and Internment camps.

Representatives of FEPOW, The Loyal Regiment, The Royal Norfolks laid wreaths. Alf was followed by officials from High Commissions and Embassies. They were followed by an act of Commitment and a final prayer and blessing for those who did not return and those who have died since.

## Terry and Maria take a bow

TERRY AND MARIA Bullingham have retired as a St Dunstan's Speaking Team after 12 years. During that time there has rarely been a day when Terry hasn't been addressing community groups, Probus, Rotary and other Service clubs. While he set up most of those engagements himself, Terry freely admits he may have got the easy end of the bargain. "Maria is the one who has had to drive me up and down the motorway at midnight and drive into the back of beyond and find the WI group that the Fire Brigade couldn't find," said Terry.

Having been blinded when HMS *Antrim* came under attack during the Falklands War, Terry has regularly recreated those events for his



Terry and Maria celebrated their retirement at HQ.

audience, followed by the rebuilding of his life with St Dunstan's. It is a point of pride that he has been able to reach out to other Service men and women. At a rough estimate, during the last three years some 60 St Dunstaners were introduced to the benefits of the organisation as a result of Terry's talks.

We wish Terry and Maria well in their retirement.



On June 13th, former High Sheriff of East Sussex Julian Avery presented to Head of Care Jackie Greer, on behalf of all the Care Staff at Ovingdean, the High Sheriff's Award for Excellent Care – in recognition of great and valuable services to the community. This presentation took place at St Dunstan's, Ovingdean in the main Lounge with our Chairman Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, Chief Executive Robert Leader, Ovingdean Manager Dick Lake and many St Dunstaners and staff also attending.

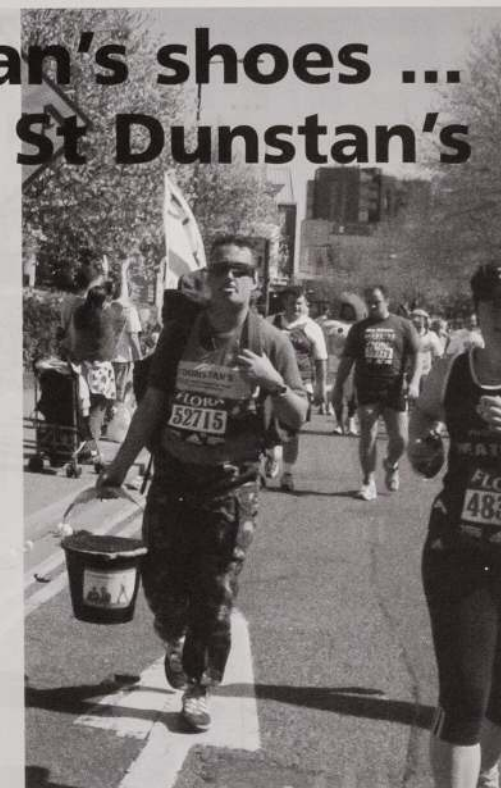
## Walk a mile in another man's shoes ... Marathon Steve ran 26 for St Dunstan's

In April, Steve Lloyd Brennan of RAF Uxbridge put himself in a St Dunstaners shoes by

running the London Marathon using a guaze blindfold to obscure his vision. He also ran with a weighty backpack and flag, crossing the finish line in 5 hours 55 minutes and 12 seconds.



That effort paid off. Last month, he presented Services Coordinator Graham Footer with a cheque for £1,625 to support the work of St Dunstan's. Well done Steve!



## Veronica is well versed in dealing with black eyes

Veronica Ferguson, FRCS, FRCOphth is the third member of St Dunstan's Consultant ophthalmology team. She went to medical school at Guy's Hospital, London and subsequently trained to become an ophthalmologist in Southampton, Glasgow and London.

In 1996 she was appointed to the post of Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Charing Cross Hospital and the Western Eye Hospital, both in London. In 2001 she was invited by the Patron to become the Surgeon-Oculist to the Royal Household. Veronica is married to James who recently completed 22 years service in the Territorial Army, latterly as Commanding officer of the Honourable Artillery Company. When not seeing patients she enjoys



skiing, gardening, cooking, keeping bees and riding her Irish Thoroughbred horse who recently gave her one of the best black eyes she has seen in 20 years of ophthalmology! Veronica very much enjoys the work she does as visiting ophthalmologist to St Dunstan's since joining the team in January 2004.



## Chris joins the Sheffield team

Chris Chambers joined St Dunstan's last month as Manager of our Sheffield Training Centre. He previously worked with the South Yorkshire Police Force.

A report on the official opening of St Dunstan's Sheffield can be found on page 20.

# 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.

## We had a great time reliving that special Church Stretton Experience once more

I have just returned from Church Stretton where a great deal of very hard work had gone into the programme. The hotel accommodation and food were excellent and the hotel staff very helpful, even the weather was good. In fact it was an excellent weekend spent in the Shropshire countryside.

It was a minority of those who attended this weekend, who really appreciated what I like to call "The Church Stretton Experience". This is a very unique experience which can only be shared by St Dunstaners, Staff, Escorts and Supporters who were in Church Stretton between 1940 and 1946. During those years young men and women, from the armed forces, from industries supporting the war

effort, and from the rescue services arrived at St Dunstan's. All had suffered major eye injuries. The majority suffering instantaneous total loss of sight, a great many also had other major disabilities. They also came from many nationalities. St Dunstan's could have formed a League of Nations.

To many, having recently left the horrors of war, to suddenly find themselves in the quiet Shropshire countryside, the effect was dramatic. The fact that one was able to climb into a clean bed and receive three good meals a day was also overwhelming. After a short stay in Tiger Hall, where one received the traditional Braille watch, one moved on to one of the houses. I arrived in Tiger Hall on a Monday, on Monday

evening the weekly dance was held in Stretton. When I enquired how we went to the dance, I was told another St Dunstaner would take me. It was with some apprehension, I allowed another St Dunstaner to take charge of me. He introduced me to the wire and after managing to fall into a ditch (fortunately it was dry) and having had an argument with a signpost, we had a pit stop in one of the pubs. I had had my first mobility lessons. No mobility trainers in those days, St Dunstaners helped each other. When a new hazard appeared the word was very quickly passed around. Like the vehicle weighing platform, very easy to get in, try getting out. I remember it well. The local people became experts extracting St Dunstaners from almost impossible situations. There is many a good story here.

Transport was scarce and was rightly reserved for the more severely disabled, no St Dunstan's transport taking people from door to door. St Dunstaners were expected to make their own way to and from their various training venues, this meant climbing up and down the wire many times a

day and again in the evenings if they wanted to go to the pub or go to a social function.

Then we met the First War St Dunstaners, who had been recruited on to the training staff, these were the men who made St Dunstan's what it is. They laid down a strong foundation on which we, the second generation of St Dunstaners, were able to build our new lives.

There were many other activities St Dunstaners could take part in. Some enjoyed tandem riding through the Shropshire lanes, some horse riding over the Shropshire hills. Many learnt to play musical instruments while others took part in Gilbert and Sullivan operas and there were regular excursions to Ludlow and Shrewsbury. There was an excellent social programme. Dances were held regularly in Church Stretton, many invitations were received from service establishments and communities in the area. On Sunday afternoons St Dunstaners often found themselves dancing to the music of one of the big bands which were around at that time. Many top show biz personalities came to Stretton. I remember well Rob Wilton telling the story about Tommy Gaygan going into the Canteen at the centre in Stretton, ordering a coffee and the NAAFI serving it up in Gibraltar. (To appreciate this story one needs to have known Tommy, who was a very well known and well loved St Dunstaner).

We owe a great deal to those who looked after us so well in the houses. To the VAD's, the

orderlies, to the cooks, and to the instructors at the various training venues and those engaged in administration. Another group who played a very important role in the "Church Stretton Experience" were the escorts and supporters. Many came in to Stretton in all weathers from Shrewsbury, Ludlow and surrounding areas.

The big highlight of my recent visit to Church Stretton was the afternoon I spent with a young lady and her husband at their home in Shrewsbury. I say young lady, that is how I recall her when she was my escort. Something must have rubbed off, her husband is a WWII veteran, Royal Marines.

## Fond and cherished memories

I must say it was a great thrill to attend the Church Stretton Reunion and Anniversary at the beginning of June. The whole weekend was a tremendous success and many old memories were revived. It was a deeply moving experience as most of us had fond and cherished memories of this place.

One felt that there was a touch of the real old St Dunstan's about this occasion and we revelled in the atmosphere!

The local people took a great interest in us and it was good to meet many of them at the church commemorative service. The St Dunstan's occupation seems to be a significant part of their

A word of thanks must be said to the locals in Church Stretton for tolerating us. The time came when St Dunstaners moved back in to the community, to be an asset and not a liability. There were many achievements, sustained achievements over many years, not the organised quick fix. I am sure that those St Dunstaners who shared the "Church Stretton Experience" and were recently in Church Stretton would like to express their thanks to St Dunstan's. Our Chairman, in the April **Review**, tells us they are playing the 90th anniversary low-key, the 100th anniversary will be a big one, I am putting my name down now.

**Bill Shea,  
Great Totham, Essex**

history and they have fond memories of it.

One incident that thrilled me was the meeting with Hope Turner who used to read to Alan Somerville and me at Stretton. We were both physio students at the time.

We are all grateful to Ray Hazan and his team for organising such a wonderful reunion and we say 'Well done St Dunstan's!'

The success of this event poses the question when can a reunion like this be set up again? It needn't be a lavish affair and could be held at another location.

**Norman Hopkins,  
Cardiff, South Glamorgan**

**Ray Hazan reports on the Church Stretton Reunion on page 22.**

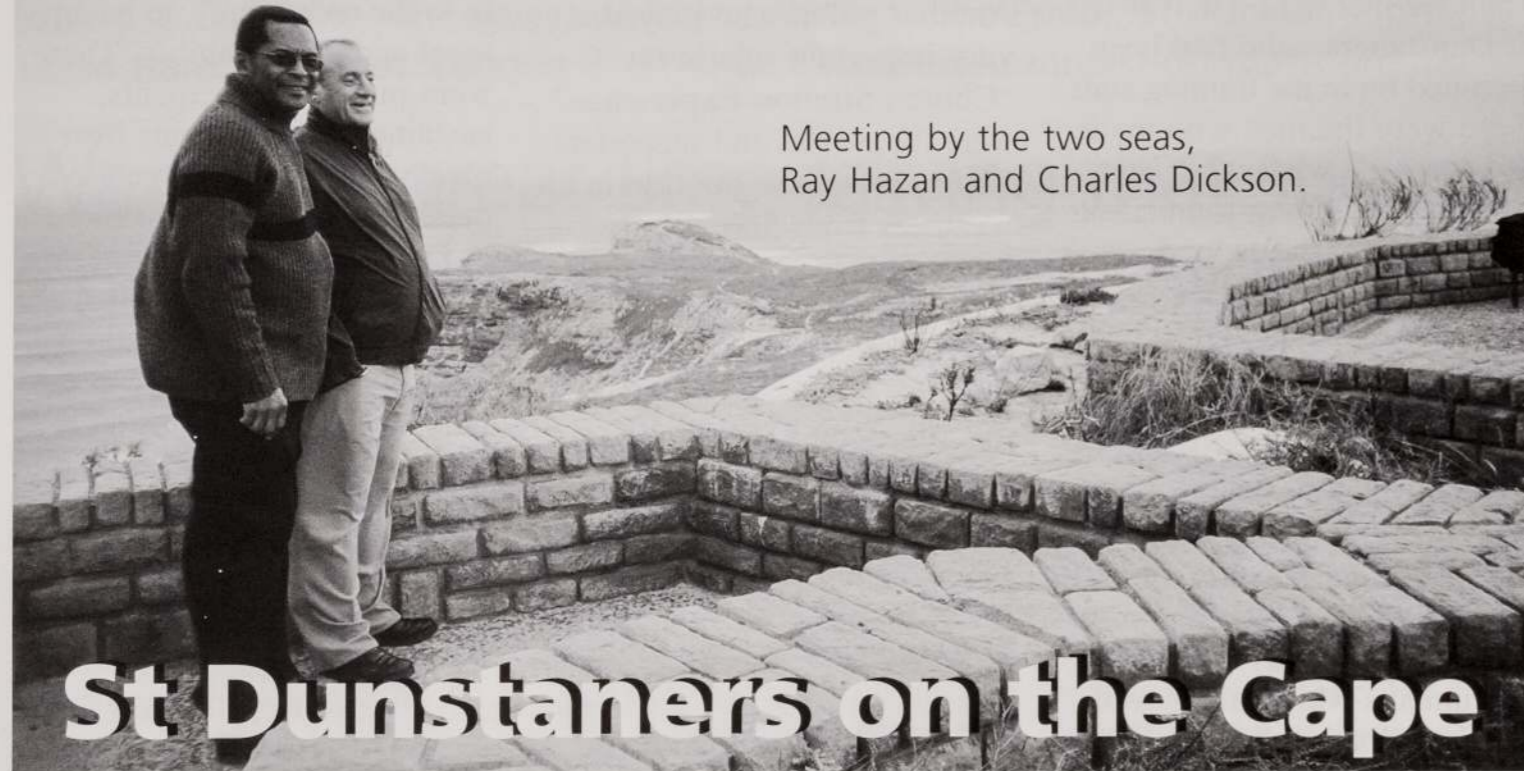
### A message from the Mayor

As Mayor of Church Stretton, may I say what a pleasure it is to welcome you all back to the Strettons. Thank you for inviting myself and my husband, the Town Clerk and her husband to share in your celebrations. Thank you for inviting us.

**Councillor Mrs Leslie McIntyre,  
Church Stretton, Shropshire**



President **Ray Hazan** visits St Dunstan's Association for South African War Blinded Veterans for their National Reunion



Meeting by the two seas,  
Ray Hazan and Charles Dickson.

# St Dunstaners on the Cape

TO FLY HALF WAY around the world, but on a North-South axis and find there is only an hour's time difference really cuts out the jet lag! But sitting up all night on an eleven and a half hour flight with little sleep still leaves one jaded! Robbie and I were fortunate and privileged to be invited to attend the St Dunstan's South African



St Dunstaner Mthunzi Mafu, his wife Margaret and Palesa Mtimkulu, widow of Dugmore Mtimkulu.

fourth National Reunion so excitement overcame all.

We were met at Cape Town airport by the Association's Chief Executive, Charles Dickson and given a short time to unpack before we were off sight seeing. We could not have had a more expert guide as Charles took us through history, politics and the geography of South Africa. A most notable visit was to Cape Agulhas, where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet.

We were very pleased to dine the first evening with the Chairman Brian Figaji. The next day we visited the St Dunstan's HQ. This is a comfortable two-storey building situated in a business park where four staff and the Chief Executive care for the 54 St Dunstaners, wives, widows and their families.

Other visits took in the Cape Town Society for the Blind, where visually impaired persons (VIP's) are trained so they can start their own businesses or become employed in the open market. The Institute for the Blind in Worcester, which looks after visually handicapped people from primary school to retirement is a wonderful place. We looked in on five-year-olds learning Braille but I was unable to assist as my Braille Afrikaans is not much cop! One of the several factories they run produces some 50 top class mattresses a day and what can be more impressive than a deaf/blind, wheelchair bound man working away in the workshop making springs for the mattresses?

That same day, we visited the home of St Dunstan's previous

Chairman, Lauraine Jones and her husband Malcolm. They live in a large bungalow in a small town and both lead very busy lives.

On Thursday, May 18th, we met up with the Cape Town St Dunstaners and flew up to Durban. It was there that other attendees gathered having flown in from all over the country. We coached one hour south of the city, with the Indian Ocean to our far left. The area was covered in sugar cane and interspersed with houses.

Pumula, on the south coast is in the magical place of rest and that was just what the hotel offered! A large terrace overlooked a swimming pool on the lower level and thence down to a sandy beach with the roar of the pounding surf a constant backdrop, for it was warm but windy whilst we were there. The hotel was a house previously owned by Bobby Locke, a well known post war South African golfer and home was just what it felt like!

Four St Dunstaners and six widows from the second war, 18 third generation St Dunstaners and two Widows, four Board Members, the Chief Executive and four



Ray, Robbie and Billie.



Seven of the third generation South African St Dunstaners.



Chairman Brian Figaji (second left) and the board of St D's SA.

staff attended. It was a pleasure for us to meet Billie McIntyre whose late husband Kenneth had trained and studied in the UK after the Second World War. Physio Roy French is also known to many of us over here. The third generation have not only lost their sight but in some cases limbs as well, as a result of exploding mines during the border wars of the 1980's.

There were two working sessions at which benefits were explained and issues over representation were discussed. I was asked to talk about the structure here in the UK, which differs in so far as policy and individual welfare needs are dealt separately, whereas the Board in South Africa deals with both. St Dunstan's South Africa

covers a vast land and people of different languages.

The formalities were interspersed with the exchange of news, comradeship and chatter which is the hallmark of any St Dunstan's reunion. I am pleased to report that the UK contingent were in the winning trivial quiz team!

On Sunday, May 22nd, we took our leave at Durban airport and 15 hours later were back in London. But there were sweet memories of new acquaintances, old friends revisited and above all, the realisation that the fraternity of St Dunstan's exists world-wide. The warmth of hospitality, the interest, the common cause and the bond of friendship that is unique to St Dunstan's.

Sarah Jarron reports on St Dunstan's entry into the Brighton Fringe Festival

## Blind artists make their mark!

**T**HE CRAFT WORKSHOP held their annual exhibition at St Dunstan's Ovingdean in May. This show was the first of its kind, in that it was held in conjunction with the Brighton Fringe Arts Festival, and consisted of an indoor gallery in the Ballroom and a sculpture trail in the grounds. The whole show was open to members of the public from May 20th-22nd, with access remaining for those in-house for the remainder of the week. And what a show it was!

The exhibition opened with a private view during the evening of Thursday, May 19th. Well over a hundred people attended to view work and enjoy a glass of wine. Almost all the St Dunstaners who had been involved in making the exhibits attended, bringing family and friends to view the show. There were also many guests from other local disabled arts groups (such as Limited Edition) and suppliers to the department. Amongst the guests attending the opening were St Dunstan's Chairman Michael Gordon-Lennox and Service Delivery Director Jeremy Hinton, who were both very impressed with the whole of the exhibition. Everyone who attended commented on how it had increased their understanding



A quiet moment on the opening night of the art show.

of what people do when they attend the craft workshop and the different ways in which not only art can be explored whilst blind, but also the different ways the department can support and help St Dunstaners. All the St Dunstaners who produced such a wide range of fascinating and original pieces commented how proud they were to be part of a show and that the experience had hugely increased their confidence and artistic abilities.

We were slightly unlucky with the weather over the duration of the exhibition, and therefore the sculpture trail did not receive as many guests as the indoor show. However, the issue of the weather became apparent early on and as a result five of the sculptures were kept indoors for people to view. Mabel the Mermaid and the Octopus were particular favourites. Even with the changeable weather, we still had a steady stream of

visitors throughout the weekend. Many of these guests have lived local to St Dunstan's for years but had no idea of the breadth of achievement St Dunstaners have accomplished.

Producing the exhibition took an enormous amount of work, from both St Dunstaners and staff. There were many reports of weary St Dunstaners going back to their rooms, all covered in paint, clay and dust, but I am sure everyone who was involved and everyone who visited would agree that it was a great success.

The exhibition has now been taken down; but don't despair if you didn't get a chance to visit. Many of the pieces are now being displayed in the corridor between the Craft Workshop and the Swimming Pool in the Ansell Wing. Some pieces were displayed at the official opening of the Sheffield Centre on June 9th.



Chloe was the second of the dancing figures, slightly taller than her sister opposite.



**Above:** Joyce Charlton and Dave Thomas with the sculpture of the Octopus. **Inset:** Frank Tinsley at work on Mabel the Mermaid. **Left:** A dancing figure called Gloria, one of a pair.



The Chairman tries to build a model ship he cannot see.



Pat works on a sculpture of a whale for the show.

# Master Cutler opens new St Dunstan's for the North



Master Cutler John J. Tissiman unveils the plaque that declares St Dunstan's Training Centre Sheffield to be open.

**V**ISITING ST DUNSTAN'S Sheffield brought back an old memory for Master Cutler John J. Tissiman. Broadcasts of the Festival of Light at the Royal Albert Hall would prompt his father to recall his days as a boatswain on the *Altradies*, taking migrants and other passengers to a new life in Australia. One passenger had been Ian Fraser, then Chairman of St Dunstan's and it fell on Tissiman Snr to

## Simon Rogers reports

escort him through they labyrinth of decks. "By the end of the voyage, this blind man knew his way round the ship better than my Father did," said the Master Cutler.

Moving to the business in hand, the Master Cutler, a title which recognises over 700 years of cutlery production in Sheffield, unveiled a brass

plaque and declared St Dunstan's Training Centre Sheffield to be well and truly open. The Centre has been established to meet the growing demand for St Dunstan's services in the North. It provides training in life skills, encouraging its pupils to regain and maintain their independence.

The opening saw the return of some of the Centre's initial pupils, St Dunstaners Dennis Busby, Ron Wilson, Harry Beevers and Sheila Rodman and more recent alumni seemed to be skipping class to raise a glass and sample the buffet being served by the Catering Partnership.

Since the 1860's St Dunstan's Sheffield has been home to a series of Sheffield industrialists, a Hall of Residence for women students, a home for nurses, and in turn a nursing home, then a training centre for guide dogs.

Mabel the Mermaid stands sentry on the flower beds leading to the lawn at St Dunstan's Sheffield occupied by a mix of St Dunstaners, dignitaries and guests who attended the opening.



St Dunstaners, staff, guests and supporters attended the opening of St Dunstan's Sheffield.



St Dunstaner Sheila Rodman and Support Worker Abby.



A demonstration of screen reading technology for the Master Cutler and Lord Lieutenant of Sheffield.



St Dunstaner Trevor Berry and ROVI Kate Taylor.



Ron and Margaret Wilson renew their acquaintance with retired St Dunstan's Area Surveyor David Rowe.

# Church Stretton Re-visited

Ray Hazan joins the Stretton trainees going down the memory wire

**T**AKE A GROUP of St Dunstaners and widows, place them in an environment which means so much to them; add a comfortable hotel, caring staff, good food and you have the makings of an excellent reunion.

As part of our 90th anniversary celebrations, it was decided to hold a special reunion for those St Dunstaners and widows who had connections with the town of Church Stretton. St Dunstan's 'invaded' the town when it was re-located there during the war years (1940-1946). It was here that the war blinded St Dunstaners commenced their training and rehabilitation.

David Vinall and his team of drivers performed miracles to gather people in from Aberdeen to Sidmouth and from the Isle of Man to Brighton. By tea time on June 3rd, the noise level of chatter and reminiscences was way off the decibel scale! Staff were politely 'ignored' as participants got



Going down the wire! WWII St Dunstaners at Church Stretton.

down to the serious business of 'do you remember?'

The Longmynd Hotel nestles in woodland overlooking the small country market town of Church Stretton, some 12 miles from Shrewsbury,

Shropshire on the A49. During the war, a wire guide led St Dunstaners from the hotel down to the town; the expression 'coming down the wire' is still used in the town today. However, St Dunstaners were not forced to adopt the same method and buses were laid on into the town on Saturday. It was fascinating for we 'outsiders' to accompany people such as Tom Hart, Bob and Joan Osborne or Reg Goding as they pointed out the 'hot spots' of their youth! Several townsfolk shook hands and welcomed the St Dunstaners as they strolled around.



Back to Stretton! St Dunstaners such as Bob Osborne, Len Withington, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, Fred Collingwood and Reg Goding returned to the Shropshire hills.

A dinner for 95 people was held on Saturday evening, which was attended by the Mayor of Church Stretton, Councillor Mrs Leslie McIntyre and her husband Colin, the Town Clerk, Mrs Christine Harvey and her husband Philip and Mr and Mrs Roberts. We were very sorry that Mary and Wilkie Marsden were unable to join the gathering. Mary had been very helpful in the organising of the event thanks to her many contacts, knowledge and love of St Dunstan's.

The Chairman, Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN, was the first to address the gathering. He welcomed the guests who underlined the association and strong links that St Dunstan's had with the town. He tried to understand why, to train blind people you had to choose sites on top of hills, as were Ovingdean and the Longmynd?

"This is a very special year for some very special people. It is St Dunstan's 90th Anniversary of Sir Arthur Pearson's



Happy memories! Dylis Saywell, Hope Turner, Anne Moore, Elsie Aldred, Joan Osborne and Joan Revis all recall Stretton.

brainchild and for the great majority of St Dunstaners, the 60th anniversary of your association with Church Stretton. It is your determination, courage, dignity and infectious spirit that has so astonished the world outside. Where those who have cared for you and trained you and have kept the Pearson beacon burning. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who served during the war. It is thanks to your sacrifices, that we enjoy the freedoms of today. We salute you."

The Chairman went on to say how much technology had developed since the war when St Dunstaners had to depend

more on their own abilities. "You succeeded in taking over from the first generation St Dunstaners and extending the boundaries of achievement to even greater heights."

He thanked the staff – Jackie Greer, Paul James, Bill Lyth, David Vinall and his team from Ovingdean; Welfare Officers Vanessa Cahill, Amanda Scales and Carol Henderson and Jeremy Hinton, Ray and Robbie Hazan from Headquarters.

The Chairman concluded by introducing the guest speaker, Major General Arthur Denaro, CBE. General Denaro commanded his Regiment, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars in the first Gulf war, had served with Special Forces all over the world, had been Commandant at RMA Sandhurst for three years and is a Council Member of the Prince's Trust, amongst other things.

The General said how touched he was to have been invited to attend the reunion and after mentioning Paul Walker and Anne Moore, to whom he had been talking, he responded to the request to talk about the



Major General Denaro spoke about issues facing the Army.



St Dunstaners John Harris and Norman Hopkins with Dilys Saywell.



Reg Goding and Marjorie Humphrey share some choice memories.



Marion and Bernard Blacker with Nancy Bickley.



Rev Graham Stones delivered a well received service.

army today. He said today's soldier had currently three concerns; Iraq, which was an illegal war, where equipment was not good enough and where no exit plan had been considered. The second concern was the ill treatment of Iraqi prisoners, which sullied the reputation of the British Tommy. The final concern was the destruction, to a certain extent, of the Regimental system. "Tommy," he said, "is very grateful for the support of people such as yourselves, who understand. You have left a legacy of commitment, selflessness, courage, a sense of adventure, loyalty and duty. These are the things that today's army has inherited from you."

He went on to talk about the training of today's army – mind, body and soul. The ability to take the right decision under pressure and to accept responsibility, often lacking today in other fields. "Because soldiers have that huge responsibility of bearing arms, it is vital they understand the strict rules on integrity, decency and behaviour."

He concluded by saying it was important to have fun and be able to 'laugh at life' and St Dunstaners were an example of this. While soldiers had to be prepared to give their lives, so was the nation responsible for looking after them – and it did. The General received great applause.

The vote of thanks was given by Past President Colin

Beaumont-Edmonds, MC. He regretted the passing of many Regiments but said how St Dunstan's was like a Regiment itself. Colin described how he had been given a watch whilst in hospital on the banks of the Nile, tradition still maintained. He added that Mr Davenport had to tell many in Tiger Hall, the hospital section in Church Stretton, they would never see again. He mentioned the other houses, Battlefield, Belmont where the girls were, Brockhurst and Denehurst.

"How simple life was then. There were no tape recorders, computers or mobile telephones. The spirit of St Dunstan's was conveyed by those blinded during the First World War and who trained us." There were nods of recognition as he mentioned various names. Colin went on to talk about the importance of getting a job and of the social life enjoyed at Church Stretton.

He concluded by thanking the staff of the Longmynd Hotel and in presenting a bouquet to Mrs Denaro, he said how he was sure she had been as much a support to her husband as St Dunstaners' wives and husbands had been to them. That did indeed draw much applause from the diners.

The Chairman then made two presentations. Firstly, in recognition of 18 years as President of St Dunstan's, Colin was given a digital radio to mark his devotion to the organisation. Colin

acknowledged the help and support he had received from his wife Joyce.

Ray Hazan was then presented with an engraved silver dish in recognition of having worked on the staff for over 25 years for St Dunstan's.

The sun shone brightly on Sunday morning as St Dunstaners sat outside the front of the hotel chatting and enjoying the fellowship of each other's company. The birds sang, not a car could be heard, which all provided a perfect background.

In the afternoon, we assembled at St Laurence's Church, where a plaque marking the association between the town and St Dunstan's had been dedicated in 1987. The Rector, the Rev Graham Stones led the joint congregation of St Dunstaners and local townsfolk in a simple but very moving service of celebration and commemoration. Tom Hart was asked to describe how things were in 1943, which he did eloquently and with moving acknowledgement of the role played by the people of Church Stretton. Mrs Nan Weaver then told of how she worked in the milk bar and of the St Dunstaners who frequented the premises. Then Nigel Marsden, son of Mary and Wilkie, read out Mary's very moving VE day memories, which were published in the May issue of the **Review**. The choir and



Church Stretton Town Mayor Mrs Lesley McIntyre and Colin McIntyre, Mjr General and Mrs Denaro, Town Clerk Christine Harvey and Philip Harvey, with St Dunstan's President, Chairman and Mrs Gordon-Lennox, and Chief Executive.

congregation sang lustily and prayers were dedicated to those no longer with us and to the work of St Dunstan's.

After, tea and biscuits were served in the Parish Hall where all could get together and have another 'good natter'!

Following dinner, the Dorrington Players under the leadership of Helen Townend provided entertainment in the form of songs and recitals, which had the audience laughing and singing. A young lady, Kim Robinson, sang the *White Cliffs of Dover* and *Lily Marlene* beautifully. It was a pleasant end to a perfect weekend.

Throughout the three days, the family bond, the comradeship and the love of life shone through. Staff maintained their high standard of willingness to help and meet any challenging problems with a solution – Church Stretton at 9 o'clock on a Sunday morning is not the easiest place in which to find

knicker elastic! Several staff said how they now had a much better understanding of why and how Church Stretton meant so much to those who were there.

The spirit which saw Britain through the war, that indomitable factor was rekindled, as was the friendship and very strong ties between town and St Dunstan's. As SDD Jeremy Hinton wrote, "It was wonderful to feel the St Dunstaners and widows enjoying themselves, recalling their memories and friendships with such enthusiasm. It was a real privilege to be allowed to sit on the fringe of such a major part of what is now our history."



St Dunstaner Edward Higgs.

# ALL GOING FOR GOLD

Simon Rogers finds St Dunstan's Archery Club shooting into high gear as they reclaim their crown from the Army team

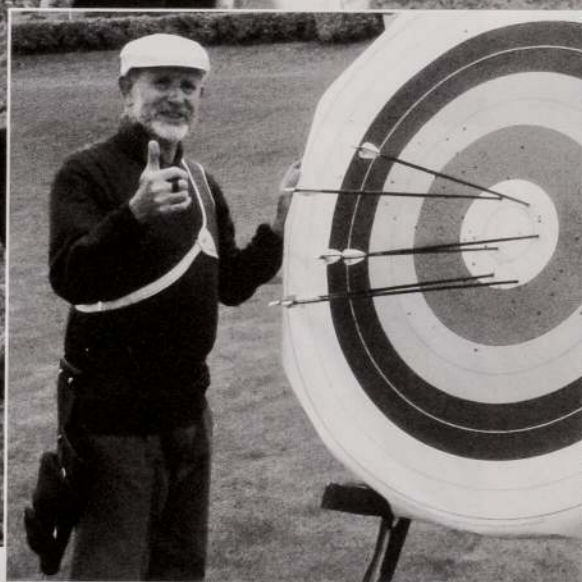
Cliff Ford lets loose his arrow



Major Wendy Le Gassick congratulates the winners.



Major Wendy Le Gassick and St Dunstaner Eric Bradshaw.



Brecon St Dunstaner Terry Ottewell shot six gold arrows on a rainy Saturday, then Bristol St Dunstaner Steve Moseley achieved a tight configuration during the Tri-Service contest. On the right, are the Army Archers who fought to hold their trophy for a second year.

**S**T DUNSTAN'S ARCHERS took back the trophy during their Annual Tri-Service Archery Challenge at Ovingdean on May 31st. St Dunstaners Clive Jones, Peter Hammond, Cliff Ford and Marjorie Scott produced the winning scores. The Navy were not represented this year, leaving



Marjorie Scott fires an arrow.

the Army to defend their title against St Dunstan's and the Royal Air Force. However, in the end it was clear that the home team had won.

The Archery Week had already witnessed some outstanding shots. On a day defined by erratic weather, St Dunstaner Terry Ottewell placed an arrow in the gold area on the target. Then another. And a third ... He was on a roll and all six arrows hit their mark.

A similar feat was achieved by Steve Moseley during the Tri-Service contest. He managed to place six arrows in the gold with a tight configuration.

St Dunstaners Eric Bradshaw and Phil Taylor shot with distinction from their wheelchairs and there were a variety of bows being deployed.

Next year's contest will be held at RMA Sandhurst once more. Will St Dunstan's hold on to the trophy or will the Army or RAF win the day?



A new tactile technique?

## REUNION ROUND-UP

THERE WERE 14 St Dunstaners and ten widows gathered for the Cardiff Reunion on May 24th at the St Mellons Hotel and Country Club, Castleton, Cardiff. Colin Low was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding and St Dunstaner Geoff Hockridge replied on behalf of those attending. The guest speaker was Nick Williams from the Cardiff Institute for the Blind, the city's oldest charity, currently celebrating its 140th anniversary.

Vice-Chairman Michael Delmar Morgan was the member of St Dunstan's Council presiding at the Burley Reunion on May 26th. There were 32 St Dunstaners and six widows at the

gathering held at Burley Manor Hotel. *That's Life* presenter and Childline Chairman Esther Rantzen recalled memorable characters from vox pop sections of her television shows.

Robert Ross the Piper set the tone for the Edinburgh Reunion on May 31st. Held at the Edinburgh Marriott Hotel, there were 31 attendees, five there for the first time. St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding, while Sydney Scroggie made a most lyrical reply. The guest speaker was Neville Bolton, Past president of the Rotary Club of Edinburgh.

There were 27 St Dunstaners,

and eight widows at the Chichester Reunion on June 8th. Chairman Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding at the The Marriott Goodwood Park Hotel, Chichester and St Dunstaner John Walbrugh replied on behalf of those attending.

There were 22 St Dunstaners and 14 widows attending the Exeter Reunion which was held at the Southgate Hotel, Southernhay East, Exeter on June 15th. Major General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding, while Past President Colin Beaumont-Edmonds made the reply.

## BALANCING THE BOOKS

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

**The Singapore Grip**  
**Author:** J.G. Farrell  
**Reader:** Gerard Green  
**Catalogue number:** TB3464  
**Duration:** 24 hours

THE JAPANESE INVASION of Malaya, the fall of Singapore and the military consequences thereof, are well documented and fairly widely known, but what about the civilians? What happened to the businessmen, I wonder, to the bankers, the shopkeepers, the artisans and thousands of workers that service a great city? They couldn't all get away nor all be imprisoned, so what befell the majority? During the first few chapters of this book, I fancied some light might be shed on such questions but such hopes gradually faded as time progressed. And I am still in the dark! I can't even tell you what the "Singapore grip" is. Suggestions in the text include a medical condition, a prostitutes' technique, and the Western stranglehold on the Eastern economy. You pay your money and take your pick. But this is not a bad book, not really; it is humorous in part without being hilarious and it is fairly interesting without being compelling. It's not the sort of book you really must tell your friends about, but it's not bad. After 24-hours of listening, I am sorry to have so little enthusiasm, but the fact is *The Singapore Grip* didn't grab me.



St Dunstan's Path at the National Memorial Arboretum is lined with a variety of heavily scented plants.

**M**Y WIFE JOYCE and I took a very short break in Staffordshire recently. We were staying at Wychnor Park just off of the A38 between Lichfield and Burton on Trent. On our coffee table was a folder containing information about places of interest to visit. Amongst these was a brochure advertising The National Memorial Arboretum, a site which is a living and lasting focus of remembrance for people from all walks of life. It sounded so intriguing and lead us to visit on a lovely sunny day.

Imagine our surprise when we drove into the car park to be greeted by not one but several of the local Constabulary as well as the usual parking attendants. Having been directed to park we did so without any

hesitation, and then made our way into entrance buildings. Still more policemen, and it seemed that the whole of the visitors centre was full Veterans of all ages standing and sitting around.

Curiouser and curiouser, well I could not restrain myself any longer so I asked one of them what was happening. I was informed HRH The Princess Royal had just finished inspecting the parade of The Women's Branch of The Royal British Legion and was now in the marquee having a cup of tea. It would appear that a garden was being dedicated to them and she was guest of honour.

Rather than being caught up with a few hundred Normandy Veterans and The British Legion, Joyce and I spend the next hour or so walking around the

Arboretum. We discovered such a wonderful place to visit, a haven of peace and contemplation set in the Staffordshire countryside where visitors can both enjoy and learn about the trees and reflect on their special symbolism. The arboretum is home to over 100 major memorials representing military and civilian organisations in addition to many individual dedications.

I actually found a memorial to the Adjutants General Corps where the plaque spelt out the background of this corps showing both my old corps,

the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Army Legal Aid.

Another wonderful surprise was when we were told that the walk from the Visitors Centre to the Chapel was called and dedicated to St Dunstan's we were pleased that I was wearing my St Dunstan's cap so made a point of looking conspicuous - just in case.

I think the most poignant memorial was the one to the Burma Railway and all those that lost their lives there just some old railway sleeper and a couple of rusty railway lines

up a slight rise in view of all those wonderful trees and other memorials.

If you are ever in the Lichfield area make a point of visiting this wonderful National Treasure, and walk down the St Dunstan's Path where you can smell the herbs and your cane will lead the way.

The Arboretum and the Visitor Centre are open daily from 10am to 5pm, or dusk if earlier. There is free parking for all visitors and no admission charges. More details can be found online at [www.lichfield.anglican.org/arboretum](http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/arboretum).

## PENDLETON'S PANTRY

This month, blind chef **Stephen Pendleton** is cooking a pie

### Chicken and Leek Pie

This recipe will serve five portions.

#### Ingredients:

1lb of chicken, diced.  
1 onion, roughly sliced.  
1 carrot, roughly chopped.  
2 leeks, roughly chopped.  
1 celery stick, roughly chopped.  
1 bay leaf.  
2oz of margarine.  
2oz of plain flour.  
4oz of puff pastry, bought at the shop.  
1 egg.  
Milk.  
¼ pint of double cream.  
Chopped parsley.

#### Method:

Prepare the chicken stock. In a thick bottomed pan, place the chicken, carrot, onion, celery and bay leaf. Cover these ingredients with water and bring to the boil, allow to simmer for one hour or until cooked.

Remove the chicken from the stock and cut into 1inch dices.

To make the sauce, melt the butter and flour and cook out to the blonde stage.

Add sufficient of the chicken stock to make a creamy sauce, add the double cream. Prepare the leeks. Cut tops and bottoms of leeks. Remove the

top layer of skin. Make sure you wash the leeks thoroughly. Leeks are absolutely filthy inside, so make sure you slit the leek open and run water inside as well as outside. Cut the leek up roughly.

Add the leeks to the chicken, then add the sauce. Place in a pie dish and cover with the prepared rolled out pastry.

Brush the pastry with milk and place in the oven for about 25 minutes at gas mark 5 or 170C. Serve this dish as soon as possible.

**Next Month:**  
**Egg and Bacon Banjo**

# Summer tea party in Weald

**O**N JUNE 2ND, a group of 22 St Dunstaners, Widows and escorts, met for a tea party by kind invitation of St Dunstan's Council Member, Tim Bacon, and his wife, Marylyn.

Those who found their way through the rural byways despite signposts twisted in the wrong direction, were well rewarded with a tour of their lovely Wealden hall-house, dated around the 15th century. These oak-framed buildings were popular in the Kent and Sussex Weald between 1370 and 1510. Tim and Marylyn have also worked hard on the adjacent gardens and the early summer flowers were a mass of different vivid colours.

The group also had an unexpected surprise with the arrival of Sir Donald Sinden, who dropped in to join the gathering and to entertain everyone with his lively stories and conversation.

Tea, sandwiches and cakes were served in their barn which has new modern kitchen facilities. Such was the abundance of excellent provision that everyone was issued with a "doggy" bag to take back home!

We all had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, tranquil and beautiful surroundings, good weather and excellent company and our grateful appreciation goes to Tim and Marylyn for their most hospitable and generous welcome.



Louise Weeks, Sir Donald Sinden with Gaynor Mankin, Tony Pontet, Betty Martin and friend.



Tim Bacon and Arthur Marsh enjoying their summer tea.



Dick Hollingsworth thanks Mrs Bacon for her hospitality.

# Welcome to ST DUNSTAN'S

**John Boagey** of Durham served in the Royal Air Force from 1936 to 1970.

**Leo Brittain** of Ormesby, Middlesbrough served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**Thomas Bryden** of Rowlands Gill, Tyne & Wear served in the Royal Tank Regiment from 1946 to 1948.

**Maud Casey** of Leigh on Sea, Essex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1945.

**Bertram Clark** of Wellington, Somerset served in the General Service Corps, Royal Engineers and Royal Army Pay Corps between 1943 and 1947.

**Maurice Clarke** of Gillingham, Dorset served in the Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve from 1939 to 1946.

**Harry Corton** of Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Signals from 1945 to 1948.

**Robert Dean** of Bournemouth, Dorset served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

**Francis Dickinson** of Blackpool, Lancashire served in the Royal Engineers from 1945 to 1947.

**Yvonne Farish** of Lichfield, Staffordshire served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1945 to 1953.

**Margarita Greenwood** of Cardiff served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

**Gordon Jackson** of Hartlepool, Cleveland served in the Merchant Navy from 1945 to 1952.

**Royston King** of Lancing, West Sussex served in the Home Guard during 1941 and then the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Leslie McKinnon-Lower** of Frinton-on-Sea, Essex served in the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1946.

**Elsie Markham** of Margate, Kent served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

**John Matthews** of Middlesbrough, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Frederick May** of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the Middlesex Yeomanry and Royal Signals between 1938 and 1946.

**Rowland Morgan** of Linthorpe, Middlesbrough served in the Royal Air Force from 1938 to 1946.

**Robert Myland** of Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the Merchant Navy from 1944 to 1947.

**Frank Newcombe** of Merriott, Somerset served in the Royal Navy from 1949 to 1977. Some St Dunstaners

may recall Frank from camps at HMS *Daedalus*.

**Tom Owen** of Amberley, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 to 1946.

**Norman Pearce** of West Mersea, Essex served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1941.

**Dennis Punton** of Liss, Hampshire served in the TA, Royal Engineers and Black Watch between 1937 and 1946.

**Vincent Shaw** of Horsforth, Leeds served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**William Stocker** of Stockport, Cheshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Richard Sutton** of Bispham, Ormskirk, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1940 to 1946.

**Ronald Syrett** of Gloucester, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1947.

**Stanley Taverner** of Westgate-on-Sea, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1939 to 1946.

**Robert Walker** of Saxilby, Lincoln served in the Lincolnshire Regiment from 1942 to 1947.

**Richard Workman** of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1966.



# Last WW1 Cavalryman Smiler dies, aged 108



Last of the Cavalrymen, Albert 'Smiler' Marshall at Ovingdean with WWI St Dunstaner Frank Parsons.

THE LAST SURVIVING cavalryman to have ridden into battle on the Western Front during the First World War died in May, aged 108. Albert 'Smiler' Marshall of Ashted, Surrey survived battles at Loos and the Somme after lying about his age when he joined the Essex Yeomanry in 1915.

Early battles saw him charging the enemy with drawn sword, and in March 1917 he suffered a hand wound that saw him returned to the UK. However, once it had healed, Albert returned to the Western Front as part of the Machine Gun Corps. He earned the nickname 'Smiler' after throwing a snowball at a sergeant who promised to "give him something to smile about." After the War, he

completed tours of duty in Ireland before being discharged in 1921. During the Second World War, he served in the Home Guard.

Nearly 90 years after signing up, Albert was awarded the Legion d'Honneur.

In civilian life, he worked as a handyman in a greenhouse.

Some St Dunstaners will remember Albert from a variety of Veterans' functions, in particular the 106th birthday celebrations of another WWI veteran, the late St Dunstaner Frank Parsons.

Albert is survived by a son, 12 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

## Admissions correction

Contrary to a Welcome to St Dunstan's entry in a recent **Review**, Mr Raymond Le Page of Painswick, Gloucestershire served initially in the Queen's Regiment (Training Bn) as an Officer Cadet from 1944 to 1945. Commissioned into the Royal Hampshire Regiment, he was posted to India and served in the 14th Punjab Regiment. He then transferred to a supervisory role in 3113 German POW Camp, Tel-el-Kabir, Egypt in January 1947 and was subsequently demobed in UK in 1947. In 1950, he volunteered for service in the 13th Bn Parachute Regiment (TA) as Company Commander retiring in the rank of Captain in 1954.

## Ten answers

Answers from page 11.

- 1) Intensive Care Unit;
- 2) Tuberculosis; 3) Gout;
- 4) Cloves; 5) Tetanus;
- 6) Reflexology; 7) Penicillin;
- 8) Thyroid; 9) Fever; 10) Tongue.

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

**Congratulations on the birth of:**

Hia Weno on May 16th. She is the great-great-granddaughter of *Frederick Cox* of Horsham, West Sussex. Freddie is pleased to say that for the second time in his life there are five generations of his family.



## WEDDINGS

**Congratulations to:**

Tony and Mitch Harbour of Saltdean, Brighton who married on June 11th. It was a double celebration for Tony who was also marking his 70th birthday. St Dunstaner Jason Hobday was Best Man, sharing the honour with young Archie, making sure the happy couple got off to a good start.

## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**

*Robbie and Cynthia Robins* of Southampton, Hampshire on June 4th.

## DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**

*Nancy and Frank Chadwick* of Oldham, Lancashire on May 26th.

*Ken and Anne Clare* of Wendover, Aylesbury on June 2nd.

*Leonard and Peggy Hobbs* of Waterlooville, Hampshire on June 6th.

*Samuel and Kathleen Bartholomew* of Middlesbrough, Cleveland on June 9th.

*George and Gladys Powell* of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire on June 16th.

*George and Elsie Roberts* of Cardiff, South Glamorgan on June 16th.

## SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**

*Samuel and Grace Keating* of Exmouth,

Devon who celebrated their 69th anniversary on June 6th.

*Leonard and Miriam Simpson* of Whickham, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear who celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on June 7th.

*Alec and Daisy Higgins* of Eastbourne, East Sussex who celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on June 14th.

*Hugh and Jane Rance* of Rottingdean, East Sussex who celebrated 66 years of marriage on June 17th.

## DEATHS

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

**Sarah Burne** on April 4th. She was the wife of *Granville Burne* of Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset.

**Emily Bower** of Warwick, Warwickshire on May 31st. She was the widow of Royal Navy St Dunstaner *Edward Bower*.

**Ethel Henderson** of Dundee, Angus on May 25th. She was the widow of *William Henderson*.

**Beryl Hughes** of Bryn Gwran, Anglesey, Gwynedd on May 16th. She was the sister of the late St Dunstaner *John Hughes*.

**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.**

**James Slow**

King's Royal Rifle Corps  
James Thomas Slow of Upwell, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire died on April 20th, aged 87. He enlisted with The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) in 1940 and trained at Blanford before transferring to the King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Posted to Africa, he took part in El Alamein and fought through to Italy with the 7th Armoured Division. He suffered damage to his hearing after a landmine explosion in 1943 and lost a finger in 1944. Discharged in 1946, he eventually became manager of an office cleaning company before starting his own firm in this field. His interests included reading, writing, bowling and snooker. Our sympathy goes to his widow Marie and all of the family.

#### **Richard Randall**

Royal Canadian Navy

Richard Charles Randall of Surrey, British Columbia, Canada died on April 25th, aged 84. Originally a fisherman, he served as a Signaller in the Royal Canadian Navy from 1939 to 1941. In civilian life, he became a poultry farmer. Our sympathy goes to his widow Hazel and all members of the family.

#### **Henry Waterman**

Royal Engineers

Henry Frank Waterman of Lingfield, Surrey died on May 14th, aged 88. He worked with cranes and scaffolding before joining the Royal Engineers in 1941. He served in India, Burma and Africa and was WOII Sergeant Major when discharged in 1946. He resumed work in scaffolding and continued working until he was 77. Our sympathy goes to his sons Brian and Chris and all other members of the family.

#### **Frederick Hipwell**

Queen's Regiment

Frederick James Hipwell of Litcham, Norfolk died on May 16th, aged 78. He joined the General Service Corps in 1945, but then transferred to the Queen's Regiment. He served in Germany and in India, helping with riot control in the lead up to independence. He was released to the reserve in 1948. In civilian life, he was a painter-decorator. His interests included football, swimming and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Janis and all other members of the family.

#### **Jesse Mills**

Royal Engineers

Jesse Mills of Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent

died on May 18th, aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1982. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1939 and was posted to the Far East. He spent his 21st birthday, December 25th, on board a ship heading for Hong Kong. Two years later, the same day in 1941, he was captured by the Japanese. He spent four years in Sham Shui Po prison camp in Kowloon. The malnutrition and privation he experienced would eventually cause his loss of sight. Discharged in 1951, he worked on road maintenance for Kent County Council before retiring to concentrate on his allotment and garden. A stalwart member of St Dunstan's Bowling Club, his interests also included gardening, racing and toy making. Our sympathy goes to his widow Marjorie, sons Geoffrey and Gary and all of the family.

#### **Francis McQuaid**

Royal Air Force

Francis Gerald McQuaid of Allestree, Derbyshire died on May 19th, aged 77. He worked for Cadbury before joining the Royal Air Force in 1946. He served in the UK and Singapore as an Instrument Mechanic before discharge in 1948. He worked as an actor, social worker and later in submarine research. Our sympathy goes to his son Terence, daughter Linda and all members of the family.

#### **Jack Martin**

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers  
Arthur James Martin of Ovingdean, Brighton died on May 21st, aged 93. He was a London bus driver before joining the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1943. He was posted to Conwy to train in recovering tanks from the battlefield. He was discharged as Staff Sergeant in 1945 and worked in car repairs before joining Schweppes as a driver. He was a keen gardener and DIY handyman. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Viki, sons and all other members of the family.

#### **Raymond Douglas**

Royal Navy

Raymond Alfred Douglas of Redditch, Worcestershire died on May 23rd, aged 68. He joined the Royal Navy in 1954, beginning his

service on HMS *Ark Royal*. He sailed on destroyers and cruisers before discharge in 1964. In civilian life, he worked in machine assembly and took work at Royal Enfield and BKL Alloys. Our sympathy goes to his widow Pauline and all other members of the family.

#### **Frederick Crimp**

Royal Artillery

Frederick Walter John Crimp of Bromley, Kent died on May 26th, aged 88. He had been a cinema usher and denture manufacturer before joining the Hampshire Regiment in 1940, deployed on First Line Reinforcements. In 1942 he was transferred to the Gloucestershire Regiment and later that year to the Royal Artillery as part of 94th Anti-Tank Regiment. He fought in North Africa, Italy and Austria before being discharged as a Gunner in 1946. In civilian life, he worked for Tate and Lyle and later for British Aerospace. Our sympathy goes to his son Frederick and all other members of the family.

#### **James Blackwell, DCM**

Hampshire Regiment

James Ernest Blackwell of Crieff, Perthshire died on June 5th, aged 88. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1943. He worked in a Machine Drawing Office in the early 1930s but then became branch manager of Walton's fruit shop in Covent Garden before joining the 1st Battalion, The Hampshire Regiment in 1940. He was serving with them as Lance Sergeant in July 1943 during the advance on Pachino, Sicily when two Battalions came under fire from the rear. Attacking the enemy with two other men, he got to close quarters using hand grenades and tommy-gun. The trio captured two officers and 55 men with a quantity of weapons. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal which was later presented at Buckingham Palace by King George VI. He was feted for showing similar conduct on subsequent occasions but within a few months, he was wounded in action. Discharged in 1944, he became a shopkeeper but later retrained as a telephonist, joining Shell-Mex and BP at their Bridgewater terminal. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Jean and all of the family.

#### **John Powell**

Middlesex Regiment

John Edward Powell of London died recently, aged 90. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1940 and was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment in 1941. He was Adjutant at Chester and landed in Normandy on D-Day+2 before fighting through to Hamburg. He was discharged as Major in 1946. In civilian life, he was a solicitor for 40 years. Our sympathy goes to his widow Gertrude, their son and daughters and all of the family.

#### **Walter Harse**

Royal Air Force

Walter Colin Ivor Harse of Peacehaven, East Sussex died on June 11th, aged 91. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1943. In civilian life, he was a works manager and then transport engineer for Beechams. A skilled model maker, much of his work was radio-controlled, he built replicas of ships, cars and aircraft. He also collected watches and clocks which he repaired and maintained. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Marylou and all other members of the family.

#### **George Holt**

Royal Army Service Corps

George Charles Holt of Gillingham, Kent died on June 11th, aged 66. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1958 to 1960. In civilian life, he was employed in a variety of clerical appointments then later became an accountant. His interests included stamp collecting, model boats and cars. Our sympathy goes to his widow Pearl and all of the family.

#### **Robert Orrell**

Royal Navy

Robert Joseph Orrell of Bury, Lancashire died on June 12th, aged 81. He joined the Royal Navy in 1941 and trained as a radar operator. His first ship was HMS *Delhi*, a light cruiser, and he was involved with the North Atlantic Sea Convoys. He later served in the Mediterranean for the invasion of North Africa, Sicily and Italy. Discharged in 1946 as Acting Leading Seaman, he returned to accountancy. Our sympathy goes to his widow Marjorie, sons Martin and Richard and all of the family.

# Blind driving for the L of it!

**T**WO ST DUNSTANERS drove off in support of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association on June 5th. Tony Watson of Sunderland and Colin Williamson of Hebburn, Tyne & Wear both stepped up for the Drive Challenge despite their visual impairment.

“It was a great day out,” said Colin. “I drove around the test track at the Nissan car factory in Sunderland in a dual controlled car with a sighted driver and then did some manoeuvring around cones, eventually reversing into a garage. Great fun, nice to be back behind the wheel again. I was then invited to be co-driver in a rally car and sped around a rally course at 105 mph. Thrilling stuff!”

For Tony, it was his first time behind the wheel. “I’ve never had a driving lesson,” he said. “Not even when I could see. I always had motorbikes. I was a bit nervous at first but after going round the track three or four times it got better. When I hit it up to 85mph I really enjoyed it then.”

Tony was watched by his family, though that wasn’t enough for his 20-year-old daughter Tegan. She also took up the challenge, driving under blindfold. “She said it was very unsettling driving with the blindfold on,” said Tony.

St Dunstaners take GDBA challenge to go driving - and one never passed his test!

Colin folds his white stick before getting behind the wheel.  
**Below:** In the rally car.



**Above:** Tegan found driving with a blindfold an unsettling experience.

**Right:** Tony’s confidence grew as he drove round.