

September 2005

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ST DUNSTAN'S Review



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

September 2005

ST DUNSTAN'S Review

No 950

Ladies reunite at Churchill's home



Margaret Roger and Gaynor Mankin were amongst the Ladies group in the gardens at Chartwell House. More on page 15.

Bravo for the Band!

The Band of The Royal Marines returns to Ovingdean on page 18.

Celebrate the Peace!

St Dunstaners give their accounts of the Victory Day celebrations in London, starting on page 18.

Plus Noticeboard, Balancing the Books, Ten Questions, and lots more!

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St Dunstan's meets the Red Arrows

Cover story:



These sensational air aces pass within mere feet of each other. St Dunstaners examined the jets up close during a visit to the Arrows' base at RAF Scampton. Details are on the back page.

Don't be a prize line chump!

Beware telephone offers that ask you to dial premium rate lines. Find out more on page 16.



How did a St Dunstaner come to meet these chaps? Find out on page 28

Tel: 020 7723 5021

Fax: 020 7262 6199

Editor: Ray Hazan

E-mail: ray.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk

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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



ON BEHALF OF the Board of Trustees, I would like to welcome St Dunstaner David Stuttard as a member of Council. With Ray Hazan and Jamie Weller this brings to three, the numbers of St Dunstaners on the Board. The recent Charity Commission visit commended us as a beacon to others for having beneficiaries as Council Members; we have always done so and I am delighted that current representatives are of such high quality.

As I write this a Royal Navy specialist team has just completed a sensational rescue of the crew of the Russian Navy mini-submarine with the British Scorpio ROV. What an amazing story to fly all the way to the western Pacific at almost instant notice and succeed in cutting free all the entrapping cables and fishing paraphernalia at great depth. We can justly be proud of the professionalism and dedication shown as we set an example to the world.

This applies equally to the almost unbelievable speed that our Police and security authorities have identified and arrested the London bombing suspects and perpetrators, which creates great confidence. The American Shuttle is safely back, and wasn't that second Ashes Test Match the most exciting ever? Summer is hanging by a thread and by the time you read this, the schools will soon be back. I hope those of you, who are able, have managed to get away and enjoy a relaxing break.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

ST DUNSTAN'S Calendar

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
Dancing Week	October 24th-29th
Bowling (II)	Oct 27th-Nov 9th
Writers' Forum	Nov 5th
Fishing Club	Nov 7th-10th
Remembrance Sunday	Nov 13th
Writers' Forum	December 3rd
St Dunstan's Day	December 9th
Christmas 'Week'	Dec 18th-28th
New Year 'Week'	Dec 29th - Jan 7th

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Archery (1)	Jan 20th-28th
Music Week	Feb 12th-18th
Computer Club(1)	Feb 22nd-23rd
Amateur Radio(1)	Feb 24th-March 3rd
History Week	March 5th-11th
Bowling (1)	March 19th-April 1st
Ex-POWs Weekend	April 7th-9th
Masonic Weekend	April 21st-23rd
Gardening Week	April 30th-May 6th
Handless Reunion(tbc)	May 10th-16th
Archery (2)	May 26th-June 3rd
Widows' Week (1)	June 18th-24th

Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

PERMANENT ADMISSION TO ST DUNSTAN'S OIVINGDEAN

MORE SHORT STAY PROVISION: For the time being, and subject to annual review, only War Blind or Service Blind St Dunstaners will be eligible for permanent admission to Ovingdean. This will not affect those wishing to stay at Ovingdean for training, holiday and respite care. This measure will enable more St Dunstaners to participate in short stay provision and thus assist them to retain their independence in the community as numbers continue to increase.

Non-War or Service Blind St Dunstaners who require a permanent place in a care home will receive support from the Charity on a case-by-case basis particularly around their needs associated with visual impairment.

These measures will not affect those non-War or Service blind currently resident in Ovingdean.

DINING ROOM SEATING AT ST DUNSTAN'S OIVINGDEAN

SEATING PLAN HELPS US TO HELP YOU: Although we try to be flexible to cope with the numbers using the main Dining Room, this is the usual state of affairs for where people will be invited to sit:

The far end of the room on the round tables served by PBK: those who do not require support such as holiday makers, permanent

residents with visitors, trainees or respite care visitors with spouses/carers.

Rectangular tables served by the Residential Care Staff are held for permanent residents (unless with visitors), unaccompanied trainees and respite care visitors.

The small rectangular tables at the Lounge end of the Dining Room are normally reserved for wheelchair users.

Where individuals state a preference such as unaccompanied visitors wishing to sit together at round tables or join others already there, we will facilitate this if we are requested (ideally in advance of coming into the dining room) unless space dictates otherwise.

On some occasions, especially Mondays and Wednesdays, we have so many local visitors requiring lunch that we may have to put on a second sitting for those who come in as dailies. Daily visitors who require meals do need to let us know by 18:00 the previous day, please, unless they are content to have a salad or sandwiches.

If you are coming in to stay and do not want the main choice on your first day, then please contact the Lounge Desk (01273 391659) by 18:00 the previous day to check the menu and to place your order from the alternative meals on offer.

**Dick Lake,
Ovingdean Manager**

MORE HOURS FOR SPORT

NEW TIMETABLE: The Sports Department opening hours will increase as of September 5th.

Please note the following additions to the timetable:

Swimming Pool opening hours:	
Monday to Friday	9:30am-18:30pm
Saturday	8:45am-10:00am 11:45am-13:00pm

Gymnasium opening hours:	
Saturday	10:15am-11:30am

Group Sports Activity:	
Saturday	14:00pm-16:30pm

St Dunstaners are invited to participate in a sports activity every Saturday afternoon. The activities will change weekly, details of which will be included in the 'Activities Programme'.

The opening hours will be reviewed after a three month period and may be subject to change, depending on levels of usage.

For more details contact Louise Timms at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 307811.

CAPITAL RUNNERS WANTED

THE ULTIMATE RUN: Now is the time to get your running kit out of the cupboard and blow those cobwebs away by preparing to taking part in next year's London Marathon! Entry is conducted by ballot which closes on October 21st this year. The 26-mile event will be held on Sunday April 23rd 2006. It is the running event to be part of, and it is worth getting your entry form sent off as places fill very quickly, well before the closing date. For more details of the event and how to prepare, contact Andy Alliston at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 307811.

COMMANDO CHALLENGE 2005

CAN YOU BEAT THE BEST?: The Royal Marines Commando Challenge will be held in Exmouth, Devon over October 22nd-23rd and is set to be another superb weekend. It provides an opportunity to have a go at overcoming the famous commando obstacle course that the Royal Marines still currently use as part of their training. Inevitably participants get covered in mud and raise money for a great cause at the same time.

The Saturday is the three-mile fun challenge. It is still quite physical and care has to be taken but is surprising fun.

The Sunday event uses the same obstacle course but also incorporates a run that covers a variety of terrain before you tackle the assault course – then you have to run back to the finish. This is much more physically demanding for the participants, who have to be prepared to run whilst tired, cold, wet and covered in mud. It is not easy going but last year's team found it an exhilarating experience. The event runs rain or shine. The closing date for entering the event is October 3rd. If you feel you are physically up to the challenge contact Andy Alliston at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 307811.

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR FISHING CLUB

FRED PASSES ON THE TORCH: St Dunstaner Fred Bentley recently stepped down as Chairman of St Dunstan's Fishing Club. His fellow fisherman praised his work for the club, thanking him for all his help and effort over the years. St Dunstaner Phil Dobson has been elected as the Chairman of the Fishing Club while Stan Bowers has been made secretary. Phil can be contacted on 01273 305352. Stan can be contacted on 07810 504632.

COOKING AND CRAFT FOR CHRISTMAS

SEASONAL SEASONING: There is an opportunity for a small group of St Dunstaners to participate in a week of cookery and craft instruction at Ovingdean focusing mainly on Christmas fare from November 27th-December 3rd. To register your interest, please contact Activities Coordinator Lyn Mullins on 01273 391426 as soon as possible.

BOWLS COACHING

EASY TO LEARN, FUN TO PLAY: St Dunstaners staying at Ovingdean may like to consider bowls as some light relief in between their scheduled activities. Andy Allisiton in the Sports and Recreation department is looking at options to provide some bowls coaching in the McKinley Sports Hall. For more details call Andy on 01273 307811.

TAKE A BREAK IN BLACKPOOL

HEARTY WELCOME AT CENTURY HOTEL: The Century Hotel is a specialist hotel for visually impaired holiday-makers situated in a prime location on Blackpool Promenade. Information on the area is available in large print, braille and on tape. Rooms are equipped with emergency calls and there are talking lifts. For details contact Martin and Margaret Gregory at Century Hotel, 406 North Promenade, Blackpool, Lancashire FY1 2LB. Telephone 01253 354598.

STAFF CHANGES

CAROLINE PAYNE: Welfare & Grants Administrative Officer Caroline Payne left St Dunstan's at the end of August. She will be working for a charity that provides housing services for people with learning difficulties.

NORTHERN IRELAND VETERANS REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

WREATH LAYING AT NATIONAL ARBORETUM: The Northern Ireland Veterans Association Service of Remembrance will be held at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire on September 24th. The Service commences at 11:30am.

Wreaths will be laid in memory of those who gave their lives during the fight for peace in Northern Ireland. NIVA are inviting anyone, who wishes to lay a wreath to do so. Wreaths in honour of individuals, regiments or organizations are welcome.

After the service NIVA hope that guests will join them at the Royal British Legion Alrewas to raise a glass to absent friends.

They have also secured discounted accommodation at the Holiday Inn Lichfield for those attending the service.

The hotel have offered NIVA a room rate of £50, which is a saving of £22. Please can anyone booking a room state that they are booking under the Northern Ireland Veterans Association in order to obtain the discount. This room rate is also available for either the night preceding or after the Saturday. The contact details for the Holiday Inn are Express By Holiday Inn, Wall Island, Birmingham Road, Lichfield WS14 0QP. Telephone 0870 7201078.

NIVA hope that as many Northern Ireland veterans as possible will attend not just to pay their respects but so they can make the Saturday evening an informal social occasion.

More details can be found on www.nivets.co.uk. NIVA Chairman David Langston says all are welcome but should anyone wish to advise him they will be attending, he can be e-mailed on BRITDOG@theshed594.fsnet.co.uk.

MEDAL SERVICES

MOUNTING SPECIALIST: Anyone interested in pursuing the following should contact Home Counties Medal Services direct and not through St Dunstan's.

Home Counties Medal Services is run by Chris Rollason, a former member of the Ex-Royal Sussex Regiment who now specialises in medal mounting (full-size or miniature) to wear or frame for display. He can supply full size replacement medals in many cases. Miniature medals also supplied and mounted. A full range of medal accessories such as ribbons, brooches, bars etc is available. Regimental and forces ties can be supplied as can blazer badges.

For details, contact Chris Rollason (Medal Restoration), 53 Bodiam Crescent, Hampden Park, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 9HQ. Tel: 01323 506012.

HARRY POTTER IS MAGIC IN BRAILLE AND LARGE PRINT

UK PUBLISHING FIRST FOR ROWLING NOVEL: The latest instalment of the Harry Potter saga conjured up a surprise for blind fans in July. For the first time a major UK novel was published in Braille and large print on the same day as the regular edition of the book. You can buy a copy of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* in Grade 2 braille at the recommended retail price of £16.99 from RNIB. Telephone RNIB Customer Services on 0845 702 3153, e-mail cservices@rnib.org.uk or order via their online shop. The 18 point large print versions are available from libraries and bookshops. An unabridged audio version of the novel, narrated by Stephen Fry was released last month.

The author has a screen reader friendly version of her website at www.jkrowling.com/textonly/welcome.cfm.

SET YOUR SIGHTS HIGH FOR BLIND AMBITION WEEK

FINAL PHASE OF BLIND AMBITION CAMPAIGN: St Dunstan's have laid the final building block in the Blind Ambition Campaign which, over the past three years, has seen Billy Baxter break the blind land speed record, Mark Threadgold set the blind water speed record and Jamie Weller well down the road to becoming the world's first blind hot air balloon pilot.

The campaign has soared well over the £100,000 donation target and has been seen as a roaring success from start to finish. But we're not there yet...

As we all know, one of the ever-so-true motto's of St Dunstan's is 'achieving the ordinary and extraordinary'. Billy, Mark and Jamie have all demonstrated the extraordinary, but now we want you to show us how you've recovered your independence and broken down the barriers that each St Dunstaner faces every day.

The St Dunstan's 'Blind Ambition Week' – from Monday October 10th and until Sunday the 16th – will provide a chance for all St Dunstaners to show just how independent they are at home by holding and showcasing the activities that most matter to you – you might want to participate in a sponsored walk or swim, hold a BBQ for your neighbours, lay on a bowling or archery match or even organise a night of dancing.

Each event will provide an opportunity for your local media to come along, participate in the activity and create a story that will raise awareness of St Dunstan's up and down the country. For further information, help with organisation or for any other ideas please contact the Press Office (020 7616 7939) or e-mail Rory Scott on rory.scott@st-dunstans.org.uk.

Blind Ambition Week coincides with World Sight Day which falls on October 13th.

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.

Guiding the blind on mountains

There are many ways to be guided and most of us have our preferred way but there is one I have not seen used by other people. When we joined St Dunstan's I was taught to hold my guide's arm just above their elbow which is fine until your way is just a very narrow path and it is impossible for two people to be side-by-side. Dropping behind and holding on to the guides shoulder is possible but often you tread on their heels and sometimes the path can be narrow for many miles resulting in the arm holding on to the guide's haversack or shoulder getting tired. I have seen two ways to overcome this.

One way is for both guide and blind person to hold a stick, say in their right hands and in this way the blind person will not tread on the guide's heels but there is a tendency to swing off the path on a twisty section.

The other way is to hold on to a sling, which has the same result of swinging but also if the guide stops then the blind person bumps into them.

Personally, I have found a most satisfactory way by using the steel handle from my guide dog harness. A long strap is placed



Mike adapts the handle from his guide dog harness.

round my guide's haversack to which I clip on the harness as shown in the photograph. The great advantage here is that my guide can use both his/her hands for balance and I do not step on their heels if they stop suddenly and there is less swinging on tight corners.

In fact, you have just trained your guide to behave like your dog and I find it much easier. When the African blind folk from The Salvation School for the Blind in Kenya first climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in 1968, a spade handle was cut down and fixed by a universal joint to their guide's waistband, almost the same as using the

dog's harness but the latter is much lighter. If you let go of the harness handle it just hangs limp and does not get in the way.

I climbed Ben Nevis last month and to my surprise found over 3,000 other people doing it as well. A bit different from the first time our little climbing club known as the Milton Mountaineers ascended it 36 years ago. Back then, we had a letter sent to us by the Chief Constable of Inverness begging us to call off our foolhardy attempt to take blind folk up Ben Nevis and threatening us with criminal proceedings should there be a mishap. How ideas have changed!

However, in one way they are now going backwards, because I was recently told by a Health and Safety idiot – or should I say officer - that for the blind to hold on to their guide was not safe because, should the blind person stumble and fall, he would pull the guide down and this risk was too great. So in future, the guide must insist on holding the blind person's arm and propelling them along. Save us from idiots and do-gooders!

The leather covered steel harness in the photo is so thin that it looks like a piece of string but it is very strong.

I would like to bring to the notice of fellow St Dunstaners, a great organisation enabling blind folk who would like a holiday but have no one to go with them to join Vitalise (previously the Winged Fellowship Trust). They have 3,500 blind folk on their books and 1,600 guides and organise several hundred holidays per year ranging from short weekend breaks to long haul adventure, interest, educational or sun worshipping venues. Every blind person has a guide and there is a team leader. At present all the team leaders are ex-servicemen. I have had over 40 holidays with them all over the world and in the UK. I prefer going with Vitalise rather than spending time at Ovingdean because guides are provided all the time. They cater for all ages. Ring Vitalise at 01539 735080 for details.

**Mike Tetley,
St Alban's, Hertfordshire**

Marine at St James's

On the evening of July 8th, my daughter and I attended a reception at St James's Palace. This was part of the 60th anniversary celebrations to mark the end of World War II that were being held in London over that weekend. The reception was given by the Lord Mayor and the City of London and was hosted by the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. Those invited to the reception were WWII Veterans and serving members of regiments who had the freedom of the City of London.

The Corps of Royal Marines was founded in 1664 from the trained bands of London with the Duke of York and Albany

Maritime Regiment of Foot. The trained bands of London had yellow facings on their uniforms, hence the yellow in the regimental colours of the present day Corps of Royal Marines. There were about thirty WWII Royal Marines Veterans present. It was a great pleasure for me to meet up with some of those I served with in 40 Commando. My daughter and I also met the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. Those serving members included the Director of Royal Marines and the Corps RSM, a fellow King's Badgeman. By the time we left, the lamps in St James's Palace were really swinging.

**W. F. Shea,
Great Totham, Essex.**

Exhibition was so interesting

Very many thanks for the information in the **Review** on how to obtain a Veteran's badge. I promptly applied and was very pleased to be able to wear my badge when attending the opening of the Veteran's Exhibition in St James's Park. I was privileged to hear the speech made by Prince Charles and then to visit all the stands. Everything was so interesting I went to town for a second visit on Saturday. Particularly enjoyable was the camp concert. The sight of a barrage balloon and the sound of an air raid siren certainly brought back a lot of memories.

Joyce Graham, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

Flatlander takes to the hills

I am writing to thank you and your colleagues for organising the Walking Holiday last month. It was new country for me – some of the Downs were pretty steep for an East

Anglian! I thought the local ramblers had put in a real effort to make the whole week an enjoyable experience for us.

**Bob Simpson,
Norwich, Norfolk**

It was a wonderful experience

I am writing to thank all concerned for the opportunity to attend the Anniversary Commemoration on July 10th. It was a wonderful experience and I felt very privileged to join my fellow comrades on such an occasion. The whole weekend was thoroughly enjoyable and the actual ceremony on Horse Guards Parade was both moving and reflective but reminiscent and happy.

I would like to convey a very sincere thank you to all those concerned who worked so hard to ensure that all the arrangements were carried out as planned, especially in view of the dreadful bombing incident in London immediately before hand. You all did a wonderful job.

Mabel Haynes, Nuneaton, Warwickshire

Commendable organisation!

May we once again commend St Dunstan's for their excellent organisation of the recent function to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. We were so fortunate to be allocated tickets for the pageant at Horse Guards Parade. The entire weekend was an absolute delight with all responsibility having been taken off our shoulders. It was a great pleasure to have been looked after so well by Barbara

Sweeny and her husband Michael. They were totally efficient and caring. Please convey our grateful thanks to them both and to all your backroom staff who made the weekend such a pleasure. Needless to say, to people of our generation it was pure nostalgia and a great delight to chat over the war years with old comrades.

**Paul and Rene McCulloch,
Enfield, Middlesex**

Privileged to be there

My sister and I enjoyed the weekend in London, in particular the magnificent session at Horse Guards Parade. We felt very privileged to have been given the opportunity to attend.

**Stanley Ludkin,
Sherburn, County Durham**

Screen reader Dictionary can make your exception rule

I was surprised to read that Mark Threadgold did not like you using Sept for September. One option is to put the abbreviations in his exception dictionary and every time the screen reader meets Sept it will say September. Simple!

**Mike Tetley,
St Alban's, Hertfordshire**

Thank you for helping me to carry the torch

I fully intended to write to you in time for the August **Review** but I was so overwhelmed with cards, calls and letters following the honour of MBE I received in Her Majesty's Birthday Honours that I just did not get around to it!

Now that I have 'calmed' down I really must write and thank all those St. Dunstaners and many other friends for all

their congratulations and good wishes. The more than fulsome tribute in July's Review quite stunned me (and embarrassed me) You are all too too kind. However, as I said when I first heard of the honour I do really share with all those who have been with me over the past 31 years in helping and taking part in the camps at HMS *Daedalus* and HMS *Sultan* which have given me so much pleasure and

so many good friends.

I know the camps will continue under the efficient and caring guidance of Dave Burrows carrying on the splendid plan of Avis Spurway for St Dunstaners following the first World War so many years ago. I am proud to have been able to carry on her torch and thank you all so much for helping me do so.

**Elsbeth Grant
Saffron Walden, Essex**

We are indebted to the Ramblers

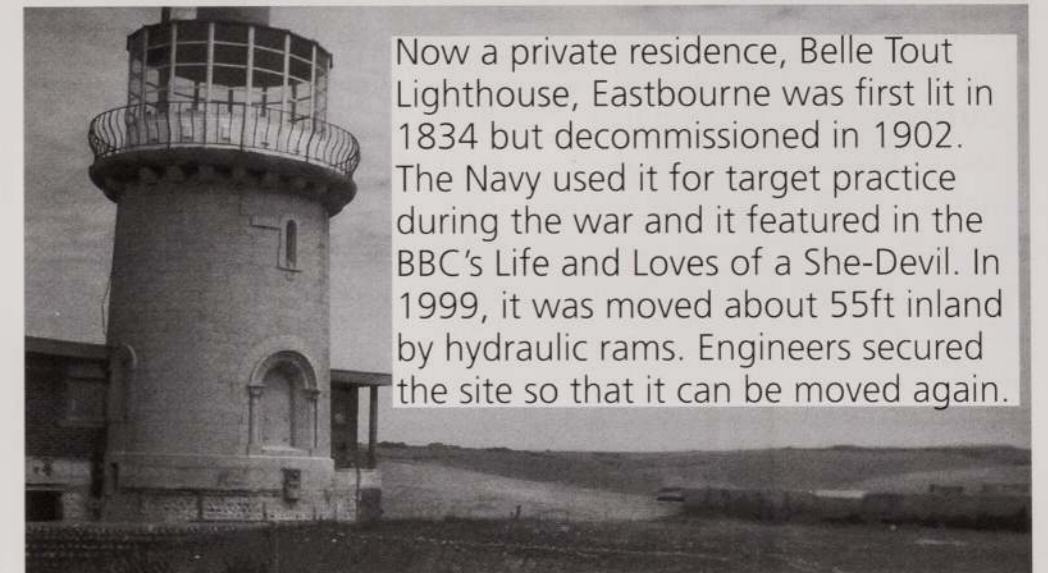
Just a note to share with your readers about the Annual Walking Holiday this year held in West Sussex. Joyce and I feel that we would like to express the following to say thanks for a interesting and informative week walking with the St Dunstan's Walking Club in and around the Brighton area in June.

Each of our walks was supported by either the Brighton and Hove Ramblers or the High Weald Ramblers. How fortunate we were to get these clubs to take us out, what a lot of interesting information and history together with local knowledge. We both feel indebted to these people for a most enjoyable week walking.

So many wonderful views and the weather was mostly very good. With maybe one or two exceptions which I will leave in the memory of those who unfortunately had nowhere to go and took the full downpour on our first day. Thankfully it was only ten minutes to the bus.

The poppy fields of Alfriston were wonderful and we were so lucky to be there at the right time to enjoy them. Only a slight misting of rain, wonderful company and lots of information given. What an enjoyable start to our week.

Firle Beacon was a walk steeped in local history with



Now a private residence, Belle Tout Lighthouse, Eastbourne was first lit in 1834 but decommissioned in 1902. The Navy used it for target practice during the war and it featured in the BBC's *Life and Loves of a She-Devil*. In 1999, it was moved about 55ft inland by hydraulic rams. Engineers secured the site so that it can be moved again.

the flint underfoot and Sussex falling away in the distance what a sight. Once again, we were given so much information about the area, and lucky for us, shown a native orchid of the Downs.

The day we ventured towards Beachy Head we were treated to so many flowers and things to see, but the one that sticks out in our minds, was the call of the wonderful skylark. At our stop for lunch within sight of the Seven Sisters we were lucky enough to get a brief glimpse of a three-masted schooner which was passing out to sea. Onwards and upwards towards the lighthouse where we were told a brief history of its construction and subsequent move, from here to the finish point. What stunning views.

Ashdown forest (home of Pooh Bear, and if you want to you too can play Pooh Sticks!) which had once been a great forest but now sadly most of

the trees are gone. So much history and in the background the sound of gunfire I suppose the Army were out again. Lunch was taken at a lovely pub in one of the Ashdown forest villages. To end our walk we were treated to a cream tea in the sunshine.

A half day walk was planned for our last day and we stayed within a few miles of Ovingdean. This time a circular walk around a native reserve, once again we were treated to flowers, butterflies and birds.

In all we walked some 30 miles over the week, were shown some unforgettable sights and entertained by a group of walkers who met our every need. Overall a wonderful week and a good time was had by all.

**Chris and Joyce Ottewell,
Llandrindod Wells, Powys**

• Ted and Beryl John reveal more about the Walking Week on page 24.

Serif or sans? A question of fonts

I am an IT instructor at Sheffield and the other day I was browsing through the **Review** when I noticed that some of the fonts in various articles were different, now you may think this is not much of an issue, but when I taught at University it was an agreed standard that people with reading difficulties and some forms of dyslexia could not read serif type fonts very easily - these being fonts such as Times New Roman, but could read sans serif fonts such as Arial. This is due to serif fonts having thin lines and thick lines within the same character purely for elaboration, whereas sans serif fonts do not and are of a standard thickness and it is

therefore easier to differentiate between each character that makes up the word, rather than characters flowing into one as with serif type fonts.

I do not know if this has been mentioned before, but could I suggest that if the **Review** was printed in a single standard Sans Serif font such as Arial, it may be just that little bit easier for some St Dunstaners to read.

All text and reading materials (where ever possible) at the University were converted to Arial because of this discovery.

**Dave Hickey,
St Dunstan's Sheffield**

• The **Review** uses a sans

serif font Frutiger for headlines and display features. This was adopted in recent years as part of St Dunstan's corporate image. Frutiger was originally designed in 1976 for signs at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris. It is one of the most popular typefaces in the world.

For body text, we use a serif font, Times New Roman, which was designed by Victor Lardent and Stanley Morrison for *The Times* newspaper in 1931. The perceived quality of the Times design is regarded as a hallmark for font designers.

Some letter combinations such as **rn**, **oo**, **oa** or **lll** lack distinction in sans serif form.

A real diamond day marked 60 years together

On June 2nd, my husband (St Dunstaner Kenneth Clare) and I celebrated our Diamond wedding anniversary. We never expected to reach such dizzy heights of wedded bliss! But here we are. Ken says we must have been doing something right to have lasted this long!

As we are both over-80 and constantly "under the doctor", we planned only a small celebration. Our daughter Jillie and her son Tom bought a Chinese takeaway and a bottle of champers, set it all up, washed up and put it away - lovely! All I had to do were the flowers and cards. Included in the cards was a very welcome

letter from St Dunstan's Chairman congratulating us on reaching the auspicious day. Thank you kind sir. The postman had handed me a letter to be signed for. "It's from The Queen!" he whispered with all due awe - and it was - a beautiful coloured photograph and her smiling eyes followed you wherever you moved.

It took pride of place on the mantelpiece. Well after all; I couldn't stick it on the wall with Blue Tack like the other cards, could I?

Then the flowers! I used to enjoy floral arranging, but it is a bit of a chore nowadays. Which

is why I was so delighted when we received a basket of flowers from St Dunstan's. All I had to do was to keep it nurtured and watered. What a masterpiece it was. The theme was white and green with all perfumed flowers (which ken appreciated being now totally blind), white carnations and rosebuds, cream freesias with eucalyptus sprigs to complete. Sadly, after a fortnight, I had to dismantle it but I did find three cream artificial "skeleton rose leaves which we are keeping as a memento of our special day. Thank you again St Dunstan's.

**Anne Clare,
Weandover, Aylesbury**

Paras pain is St Dunstan's gain

SEVEN SOLDIERS dipped their toes in the sea at St Bees Head on the West coast of Cumbria on July 25th and ran out eager to start their 192-mile walk across the country to Robin Hood's Bay on the East coast of Yorkshire. The Coast to Coast Walk was devised by Alfred Wainwright, a famous guide-book producer, and is usually accomplished in ten days or more. The men of 144 Parachute Squadron intended to do it in five days! Staff Sergeant Ken McIntosh had spent months planning the operation. The seven walkers had gathered sponsors and a pre-walk event at their Nottingham base had raised money, with all the proceeds going to St Dunstan's.

They made a good start on the first day, covering 46 miles as planned, in spite of constant climbing and descending. The support team had the tents erected and a meal ready and waiting. Without the support team, the walkers would have been hard pressed to achieve their objective.

The next two days passed in a similar way, but their feet were really feeling the punishment. The men are from a medical regiment and their skills came in very useful. They were now walking between 31 and 38 miles a day.

The weather so far had been good for walking but the



fourth day turned out to be the rainiest the area had seen for many years. RSM Warren Kerr described it as "A very emotional day." They battled not only with increasingly painful feet and growing fatigue but also with torrential rain. It became difficult to see where they were going as well as cold and uncomfortable. The walkers described lying in the tents that night with water running through holes in the roof and streaming under their camp-beds until a nearby farmer told them to use his barn. They all doubled into shelter where the dry warmth gave them their best night's sleep of the trip and left them refreshed for the last leg of the walk.

By lunchtime on the fifth day, the walkers came into Robin Hood's Bay where they met St Dunstaners Harry Beevers and Colin Williamson who were to walk the final stretch with them. Harry and Colin presented them with a St Dunstan's plaque, then they all set off down the very

steep slope into the old fishing village. To complete the walk they now had to dip their toes in the North Sea. Down on the beach they were very grateful to find that the tide was in and they would not have to scramble the extra few yards across the rocky shore.

At last they could go into the nearby Wainwright Bar in the Bay Hotel, sign the book as having completed the walk and sink a rewarding pint or two. The locals were very impressed that they had done the walk in five days - a bench-mark for future attempts.

St Dunstan's can be impressed by their fortitude and suffering on their behalf. Congratulations to RSM Warren Kerr, Staff-Sergeant Ken McIntosh, Major Mike Orpen, Captain Dave Gray, Corporal Mick Sumner, Lance Corporal Greg Conway, Lance Corporal Mark McAuley and Private Glen Haye together with the support team of Major Owen Jones, Sergeant Richard Louth and Private Howard Hylton. Well done lads!

It strikes me...

with Gog and Magog

Gog hears that St Dunstaner Colin Williamson encountered a new mobility problem during a recent trip to the 620ft tall BT Tower (or Post Office Tower if you are over 21). Settling down to lunch in the restaurant, he noted that the loos were to his back when seated at the table. However, after following a quick call of nature his return journey brought him to a different table. Compass wise Colin's bearings were true, but, of course, the Tower's restaurant rotates, giving diners a panoramic view of London over a 22 minute period. Colin went in the right direction but his table had quite literally moved round.

Magoog recalls that in the May **Review**, a St Dunstaner's Wife compared her lot with that of a Footballer's Wife. "But then again," she mused, "who wants to be called Chardonnay?" It is something that actress Susie Amy has come to contemplate as well. "Who does?" says Susie. "But I get called that all the time." Susie is now touring in a stage revival of *Wait Until Dark* (more on page 30). In the meantime, her tv character is hard to shake. There are now over 50 girls in England and Wales who have been christened Chardonnay by their parents. Maybe they will find a beau with one of the 21 Romeos that have followed the son of Victoria and David Beckham into the world.

Mike is the Master



Three St Dunstaners who have won the UK's top blind golf prizes in recent months. Dave Morris, who won the British Blind Golf Open Championship, Mike Mayo who claimed the Masters title at Saltash, and Des Chandler and Mike Mephram who won Best B1 golfer during the Open and the Stableford competition during the Masters.

by David Morris

MIKE MAYO travelled from one end of the UK to the other to win this year's Lawrence Levy British Blind Masters by one shot. The Navy St Dunstaner from Lesmahagow, Lanark returned to his old stomping ground of China Fleet in Saltash, Cornwall for the tournament held July 25th-28th.

Play for the British Blind Masters was reduced from four days to three days because of thunderstorms and a waterlogged course. Mike was in second place after day one. He moved into the lead

on day two and despite strong challenges from three other players, he retained his lead to a very close finish.

Mike puts the win down to his "fantastic" guide and sticking to his game plan. He decided that after day one he would play off the fairway with a six iron rather than a four iron giving a more accurate strike. He played very conservative, very steady and all "his puts dropped."

St Dunstaner Des Chandler of Lewes, East Sussex won the Stableford Competition that runs consecutively with the British Blind Masters. Des stayed on track with help from his guide Mike Mephram.

Lavender blooms at Churchill's home



Barbara Bell and some of her fellow lady St Dunstaners sample the aromatic lavender at Chartwell House in Kent. Visiting the home of Winston Churchill was one of the highlights of the Ladies' Reunion in July.

TWENTY-SIX LADY St Dunstaners set up base at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on July 17th for an eclectic week of activities. The week started with luncheon in the Winter Garden, a chance to meet up and swap stories. An undoubted highlight was a trip to Chartwell in the Weald of Kent, the one time home of Sir Winston Churchill - "Our saviour" in the words of one St Dunstaner. The house is set in extensive gardens with herbaceous borders and rhododendrons. There is also a wall that Churchill built himself during his wilderness years. Musical diversions during the week were provided by The Band of The Royal Marines and the Brighton Male Voice Choir. Outings concluded with the opportunity for some shopping in Royal Tunbridge Wells.



Kate Hands, Elsie Scullion and Julie Waters at Chartwell House.

Ten questions on...

The subject of France

Harry Beevers goes continental!

- 1) On what date in July do the French celebrate Bastille Day?
- 2) Which town in South-West France became a centre of pilgrimage after visions of the Virgin Mary were seen by St Bernadette?
- 3) Which Paris dance-hall, a venue for music and cabaret opened in 1899, staged early performances of the can-can and had posters by Toulouse-Lautrec?
- 4) Which cross with two horizontal bars was adopted as their symbol by the Free French during the Second World War?
- 5) What name was shared by ten Kings of France including ones with the nicknames the Bald, the Simple, the Fair, the Victorious and Mad?
- 6) What is the principal currency unit of France?
- 7) The name of which sweet cornflour dessert is derived from the French for "White food"?
- 8) Which colour is closest to the flagpole on the French national flag?
- 9) The cold northerly wind known as the Mistral is associated with the valley of which French river?
- 10) Why were an estimated 800,000 people partying on the Champs Élysées on the night of July 12th 1998?

Answers on page 33.

Don't be a prize line chump!

Free holidays lose their shine when you have to call a premium line to claim

ON JULY 30TH, I received a mobile phone text message from 'Top Tone' thanking me for a 'ringtone order' and advising that I would be charged £4 a week unless I cancelled the order by calling customer service on a number beginning with 09.

Having never placed an order for a ringtone, I ignored the message. However, it was sent out to many thousands of UK mobile users, some of whom threw caution to the wind and angrily rang the number to cancel the bogus order. Those that did were kept on hold for up to four minutes before being told lines were busy and to try again later. Anyone who did that was paying £1.50 a minute for the privilege. Some people would have paid more when mobile network service charges were added on.

Companies such as Orange, T-Mobile and Vodaphone were inundated with complaints from their customers. Officials quickly took steps to block further use of the premium line, but it leaves them with a complicated trail to follow.

The text message originated in Serbia, though it was traced to a British company

by Simon Rogers

called Iaccessnetwork which is registered in Mauritius. The premium rate number they used was provided by a Croydon company Xero9 which facilitates telecommunications for sexual service providers. A similar scam occurred at Christmas when a Mauritius based company Red Telecom used a Xero9 line. Recently, they were fined £25,000 and banned from using the premium line for 18 months.

ICSTIS – The Independent Committee for Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services – have ordered Xero9 to suspend the Top Tone number and withhold payments reckoned to be worth tens of thousands of pounds. Meanwhile, the search for the owners of Iaccessnetwork continues.

Telephone marketing scams appear to be on the increase, despite warnings from ICSTIS, Ofcom and the Information Commissioner that telephone service providers should adhere to a strict code of conduct. They have cautioned against the unlawful use of Automated Calling Equipment (ACE). The technology allows the sender to

call large blocks of telephone numbers in a short period of time. This is also why many of the calls are directed at answerphones.

The offending calls often declare that 'a person in your household' has won a cash prize or free holiday which can be claimed if you call a telephone number beginning with a 09 prefix. That is a tell-tale sign that the number you are being asked to call has a premium rate. It should by rights give an indication of how much the call will cost if you choose to reply.

Some messages ask you to dial 9 for more information. There is no charge associated with doing this. However, you will likely be connected to a further recorded message urging you to dial a 09 number – and it is dialling that number which will incur the premium rate!

An urban myth of £250 phone calls has emerged around this. No one is going to be stung that severely, in reality UK premium lines have a top rate of £1.50 per minute, but who wants to lose a tenner over a non-existent prize? In that respect, ICSTIS say "We are asking the public to exercise some common sense. Nobody is going to give you anything for free, if you haven't entered a competition you won't win any prize. If you get one of these calls, simply don't call back!"

If you do receive a call of this nature, take a note of the premium line number and contact ICSTIS on its free helpline 0800 500 212. Complaints can also be registered online at www.icstis.org.uk. Their website also has a facility that allows you to check premium rate numbers. If you type in a number it will tell you if it is under investigation.

Unsolicited calls can also be reported to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on 01625 545745 or www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Registering complaints can result in decisive action if there is sufficient evidence. On May 4th, officers from the City of London Police Economic Crime Department arrested four men on suspicion of conspiracy to defraud customers of the telephone networks. Two were from the Cambridge area, the other two from Hove. Police searched residential and business premises in both areas and computer records and files were seized. The men were later released on police bail to return to a City of London Police station in August.

Senior investigating officer, Chief Inspector Colin Cowan said, "We endorse ICSTIS' advice and urge customers of the phone companies to be wary of unexpected messages where, to claim their prize, they have to make a call at premium rate. This investigation stretches across the whole of the country as customers from all over have received these calls."

BALANCING THE BOOKS

Ted Bunting revisits Bronte country with the help of this classic in Talking Book form

Jane Eyre

Author: Charlotte Bronte

Reader: Jay Worth

Duration: 22 hours, 30 minutes

Catalogue Number: TB454

Anyone acquainted with the Bronte family, (and who in Yorkshire admits they are not?) can tell you that Jane Eyre was the book that effectively launched the careers of all three famous literary sisters. Rightly considered a classic in English fiction it is also remarkable, in my opinion, for being the most depressing and cheerless novel ever written in the English language. Talk about melancholy: it's fitting that the story should begin on a wet and gloomy day for a sad and sombre atmosphere persists right to the lugubrious end. Injustice, unkindness and misery follow Jane through life like misfortune dogs a loser and even at the conclusion I felt she had won only second prize.

Of course, Charlotte Bronte herself was never a stranger to sadness and sorrow, even before she could properly hold a pen she had lost her mother and two siblings and perhaps these early experiences contributed to her genius in portraying raw emotion through words. Trying to explain her ability to write about romance, however, is much more difficult because as they say in Yorkshire "she knew now't about it". She met

very few young men of her own age and had no serious suitor until she had made her name.

With this ignorance in mind we can excuse a certain fudging of Jane's "romantic" scenes. And few, I think, would deny that the book is extremely well written. All right, the hypercritical might wonder, for example, why the word "physiognomy" needs to crop up so often but I'm firmly on the side of those who believe the book's high reputation if well merited. But though "literature" it is, light entertainment is most certainly is not, for Jane Eyre can wipe the smile off your face faster than toothache

ANALOGUE SERVICE IS NOW CLOSED

The RNIB Talking Book Service officially closed their analogue service on March 31st this year. Nearly 40,000 members have moved to the digital service.

Anyone using a talking book player on loan from the RNIB is advised that downloading and installing software updates (unless issued by the RNIB) is likely to be a breach of the customer's agreement to keep the equipment in good working order. If the upgrade causes damage to the machine, they may try to recover the cost.

THE BAND ARE BACK!



Andrew Keeling welcomes the Band of The Royal Marines.

THE BAND OF the Royal Marines, Portsmouth made a welcome return to the Inner Garden at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on July 20th. They were introduced to an audience of around 150 people, St Dunstaners and their wives, other ex-servicemen and women and their guests by St Dunstan's Vice-Chairman Major General Andrew Keeling who conceded a certain bias as a former Royal Marine himself.

The weather seemed a bit fickle, days of sunshine had given way to heavy rain and that morning had been characterised by ominous clouds and sudden showers. In the end, there was no need to worry, the clouds blew over and the afternoon became pleasantly warm rather than



St Dunstaner Jean Hiscock chats with one of the Band.

by Simon Rogers

excessively hot. Major Phillip Watson led the Band through a lively selection of marshal tunes and popular favourites with some surprisingly novel arrangements. Not content with directing with a baton, he introduced a Gallic feel with piano accordion.

The Band were supported as ever by the Corps of Drums who marched into the garden with stylish precision. They closed their performance with a number that was positively rocking, followed by the Royal Navy and Marine anthems.



Major Phillip Watson added some Gallic flavour.



Keeping the beat going!



This WO Marine was part of the Band's woodwind section.



Happy Anniversary to Eddie and Doris Ginn who were celebrating 58 years and one-day of wedded bliss.



Doreen Humphrey and Welfare Officer Debbie Mackenzie enjoy the cream tea.



Shiela Rodman and Vice-Air Marshal Richard Kyle, Member of St Dunstan's Council.



St Dunstaner Elsie Aldred with regular audio Review reader Valerie Tomalin.



St Dunstaner George Tytler is re-introduced to Vice-Chairman Major-General Andrew Keeling, RM. They previously marched through Whitehall together during a Remembrance Sunday parade.



Welfare Manager Barry Porter greets RAF St Dunstaner Ron Street, just over from Portugal.



Consultant Ophthalmologist Bill Dinning, Admissions & Pensions Manager David Habershon chat with St Dunstaner Nigel Whiteley.

A TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM!

ON JULY 10TH, Britain celebrated the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. The date was chosen because it was the mid-way point between Victory in Europe on May 8th and Victory in Japan on August 15th. The efforts and sacrifices of the generation who stood against that tyranny were feted in a series of events around the country. Over the following pages, St Dunstaners who attended the London Festival of Commemoration give their impressions of the day.

The Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey

ON A HOT sunny morning, and with a great police presence in the area, nine of us left the hotel in Dave Vinall's safe care and arrived at the Abbey in good time for the Service. After the usual "Airport-type" security checks, and showing our tickets several times, we entered by the Great West Door and were escorted to our seats in the area known as the North Lantern, in what we thought were very privileged positions - we could see all the "comings and goings".

The atmosphere in the Abbey was wonderful. While listening to the organ recital (and that alone was a thrill), we were able to take note of the many arrivals - notable people, splendidly-uniformed officers, religious leaders of all dominations, members of the Royal Family and, most important of all, the arrival of Her Majesty the Queen and the

by Ted and Beryl John

Duke of Edinburgh who were greeted by a fanfare by the State Trumpeters of the Blues and Royals.

Incidentally, on seeing the video later, we were delighted to see a close-up of Sir Henry Leach, in his full uniform of Admiral of the Fleet, in his place in the Abbey.

The service was beautiful, so carefully planned and worded, and with special reference made to the bombing just three days earlier. Each of the four hymns represented the four countries of the British Isles, and between each verse of *The Lord's My Shepherd* (sung by the Choir) excerpts of wartime newsreels were shown on large screens.

Seven Books of Remembrance, containing the names of British

civilians killed in the War, were carried through the Abbey by members of the Civilian Services and escorted by young people and placed on the Altar.

The readings were very moving; Annette Crosby reading T.S. Eliot's *Defence of the Islands* which was written after Dunkirk; Andrea Catherwood reading from the *Book of Joshua*; The Duke of Edinburgh reading *The Beatitudes* from *St Matthew's Gospel*; as was the Address given by the Archbishop of Canterbury. We were all in no doubt as to why we were there that morning, remembering the War and all those who served and died sixty years ago.

At the end of the Service and the singing of the National Anthem, the procession moved through the Abbey to outside the Great West Door, when the Bells of the Abbey Church were "fired" (all struck simultaneously) a technique used on occasions of great celebration. It was a most interesting sound.

Crowds greeted the Queen and the Duke and we went on our way to find Dave, who somehow had managed to stop the bus in a place where we could find we were grateful for his patience.

We had had such a memorable morning, and knew how privileged we were to be there.

Thoughts at the Horse Guards Parade

by Betty C. Parkin

WE ENVIED THE police horses under shady trees. The sun was hot as we walked slowly to rows of chairs covering the famous parade ground. Service personnel offered a helpful arm, a bottle of water and as they guided us to our seats only their watchful eyes showed the need for security after the recent terrorists attacks.

Wartime songs were provided by the Bach Choir, and Waynflete Singers with the Tri-Services Orchestra.

White horses drew the open carriages bringing Her Majesty The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall with Prince Harry. On their arrival the event began with "the declaration of war". The well-known words of Neville



Our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh on their way to Horse Guards Parade.

Chamberlain and robust speeches of Winston Churchill were read by famous actors.

Bruce Forsyth - only a young boy back then - led us through the "Home Front" days in

his own inimitable way, accompanied by well-known singers and entertainers with the music and laughter that cheered and supported people through raids, rationing and sorrow. We all knew the songs and music, only time had made the singers different.

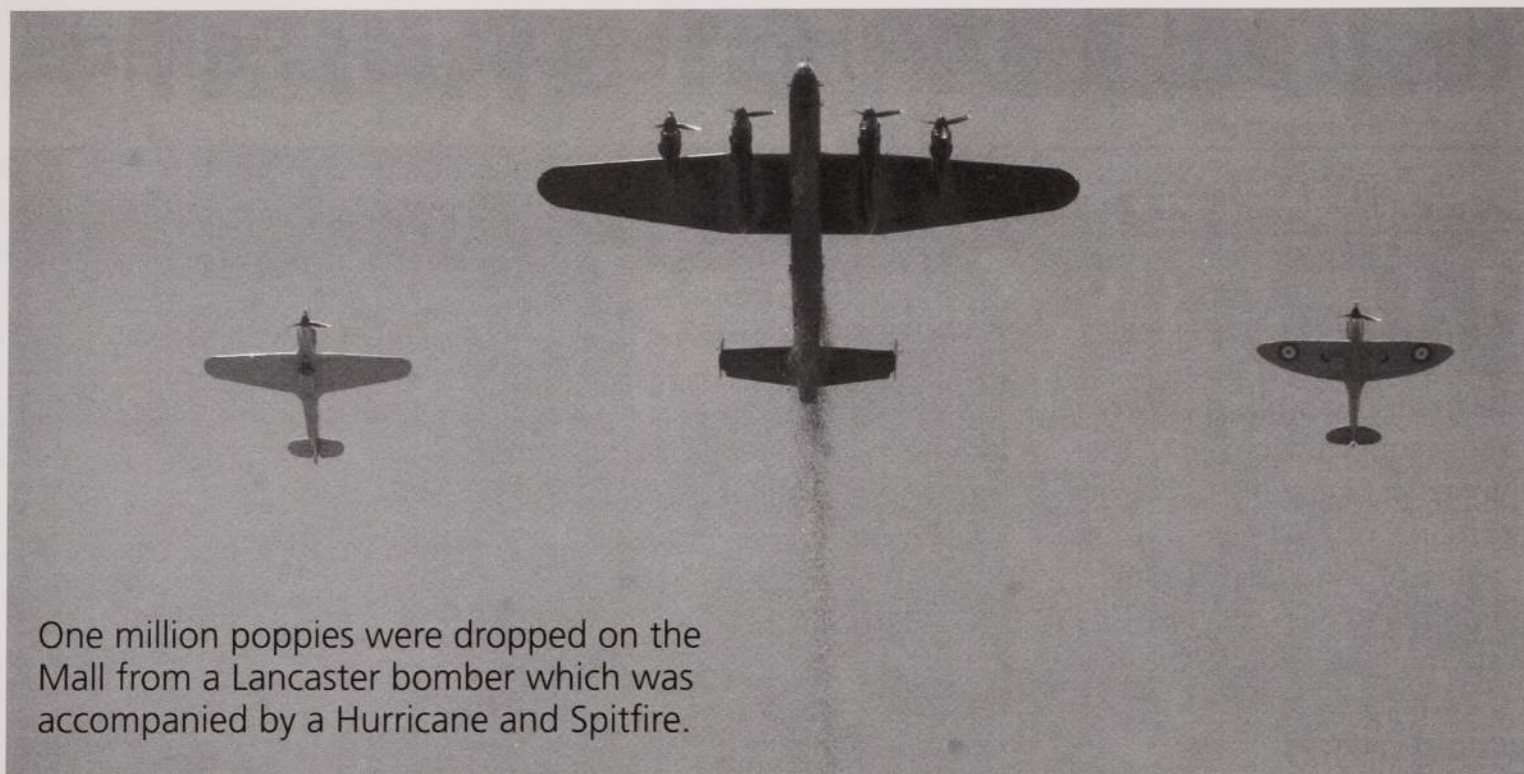
Dancers twirled and weaved among them, many were children, rightly so, for they too took their share, with evacuations, sleeping in shelters and few treats.

The reading of further speeches by Winston Churchill and General Eisenhower's "Orders of the Day" brought us to the end of the war.

The standards were marched



Prince Harry, The Duchess of Cornwall and The Prince of Wales also attended the pageant at Horse Guards Parade.



One million poppies were dropped on the Mall from a Lancaster bomber which was accompanied by a Hurricane and Spitfire.

on - St. Dunstan's among them, to make a brave show as they flanked the stage.

The Bishop to the Forces, Dr David Croner, led the prayers with other ministers before a bugler from HM Marines sounded *The Last Post* and we stood for Two Minutes Silence.

Memories filled the air - a smile, a quick turn of the head, only a glimpse no more of those so loved, so long lost, before they were swept away in a mist of desert and jungle, sea and sky and our silent tears.

A flight of Jaguars boomed overhead. They flew in Missing Man Formation, leaving one blank file for fallen comrades. This was followed by a Gun Salute from HMS *Belfast*, then *Reveille* from the Indian Army. Next, Viscount Slim from the Burma Star Association read the unforgettable words of the *Kohima Epitaph*.

The singing of *Jerusalem* brought us back to reality and whilst we sang *We'll meet again*, Her Majesty The Queen made her way towards the stage to give her address. Dressed in yellow, she stood centre stage with head high. Her words were simple and direct, remembering those days, for war deprives rich and poor alike.

The ending of her speech, a simple "Thank you," rang with sincerity which was echoed in the hurrahs that followed, shouted not with the lusty voices of youth but with a waver as with hands or caps held high.

The Queen spoke with holders of the Victoria Cross, George Medals and other Veterans before she left with the Duke of Edinburgh and the Royal Family party for the drive up the Mall to Buckingham Palace, escorted by the Standards and the Tri-Services Band.

Large television screens had been placed around Horse Guards Parade giving good coverage of the scenes at the Mall, the balcony at the Palace and the upturned faces of the crowds as the vintage flypast swept overhead and the red poppies fell.

We said our farewells with many handshakes but few mentions of reunion. Sixty years is a long spell in a life.

We will keep their trust, remember with love and honour those who gave their tomorrow for our today, for we are survivors and as such must just plod on.

Special thanks must go to Barbara Sweeney and her husband who did such a wonderful job of organisation and to David and his team for getting us to the right places at the right time despite terrific traffic jams and closed streets.

A great honour to march on the Mall

TO BE PART of the Victory Celebrations in London on July 10th was a great honour for me. Both my guide and I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to St Dunstan's for our involvement.

Sunday was a day full of mixed emotions for both my guide and I, and if I may, I would like to share some of these with you. The first thing that struck me was the air of resilience and defiance that was in the air following the terrible act of terrorism on Thursday 7th in central London. It suddenly occurred to me that the Wartime spirit had returned to London in all its glory and showed the world that we are not only proud of being British, but we have not changed in our attitudes in preserving our way of life 60 years on.

Having been asked to carry the St Dunstan's Standard along the Mall for the final phase of the celebrations, I was required to attend a briefing by the Garrison Sgt Major and his staff. This for me was like being transported back in time, to my days as a Guardsman, we were briefed before such events as The Troop or a State Opening of Parliament, even if the language was a little less colourful.

My big moment came when I retrieved the Standard

by Kevin Alderton

from Arthur Carter, who had previously marched the Standard on and off of Horse Guards Parade in attendance by the Queen. It was absolute chaos. Around 100 Standards were due to be handed over to their respective counterparts, which at times seemed like a well disorganised scrum in a 100-a-side game of rugby.

Once formed up behind the massed bands and we were ready to step off. I suddenly thought back to my days as a Guardsman once again. It was funny, but for some reason, I had a feeling that I had not felt in almost eight years. Every hair on my body stood on end, and my chest and shoulders expanded as if someone had just inflated me with pride. I thought quietly to myself that

Last Parade marks VJ Day

THE SACRIFICES OF those who fought in the Far East were commemorated again through out the UK on August 14th, one day before VJ Day on Monday August 15th. Thousands turned out to an event at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire to witness a four-hour air display which included WWII aircraft and the Red Arrows. In Glasgow, thousands took to the streets for the Royal

I would never have imagined that I would once again march along the Mall to the forecourt of Buckingham Palace. What a great feeling that was! The funny thing was, my guide, an ex-Coldstreamer, felt the exact same thing.

Whilst we marched down the Mall, the crowds cheered and clapped with delight and appreciation as this magnificent parade passed them by. I could almost here the sound of studded ammo boots crunching down on the concrete again.

Finally, we halted in the forecourt and awaited the poppy's to be dropped from a Lancaster Bomber, unknown to me, the Royal family were on a walk about and to my surprise, I had an unexpected conversation with the Duke of Kent as well as the Princess Michael of Kent. What a great way to finish the day.

British Legion Scotland's "Last Parade" The event concluded with a service at George Square. Elsewhere, a Nimrod flypass was arranged by RAF Kinloss and a Drumhead ceremonies were performed in Newport, Ferndown, Pitsea, and Henley-in-Arden. On VJ Day, a new Far East Prisoners of War Memorial building was opened at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Ted and Beryl John report on a week walking out on the South Downs

We love to go a wandering

A SMALL BUT enthusiastic group of us gathered on Sunday July 4th for Ray to tell us of the plans of this year's St Dunstan's Walking Week. Unfortunately, we were missing Robbie who was not well.

We started off on Monday (in Colin's safe hands) for a walk with the Brighton Ramblers, meeting at the High and Over Car Park for a lovely walk through fields and paths to Alfriston and lunch. The masses of poppies in the fields were a delight - blankets of red. We then walked along the river bank - a lovely valley and so peaceful - then up and up heading back to the car park, but caught in a deluge before we got there (not easy when you're plodding up hill). The



It's all uphill from here.

whole day Wyn did her David Bailey with the camera.

On Tuesday, with the Beachy Head Ramblers, we started a great walk from the Beachy Head Car Park. We were glad when Colin kept on driving to the top and knew the first bit

would be downhill! We lunched at Birling Gap before the more strenuous afternoon walk over the Seven Sisters, and past the Lighthouse (now a private home) which had been moved to a safer position a number of years ago.

The walk was full of interest and information about suggested safety measures in the area. There were many groups of people there, particularly young ones and some of those perilously near the edge.

Brighton Ramblers led us again on Wednesday. Starting at Firle Car Park (the top of Firle Bostal) we began a longer morning walk along fields and paths, and where we met a profusion of orchis, a thrill for those of us who had perhaps only seen one or two before. It was a lovely walk and we

stopped to look at a huge barn, with enormous doors where oxen once pulled carts into the barn itself. We went inside to admire the size and beauty of it. Perhaps an old Tithe Barn? After lunch at Berwick, we enjoyed a shorter circular walk in the afternoon. The day finished with a buffet in the Winter Garden, with our guest and friend Felicity who had so expertly organised all the walks for us. It was a great meal (thanks to PBK) with plenty of good wine (Wyn saw to that!).



Chris Ottewell and the group reach the high ground.

Thursday found us with the High Weald Ramblers at Ashdown Forest, and with our waterproofs on from the start. It was an interesting and pleasant walk, and we were told that much of the original forest was lost in the past because of wood needed for ships and also because of charcoal burning. We had a nice lunch stop at Fairwarp, and this was the only time during the week that we had to put plastic bags over our muddy boots to go into the pub.

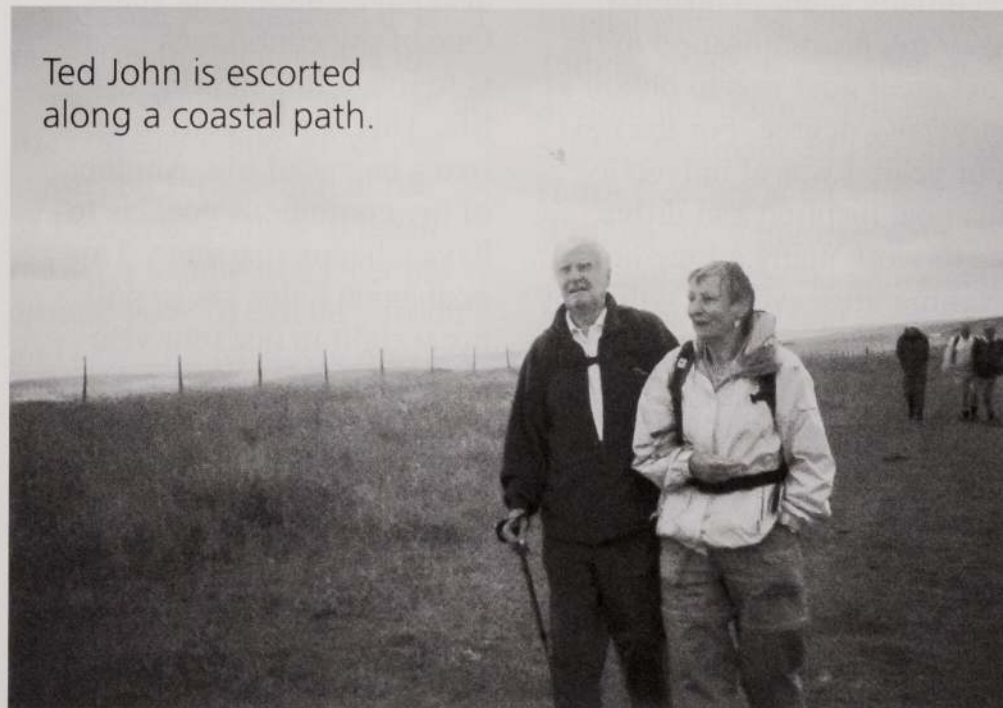
Then, walking further and with no more rain, we had a really nice walk in sunshine, finishing at Duddleswell for tea and cakes due to the kindness of our hosts.

We finished with a half-day walk on Friday with the Brighton Ramblers, from Woodingdean and passing by or through (wait for it) Falmer Bottom, Balsdean'

Bottom, Standean Bottom and Newmarket Bottom (rather a lot of Bottoms!) On parts of the walk we passed great patches of Rosebay Willowherb. We enjoyed our lunch at Falmer and a last good chat.

We had had a great five days with each other, and with such nice, friendly and helpful folk. How fortunate we were to enjoy their carefully planned walks and all the time they gave to us. One of Ted's escorts even wanted to take him home with her (and there's a missed opportunity). We learnt a lot about the areas we walked in and about the wild flowers we saw (how about Viper's Bugloss?) Our grateful thanks go to Ray and Robbie for all their planning, to St Dunstan's for our accommodation at Ovingdean, to Colin and Stuart for taking us to and bringing us back from our various venues and, most of all, to the Local Ramblers who gave us such a happy week.

Ted John is escorted along a coastal path.



Climbing the mountain of life

South African St Dunstaner **Don Wessels** says there is always something to achieve, even if you are blind and handless

EVERY DAY EACH one of us climbs the mountain of life... Every day we live, every breath we breathe is a step up this mountain of life!

In my life, in my climbing this mountain of life, I have experienced some ill fortune... In 1988, as a nineteen-year-old white South African army conscript, a booby trap Soviet anti-personnel mine exploded in my hands while we were in Angola. This left me blinded and both my hands were amputated at the wrists.

You might say I have stumbled on some loose stones. I fell to my knees and I landed on my face. However, importantly, after my fall I remained positive, I stood up, looked up, and set new goals for myself!

There are two points which I would like to bring across to you and this is the first:

[i.] You should always be thankful for what you have, stay positive and set goals for yourself. It does not matter what adversity you are faced with, always be thankful for what you still have, stay positive and set goals for yourself!

After my military accident, when I was in hospital, my



Not so metaphorical! St Dunstaner Don Wessels and his wife Maatje climbed Kilamajaro to experience the Uhuru peak.

goal was to heal as well as possible and to leave hospital so as to get on with my life. This goal helped to inspire me during the nine months I eventually spent in hospital. After my hospitalisation my next great goal was to obtain a university degree. For the next four years I was at university, this goal inspired and drove me to work many a long hour. Evening after evening while my fellow students were whiling away their time in a pub, out dancing or were practising their chosen sports, I spent a lot of time in front of my desk. Here, all by myself, I listened to the recording of my classes and summarised them onto other cassettes.

Of course one's goals do not necessarily have to be linked with time bound projects such as my hospitalisation or my studies. You can and should also have continuous goals. One of my continuous goals is to live a full and fulfilled life. This is why I strive to live a balanced life. Another of my continuous goals is to have a happy marriage. This goal again helps me to pull my weight in our four year old marriage: to love my wife, to arrange pleasant things the two of us can do together, not to be rude to her and to ask forgiveness when needed.

So the first point is always to be thankful, to stay positive

and to have goals. Climbing the mountain of life, is not to just go on walking, but to strive to both time related and continuous goals! The danger is of course that one can be so taken up in the pursuit of your goals that you are inevitably caught up in a "rat race". You want to climb the mountain of life so well that you tread all over the people surrounding you and not take any notice of them.

This brings me to the second point I want to bring across:

[ii.] One should not just live for yourself. In climbing the mountain of life, each of us has an imaginary handle, very similar to a guide dog handle, tied to our backpacks. This figurative handle symbolises things such as love, life wisdom, friendliness, helpfulness, etc.

Note that the metaphor I use is not a backpack! The idea is not to carry other people up the mountain of life! The symbol I use is neither a pram! The idea is not to push your children or other people up the mountain of life! No dear readers, the purpose of life and that which gives one sense and satisfaction in life as I experience it, is to reach out your handle to the people around you. To extend wisdom and help and whatever may be needed by your loved ones and your neighbours. By extending these gifts, to assist, to help, to guide these people up the mountain of life!

To write this article is one of my ways in which I extend

my handle to other people. To someone somewhere, it will hopefully be helpful. It helps to give meaning to my life, to know that I can live a full, fulfilled and balanced life and to know that I can use what happened to me to help others.

In summary, the first of my two points was, no matter what misfortune you experience in life, always be thankful, remain positive and set yourself short- and long-term goals to live a full and balanced life. The second point is to remember not just to live for yourself. Extend your handle, your love, your life experience and your friendliness to the people around you and then climb the mountain of life together.

If you do this, my experience is that life has neither to be lonely nor depressing. Life will then

not be an icy experience – life as cold and lonely as on the crest of an ice-capped mountain. Life will then not be an experience where the only reward you receive at the end of your days is to be crowned by a pure white cold crystallized rainbow.

No dear people, life can, if you stay positive, set goals for yourself and extend your hand to people around you, be a joyful, fulfilled and stimulating experience. My wish then for all of you is that every day of your life will be crowned with a warm, colourful and joyful rainbow.

(This is an adapted extract from my motivational talk called "Two Mountains". In this talk I juxtapose my climbing Kilimanjaro as a blind person to climbing the mountain of life and the life lessons I have learned from both.)

Colin pays penalty at Signals open day

ST DUNSTAN'S WAS invited to take part in an Open Day at Imphal Barracks, York on July 16th by Major Ian Buchanan, Second in Command of 2 Signal Regiment. St Dunstaners Harry Beevers and Colin Williamson, with their wives Joan and Brenda set up a stand. An estimated 10,000 people attended making a busy time for those on the stand. "We also set up a blind football penalty shoot out competition, which was incredibly popular with the children. Colin volunteered to go in goal and children took penalties against him blindfolded," said Services



Harry and Colin thank WOII Dave Leask for the Signal Regiment's support.

Coordinator Graham Footer. "We were victims of our own success, or Colin was because he was tired out by the end of the afternoon."

How nice of you to drop in!

St Dunstan's balloon makes a bumpy landing in Pensfold maize field



Landowner Brian Watson showed amazing grace when Anna Robinson and Jamie Weller dropped in. They are joined in the field by James Ward who helped fold the balloon up.



Jamie and co-pilot Phil Saunders needed the help of Brian Watson's earthmover to shift the basket out of the field.



A ST DUNSTANER who is training to qualify as a pilot had a take off and landing that were literally a-maize-ing during a balloon flight on July 12th. Cheering crowds at the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta gave adventurous Jamie Weller a take-off like no other, though his landing also held a few surprises – he and his crew were dragged over 350ft through a field of maize!

“We took off with the crowd cheering and whistling, it was amazing. I’ve never experienced anything like it before,” said our Navy St Dunstaner.

Having taken to the air in St Dunstan’s hot air balloon, Jamie and the crew found conditions for flight uneven. Thermal updrafts lifted them quickly, but the fast rises were followed by sharp falls. The crew decided to make a quick

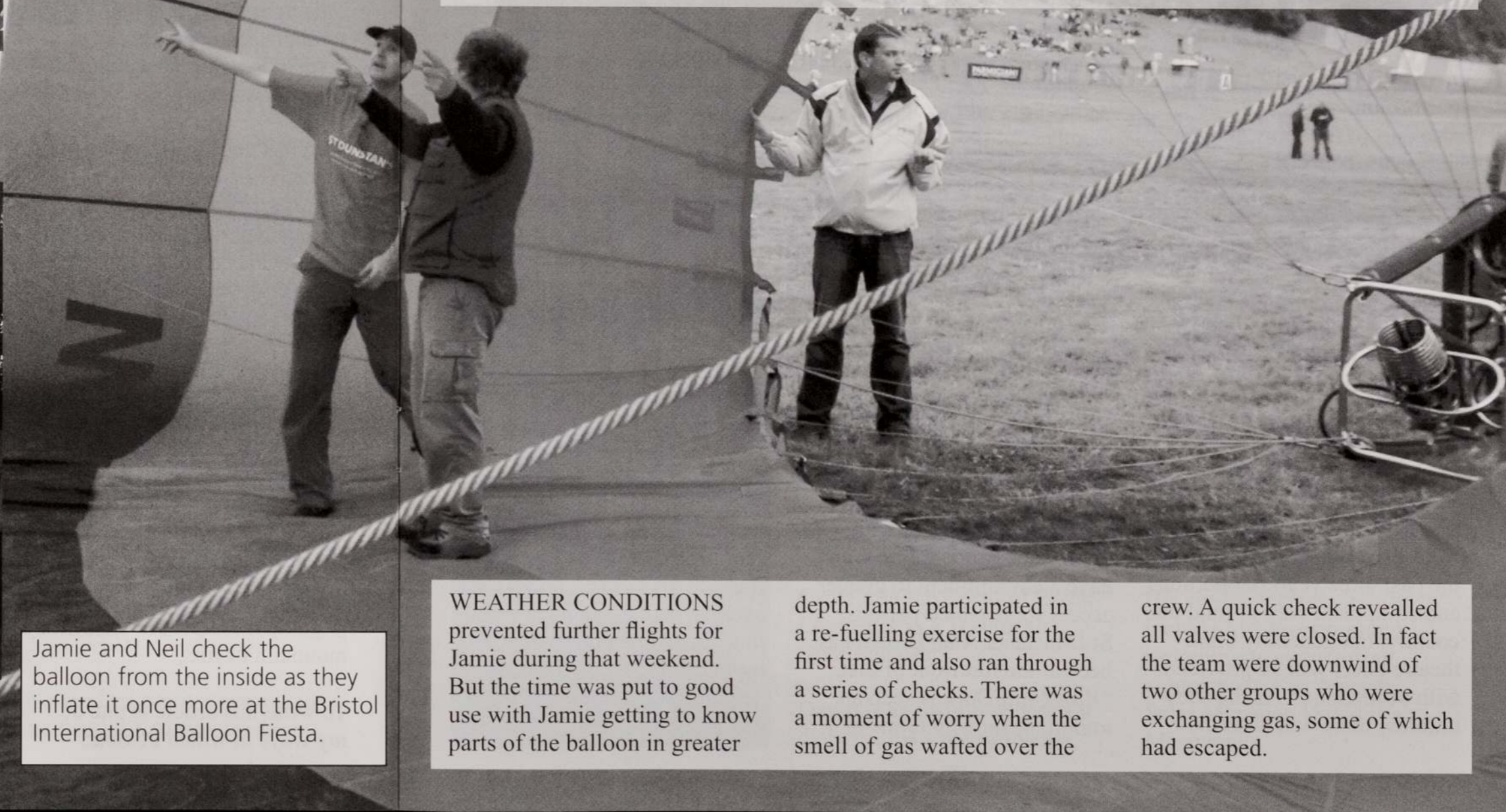
landing and settled on the nearest field - full of high maize crops! “We landed on our side and were dragged through the field for about a 100m. When we got out there was maize all around us.”

Dwarfed by the 8ft tall crop, Jamie and the crew found their normal method of picking up the balloon and basket with the support car was insufficient. St Dunstan’s Head of Awareness Anna

Robinson had made the flight wearing stilettos. They had to improvise their own crop circle, flattening the cereal before they could pack away the balloon. Even then, they required the assistance of the farmer and an earth-moving tractor to lift the basket sideways out of the field.

Landowner Brian Watson of South Leigh Farm, Pensfold, whose crop had been squashed, proved to be remarkably sanguine about the destruction of his property. It turned out that he had heard an interview with Jamie on the radio earlier that morning.

Helping with the recovery, he offered the crews mementos of his nearby ostrich flock.



Jamie and Neil check the balloon from the inside as they inflate it once more at the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta.

WEATHER CONDITIONS prevented further flights for Jamie during that weekend. But the time was put to good use with Jamie getting to know parts of the balloon in greater

depth. Jamie participated in a re-fuelling exercise for the first time and also ran through a series of checks. There was a moment of worry when the smell of gas wafted over the

crew. A quick check revealed all valves were closed. In fact the team were downwind of two other groups who were exchanging gas, some of which had escaped.

Descriptions in the dark!

THERE IS A point in the stage production *Wait Until Dark* when the lights go out and the theatre plunges into blackness. "The sighted people in the audience all go 'oohh!'" when that happens, to which a blind friend of mine said 'Poor dears'," said Irene Richards.

On stage, Susie Amy, late of *Footballers' Wives*, is playing a recently blinded woman. The actress has some sympathy with the condition - a cousin has been blind since an early age, while an aunt who is partially sighted provided some reference material when she was preparing for the part.

As Amy and her co-stars are performing on stage, Irene is also part of the show, though her performance is directed specifically at visually impaired members of the audience. She is one of a growing number of audio describers. "My job as describer is to provide enough clues and details so that the [blind] audience know what is going on, without giving the story away."

Irene is the daughter of late St Dunstaner Hedley Richards. She has been working as a freelance audio describer for the past three years. Conditions and equipment vary around the country, but generally blind theatre goers will be provided with headphones. As the show unfolds, Irene will describe



In the dark! Susie Amy has to outwit James Carlton (Heartbeat and Emmerdale), Michael Melia (EastEnders) and Derren Nesbitt (Special Branch and Where Eagles Dare).

features of the set, costumes and the physical movement of the actors which is relayed through the headphones without disturbing other members of the audience.

She has described shows such as *Cats*, *Starlight Express*, *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and is looking forward to describing *My Fair Lady* next year.

Irene stresses the importance of feedback from the audience. "It is through feedback that we will get better equipment, more performances," she said. "I live in Bristol and we are very fortunate with the Bristol Hippodrome who have a commitment to greater access for disabled patrons. St Dunstaner Alan Brown has been at the forefront of that. *Wait Until Dark* is such an important show in terms of

raising awareness. There are some marvellous moments. The blind [heroine] is being encouraged by her husband. It's a can-do attitude, it's a St Dunstan's attitude, it's a positive attitude. She outwits the sighted crooks by cleverly arranging to have the lights go out.

"I get feedback from talking to friends at the Bristol Hippodrome, from talking to the management and I like to hang around and hear from the audience if possible." Some shows can be awkward if Irene has to view them offstage from a monitor. "It can be difficult watching of a 15 inch screen. It is not so bad with musicals where they have to keep to a time, but some plays where the actor doesn't necessarily deliver the lines in the same way can be difficult.

Targeting the history of the Reds

THE RED ARROWS were formed in 1965. Their original planes were Gnats and now they fly Hawks. The Hawks have a top speed of approximately 600 mph. They cruise at 450mph and they usually carry out their aerobatics at 350mph.

The Hawks have a range of about 700 miles. When they travelled to Australia to give demonstrations they made quite a number of "hops".

There are nine pilots in the flight and they do not have reserves. Each pilot serves three years with the Red Arrows and three are replaced each year. There have been no lady pilots so far but this situation may eventually change. The Red Arrows pilots must have been

Harry Beevers on the RAF Display team



fighter pilots and as there are few lady pilots in this category none has achieved the necessary of flying hours.

If the flight leader is for any reason unable to fly then the flight is cancelled. Every training flight is filmed by a tenth plane.

In order to fly as a passenger during a Red Arrows training session one must be a fully

qualified pilot. During the flights the pilots may experience G-Forces ranging from minus 3 to plus ten. If a pilot has to eject he will experience a G-Force of 20 which will render him unconscious and reduce his spine by up to one inch.

The Red Arrows are based at RAF Scampton, the airfield from which Guy Gibson led the Dambusters in Operation Chastise in 1943.

Other countries have their own version of the Red Arrows, but the British flight is internationally regarded as the best.

Turn to the back page for more on the Red Arrows.

ST DUNSTAN'S Council

Meet our Mancunian candidate, St Dunstaner David Stuttard recently joined the charity's Board of Trustees



David Stuttard is 59-years-old, married for 37 years to his wife Dorothy (Dot). They have two grown-up daughters and one son who is a PC in the Staffordshire Police.

David served 40 years in the TA, the last six years before retiring as a full time reserve officer (FTRS) in the rank of Captain in the Corps of Royal Engineers as a Technical Quartermaster.

David is an insulin dependant diabetic, his sight problems

are due to Retinopathy and Neuropathy. He became a St Dunstaner in 2003.

David still continues his leisure pursuits including voluntary work with the local Blind Association with computers and also on a number of projects within St Dunstan's.

His civilian occupations have included 15 years running a clothing manufacturing company and 20 years as Sales Manager. David is a Mancunian.

Welcome to **ST DUNSTAN'S**

Bernard Barker of Irchester, Northamptonshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

John Bennett of Treburley, Launceston, Cornwall served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1941 to 1956.

Jack Broughton of Ferryhill, County Durham served in the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1943.

Brian Butler of Wimborne, Dorset served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1948.

Vincent Collier of Leek, Staffordshire served in the Worcestershire Regiment from 1960.

Peter Conlin of Stanley, County Durham served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1950 to 1952.

George Cowley of Huddersfield, Yorkshire served in the Yorkshire Yeomanry (TA) from 1925 then the Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoons from 1939 to 1946.

Robert Davies of Broadwey, Weymouth served in the TA (Queen Victoria Rifles) and the King's Royal Rifles Corps between 1937 and 1946.

Kathleen Evans of Hycliffe-on-Sea, Christchurch, Dorset served in the Women's

Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1944.

Susan Eyles of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Naval Reserve from 1979 to 1982.

Cyril Filder of West Kirby, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

Arthur Foster of Welshpool, Powys served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Bernard Garfinkle of Redbridge, Essex served in the Pioneer Corps and then the Corps of Military Police between 1941 and 1946.

Michael Glass of St Albans, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1946.

William Grady of Haywards Heath, East Sussex served in the Household Cavalry Regiment from 1936 to 1946.

John Hall of Taunton, Somerset served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1947 to 1949.

Eric Hill of Stroud, Gloucestershire initially served in the Somerset Light Infantry from 1940 to 1942, then transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers until 1945.

Edward Holland of West Wittering, Chichester, West

Sussex served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1942 to 1947.

Stanley Hughes of Elsham, North Lincolnshire served in the Royal Marines from 1943 to 1946.

William Hunt of Bisley, Stroud, Gloucestershire served in the Merchant Navy from 1941 to 1955.

Lindsay Marshall of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1943 to 1947.

Horace Massey of Forest Hill, Lewisham served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

Ronald Mills of Rushden, Hampshire served in the Royal Signals from 1941 to 1946.

James Nickson of Widnes, Cheshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

Eva Parnell of Skelton-in-Cleveland, Saltburn-by-Sea, Cleveland served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1946.

Vera Patterson of Millfield, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Arthur Robinson of Huyton, Merseyside served in the Royal Artillery from 1946 to 1952.

Edward Rose of Fairfield, Stockton-on-Tees served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1964.

Ernest Saunders of Luton, Bedfordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Alfred Sullivan of Brighton served in the Royal Air Force from 1957 to 1960.

Noel Walsh of Alvaston, Derby served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1955.

Julie Wingham of Christchurch, Dorset served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1946.

TEN ANSWERS

From the quiz on page 15.

- 1) July 14th; 2) Lourdes; 3) Le Moulin Rouge;
- 4) The cross of Lorraine; 5) Charles;
- 6) The Euro; 7) Blancmange; 8) Blue;
- 9) River Rhone; 10) France's victory in the Soccer World Cup final.

FAMILY NEWS



Congratulations to Frank and Dorothy Jameson.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Frank Jameson of Darlington, County Durham and *Dorothy Brough*. They married at St Mary's Church, Cockerton, Darlington on July 2nd. They were joined by relatives and friends who helped them celebrate their big day.

Liz and Mark Noble were married on August 12th.



Mark and Liz Noble of Ditton, Aylesford, Kent who married on August 12th. Rumour is that they set off on a bicycle made for two.

Andrew David Prouse married *Nicola Patricia Woods* at St Thomas Moore & St John Fisher Church, Burley, Wharfedale on August 6th. Andrew is the grandson of *Jo Hamilton* of Kirkstall, Leeds, West Yorkshire, widow of *Frank Hamilton*.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Joseph and Joan Donkin of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear on July 23rd.

Eric and Jean Sayce of Coventry, West Midlands on July 23rd.

Tom and Avis Atkins of Newent, Gloucestershire on August 13th.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Ivor and Edna Jones of Tuffley, Gloucestershire on July 25th.

John and Mary Painter of Birdham, West Sussex on August 1st.

Alfred and Audrey Waters on August 11th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Harold and Joan Sparrey of Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire who celebrated 66 years of marriage on July 21st.

Donald and Betty Lorenz of Maidstone, Kent who celebrated 64 years of marriage on July 27th.

Ronald and Mil Ballard of Horley, Surrey who celebrated 64 years of marriage on August 2nd.

Leonard and Marge Bragg of Basingstoke, Hampshire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on August 2nd

Arthur and Mary Redwood of Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan who celebrated 64 years of marriage on August 2nd.

William and Lilian Miles of Leyland, Lancashire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on August 12th.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Leon Haskey of Upton, Dorset and *Colin Lowerson* of Chester-le-Street, County Durham for achieving the OCR CLAiT Certificate in Information Technology at St Dunstan's.

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.

Ivan White

**Stormont, Dundas and
Glengarry Highlanders**

Ivan Richard White of Merville, British Columbia, Canada died on April 13th, aged 80. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. He joined the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders in 1943 and was injured in action during the liberation of Holland the following year. He trained at St Dunstan's before returning to Canada for discharge in 1945. After further training at the CNIB, he ran a newsstand for many years. He served as President of the Sir Arthur Pearson Association of the War Blinded and was actively involved with the War Amputations of Canada. His interests included

gardening and woodworking. Our sympathy goes to his widow Edith and all of the family.

Percy Woods

Royal Sussex Regiment

Percy James Woods of Banstead, Surrey died on June 23rd, aged 92. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1930 but then transferred to the Royal Sussex Regiment. He served in India, Egypt, Sudan, Palestine, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland and Belgium. He was released to the reserve in 1946. In civilian life, he was an electrical supply worker. Our sympathy goes to his sons and daughters and all of the family.

Dr John Buchan

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Dr John Buchan of Chichester, West Sussex died on July 5th, aged 89. He served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve from 1940, starting on the destroyer HMS *Matchless*, escorting Russian convoys. He also took part in Operation Pedestal in support of Malta. After the war, he served as a medical officer in HMS *President*, the London Reserve Unit and retired as Surgeon Lieutenant Commander in 1960. In civilian life, he was a consultant rheumatologist at the Royal Free Hospital. Our sympathy goes to his son and daughter and all other members of the family.

Vincent Shaw

Royal Air Force

Vincent Bentley Shaw of Horsforth, Leeds died on July 11th, aged 84. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941, serving at RAF Lindholme then India and Ceylon. Discharged in 1946, he resumed work as a driver, initially running the family haulage business but later for chemists and petrol companies. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mary, his daughters and all other members of the family.

Marjorie Leakey

Women's Royal Naval Service

Marjorie Leakey of East Whittering, Chichester died on July 13th, aged 92. She worked as a cook before joining the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1943. She served at HMS *Fledgling* and then Hodgson House before being discharged as Leading Wren in 1946.

She continued to cook, first for the GPO, then BT. She also enjoyed travelling to Jamaica, New Zealand and Australia.

Leslie McKinnon-Lower

Royal Engineers

Leslie McKinnon-Lower of Frinton-on-Sea, Essex died on July 15th, aged 88. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1940 and served as a docks administrator in North Africa. After tours of duty in Italy and Greece, he was discharged in 1946. In civilian life, he worked for the Inland Revenue. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Patricia and all other members of the family.

Hilda Morrison

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Hilda Morrison of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire died on July 15th, aged 89. She served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1943, working as a cook and pay clerk around the UK. In civilian life, she was a Nanny. Our sympathy goes to her niece Barbara and other members of the family.

Leslie Butler

Royal Engineers

Leslie Walter Butler of Wimborne, Dorset died on July 21st, aged 92. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1940. After completing training in Northern Ireland, he was posted to Burma and took part in the retreat from Rangoon and defence of Imphal. Discharged in 1946, he became Clerk of Works for a local authority housing department. His interests included cricket and football. Our sympathy goes to his son and daughter and all of the family.

Mark Fryer

Auxiliary Territorial Service

Margaret Gladys Fryer, known as Mark, of Lancing, West Sussex died on July 27th, aged 82. She had worked in tailoring and with production machinery before studying basic engineering and joining the Hawker Aircraft Company at Slough. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1947. She served in Wales and Germany before being discharged in 1949. Our sympathy goes to her sons Phillips and John, daughter Margaret and all of the family.

David Keane

Royal Engineers

David William Goulden Keane of Ickenham, Middlesex died on July 29th, aged 81. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1942, training at Clitheroe, Lancashire. Posted to the Isle of Wight, he was involved with the placement of decoy installations. Sent into Europe on D+10, he fought through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Discharged as Sergeant in 1947, he became a civil engineer with Middlesex County Council. His interests included carpentry. Our sympathy goes to his widow Pamela, sons Colin and Nicholas and all members of the family.

Edward Hinton

Leicestershire Regiment

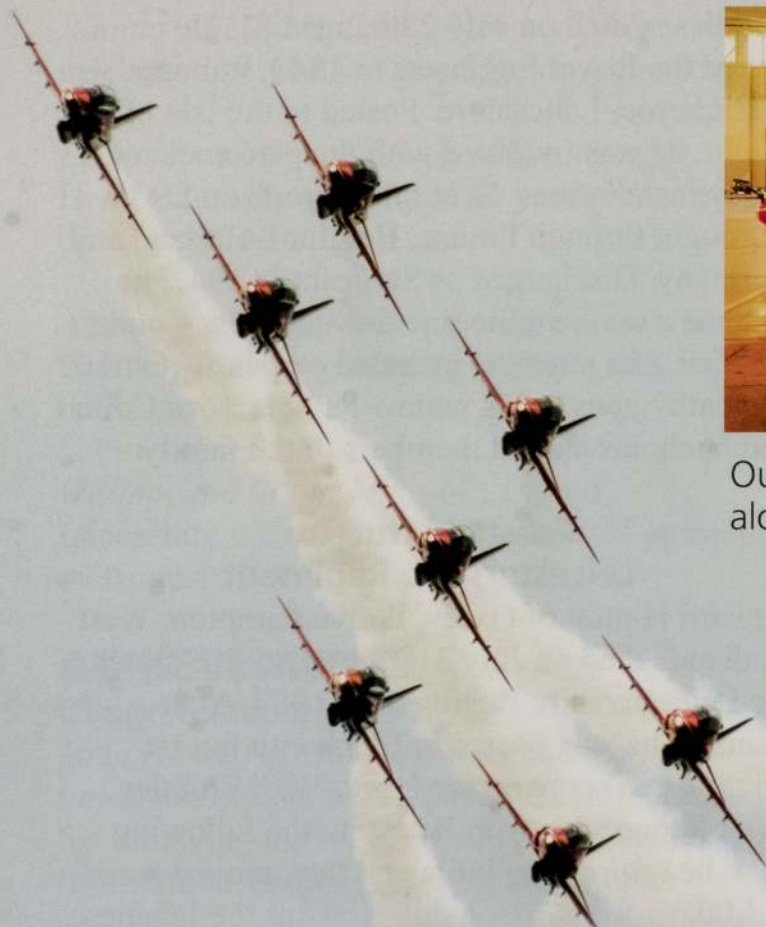
Edward Hinton of Oxley, Wolverhampton, West Midlands died on July 31st, aged 86. He joined the Leicestershire Regiment in 1937. After training, he was posted to India with the 1st Battalion to serve on the North West Frontier. After a tour of duty in Palestine the following year, he returned to India and then moved across to Malaya for garrison duties. After the Japanese invasion began in 1941, his regiment suffered heavy casualties and briefly amalgamated with the East Surrey Regiment to form the British Battalion. They were in continuous action until the fall of Singapore in 1942 when he was captured by Japanese forces. As a Far East Prisoner of War, he was held at Changi Gaol and forced to work on the Burma Railway. He was invalided out of the army in 1946. His interests included football, cricket, swimming and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his sons and daughters and all other members of the family.

Leslie Hampson

Royal Northumberland Fusiliers

Leslie Hampson of Halton, Leeds died on August 2nd, aged 82. He joined the East Yorkshire Regiment in 1942 but later transferred to the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. He served in North Africa, Italy, Malta and the Central Mediterranean Force. In civilian life, he worked for Pickfords and then as senior foreman in a printing plate works. Our sympathy goes to his son Neville, daughter Christine and all members of the family.

That's the roar of the Reds



Our St Dunstaners meet the 2005 Red Arrow team alongside one of the Hawk aircraft used in their show.

THE RED ARROWS demonstrated that they really do rise above the rest when a group of St Dunstaners visited their base at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire on August 11th. Moira Meekins, Terry Walker, Eric Sayce, Harry Beevers, Colin Williamson, and Kevin Alderton were given the opportunity to feel the inner workings of the Hawk jet favoured by the acrobatic pilots of the Royal Air Force's unrivalled display team. The Red Arrows first took to the skies 40 years ago



Moira Meekins explores the air intake on a Hawk.

Simon Rogers reports

and continue to dazzle crowds with their routines, formation flying with barely 10ft between each plane, laying trails of colour smoke, flying upside down and crossing each others paths with uncanny precision. After meeting the Blues - the engineers who keep the team flying - our St Dunstaners were escorted to the runway for a personal demonstration of Red Arrow flying. At this distance, it was possible to smell the fuel, hear the roar of the engines and was that sudden rush of air really the wake each time the Arrows shot past?

The Reds couldn't stay airborne without the Blues. Sgt Pete Smith introduces the Hawk jet to Terry and David.

