

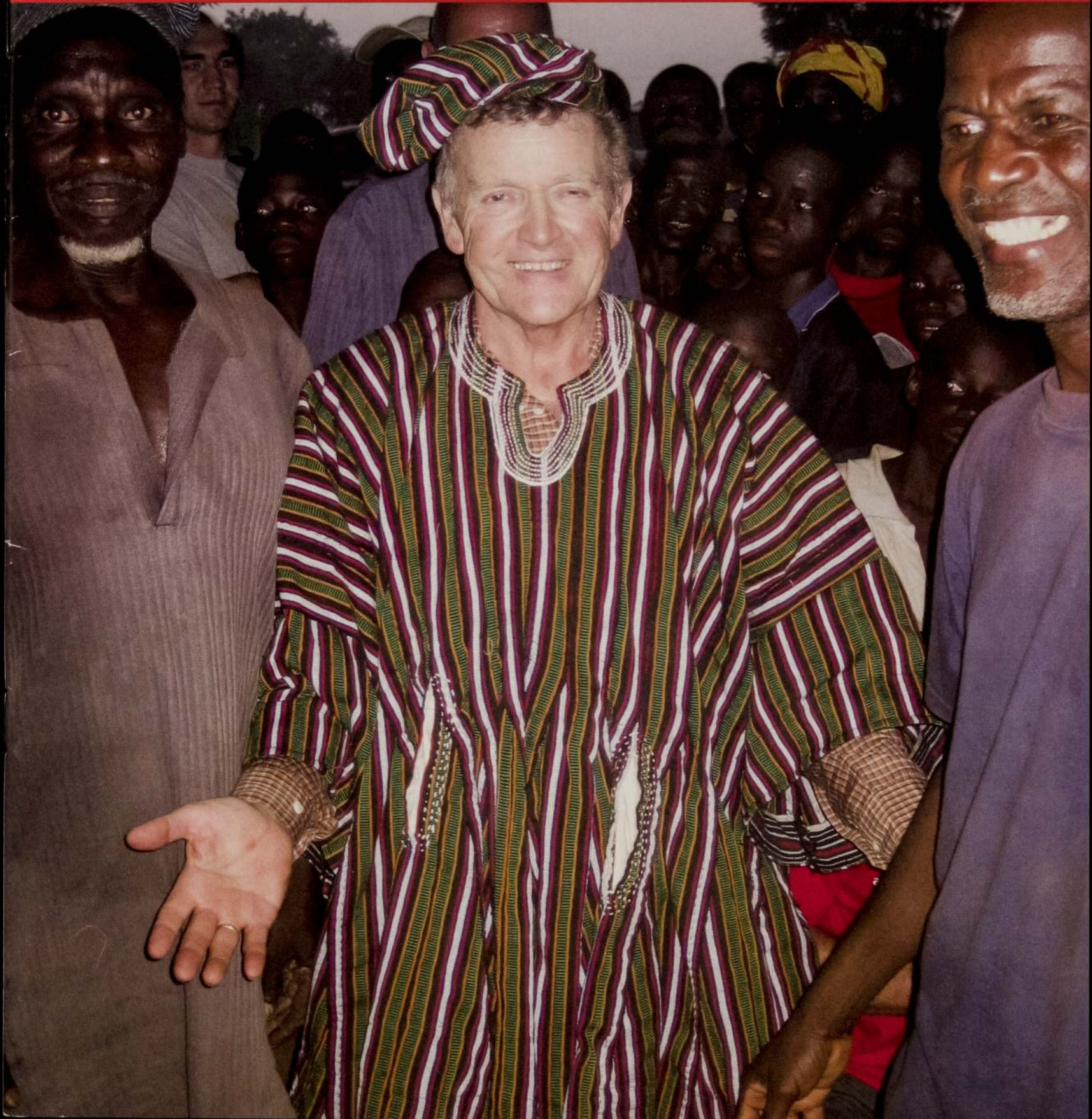
February 2006

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

# ST DUNSTAN'S Review



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN



## A Ghanian thank you for David

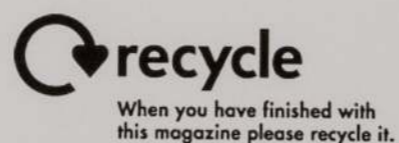
**Cover story:** St Dunstaner David Stuttard was named a Village Elder when he managed a project to bring a basic necessity to villagers in Ghana. While we take clean water for granted, a contaminated supply left this community at the mercy of malaria, diarrhoea and needless blindness. **David explains further on page 12.**

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## From the Chairman

THE YEAR IS already one month old with some winter weather so far, and I expect more to come. I hope you have had enjoyable Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Last year was very successful and so many St Dunstaners contributed in their own way to making our presence felt, whether it was hot air ballooning, becoming freemen of the city of London, providing clean water to villages in northern Ghana, or being determined to remember their colleagues by marching at the Cenotaph parade, to name but a few. These demonstrations of independence have wide appeal to our faithful donors and I do congratulate you all.

As many of you know numbers are steadily growing and not expected to peak for some years yet. These increases put a strain on Ovingdean which continues to be occupied almost to capacity, and it is wonderful to experience the atmosphere. Thank you to all those involved in ensuring the smooth running of the centre, and for the highly successful start which has been made at Sheffield. The staff have been brilliant and the Ovingdean Christmas Show with strong St Dunstaner participation was a tremendous success.

I am sure we will have busy times ahead. Together we can make it even more successful. I wish you all a very happy New Year.

**Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN**

## ST DUNSTAN'S Calendar

### FEBRUARY

Indoor Bowling	February 3rd
Writers' Forum	February 4th
Fishing Club (I)	Feb 7th-9th
Music Week	Feb 12th-18th
Indoor Bowling	Feb 15th
Indoor Bowling	Feb 17th
Computer Club (I)	Feb 22nd-23rd
Indoor Bowling	Feb 24th
Amateur Radio (I)	Feb 24th-Mar 3rd

### MARCH

Writers' Forum	March 4th
History Week	March 5th-11th
Indoor Bowling	March 6th
Bowling (I)	March 19th-April 1st

### APRIL

Writers' Forum	April 1st
Indoor Bowling	April 5th
Ex-POWs Reunion	April 7th-9th
Easter Day	April 16th
Indoor Bowling	April 17th
Masonic Weekend	April 21st-23rd
London Marathon	April 23rd
Anzac Day	April 25th
Fishing Club (II)	April 25th-27th
Gardening	April 30th-May 6th

# Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

## ALL THE BEST FOR 2006

Members of St Dunstan's staff throughout the country, both serving and retired, wish to thank all St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows, widowers and their families for their cards and kind wishes received over the Christmas period. They wish you all a healthy and happy 2006.

## PITCH AND PUTT

**GOLF PRACTISE AT O VingDEAN:** St Dunstan's Sports and Recreation department are examining options for informal pitch'n'putt or golf sessions. Anyone wishing to practise their swing should contact Andy Alliston at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 307811.

## CUP FINAL TICKET DRAW

**WHO WILL WIN?:** The FA Cup Final will be held on Saturday, May 13th 2006 though at time of press Wembley had not been confirmed as the venue. It is possible that St Dunstan's will be allocated tickets. Any St Dunstaner wishing to go should send their name and address to Joan Henlon at St Dunstan's HQ by April 13th. Names will be drawn at random. Any St Dunstaner offered tickets for the event will be responsible for arranging their own travel and accommodation.

## DONATING PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN AT O VingDEAN

**PLEASE HAVE A WORD WITH NESS:** Over the years we have had many kind donations of plants for the inner garden at Ovingdean. However, as those of you who have visited recently will know, we are now extremely short of planting space. In order to avoid the disappointment of us not having room for your plant, I suggest that you contact the Garden Project Coordinator, Ness, on 01273 391475 prior to making your purchase. We are always in need of seeds, bulbs, equipment and so forth to enable St Dunstaners to carry on gardening, and the Coordinator will be able to discuss with you what would be the most suitable gift. With many thanks for your continuing support.

**Dick Lake,**  
Ovingdean Manager

## CALLING ALL RACE GOERS

A "Race Week" will be held at St Dunstan's Ovingdean during August 6th-12th. Events include a race-linked trip around either stables or a racecourse, two trips to the Brighton meeting, one to the Lingfield meeting and an evening at the greyhounds. Accommodation at Ovingdean should be booked in the normal way.

## CAMP OUT AT HMS SULTAN

**CALLING ALL CAMPERS:** The next HMS *Sultan* Summer Camp runs Friday, July 28th to Saturday, August 5th. Any St Dunstaner wishing to attend should contact Dave Burrows by May 1st. Write to him at 18 Portsmouth Road, Lee on the Solent, Hampshire PO13 9AG, or telephone on 02392 550532, or send an e-mail to DCB119399@aol.com.

## GO APE FOR SOME TREE-TOP ADVENTURE

**MONKEY AROUND ON AERIAL ASSAULT COURSE:** Go Ape is an activity centre that promises to sort the Johnny Weissmullers from the Fay Rays. It has a network of rope bridges, trapezes and death slides that stretches for roughly a mile through the tree canopy of Bracknell Forest. Anyone who wishes to test their mettle in this impressively extensive cat's cradle of ropes, netting and platforms, set high in the trees should contact Andy Alliston in Sports and Recreation at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 307811.

## BENEFIT BY CHEQUE

**CHOICE OF PAYMENT METHOD IS A RIGHT:** The Royal National Institute for the Blind issued a reminder that blind and partially sighted people receiving benefit or pension payments by cheque can continue to do so. They should not feel pressured into changing to Direct Payment. The RNIB would like to hear from visually impaired people who have been told that cheques are being phased out. Contact their helpline on 0845 766 9999.

## WEEKEND WRITING WORKSHOP

**SPREAD THE WORD:** The Writers' Forum will be holding a weekend of workshops, activities and guest appearances at St Dunstan's Ovingdean from the evening of Thursday June 29th until late afternoon on Saturday July 1st.

## VI MOUNTAINEERING COURSE

**STRETCH YOUR ABILITIES IN SCOTLAND:** A mountaineering course for visually impaired people will be held at Glenmore Lodge on September 10th-15th. This five-day residential course is held at the National Outdoor Training Centre near Aviemore, and is run by highly qualified and experienced instructors. The week's activities will include a full days walk in the Cairngorms, introduction to rock climbing and abseiling and Canadian canoeing. The highlight of the week is an overnight expedition using one of the above activities. The full cost of the week is £350. This includes: accommodation in twin rooms, cooked breakfast, evening meals and packed lunches. Glenmore Lodge will supply all equipment required for the week. Please contact the Coordinator Norma Davidson on 01356 660242, or e-mail norma@mountaineering-scotland.org.uk or by letter at The Old Granary, West Mill Street, Perth PH1 5QP.

## FEPOW NEWSLETTER ON TAPE

**FEPOW NEWS FOUR TIMES A YEAR:** The quarterly newsletter of the Birmingham Association of Far East Prisoners of War is available on tape. Any FEPOW St Dunstaner wishing to receive a copy should contact Simon Rogers on 020 7723 5021.

## NEW AUTOMATED DOOR

**DOOR OPENS AS PERSON APPROACHES:** A door that opens automatically when it detects someone walking towards it has been installed near the Lounge Bar at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. It is to the left of the bar, at the far end of the lounge, leading to the exit into the Inner Garden or the Gents on the right.

## CAN WE HELP YOU

**WILLS AND ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY:** Making your Will is one of the most important things you can do to help your family. By making a Will, you will ensure that your wishes regarding what happens to your estate (property and belongings etc) are carried out as you have instructed. Completing a Will can help to avoid any additional upsets to your family at what is always a difficult time.

It is quite straightforward to make a Will. Just telephone a firm of solicitors that you have used before or would be happy to use and make an appointment. When you meet with the solicitor, tell them your wishes and have ready the names, together with the current addresses of those who are to benefit and the amount or item you want to give to them. You will also need to let the solicitor have the name(s) of your Executor(s). Solicitors are just people who are trained in these matters and who are there to help and advise for a fee.

You can, if you wish, draw up your own Will; guidance packs are available from most good bookshops. If you do not know of a local firm of solicitors St Dunstan's can provide you with details of approved firms. If you wish to name St Dunstan's as your Executors or act as Trustees should you establish a Trust

under the terms of your Will, then we would be pleased to act in that capacity. You might also like to consider completing an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) Form when you consult the solicitor about your Will. This does not in any way diminish your control over your own affairs; it is a precaution in case help is needed later on, for example, due to problems with health that may prevent you from managing your affairs easily.

Should you wish to make an application for grants towards the solicitor's costs for making a Will, or altering an existing Will by Codicil or completion of an EPA, please apply through your local Welfare Officer in the normal way.

If you do not have a solicitor or wish to discuss the matter (in total confidence), please do not hesitate to write to or telephone Mrs Eileen Mobsby, Wills & Trusts Coordinator, at Ovingdean on Brighton (01273) 307811 ext.: 1445, who will be pleased to assist you.

## CALLING ALL EX-NAVY CREW

**ARE YOU EX-RN/RM/WRNS/QARNNS/NAVAL VAD?** As a St Dunstaner or a member of St Dunstan's staff would you be interested in a Naval get together? This is not proposed as a St Dunstan's Reunion but a gathering of like minded people. It will not be St Dunstan's funded but we are supposed to be independent, so let's prove it. No venue or cost arranged as yet, let's see if there is any interest and take it from there – although it will be unlikely that is held at Ovingdean.

Anyone interested should contact St Dunstaners Terry Bullingham on 0121 429 2428; David Poyner 0161 282 9624 or Nigel Whiteley 0132 350 0210.

## WILL VODAFONE DERBY GIVE YOU A PRIZE CONNECTION

**REVIEW DERBY SWEEPSTAKE NOW OPEN:** With the 2006 Epsom Vodafone Derby scheduled for June 3rd, the **Review** is opening its annual Sweepstake. The draw is open to all St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows and widowers.

Tickets are 30p each and issued consecutively to a maximum of 25 (costing £7.50). Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's and crossed. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered. We are unable to take orders by telephone. The closing date is May 31st and the draw will be made that day. Details of prize distribution will be published next issue. Each applicant should send their name and address, the number of tickets required, and a stamped addressed envelope, to Simon Rogers, Derby Sweepstake Department, St Dunstan's Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

## STAFF CHANGES

### Bill Woodward

Like most of St Dunstan's Area Surveyors, Bill Woodward had a varied professional background. Trained at the Royal Agricultural College, with a great interest in forestry and experience in property purchase and development this wide experience was well suited to the multiplicity of tasks St Dunstan's (and St Dunstaners) throw at Field Staff.

For 18 years Bill looked after South Wales and the West Country property interests of St Dunstan's and gave service and advice to St Dunstaners and widows; not only those in St Dunstan's properties but also those who

owned property. Bill relished a challenge whether it was an extraordinary project or a legal dispute, he would be there sorting it out.

He will be missed by many and we hope that the adaptation to retirement is achieved successfully and enjoyed by himself and Diana.

**Michael Reinhold**

### Christine Stevens

Christine Stevens recently left St Dunstan's to pursue her career with a foster care organisation. She has been St Dunstan's Welfare Officer for Wiltshire, Gloucester, Bristol, and much of Wales since 2000. She sends her thanks to the St Dunstaners and widows who called or sent cards wishing her the best for the future.

Temporary cover for her area is being provided by Malcolm Scales.

### Matthew Le Seelleur

Matthew Le Seelleur joined St Dunstan's Peacehaven office in November as an Area Surveyor. Born and educated in Sussex, he has a BA in Real Estate Valuation and is a Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Matthew lives on the Sussex coast and is married with two children.

### David Richards

David Richards of Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales became St Dunstan's Area Surveyor for the South West on November 1st. He has previously worked as a Local Authority Valuer, Residential Mortgage Surveyor and Mobile Telecommunications Surveyor. He is married with a four-and-a-half-year-old son and enjoys reading, travelling, music and hi-fi, cycling and swimming.

# 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.

## Blind BT customers can save on Call Return

Listening to the December **Review**, I was pleased to hear the article making Sense of Directory Enquiries. I have used this service and have had the required PIN number for many years. It is a most useful service.

I would like to bring to your attention another service from BT, this is the 1471 Call

Return service – when you dial 1471 it lets you know the last number that called and by pressing 3 you can return the call immediately. Normally there is a connection charge (6p), but if you are a holder of a 195 PIN number you can register with BT to use the service free of charge. To register, call 0800 5870195 (Mon-Fri, 09:00-17:00) or

write to PIN Registration, BT Retail, PO Box 547, Leeds LS1 5WX. Quote your PIN number, telephone number and address and once registered, BT will waive the 6p connection charge when you use the 1471-3 service. Normal call charges will apply once connected.

**Vincent Robins,  
Midanbury, Southampton**

## Basket of flowers made a lovely end to day

Back in November, the St Dunstan's Bowling Club went out to lunch at a local hostelry, all arranged by the indefatigable Joan Osborne (where does she get all her energy from?). It was a lovely day, and we are glad to report it closed in good order!

On returning home we were met by our neighbour holding the most beautiful basket of scented flowers for us - the "icing on the cake" to what had been a lovely day out with bowling friends.

We were greatly moved to see that these lovely flowers were from the Chairman, Council and Staff of St Dunstan's to mark our Silver Wedding

Anniversary. We would like to thank you all for such lovely thoughts.

Whilst writing we would also like to thank all members of staff at Ovingdean for their kindnesses, consideration and arrangements made

## Get-well cards made a difference

I would like to thank all members of the Bowling and Golf Clubs for their good wishes and get-well cards. I would like to Joan Osborne, Alex, and David and Doreen Humphrey who never failed to ring daily to give me their support and to inform everyone of my progress. I am

for Elaine during her short convalescence on the medical wing in October, and to Debbie MacKenzie, our Welfare Officer, for the great amount of help she has given us to make it possible.

**Lionel and Elaine James,  
Peacehaven, East Sussex**

responding to treatment but it will be a life long course. I can now walk short distances which will enable me to visit St Dunstan's for the Bowling to meet up with all of my friends which I am most certainly looking forward to.

**John Powell,  
Woodingdean, Sussex**

## We sung with gusto on Remembrance Day

On November 12th, I stepped from the train at Marylebone Station and shared a taxi with another St Dunstaner. On arrival at the hotel, the Cab Driver refused to take our fare. As with the majority of Eastenders, he had a big heart.

During dinner and later, we made new friendships and renewed old; then to bed as we had to rise early to have breakfast and board the coaches by 09:00hrs in order to get to Horse Guards Parade. Police were everywhere and coaches were stopped and searched at Admiralty Arch.

The parade ground looked chaotic but the various groups

were organised. We had two Irish Guards to shepherd us, one of whom inspected our line and declared "I see the need for a lot of work on these shoes."

We eventually marched off through the arch to Whitehall, where we were met with applause from countless onlookers. This was picked up by the crowd as we marched. I think the loudest applause and cheers were reserved for the Chelsea Pensioners.

We halted in line with Downing Street and in due time Big Ben chimed and the artillery retort signalled the silence for two minutes. The end of the silence was

signalled by another artillery shot, then the *Last Post*. Wreaths were then laid by the Queen and dignitaries.

The Bishop of London then took over the Service. Following a prayer, the Band of the Guards Division led the singing of the hymn *O God Our Help in Ages Past*. The Bishop offered another prayer, then asked everyone to join in *The Lord's Prayer*.

The Blessing was followed by *Reveille* and the National Anthem – sung by all with gusto! It was an honour to be part of a memorable day!

**Arthur Turner,  
Harbury, Leamington Spa,  
Warwickshire**

## Tape machines can be frustrating at times

Recently my personal radio and tape machine was giving trouble. Everyone who came to the house had a go, but it was no good. These things are addictive and I was like a child without its dummy, bereft I couldn't sleep. So, I bought myself a new tape machine. Happy trusting soul that I am, after messing with the blessed thing for all afternoon, I gave it up. I just had to listen to a CD, but it is not the same satisfaction at all. Now I know what Mick Jagger was on about. Next day, I took it with me to the

Keep Fit club and was shown how it worked. Wonderful, I was such a happy little soul at bedtime lying listening. This is bliss. I then found I couldn't open the blessed thing. Oh the frustration!

After a sleepless night, and the Keep Fit Club where some of my friends come my

aid. However, back home after listening to a lovely tale, I find I cannot open it and have to settle for the CD again. Next day, at the Craft Club, I show it to Jan and with a smile, she turns it to the side and flicks it with a nail – hey sesame, it opens!

**Mary Ackland,  
Solihull, West Midlands**

## My gratitude to the Sheffield Centre crew

May I offer my thanks to the whole staff of St Dunstan's Sheffield. Their care, courtesy and consideration was second to none. I have been here for two weeks and am looking forward to my next visit.

**Eric Colman, Melbourne, York**

# BALANCING THE BOOKS

**Ted Bunting** picks up a daring and compelling talking thriller

## **The Day of the Jackal**

Author: Frederick Forsyth

Reader: David Broomfield.

Catalogue No: TB1630

Duration: 15 hours, 45 minutes.

I HAVE BEEN told that Frederick Forsyth took six months leave from his "proper job" to write this, his first novel. How marvellous all round if the story is true; for Forsyth himself, who made his fortune, and for his readers who can enjoy one of the best thrillers of all time. The plot is simple enough; a number of French army officers hire an English killer to assassinate President de Gaulle, and the text traces the route to his objective. The hit man, (code-name

"The Jackal") is a ruthless professional; completely devoid of scruple, and the sort of character we would hate to have lurking in our midst. Yet amazingly it seems natural to be "on his side" wishing him well. Even when he commits a murder or two on the way you don't want his progress interrupted by the servants of the law. It is exceedingly difficult to explain why one should admire such a dangerous and really despicable man like the Jackal. There is much more to it than applauding his skill, inventiveness, mastery of disguise and meticulous attention to detail. So could it be that we automatically sympathise with his ambition? Is it possible, do you think, that anyone who shot de Gaulle would have become a hero?

## Blind library services discuss merger for 2007

RNIB and the National Library for the Blind (NLB) have started formal discussions with a view to merging the library services of both charities in April 2007. This in principle decision has been taken by the trustees of both charities to enter into detailed negotiations.

Both RNIB and NLB provide a range of library services for blind and partially sighted people who are frustrated by the inadequate provision of books and other reading materials in formats such as Braille, large print or audio by publishers and mainstream libraries. By combining

the library services of both charities, they hope blind and partially sighted people will enjoy a more comprehensive service with a wider choice of titles and formats. They aim to reduce duplication so that more resources can be channelled into direct services for customers.

For details of available services, contact RNIB Library Information Services, PO Box 173, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE2 6WS.

Non-UK residents can contact the Exports Department at the above address. Their direct telephone number for UK residents is 01733 375333,

or via Customer Services on 0845 702 3153, or e-mail [libraryinfo@rnib.org.uk](mailto:libraryinfo@rnib.org.uk) For non-UK residents, their telephone number is +44 1733 37 54 00, or e-mail [exports@rnib.org.uk](mailto:exports@rnib.org.uk).

The National Library for the Blind's website, [www.nlb-online.org](http://www.nlb-online.org) has an online catalogue of 32,000 Braille, Moon and Giant Print titles as well as Braille music scores.

On February 24th, they will hold an auction of celebrities favourite childhood books signed by Darcy Bussell and Jeremy Paxman amongst others. Details are on [www.nlb-online.org/bookauction](http://www.nlb-online.org/bookauction).

## BBC Sport Award for skiing St Dunstaner

St Dunstaner Kevin Alderton of Dartford, Kent, currently preparing for a ski-speed record attempt was named Disabled Sportsman of the Year at the BBC South East Sports Awards on December 4th. Kevin was away at the World Cup ski races when 200 sports fans assembled at the Hilton Brighton Metropole for the presentation dinner and celebration. Other winners were female cricketer Clare Connor and ice skater Jane Torvill

But the top award of the night went to Kent and England cricketer Geraint Jones. A phone vote carried out during November resulted in thousands of votes being cast. Kevin's award was collected by HPA Anna Robinson.

## New Year CBE for services to veterans

Brigadier Ian Townsend, Director-General of the Royal British Legion, was made a CBE for services to ex-Service men and women.

The Veterans Agency's medical advisor Dr Anne Braidwood was also awarded the CBE for services in the Ministry of Defence. Dr Braidwood, from Wesham, Lancashire, was instrumental in developing a scheme where veterans can receive compensation for injuries while still in service for the MOD.

## Ten questions on...

The subject "The female of the species is ..."

Harry "Bulldog" Beevers on the not-so-fairer sex

- 1) The term for a male domestic cat is a Tom, what is the equivalent term for a domestic female cat?
- 2) Former MP Nancy Astor is reputed to have said to Winston Churchill, "If I was your wife I'd put poison into your coffee." What is said to have been his reply?
- 3) Which actress, a former winner of the title Miss Hungary 1936 said, "I am an excellent housekeeper, every time I divorce my husband I keep his house"?
- 4) In the Walt Disney film *Treasure Island*, what is the name of the only female character to have a speaking part?
- 5) In the 19th century, the artist John Singer Sargent painted a famous portrait of the actress Ellen Terry as which Shakespearian villainess?
- 6) Of which profession was Agatha Christie speaking when she said, "Every woman should marry an ---- because to him she grows more attractive as she grows older"?
- 7) Who is given advice in the following words from a song by Noel Coward, "She's a bit of an ugly duckling you must obviously confess, And the width of her seat would surely defeat her chances of success"?
- 8) When American columnist Dorothy Parker was told that President Calvin Coolidge was dead, what was her four word question?
- 9) According to writer Lawrence Durrell, which subject of a famous Leonardo da Vinci portrait has the smile of a woman who has just dined off her husband?
- 10) When Rudyard Kipling wrote the words, "The female of the species is more deadly than the male", to which creature was he referring, the spider or the bear?

Answers can be found on page 26.

# Finding water in Ghana

David Stuttard tells how his experience in the Royal Engineers enabled a blind man to bring fresh water to an African village

**T**HE STORY STARTS back in February last year when I was asked, "Using your military skills how could you work today in a Third World environment?" As a retired 'Sapper', I thought of all the trades one learns serving with the Royal Engineers like plumbing, joinery and bricklaying. Of course the list is much longer and even includes bridge building! After a lot of thought, I came up with water supply. But how would you start to supply clean water in a Third World country? I decided to contact the experts for their advice. Through some of my pals in the military I was soon phoning 521 STRE (Specialist Team Royal Engineers) Water Development at Chetwyn Barracks, Chiwell in Nottingham. Whilst their first response was they could only give me written technical advice as times are very busy for their expertise around the world at the moment. Rather than them write to me I arranged to visit the unit in Nottingham for a meeting with their Water Development team of Well Drillers.

That was when things started to move; I convinced them that once a location was selected they should come with St Dunstan's and do the work as a training exercise. Whilst our meeting was getting more interesting, a young officer said he was a member of a local Christian Centre that had set up an

Education and Health scheme in Ghana called 'The King's Village'. Many meetings later we set up St Dunstan's Water Project, a partnership between St Dunstan's, Royal Engineers and The Christian Centre.

After a lot of planning meetings between St Dunstan's, Royal Engineers and the Christian Centre, the Pilot Project came together in that whatever work we carried out in Ghana, it must be sustainable, to that end the project became Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. This package allowed us to work in individual communities that have terrible health problems like Trachoma (blindness), Guinea Worm Disease (caused by a water-borne parasite) and many more, all through lack of fresh water and using unfiltered water, lack of hygiene and no sanitation.

However, before we left there was still one other major point for us to consider. Who has the relevant skills and training required to teach good hygiene practices to the villagers? Answer: Steve Pendleton. As all regular **Review** readers know Steve 'Master Chef' Pendleton is the UK's only registered blind chef and would therefore be perfectly qualified to give the locals a month's crash course of intensive basic hygiene training. A quick phone call later and he'd agreed to come out with us for the month.

The team deployed to Ghana on October 22nd and returned to the UK on November 27th (one week recce and four weeks work and travel time).

We completed, two fresh water boreholes, two water pipelines and stand pipes connected to the Ghanaian water mains, 109 latrines (UNICEF specification) and left behind the foundations to an ongoing solid health and hygiene training programme.

Amazing. In just one month myself, Steve and the rest of the team had fundamentally changed the lives of over

two-and-a-half-thousand men women and children, giving them, and future generations, something they've never had before, hope! Hope for better living conditions, hope for improved hygiene, hope to end the devastating poverty and hope for their children and grandchildren.

And us, how do we all feel? I obviously can't speak for Steve and the rest of the team but I personally got an immense amount of satisfaction out of the

experience and having had a taste of it I'm keen to return as soon as possible. The whole experience has been a monumental personal confidence boost – this project has proved to myself and the world that a blind man is not inhibited by his disability and no matter how big the task is it can always be overcome.

We hope to be establishing further ties with the Army and returning to Ghana with them in the near future.

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## David keeps UK In Touch with Ghana project

LISTENERS to Radio 4's In Touch programme will have heard St Dunstaner Dave Stuttard tell presenter Peter White how his team helped to find a method of providing a clean and regular water supply to villages in the north Ghana.

David explained that the ladies of the village collected the water from a dammed area some three kilometres from the village, storing it in a five-gallon oil drum. "The water was just brown looking and of course it had sort of all the water borne diseases that one could imagine," he said. He elaborated on a suggestion that it would be possible to tap a water pipeline some five miles

away. However, it was discovered that water only flowed through the pipe two-days-a-week and thus did not meet the project objectives. With the pipeline having become a local status symbol, David had to convince the villagers that it was not the best way forward. "It's then that the elder of the village turned round to me and said that because I was offering him good advice I would now be the elder and he would be the child I'd be looking after. Now in all of my planning I never realised this kind of thing would go on," he said on the radio show. The villagers later presented David with the hat and multi-coloured gown of a tribal elder.

## KEEPING IT CLEAN

Stephen Pendleton starts a record of his experiences on the Ghana project

**P**LANNING FOR the water pipeline project acknowledged that you cannot just lay a water pipe line and drill a lot of bore holes expecting them to be a success. You cannot just deliver clean water to these villages and then pack up and go home for tea and medals. You need something more. This is where I became involved with the project!

Two parties went out to the Tolon and Kumbrunga region of Ghana. The advanced party consisting of Nick Ward, Dave Stuttard, Captain Brian Duff (RE), Sgt Benny (RE) and two medics from the Royal Army Medical Corps. Their job was to resource materials for the water pipe line and arrange for a drilling. They would also make contact with the King's Village and get the villagers started on digging trenches for the pipeline.

There was a lot to do before I departed for Ghana. I had to have a briefing in London, with a specialist in Overseas

Hygiene. I had to come up with a four-week Hygiene Training plan, tailored to the needs of these two villages. I also had to anticipate problems and allow for them. Then I had to have a couple of armfuls of vaccinations and sort out my anti-malaria course. By far the most important thing I had to do, was to convince my wife that I was not completely mad, which was by far one of the hardest parts of this project.

Anybody who knows me, will tell you, that I am a real family man. So telling the wife, that I was going to Northern Ghana to teach Hygiene Promotion and would be away for a complete month was not going to be easy. But I needn't have worried! I have been with my wife Michala for ten years and she has supported me in everything I have done. She had some concerns regarding my safety (snakes and spiders), but these were soon sorted out. The main concern was the lack of communication with home. Once she learned that the team would have a satellite phone, she was happy about me going. We have three daughters, Bethany, eight, Shannon, seven, and Amy who is three. When Shannon found out I was going to Africa she said: "Daddy, but you have only got one leg and you are blind. You can't go to Africa, a lion will catch and

eat you!!!" Aren't kids great! So it was a very emotional departure when I left for Northern Ghana at six am on October 29th. I must have had so many doubts in my mind. But then, I would think. "When would I ever get this opportunity again? How many blind men with one leg get this sort of chance, to be able to help so many people and change their lives forever?"

With the benefit of hindsight, I can tell you that this trip was worth it.

### **THE ADVENTURE BECOMES A MISSION**

We parked the 4X4 outside the village. It was 5:00am and the sun was just starting to rise over the Ghanaian landscape. This time in the morning would be my most favourite. I would come to love this part of the day. You would have a dozen different varieties of birds singing their strange songs, that to an Englishman's ear, told him that he was in a completely foreign environment. It was fantastic! Just to listen for a few minutes to all the different sounds that this country had to offer.

The villagers were roused by the sound of beating drums and percussion bells. The singing of the villagers at this time in the morning was once heard never forgotten, their deep African voices seemed to carry across to us as we made

our way down to the village. One of the most beautiful things I have ever heard.

The reason for my early start was that I had to observe the villagers of Koshibu with regards to their hygiene habits first thing in the morning. This was one of the villages, the other was Pusigo, that St Dunstan's and the King's Village had selected, because they were both shown to be in the greatest need of clean water. But you don't just give them clean water, you have to set up an education programme, tailored around their needs. This could be the construction of latrines and the training in how to use them. The recruitment and training of Hygiene Facilitators, who would carry on the work, once I had left Ghana was also an important part of this.

It did not take me long to realise that things in this village were as bad as I had been told. The first thing that hit me was the rather unpleasant aroma of animal and human faeces. I had not even reached the outskirts, but it was evident that the villagers rose and then preceded to leg it out into the surrounding fields, to do what comes naturally to people the world over. With only the most sophisticated of them pausing to wipe their behinds, they then ran back to their mud huts to start the day's routine. This for the men,

included working on their rice, tobacco or maize farms. But whilst St Dunstan's and the Royal Engineers were in the country, most of the men would be working hard digging a 6km trench for the water pipeline, that would connect them up to the Ghanaian Water Net. After breakfast the women, would start the day, making the first round trip to a dirty, brackish, guinea worm infested dam, which was their only water source. They walked nine miles per day, carrying water on their heads for their families. The sad thing for me, as I watched these women, carrying these water barrels on their heads was that they knew that this water was slowly killing them and their children, but there was nothing else for them to drink. And it had been like this for years.

As we entered the village our supposedly covert entrance was spoiled by a group of small children playing with a rusty old bicycle wheel. As soon as we had been spotted, we were surrounded by hordes of children, arms outstretched, expectantly waiting for the bag of sweets, that every white man carries, to be distributed. This happened to us on a number of occasions after our arrival in Ghana.

My Hygiene Promotion Team consisted of three members: Myself, with the job of training and recruiting a

group of Hygiene Facilitators in each of village. I would also observe the villagers and come up with solutions to their hygiene problems and set up a Sustainable Hygiene programme, which could be carried on with long after my departure. My assistant and driver was Judith. She serves as a Medic with the Royal Army Medical Corps and was on loan to us for the five weeks of the Ghana Project. She caused quite a stir in the villages amongst the native men. This was because she was blonde, but what really got them hot under the collar was the fact that she could drive! This fact left Jude with more marriage proposals than Elizabeth Taylor. Thomas was probably the most important member of my team. He was my Dagomba translator. Dagomba is the tribal language the villagers spoke.

We had observed the large quantities of faeces on the village outskirts. As we carried on, all normal life for the villagers came to a stand still. The appearance of two white visitors being escorted by an English speaking Ghanaian was too much for them to resist. Jude and I felt like the Pied Pipers of Hamelin as we walked through their village, there must have been about 30 Children and adults closely following us as we worked our way through.

Two things that stand out in my mind were, the

aforementioned stench, it made you feel quite nauseous, and the amount of flies. As soon as we entered the village, we were assaulted by hundreds of the things. They were everywhere, flying around our heads, landing on our bodies and trying to get up our noses and in our mouths. How people could live in these conditions were totally beyond me. But hopefully, in my time in Ghana, I would change this!

We also noticed large rubbish dumps with domestic litter scattered all around. These covered an area the size of two playing fields. During our drive, I briefed Jude and Thomas on what I wanted them to look out for that morning. Thomas informed me that he had seen large uncovered barrels of food, outside the mud huts. This was another serious health risk to deal with during my Hygiene Lessons.

Later, as we were making our way out of the village, I stumbled over the reason why malaria is the biggest single killer of people in these villages. Without thinking about it, I stepped over a dirty, stinking, rancid, brackish, stagnant, pool of water. I wondered why it should be lying outside somebody's hut like this! I asked Thomas. The answer shocked the life out of me. This really, was the most serious risk to life that I had



seen that morning. Each compound, consisted of about ten mud huts arranged in a circle, with a central courtyard and in each compound, there was a washroom! Well they called it a washroom. It was in fact, part of an adjoining wall connecting two huts. In this washroom, there was a sloping floor, which ran down to a hole in the wall. The occupants would urinate on the sloping floor, then pour their dirty water over it, sweeping it all out through the hole. All this dirty water, would then gather outside the washroom. Because of the sheer quantities it was impossible for it all to soak away. So each compound had its own dirty pool of water outside going stagnant and putrid - just the sort of stuff, that the malaria-carrying mosquitoes indigenous to this part of Africa love to breed in.

Now that I had identified this as a serious problem, I estimated that 80 per cent of all the compounds had this problem. The villagers were living right next door to a malaria breeding ground and they had caused this problem!

As we returned to our vehicle, we heard the beating of drums and the rhythmic playing of a percussion bell. It was 07:45am and the men were hard at work digging the trench for the water pipe line. The drums and bells were

a sort of African version of Radio One. As long as they were playing, then the men on the pipe line would work and when they stopped, it was time for a break.

The thing that sticks in my memory the most about these people, is the simple fact that they were so happy. They were the most friendly people I could ever come to know and I would do my very best, in my short time in Ghana to help them as much as I could.

As Jude drove us back to the King's Village, I reflected on what I had just observed. I had thought that going to Northern Ghana would be a great adventure! In fact, it had now turned into one big mission to help these people. As I thought this, a long line of brightly dressed Ghanaian women walked past our car, like a long line of worker ants. Each woman had a large barrel of water on their heads carrying it back to their families.

### **COMING UP WITH SOLUTIONS**

I had just come back from the bathroom and was busy putting my leg on, when I heard Ben's voice calling to me from outside our accommodation. "Steve are you dressed yet?" I shouted back that I was nearly done.

Opening the door, I was greeted by Ben, the founder of the King's Village, and six

village elders. Ben told me that these men had walked up from their village to present me with some gifts. They were all sitting next to each other on a whitewashed wall that bounded a small sitting area outside our bungalow. The gentleman in the middle of this group, had a basket at his feet, which contained two guinea fowl and neatly piled up in the corner was a large stack of yams. This was not the first time that our party had received gifts. So far, we had been given one goat, six guinea fowl, six chickens, guinea fowl eggs and what seemed like hundreds of yams. I could not help but be amazed at the generosity of these people. They did not have a great deal of food for themselves, but they were more than happy to share what they had with us. Absolutely amazing! It really made you feel quite humble. Every time I took gifts of food from these people, all I wanted to do was tell them that we had plenty. But I could not, because if I had, they would have been terribly offended. When I had been briefed in London, my instructor had warned me to always expect gifts of food.

Ben was translating for the Elders. He informed me, that the villagers were extremely grateful for all our hard work on the water pipe line and that they were also very happy that I would be starting the Hygiene Training soon. These guinea fowl and yams were a

token of their appreciation. I shook hands and thanked them. As they departed, I realised that these men were the village elders, but not one of them was over-60! The average life span in this area was 56 years. So reaching the grand old age of 60 really was quite an achievement. After they had left, I sat down on an old plastic garden chair and started to 'chew the cud' with Ben. He is quite an impressive looking man, standing over 6ft tall and very fit looking. I estimated him to be in his mid-40s and his heavily accented English was quite something to hear. Ben told me, with some passion in his voice, all about the King's Village.

On the 42 acre site, that made up the village, there was a school that served a catchment area of five villages. Children from the age of three could go there until they were seven. Every year, they were adding new classrooms, so that eventually they would be able to take children until they reached the age of ten, the same as Primary Schools in the UK. The children, were all sponsored by people in the UK and by the end of our party's work in Ghana, four more of the children would be sponsored, as myself, Rory Scott, Kat Osbourne and Captain Brian Duff would all take the short walk up to the school and sponsor a child! The village was also working on the construction of a

much needed medical centre. This will provide medical cover for all the surrounding villages and is due to be completed in April. The village also housed a great number of men and their families, whose job was to do irrigation work in this area of Northern Ghana. The King's Village received a lot of its funding from the Christian Centre in Nottingham.

I headed back for a cup of tea. In each of the three bedrooms, there were two camp beds complete with the most awful pillows and a mosquito net covering each bed. The bathroom had a shower ... of sorts! It would have been perfect if you were only 4ft tall! Believe me, when you have only got one leg, trying to balance in a bath, under a 4ft high shower, when you are 6ft tall, is pretty awkward. However, the water was not what you would call powerful. The pressure was very low, so the best we received was a slight drizzle.

There was no mains electricity. We did have generated electricity for a couple of hours in the evenings. But once again this did not worry me! As I am a 'Blind Biff,' what did I need the lights on for? Also as I am a Brailist, I did not have to worry about re-charging the batteries on my lap top, as my Perkins Brailier was the only piece of machinery I needed

and a Brailier does not need electricity to run it. So in short, I found the conditions pretty comfortable and I was completely self sufficient. The only thing that did get to me on occasions was the fact that I could not just boil the kettle and make a cup of tea. To make the morning brews, we had to boil the water on the gas stove which was a bit of a pain to say the least!

I had been ascertaining the Health and Hygiene situation of our two villages. What I had witnessed in these communities was absolutely horrific. So it was now up to me to sit down and think up some solutions.

I rolled a sheet of paper into my Perkins and replayed my notes from the villages on my Dictaphone. Before I left for Ghana, I had written out a four-week Hygiene Promotion Plan. It is a great testament to the training I had before I left England. All the answers to the problems were written down in my plan in good old fashioned Braille.

It's Sod's Law though, the most serious problem that the villagers faced had not been mentioned during my training day in London. What was I going to do about the pools of mosquito-ridden water that sat next door to most of the mud hut compounds? It was quite simple actually! The problem was that this

filthy water was gathering outside the washrooms. So we had to come up with a way of making this water soak away. Simple when you think about it! What I would get the villagers to do, is dig "Soak Aways" outside their washrooms. A Soak Away is basically, a hole just over three feet deep, with similar width and length. It is filled with three different sizes of stones, smaller stones at the bottom followed by middle sized stones on top of them, and finally a top layer of big stones. This hole of stones is then connected to the washroom by a length of plastic pipe, no more than a metre long. Then all the rancid water is swept down the pipe. As soon as the water hits the stones, it disperses through each layer of rocks, until it soaks into the ground.

Later I was writing out my lesson plans. Rory Scott, my roommate and St Dunstan's King of Spin, was sitting opposite. Whilst we were both engrossed in our paperwork, in walked our Ghanaian cook Connie, who had bought along her sister Beatrice, who I soon found out, shared the same disability as me.

Beatrice had also lost her left leg above the knee and this fact was quite obvious, as she was not wearing a prostheses. We began to talk about all the advantages of having one leg:

The fact that socks go twice as far, the fact that there is less flesh for the mosquitoes to bite and also the fact that you have got a good excuse for not running anywhere. Of course, the subject came round to how we both lost our legs. Beatrice told me that she had lost her leg when she was four-years-old. She was playing with some friends one day. They were playing a game that involved throwing stones and sadly, she got scratched in the leg by a stone. The scratch got infected and eventually turned gangrenous and subsequently her leg had to be amputated. It is sad for me to think, that in this country, a scratch like this would have been cured by a quick dab of TCP. However, in Ghana nobody had thought to treat this scratch, so Beatrice lost her leg because of such a minor incident.

I asked her why she was not wearing a false leg? I should

have guessed! She could not afford one. I asked her "How much does it cost to buy a leg?" She informed me that it cost 1000 million Cedis. I asked Rory how much 1000 million Cedis was in English money. After some mind boggling mental arithmetic from Rory, he informed me that 1000 million Cedis was roughly about £66. As soon as he said this, me and Rory must have had the same thought, we both decided to give Beatrice the money for a new leg. Well, what was £66 to us? But it was a completely new life to Beatrice!

I would like to say, that Rory and I got on with our paperwork after this episode. But the truth is, that we were both feeling quite emotional, so Rory suggested that he should go and make a cup of tea. Which he did and we both sat down and reflected on what we both had just done to improving this young girl's life. Truly Amazing!



Richard Wyeth, Breakfast DJ on Garrison Radio raised £175 for St Dunstan's during his Great South Run. Fundraising Officer, Lynsey Coles went to his studio in Aldershot to say thank you for his efforts supporting blind ex-Service men.

# Growing Chrysanthemums

St Dunstaner **Peter Moore** on the art of cultivating exhibition class flowers!

**H**OW DID MY love of growing and exhibiting early and late chrysanthemums develop? It harks back to when I was about ten-years-old and not into gardening at all, too much like hard work at that age. Anyway, I had plenty of other things to do such as going into the local woods or swimming in the river Trent, well you could when I was a child!

Back then, I used to go to an aunt's house regularly. She had not long married a person from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, we lived in Burton-on-Trent and on one visit I noticed some tall plants that had greaseproof bags on them where the flowers should have been. I was told they were chrysanthemums and that the bags were there to protect the developing flower. More on this in a later issue.

On subsequent visits I watched them develop into the lovely flowers which to a small boy had extremely large heads on them. Not holding my interest after being cut I soon found other things to do with my life. Time passed with the Forces and afterwards as a gamekeeper until I was diagnosed with macular degeneration and lost the central vision in both eyes.

I had nothing to do with

the plants from my first asking about them at ten until my partner and I moved to the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire in May 2000. We have a very spacious garden and a couple of greenhouses and I set to work with the usual tomatoes, cucumbers and annual flowers. I wanted more flowers than I had in the year 2003 and as luck would have it a local neighbour grew large quantities for bedding plants and so I paid him a visit.

Bob and I get on very well and after our first meeting and gaining some more bedding plants we were on the way out of his garden and I noticed some large plants in pots. I asked Bob what they were, only to be told they were late exhibition chrysanthemums. I showed a very keen interest in the plants and we have chatted for hours on the subject of their cultivation and in 2003 he gave me my first cuttings of five varieties that totalled around 50 plants. I followed his instructions on growing and in November 2003 I won the novice section in the local show.

In 2004, I grew substantially more plants and we went to a

few more shows and I won the novice section in the Stroud early show in September of that year, followed by winning the novice section in the local Cinderford show and getting best bloom in show and finally our own show in the open class I gained three first places, two seconds and three thirds. It was a fantastic year.

This year it has been a disaster, I lost over 300 cuttings through a virus and some really bad compost. My showing days were nil but I still went to the shows to keep in contact with the growers and some really good people who will help in any way they can if it is to do with growing chrysanthemums.

Now it is the end of the season again and the people previously mentioned are all giving me new stools or roots of plants so that I can get the stock back for next year.

I will be sending in regular articles on how to grow these magnificent flowers, so you may follow the progress of a fanatical chrysanthemum exhibitor in all aspects of growing and showing the flowers or just getting some cut flowers for the house.

## WWII Town Medal for Cliff



WESTBURY CELEBRATED the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar by presenting town medals to its World War II veterans. The medals were presented at a service held in All Saints Parish Church following a parade. Amongst those honoured in the Wiltshire village was Royal Air Force St Dunstaner Cliff Gower.

"When my daughter took me forward, the acting Lord Lieutenant, Lt General Sir Roderick Cordy-Simpson stepped forward and took my hand," said Cliff. "He said 'I saw you when I came into the Church and said I am going to make sure that I give Cliff his medal'. As he did, this made me feel very humble." The medal is silver and gilt, has the White Horse in enamel on the front, while an inscription on the back reads "Presented to Cliff Gower in recognition of the services he gave to his country during the Second World War."

## Air Cadets take up challenge with 13-mile blindfold march



BEXHILL AIR CADETS briefly experienced what life is like without one of the major senses when they embarked on a 13-mile sponsored march to support blind ex-service men and women on December 11th. The cadets from 2262 (Bexhill) squadron Air Training Corps were blindfolded as they walked along a section of Hailsham's Cuckoo Trail as part of the St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge. Walking with them were three Army St Dunstaners, Colin Williamson, Steve Pendleton and Matthew Rhodes.

"They are a smashing bunch of kids," said Colin Williamson who served in the Royal Artillery before losing his sight. "They have approached the walk with good humour and determination. It is great to see a group of kids doing something great in the community." Nineteen cadets, aged between 13 and 18, and three instructors took part in the walk. Each blindfolded person was led by a seeing buddy. "I have a lot more respect for blind people now," said one cadet. "Because I have no idea where I am." At the halfway point, the blindfolds were exchanged for the walk back. "I was a little uncertain at first," said Cadet Emma. "But I have a lot of trust in Tim who is guiding me. I know he won't walk me into a tree."

The cadets briefly picked up a mascot, Hogan, a blind-deaf terrier who had got separated from his owners. The excitable dog was quickly reunited with his owner.

## A DIAMOND COUPLE



ARMY ST DUNSTANER Richard Bowyer and his wife Claire celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary with a gift for other ex-Service men and women who have lost their sight. The Bolton couple asked friends and relatives to donate to St Dunstan's rather than give presents for their 60th wedding anniversary in November. They presented a cheque for £750 to Welfare Officer Maggie Walton followed by another £250 raised by members of Dunscar Conservative Club. Our thanks go to Mr and Mrs Bowyer, their family and friends for supporting the charity.

## Christmas farewell to the Padre

Father Tony Otterwell conducted his last service as St Dunstan's Chaplain on Christmas Day. He held the morning service in the Winter Garden at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. During the last five years he has officiated at weddings and funerals in the Chapel as well as regular meetings in the Blue Room. We wish him all the best for the future.



## Ken's memory spurs Stewart on in Cardiff run



Stewart Burton, pictured running through the grounds of Cardiff Castle, ran up an impressive £1,000 in memory of his St Dunstaner uncle Ken Burton. Ken, who served in the Army Catering Corps, passed away last October after battling the effects of multiple sclerosis for more than a decade.

Stewart, aged 33, ran in the Cardiff Half-Marathon. He was supported in his fundraising by his father, grandfather and colleagues at Racal Acoustic where he is UK Sales Manager. He was suffering from a viral infection but was determined to go ahead, completing the run in 1 hour, 53 minutes.

# Why it is a good thing to have a Penny on your tax!

**A** PENNY WENT on your tax last year but the occasion is cause for celebration. St Dunstaner Penny Melville-Brown of Fareham, Hampshire has been appointed non-executive director on the board of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. She will be bringing an independent perspective and legal experience to the Government department responsible for tax collection and border control.

"It is a large and complex organisation full of very talented people who work hard to provide a good service to the public, but they tend not to be recognised for that," said Penny, adding that part of her role would

be to examine the corporate social responsibility of the organisation. "I'm very excited about it."

In accepting the position, Penny is putting her principles into practice having worked with the Cabinet Office to set up a pilot mentoring scheme to encourage disabled people to apply for public appointments. Penny's input helped form a 'tool-kit' published by the Public Appointments Unit that provides guidelines for public organisations to approach and engage disabled people in their fields of expertise.

The first female naval barrister, Penny has

championed the business case of maximising the potential of disabled people as employees and customers. She is a member of the Ministry of Defence Diversity Advisory Panel, Chairman of the Learning and Skills Council for Hampshire and also serves on the Works and Pensions Standards Committee and South East War Pensions Committee.

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) was formed in April last year, following the merger of the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise. The members of the board guide and advise the civil servants responsible for ensuring the correct tax is paid at the right time.

## Where is that fuel injector?

IT IS OVER 60 years since they had to service one, but the Spitfire's Rolls-Royce Merlin engine retained a familiar feel for Royal Air Force St Dunstaners Arthur Lowe and Eric Colman as they identified each part. They were part of a group that visited the Spitfire Deconstructed exhibition at London's Science Museum.



# St Dunstan's microlite marvels

Not even the sky's the limit for these blind aviators

Although he served in the RAF, this was the first time Arthur had taken control of a flying aircraft.



Eric Colman enjoyed his return to the skies.

**M**ENTION MICROLITES and most folk think of a hang-glider with an outboard motor. But if that is what a group of St Dunstaners visiting The Microlite Aviation Club at Popham Airfield in Hampshire were expecting, it wasn't what they found. The Icarus C42 is a very dignified light aircraft with a cruising speed of 100mph and the ability to slow to about 45mph in perfect safety.

Six St Dunstaners were treated to a twenty minute taster flight courtesy of Bill Leith who had raised the cost of each flight through sponsored Marathons and other activities. Thus it was, that St Dunstan's original

balloonatic Eric Colman was able to reclaim his wings, while fellow RAF St Dunstaner Arthur Lowe was able to take control of the stick with some help from co-pilot Danny. Also taking to air were Marjorie Scott, Cliff Ford, Jim Hertherington and Dorothy Wright.

"Do you know I haven't done that since I was in my 20s," exclaimed Dorothy. "I was PA to an Air Marshal when I was in the Air Force and wherever he went, poor little lamb had to follow."

Each St Dunstaner enjoyed an exhilarating take off and tour of the local area before coming into land. They were presented with certificates marking the occasion.



Dorothy and Danny prepare for take-off.



Jim Hetherington and his co-pilot buckle-up.

# Norwegian Remembrance

St Dunstaner **Ken Seaman** meets with old comrades in Oslo!

**O**VER THE ARMISTICE weekend I was in Oslo, Norway, attending the last reunion of the MKVF, the Norwegian Naval War Veterans Association, of which I am an honorary member. There were only two British ex-Servicemen attending this event, Roland Thomas from Dawlish and myself. On this trip my eldest son David who was acting as my carer accompanied me.

Unfortunately the event was overshadowed by the sudden death of the Association Chairman just a fortnight previously. However, a week before we were due to fly out to Oslo, I received an e-mail message from Commander Ola Boe Hansen informing me that some of the proposed events had been cancelled but he and Commander Bill Ludvigsen were taking over the organising of the event. The first change was that we were being accommodated in a different hotel, one that was closer to the Akershus Castle Complex, their equivalent to our Ministry of Defence.

On the first morning there was the launching of a book written by Commander Boe Hansen relating some of the actions performed by the

veterans during wartime. I had a special invitation to this launch along with the other veterans that appear in the book, for my wife and myself appear in the concluding chapter titled *The lifeboat of Europe*. It is a little about my service career and association with some of the Norwegian veterans who served on the Norwegian corvettes that formed B6 Mid-Ocean Escort Group, protecting convoys across the Atlantic, also my personal view of cooperation between British and Norwegian forces.

In the evening, a party was arranged at the hotel, all the veterans appearing in the book were invited. The problem I have now is that it is written in Norwegian and I'm unable to translate the text.

On the Saturday morning there was some free time that enabled my son and I to take a walk around Oslo city. We walked along to the Royal Palace. While it is a large and impressive building it is very different to our Buckingham Palace. To start off there are no high railings around the building, just a large open space in front, so you can walk right up to the front. There are soldiers of the King's Guard on sentry

duty. All these young men are conscripts, for in Norway all the young men and the girls are conscripted for 12 months, though the girls do not have to serve in the Forces unless they wish to do so. The King's Guard appear at the Edinburgh Tattoo quite regularly and always put on a very good show. Later in the afternoon we were scheduled to hold the last AGM of the MKVF. The meeting was held in a room at the Oslo Militære on Kongens Gate next to the MOD. Afterwards there were light refreshments and a chance to mingle and speak with other veterans and their families, all residents in Oslo. A short walk back to our hotel to change, then back to the same building where Chief of Staff Navy, Admiral Finsett, hosted a farewell dinner to the Royal Norwegian Navy War Veterans Association. With coffee and drinks served afterwards a great evening was enjoyed by all present.

Armistice Sunday, coaches came to the hotel to take us to the main cemetery in Oslo. There at the Cenotaph, the British Ambassador led the wreath laying ceremony along with the Ambassadors from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and

many others. The service was carried out by the vicar from the Anglican Church in Oslo. Buglers from the King's Guard sounded the *Last Post*. It was a very sombre service carried out on a very dull and wet day.

Later on, the coaches took us to the Anglican Church for a Church Service. This was attended by many British people living in Oslo who had also attended the service at the Cenotaph. The weather had cleared and we walked the short distance to the British Embassy. It was just going dusk and the Embassy was backlit by the most wonderful red sky. As the Ambassador was greeting us she was quick to notice that I was a member of St Dunstan's. While she was circulating among the visitors the Ambassador came and had quite a long conversation with me. The Ambassador was a very interesting and charming lady.

That was the end of the official events. However, back at the hotel, we were asked by Commander Ludvigsen if we would like to join a small party of veterans who were going out for an Italian meal and to this we were very pleased to agree. The Commander got the group together and off we went into the city. At the restaurant it was obvious that the Commander was well known for we were taken



St Dunstaner Ken Seaman, Ambassador Mariot Leslie and Roland Thomas in Oslo.

into a more select room at the rear. The service and the food were excellent. I had to smile when I thought about it, here we were in Norway, eating Italian food served by young Chinese ladies and when the chef came to speak with us he turned out to be a Turk. Regardless, it was a most enjoyable evening.

The following morning came the time to bid farewell to most of our friends. With lots of warm handshakes and big hugs we sent them on their way home. As we ourselves had booked our flight tickets before any of the postponements were announced we were not due to fly back until the Tuesday, this meant that we had a further free day. We set out to visit as many sights as we could. First stop was the Military Museum then on to look inside the fine town hall, or Radhus as it is known, an impressive building that sweeps right down to the shores of the Oslo Fjord. Then off by bus

to the Country Park with its selection of old timber houses with turf roofs that acted as roof insulation, it also included the old school and in the centre is the very old Stave Church. On to see the Viking long boats. Walking further on we came to the complex that houses the *Kon-Tiki* and *RA2*, while just across the way was Amundsen's polar ship *Fram*. After a long day out and a nice evening meal, we went back to the hotel to pack our cases ready for the journey back home the next day.

Oh! I didn't mention the outcome of the AGM. I don't really follow what is going on at these meetings but I did sense that there was a tension in the air. It turned out that of the five members of the committee, three were for ending the Association but two wanted it to continue. In the end the two won the vote. So the parting words as they all left for home was, "Take care and see you in Stavanger next August."

One other thing I wish to mention: whenever I am leaving Norway after a reunion I am always asked by the veterans to give their very best wishes and thanks to the people of Britain for all the kindness shown to them while they were over here during the wartime. They truly do have a great affection to the British people.

# PENDLETON'S PANTRY

Blind Chef **Stephen Pendleton** has a fillet of fish to fillet!

## Fried Fish Fillet with Piquant Mayonnaise

This recipe will serve four portions.

### Ingredients:

1 egg.  
3tbs of olive oil.  
Squeeze of lemon juice.  
½ teaspoon of finely chopped dill or parsley.  
4 haddock or whiting fillets.  
2oz (50g) of plain flour.  
1oz (25g) of butter or margarine.  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste.  
Mixed salad to serve.

### Ingredients for the Mayonnaise:

1 egg yoke.  
2tbs of Dijon mustard.  
2tbs of white wine vinegar.  
2 teaspoons of paprika.  
½ pint of olive oil or vegetable oil.  
2tbs of creamed horseradish.  
1 garlic clove, finely chopped.  
1oz (25g) of celery, finely chopped.  
2tbs of tomato ketchup.

### Method for the mayonnaise:

In a food processor with a blade attachment, blend



together the egg yoke, mustard, vinegar and paprika.

When combined, add the oil in a thin stream, checking frequently to make sure the mayonnaise is not curdling.

When the mixture is good and thick, mix in the rest of the ingredients for the mayonnaise, combine all the ingredients well. Cover and place in fridge to chill.

Mayonnaise is a real pig to make at times. The above method has without doubt given me the best results. However, remember to add the oil in a thin stream whilst the food processor is still turning. And don't forget to turn off the machine before

checking the consistency of the mayonnaise!

### Method for the Fish:

Combine the egg, olive oil, lemon juice, dill or parsley and a little salt and pepper in a shallow dish, make sure all ingredients are well mixed.

Dip both sides of the fish fillets in the egg and herb mixture. Then coat fillets with flour, shaking off the excess. Heat the butter or margarine with the remaining olive oil in a large heavy based frying pan. Fry the fish fillets for eight to ten minutes until golden brown on both sides, cooking the fish through.

Serve the fish hot with the piquant mayonnaise and a salad.

## Ten answers

### Answers to quiz on page 11.

- 1) Queen; 2) "And if you were my wife I'd drink it.";
- 3) Zsa Zsa Gabor;
- 4) Cap'n Flint, the parrot;
- 5) Lady Macbeth;
- 6) An archaeologist; 7) Mrs Worthington, (from the song *Don't put your daughter on the stage Mrs Worthington*);
- 8) "How do they know?";
- 9) *The Mona Lisa* or *La Gioconda*.
- 10) The bear.

# SYNCOPATING SELECTIONS

This month's selection is from Royal Air Force St Dunstaner Aubrey Jones of Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

THE FIRST HALF of my selection is heartfelt, the second half a sifting and sorting through an old man's recollections.

First from 1935, my last summer in the Cubs. Climbing some 800ft to be present at the lighting of one of a string of bonfires marking George V's Jubilee and my Akela, Russie Lewis quietly singing *Goin' Home* on the ascent. This was actually *Largo* from the *New World* by Dvorak as I discovered many years later.

*And the Angels Sing* (preceded by "We kiss", etc). My first crush was at the age of 15. Never did kiss her. Intercepted her coming out of her place of work on my embarkation leave, to ask if I could write. Some 15 months later, a boy in the arms was better than a letter writer a thousand miles away!

The RAF Halton Pipes and Drums medley. I became an RAF Aircraft Apprentice in 1939, and marched daily, everywhere behind them, with pride and pleasure.

*Wish me luck as you wave goodbye*. It was 1941 and I was going abroad. However,

after four years continuously abroad, when I came home it was another Vera Lynn song *We'll meet again* in which her voice carried the conviction and sincerity to mean home.

It was also in 1945 that I "discovered" Ketelby, *In a Monastery Garden*.

I met Ena in November 1946. When my proposal was accepted two months later I couldn't immediately afford a ring so I bought her a 78rpm record of the *Intermezzo* from Mascagni's *Cavalaria Rusticana*.

*I don't know how to love him* from Jesus Christ Superstar (Rice-Lloyd Webber).

The plaintive haunting Second Movement of Bruch's *Violin Concerto No 1*. It is as

Send your top five favourite tunes, with a brief explanation of why each item holds significance for you, to Syncopating Selections, **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

## BEER OF THE MONTH

### by Colin Williamson

Samuel Smith's Oatmeal Stout. The idea of introducing oatmeal to stouts was inspired by the rigours of World War II and seen as an ideal way of adding nutrition to people's diets. This fine example has aromas of sherry and a delicate flowery scent with a delightful sweet creamy feel to it.

sweet and rich as a slice of Christmas cake.

*The Lark Ascending* by Vaughan Williams. I first heard it at a Healing Service conducted by my wife and a Methodist Minister. The strings impart a sense of peace and deep contentment. The Second Movement of the *Clarinet Concerto* by Mozart is also sheer beauty.

Finally, I was going to say that the reiterative "factory" sounds in the First Movement of Shostakovich's *Leningrad Symphony* arouse me from quiet contemplation and couch potato sloth. However, I conclude with *Gloria* - Gounod as performed by the Morrision Orpheus Male Choir. When I first heard this at a concert last October, my face crumpled and tears poured down my face with happiness. If this was a foretaste of Heaven, I'm going to start behaving myself.

# Welcome to ST DUNSTAN'S

**Benjamin Baker** of Woodsetton, Dudley, West Midlands served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment (TA) from 1939 to 1946.

**Ronald Barker** of Faversham, Kent served in the Royal Navy maintaining guns from 1946 to 1947.

**William Billings** of Old Coulsdon, Croydon, Surrey served as a Driver in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1946.

**Herbert Buckley** of Moore, Cheshire served as an Air Mechanic in the Fleet Air Arm from 1944 to 1946.

**Alfred Butler** of Birmingham, West Midlands served in the Royal Engineers from 1949 to 1954.

**Paul Child** of Bessacarr, Doncaster served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1975.

**Peter Churchill** of Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, Devon served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1944 to 1948.

**James Clarke** of London served in the Royal Navy during 1948.

**Albert Cockerill** of High Barnes, Sunderland served in the Royal Artillery and Royal Army Service Corps between 1939 and 1946.

**Victor Cole** of Worcester Park, Surrey served as Aircraftman II in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1944.

**Kevin Crowter** of Weybridge, Surrey served in the Queen's Regiment.

**Patrick Crummey** of Simonswood, Kirkby, Liverpool served as Corporal in the Army Catering Corps from 1951 to 1953.

**Walter Davies** of Accrington, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

**Doreen Drake** of Storrington, Pulborough, West Sussex served in the Auxiliary Territorial service from 1942 to 1945.

**John Ellis** of Bourneville, Birmingham served in the Manchester Regiment from 1939 to 1941.

**Alfred Fox** of Elswick, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1946.

**Robert Gadd** of Seaham, County Durham served as an Engineer in the Royal Air Force from 1937 to 1952.

**John Harding** of Marlow, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**Wyndham Harris** of Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan served in the Royal Artillery during 1939 and then in the Royal Engineers from 1943 to 1947.

**Donald Harvey** of Maidstone, Kent served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1941 to 1946.

**Queenie Headington** of Rochester, Kent served in the Auxiliary Territorial service from 1941 to 1946.

**Lawrence Hindle** of Colwyn Bay, Denbighshire served in the Royal Signals from 1942 to 1947.

**Douglas Hobbs** of Rushden, Northamptonshire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1953 to 1964.

**Kenneth Hollowell** of Grayshott, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1938 to 1945.

**Robert Horrocks** of Killingworth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne served in the Royal Signals from 1941 to 1946.

**Peter Hutchinson** of Old Hunstanton, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1943 and then transferred to the Gordon Highlanders, retiring in 1960.

**John Janes** of Brighton served in the Royal Sussex Regiment from 1939 to 1946.

**Frederick Jarrett** of Little Eaton, Derbyshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1946.

**Mabel Jarrett** of Luton, Bedfordshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1944.

**Thomas Jones** of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1953.

**William King** of Staines, Hampshire served in the Royal Signals as Corporal from 1951 to 1956.

**Thomas Littlewood** of Leeds, Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1947.

**Arthur Lane** of King's Lynn, Norfolk served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1945 to 1948.

**William Latus** of Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1952 to 1959.

**Iain McIntosh** of Edinburgh served in the Glasgow University Officers Training Corps from 1954 to 1960 and then in the Parachute Engineer Regiment until 1961.

**Maurice Macdona**, MC of Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset served in the East Anglian Field Regiment, Honourable Artillery Company and Royal Regiment of Artillery between 1940 and 1946.

**Vincent Mason** of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1945.

**Arthur Massingham** of Littleover, Derby served in the Fleet Air Arm as Sub Lieutenant from 1942 to 1944.

**John Morgan** of Porthcawl, South Glamorgan served in the Royal Signals from 1954 to 1964.

**Alfred Mullen** of Worcester, Worcestershire served in the Worcestershire Regiment and Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry from 1934 to 1944.

**Cecil Newlove** of St Annes-on-Sea, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1935 to 1976.

**Ernest Parker** of Bromley, Kent served in as Lance Corporal in the East Surrey Regiment from 1942 to 1947.

**Leslie Pilmoor** of Bowburn, Durham served in the Seaforth Highlanders from 1948 to 1953.

**Derrick Pinfold** of Hampton-on-the-Hill, Warwick, Warwickshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1944 to 1947.

**Walter Pulfer** of North Walsham, Norfolk served as Petty Officer in the Royal Navy from 1948 to 1955.

**Arthur Rivers** of Tunbridge Wells, Kent served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1944.

**Michael Roberts** of Hundleton, Pembrokeshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

**Antony Salmon** of Liverpool, Merseyside served in the Royal Artillery from 1947 to 1949.

**Benjamin Salters** of High Howdon, Tyne & Wear served in the Merchant Navy from 1943 to 1989.

**Alice Scales** of Norwich, Norfolk served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Leonard Seymour** of Pinner, Middlesex served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

**Jack Simmons** of Lytham St Annes, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Albert Simpson** of Priestfields, Middlesborough, Cleveland served in the Leicester Regiment from 1941 to 1946.

**George Slynn** of Great Harwood, Lancashire served in the Army Catering Corps from 1954 to 1956.

**Bernard Smith** of Horsted Keynes, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

**Phyllis Smith** of Turnford, Hertfordshire served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1945 to 1946.

**John Swanzy** of Oxford, Oxfordshire served as Captain in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1956.

**Allan Tennant** of Queensway, Guiseley, Leeds

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

**Maximillian Thom** of London served in the Polish Army Medical Corps and Polish Resettlement Corps between 1939 and 1949.

**Arthur White** of Ormskirk, Lancashire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1959.

**Sidney Williams** of Slough, Berkshire served in the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment and the 2nd Battalion which was redesignated The Middlesex

Regiment (The Duke of Cambridge's Own) from 1939 to 1946.

**William Williams** of Little Hulton, Worsley, Greater Manchester served in the King's Regiment (Liverpool) and Royal Signals between 1942 and 1946.

**Thomas Wood** of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1941 to 1946.

**William Young** of Immingham, Lincolnshire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1956 to 1959.

## Wiltshire achieve sound win in Ovingdean acoustic rifle shoot

**O**N NOVEMBER 29th the Wiltshire Acoustic Shooting Club came to visit us here in Ovingdean for an informal acoustic rifle shooting competition. Their team comprised of Karen Price, Mike Curtis and St Dunstaners Pat Sidnell, with helper Ralph Bellamy. Our team was slightly larger, consisting of St Dunstaners Cliff Ford, Margaret Roger, George Oliver, Alan Gibson, Peter Hammond, Dorothy Wright and our helper Roger McMullan.

We started the shoot on the

### Mark Brownlow reports

morning of the 30th. Our six were split into two groups of three, meaning we could have even groups shooting against Box. On the whole the two teams were very evenly matched throughout the two days Wiltshire Shooting Club narrowly beat St Dunstan's by 1300 points to 1326. We decided that it would also be a good idea to have an individual shoot, an all against all scenario, which proved very successful. Karen Price came first with a perfect score of 100. Mike Curtis came second with a

score of 98. Pete Hammond drew with a score of 98. A special mention must go to Margaret Roger, who initiated this competition. Margaret has only shot a handful of times before and under the difficult circumstances did very well, beating her previous scores each time. Well done Margaret for your efforts.

Thank you very much to Wiltshire Shooting Club for coming down to Ovingdean, and also to Roger and Ralph for their help. We hope to travel up to Wiltshire later this year for a re-match. Wish us luck!!

## Remembrance Day in Sunderland

St Dunstaners **Arthur Carter** joined the Northern parade

**Y**ET ANOTHER Remembrance Weekend has passed when we remember those friends and comrades who did not return. Although the main concentration is, as always, in our capital, there are many other parades throughout the United Kingdom, one of which is held in Sunderland, which I was informed is one of the largest outside London and to which I and my escort Mr Tom Lang had been invited by the Lord Mayor Mr W. Stephenson and the City Council.

On November 12th we

attended the Seeburn Centre where we rehearsed for a Remembrance concert, to be held that evening.

The evening consisted of music from the band of the Royal Air Force College, the Borneo Band and Bugles of the Durham Light Infantry and the Strathclyde Pipe Band.

When the concert commenced we were entertained by a choir from a local Junior School, who were delightful to listen to.

Towards the end of the concert it was then that the standards

of the Royal British Legion and Ex-Services associations to march into the Arena, This was when I had the honour and privilege with my escort and accompanied by the county standards to lead the parade in front of His Royal Highness Prince Edward.

On Sunday morning, after assembling at the Civic Centre to march to the Cenotaph, I was again privileged to lead the parade. The first wreath was laid by HRH Prince Edward followed by the Lord Mayor and many others. The blessing was given by the Bishop of Jarrow Canon Stephen Taylor.

After the ceremony, we marched through the city past the town hall where the Prince took the salute and back to the Civic Centre. It was at the Civic Centre that a buffet reception had been arranged and it was there that my escort and I were presented to his Royal Highness and his charming wife and to who we chatted for about ten minutes.

I cannot speak too highly of my gratitude to the Lord Mayor, the City Council and the people of Sunderland for their enthusiasm and warm hearted welcome wherever we went.



Elspeth Grant at her investiture as MBE on December 6th. The honour was bestowed in recognition of her work with St Dunstaners at Summer Camp. She was accompanied to Buckingham Palace by Dave Burrows and Bidy Reed.



# Best International out of three?

Bowls Chairman **Bob Osborne** on the National Club meeting

WE WERE PLEASED to welcome two new members, Alan Gibson and Vic Claridge to our November Bowls tournament. And I was extremely pleased to see my old friend Colwyn Lloyd back in the fold. Colwyn played with us in the National team for many years all around the country. Eric Church gave us all a lovely surprise by making two beautiful trophies to be played for at each tournament, one for the totally blind in memory of Jackie Pryor and one for the partially sighted in memory of Jesse Mills, both of whom were wonderful characters and excellent bowlers and we miss them both very much.



Marjorie Mills presents Dave Humphrey with the Jesse Mills Memorial Trophy. Bob Osborne is custodian of the Jackie Pryor Trophy which will be contested in March.

the score is one all and the tickets for the next match will be very expensive.

## England

Peggy West, Graham Johnson and Ted Arnold with non-playing Captain Frank Smith.

## Wales

Bob Osborne, Mansel Lewis and Colwyn Lloyd with non-playing Captain Marjorie Mills.

Well done lads and lasses!

We were very sorry Lilian James, one of our callers was taken seriously ill and in hospital for several weeks and we missed her very much. But Jack and Roger from the Saltdean bowling club helped us tremendously in calling the games as did Dave Humphrey.

We couldn't manage without our ladies supplying us with tea and coffee and - I love them all!

And of course, we must thank the Ovingdean staff for their support on many occasions.

## Results

### Singles

- 1st David Humphrey
- 2nd Lionel James
- 3rd Ted Arnold

### Pairs

- 1st Alan Mitchell and Colwyn Lloyd
- 2nd James Poole and John Sullivan

### Triples

- 1st Alan Gibson, James Poole and Lionel James
- 2nd Marjorie Scott, Frank Smith and Colwyn Lloyd.

### Fun triples

- 1st David Humphrey, Bob Osborne and James Poole
- 2nd Leon Haskey, Ted Arnold and John Sullivan

I nearly forgot to mention the International between England and Wales. On this occasion, England beat Wales by one shot. Which means

Joan would like to thank you all for the generous gift you gave her. And to Doreen Humphrey for her help in the "office".

Our next tournament will be held March 19th to April 1st when we look forward to meeting you all again. And I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2006,

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

#### Congratulations on the birth of:

Samantha Kate Ceri on November 5th. She is the great-granddaughter of *Alex and Lilian Pecket* of Manchester.

### SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

*Lionel and Elaine James* of Peacehaven, East Sussex on November 29th.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

*Arthur and Pauline Harvey* of Halesowen, West Midlands on December 8th.

*Joseph and Nora O'Donnell* of Ramsgate, Kent on January 15th.

### DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

*Bill and Frances Routledge* of Chelmsford, Essex on December 6th.

*Thomas and Sheila Hall* of Edwalton on December 11th.

*Lionel and Audrey Broughton* of Rugby, Warwickshire on January 2nd.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

*Albert and Marie Burns* of Gillingham, Kent who celebrated 61 years of marriage on November 21st.

*Bill and Nancy Phillips* of Saltdean, East Sussex who celebrated 61 years of marriage on November 25th.

*Kathleen and Russell Berwick* of Norwich, Norfolk who celebrated 61 years of marriage on November 30th.

*Tony and Lily Boden* of Dronfield, Derbyshire who celebrated 64 years of marriage on December 14th.

*William and Constance Faulkner* of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands who celebrated 61 years of marriage on December 16th

*Ronald and Kathleen Spathaky* of Chesterton, Cambridgeshire who celebrated 68 years of marriage on December 21st.

*Frank and Mona Lord* of Fakenham, Norfolk who celebrated 66 years of marriage on December 23rd.

*Gwenllian and Ernie Obern* of Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan who celebrated 66 years of marriage on December 23rd.

*Robert and Di Stewart* of Downham Market, Norfolk who celebrated 62 years of marriage on December 24th.

*Norman and Barbara Pearce* of West Mersea, Essex who celebrated 64 years of marriage on December 27th.

*Kenneth and Anne Goulding* of New Moston, Manchester who celebrated 65 years of marriage on December 28th.

*Frederick and Dorothy Collingwood* of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on January 1st.

*Henry and Joan Williams* of Brighton who celebrated 64 years of marriage on January 10th.

*Veronica and Maurice Mathe* of Bognor Regis, West Sussex who celebrated 62 years of marriage on January 17th.

## DEATHS

### We regret to announce the death of:

**Marjorie Symons** on July 6th. She was the wife of St Dunstaner *Roy Symons* of South Harrow, Middlesex.

**Mary Davies** on January 6th. She was the wife of *Vic Davies* of Braunton, Devon.

**Beatrice Tickner** of Durrington, Worthington, West Sussex on November 17th. She was the widow of *Dennis Tickner*.

**Ada Routledge** of Burton-in-Lonsdale, Carnforth, Lancashire on November 20th. She was the widow of *George Routledge*.

**Margaret Langley** of Kittle, Swansea, West Glamorgan on December 12th. She was the widow of *Joseph Langley*.

**Eileen Taylor** of Loughborough, Leicestershire on December 23rd. She was the widow of *Robert Taylor* who passed away in November.

**Ethel Underwood** on December 15th. She was the sister of Rose Shed of Burgess Hill, West Sussex, widow of *George Shed*.

Our sympathy goes to their family and friends.

## IN MEMORY

It is with deep regret that we have to record the deaths of the following St Dunstaners and we offer our heartfelt condolences to their widows, family and friends.

### **Ronald Clarke** Royal Artillery

Ronald Walter Clarke of Lancing, West Sussex died on September 21st, aged 88. He worked in the building trade until joining the Royal Artillery in 1938. He served in coastal defence and was later posted to North Africa,

being deployed in Algiers, Tunisia, Egypt and Palestine. He was later posted to Italy and Greece before being demobbed in 1946. In civilian life he was a furniture upholsterer. His interests included golf, mechanics, DIY and motor vehicles. Our sympathy goes to his widow Rita and all members of the family.

### **Dennis Jones**

#### Royal Army Service Corps

Dennis Jones of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire died last year aged 92. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2000. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1940. After training in the UK, he landed in Algiers as part of the invasion fleet and fought through to Tunis. His unit was also deployed in Sicily, Italy and Casino. He was in Austria when the war ended. Discharged in 1946, he returned to Chester where he renovated second hand cars. He later became a driver and chauffeur for the daughter of the Duke of Westminster and then a veterinary practice. Our sympathy goes to all other members of the family.

### **John Cooper** Royal Navy

John Brian Cooper of Hornchurch, Essex died on November 16th, aged 81. He served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1945. In civilian life, he worked in the building trade and as a security officer. His interests included gardening. Our sympathy goes to his sons and all other members of the family.

### **George Ebbs**

#### Royal Norfolk Regiment

George Sidney Ebbs of Brighton died on November 16th, aged 77. He worked as a hospital clerk in East London before moving to the Blue Star Shipping line. Joining the General Service Corps in 1946, he transferred to the Essex Regiment a year later and then the Royal Norfolk Regiment. He served in Northern Ireland and Paderborn, Detmold and Berlin in Germany. Discharged as Corporal in

1947, he joined HM Customs and Excise. His interests included playing the piano and jazz. Our sympathy goes to his widow Elizabeth, sons Martin and Richard, daughter Clare and all other members of the family.

### **John Matthews** Royal Air Force

John William Matthews of Whinney Banks, Middlesbrough died on November 16th, aged 84. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and trained in Blackpool as an air engineer, working on Lancaster and Spitfire engines. Demobbed in 1946, he resumed employment at a local steel works. He cared for his late wife Sally for 25 years after she suffered a stroke. Our sympathy goes to his sons and daughter and other members of the family.

### **William Reid** Royal Air Force

William Reid of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire died on November 17th, aged 88. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1998. He was an apprentice painter and decorator before joining the Royal Air Force in 1937. He served in the Middle East, UK and Germany before discharge as Flight Sergeant in 1951. In civilian life, he worked as a baker and general labourer. Our sympathy goes to his widow Gladys, daughters Patricia and Susan and all members of the family.

### **Harold Lane** Royal Navy

Harold William Lane of Birmingham, West Midlands died on November 19th, aged 70. He served in the Royal Navy, notably on HM Yacht *Britannia*, from 1953 to 1965. In civilian life he worked as a Security Officer and HGV driver. Our sympathy goes to his widow Maureen and all of the family.

### **George Messenger** Royal Military Police

George Messenger of Salterbeck, Workington, Cumbria died on November

20th, aged 70. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2003. He worked as a joiner in a steel works before being called for National Service in 1951. Initially, he served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, but transferred to the Royal Military Police. After training in Woking, he was posted to the Far East, being stationed in Malaysia and Singapore. Discharged in 1953, he returned to the steelworks but later moved into the building trade. Our sympathy goes to his widow Florence, their daughters and all other members of the family.

### **Stewart Harris** Royal Air Force

Stewart Edwin Harris of Old Alresford, Hampshire died on November 21st, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1977. As a young man, he had been working for the GPO, a reserved occupation, when he first applied to join the Royal Air Force. He was called back a year later in 1941 and began intensive training in navigation and air gunnery. He flew Manchester and Lancaster bombers with 50 Squadron out of Skellingthorpe, near Lincoln. After being commissioned in 1942, he was one of the airmen who set up 619 Squadron. His 13th bombing mission proved proverbially unlucky when the aircraft was shot down and the crew were forced to parachute down into occupied Belgium. Spending five weeks on the run, he was eventually caught and handed to the Gestapo. Having discarded his uniform for civilian clothes, the Gestapo initially regarded him as a spy, threatening execution as a consequence. They were also anxious to establish any link with Air Marshal Sir Arthur Harris – there wasn't any, but these points were ruminated through an extended period of solitary confinement and torture. Eventually, they conceded that he was a prisoner of war and he was transferred to a prison camp, Stalag Luft III in Germany. Some of these experiences are documented in *Bomber Command* by Max Hastings.

Repatriated in 1945, he spent two years working for the Air Ministry before discharge in 1947. In civilian life, he worked in the oil and motor industries. The malnutrition he had experienced as a prisoner of war began to take its toll. His interests included walking, gardening, Trollope and Thackeray, and Gibraltar. He was also one of St Dunstan's Speakers, addressing Probus clubs and similar organisations and acting as one of our representatives at the Royal Tournament. Our sympathy goes to his son Stephen, daughters Rosalind and Catherine and all other members of the family.

**Kenneth Johnstone**  
Army Catering Corps

Kenneth Johnstone of Blackpool, Lancashire died on November 21st, aged 66. He worked in a paper mill and then a cotton mill before joining the Army Catering Corps in 1958. He trained at Aldershot before being posted to Catterick and later Ashton-under-Lyne. Discharged in 1960, he continued in factory work. Our sympathy goes to all of the family.

**Alan Budd**  
Royal Electrical and  
Mechanical Engineers

Alan Leslie Budd of Tonbridge, Kent died on November 25th, aged 71. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1979. He joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers as a Boy Soldier in 1950. During his service, he trained for a variety of duties including telecommunications technician, and was stationed at Maralinga during the atomic testing. He was a Sergeant when discharged in 1979 and later became an inspector for an engineering firm manufacturing aircraft components. Embracing the Eighties' craze for citizen band radio, he studied for his amateur radio licence. Other interests included music, picture framing and computers. Our sympathy goes to his daughters Angelika and Joan and all other members of the family.

**Henry Fenton**  
Essex Regiment

Henry George Fenton of Markyate, Hertfordshire died on November 27th, aged 91. As a 14-year-old, he worked in a printing shop in Bethnal Green but later joined a furniture shop where he learnt French Polishing. He then joined the Essex Regiment in 1936, training at Brentwood. He served in Palestine, Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria before returning to the UK. He took part in the Normandy landings and reached Bayeaux where he was taken prisoner by the Germans. Discharged in 1945, he worked on the buses, as a postman and also as an engineer. Our sympathy goes to his widow Monica, son David, daughters Carol and Mary Rose and all other members of the family.

**George Price**  
Polish Resettlement Corps

George Price of Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire died on November 29th, aged 83. Born Mikołaj Muszyński at Słobódka Bołszowiecka, Rohatyn, Stanisławów, he managed to escape Poland when it was invaded by the Russians. As a 17-year-old, he walked through occupied Europe with the aid of resistance forces until reaching France where he joined fellow Poles in 2 Rifle Division. However, five months later when France was overrun by the Germans, he and other members of his regiment were interned in Switzerland. In 1945, he broke out of internment and made another journey through occupied territory. Arriving in Paris, he enlisted in the Polish Forces under British Command, initially being posted to 24 Śląski Rifle Battalion and later transferring to 14 Field Artillery Regiment, 1 Polish Corps. In 1947, he joined the Polish Resettlement Corps and settled in Droitwich when discharged in 1948. In civilian life he worked at an engineering company. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret, daughters Susan and Beryl, Louise and Carl Williams and all other members of the family.

**Douglass Wilson**  
Royal Tank Regiment (RAC)

Douglass Wilson of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire died on November 29th, aged 79. He was a butcher's boy and cinema projectionist before joining the Royal Tank Regiment (RAC) in 1944. He fought in Northern Europe and was demobbed in 1946. Back in the UK, he worked on the railways as a signalman. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Shirley and all of the family.

**Reginald Rowe**  
Royal Air Force

Reginald CL Rowe of Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire died on December 5th, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2003. He had been training as an Accountant when he joined the Royal Air Force in 1941. Serving in Bomber Command and Transport Command around the UK, he was later posted to India. Involved with the repatriation of Far East Prisoners of War, he was discharged in 1946 as Leading Aircraftman. Our sympathy goes to his widow Jean, daughters and all members of the family.

**Trevor Ireland**  
Royal Marines

Trevor James Ireland of Garn Dolbenmaen, near Portmatdog, Gwynedd died on December 6th, aged 84. He joined the Royal Marines in 1941 and served in 48 Commando and other units. He was deployed in Africa, Egypt, Sicily, and Italy. Having landed at St Aubin sur Mer on D-Day, he was brought down by mortar fire. A nearby comrade, Vince Horton, was blown up by a landmine and each assumed the other had been killed. Trevor was discharged in 1946. Rarely separated from his German Shepherd guide dog Aden, he campaigned for a change in quarantine laws. That wish was realised in 2000 with the introduction of the Pet Travel Scheme and Aden became the first dog in over a century to legally leave and re-enter Britain without quarantine. They were greeted on return from France by Royal Marines Buglers and Ministry

of Agriculture officials. He was reunited with Vince Horton in 2001. They attempted to make the pilgrimage to Normandy but were injured in a car accident. They finally made the trip to Bayeux in 2004 and took part in a Service conducted by members of 48 Royal Marine Commando. He and his wife recently feted a local Community Service team who had helped them with gardening lately. Our sympathy goes to his widow Kate, daughter Prydeen and all other members of the family.

**Frederick Witherspoon**  
Royal Air Force

"Eric" Frederick Witherspoon of Wolverhampton, West Midlands died on December 7th, aged 93. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2001. He was a bus driver before joining the Royal Air Force in 1940. After a period with a balloon unit, he became a ground fitter with 83 Maintenance Unit deploying where needed to repair Spitfire typhoon and Hurricane aircraft. He was discharged as Corporal in 1945. In civilian life, he drove for the Coal Board and was a traffic weighman. He was a keen gardener and enjoyed swimming, winning several medals. In his youth in County Durham, he learned to swim in the River Wear where his father had helped build a swimming hut before being killed during WWI. His ashes were spread on the waters of the river, near his old home. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Margaret and all of the family.

**Leopold Bachtowicz**  
Polish Resettlement Corps

Leopold Bachtowicz of Leeds, West Yorkshire died on December 10th, aged 85. Originally from Tarnopol, Poland, he was captured by Russian forces at the start of World War II but managed to escape and made his way via Hungary to France. Once there, he joined the Polish Grenadier Regiment in 1940. Captured once more when France was overrun, he was transferred to a prisoner of war camp in Germany. He

managed escape after three years of captivity and was smuggled to Switzerland.

In 1944, he travelled to San Basilio, Italy and joined the Polish Army under British Command. Posted to the 2nd Armoured Signals Battalion, 2 Warszawska Armoured Corps. He took part in the storming of the Senio River and the Battle for Bologna and Lombardy Plain. In 1946, his unit transferred to the UK and he joined the Polish Resettlement Corps on ordnance disposal duties. He was discharged in 1948 and settled in West Yorkshire working in the building trade and foundries. He enjoyed walking and wood carving. Our sympathy goes to his widow Anne, son Mark, daughter Pauline and all other members of the family.

#### **Stephen Blake**

**Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**  
Stephen Blake of Ovingdean, Brighton died on December 12th, aged 84. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1971. He joined the Queen's Regiment (TA) in 1939 but transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers for the duration of the Second World War. Discharged in 1946, he continued to work in engineering, operating power press and capstan lathe. He enjoyed freshwater angling, woodwork and bowls. Our sympathy goes to his son Brian and all other members of the family.

#### **Raymond Watkinson**

##### **Royal Air Force**

Raymond Oliver Watkinson of Horsham, West Sussex died on December 13th, aged 85. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940, serving in the UK and Canada. He was discharged as Corporal in 1946. Back home in Woolwich, he resumed work for the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society. Later, he ran a butchers, setting up on his own, and then moving into wholesale. His interests included swimming, DIY, and organ playing. Our sympathy goes to his son Clive, daughter Kathy and all other members of the family.

#### **Francis Beard**

##### **Coldstream Guards**

Francis John Beard of West Molesey, Surrey died on December 16th, aged 84. He joined the Coldstream Guards in 1939 and trained at Caterham. He took part in the Salerno Landings and the Italian campaign and was injured twice before being demobbed in 1946. In civilian life, he worked in the Off License trade. Our sympathy goes to his widow Dorothy, daughter Sally and all members of the family.

#### **Peter Benmasaud**

##### **Army Catering Corps**

Peter William Benmasaud of Swindon, Wiltshire died on December 26th, aged 67. He was a carpenter before joining the Army Catering Corps in 1958. After training at Aldershot, he served in Hildersheim, Obenkirchen and Duisberg before discharge in 1960. In civilian life, he worked as a carpenter and foreman. Our sympathy goes to his sons Paul and Perry and all of the family.

#### **Arthur Thomson**

##### **Royal Air Force**

Arthur William Thomson of Mill Hill, London died on December 29th, aged 82. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2001. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941, initially training as a pilot but then as an Air Gunner. He served throughout the UK and in Bombay. After being discharged in 1946, he resumed clerical duties with the local authority and was an Executive Officer with the Greater London Council when he retired. He played and coached bowling and was a Mason. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doris, son Ian, daughters Jacqueline and Rita, and all other members of the family.

#### **William Burnett**

##### **Royal Engineers**

William Henry Burnett of Maidstone, Kent died on January 2nd, aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1951. He lost his right

eye in 1938 following an accident at work, but went on to join the Royal Engineers in 1940. He was serving as Corporal in the Middle East when he began to experience sight loss in his remaining eye. Discharged in 1946, he resumed work at the Records Office of the Ministry of Works. After training at St Dunstan's, he became a telephonist, originally with the Ministry of Works then later for Barclays Bank. A keen gardener and braillist, he also enjoyed walking. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mary and all other members of the family.

#### **Eric Withey**

##### **Fleet Air Arm**

Eric John Withey of Erdington, Birmingham, West Midlands died on January 4th, aged 75. Originally a painter and decorator, he joined the Fleet Air Arm in 1948. Posted to Malta, he was injured during a fire and subsequently invalidated out of the Royal Navy in 1953. In civilian life, he worked in retail for Singers and Rumbelows. Our sympathy goes to his widow Evelyn, daughter Sarah-Jane and all members of the family.

#### **Jack John**

##### **Royal Army Service Corps**

"Jack" John Ronald John of Wimbledon Park, London died on January 7th, aged 88. He had worked for Lyons Tea and as a decorator before joining the Royal Army Service Corps in 1939. Posted to France, he was evacuated from Nazaire and sent on to Egypt before being deployed in Israel, Iran and Iraq. Discharged in 1946, he was initially employed by ICI but later joined Southern Railways on electrical track maintenance. His interests included music. Our sympathy goes to his friend Brenda, son Anthony, daughters Anne and Lorraine and all of the family.

#### **William Woods**

##### **Royal Engineers**

William James Woods of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire died on January 8th, aged 87.

Having completed his tenure as an apprentice joiner, he moved to the Midlands to work for Bovis. Enlisting in the Royal Engineers in 1939, he was posted to France, returning through St Malo in 1940. He later served in the Shetland Islands, India and the Cocos Islands. Discharged in 1946, he resumed work in the building trade. His interests included golf and he was Captain of the Seniors at Tewkesbury Park. Our sympathy goes to his son, daughter and all the family.

#### **Albert Wells**

##### **Royal Air Force**

Albert "Bruce" Wells of Ovingdean, Brighton died on January 10th, aged 79. He had completed an engineering apprenticeship with DeHavilland before joining the Royal Air Force in 1944. As an engine fitter, he joined 109 Maintenance Unit in the Canal Zone in Egypt. After his discharge in 1945, he worked in Rhodesia as an engineer in road construction and then for Central African Airways. Returning to the UK, he joined Napier Aero Engines but later set up an employment agency for engineers. He founded the Peacehaven Writers' Circle and was a keen radio ham. Our sympathy goes to his stepson Harold and all of the family.

#### **Ronald Everitt**

##### **Royal Army Service Corps**

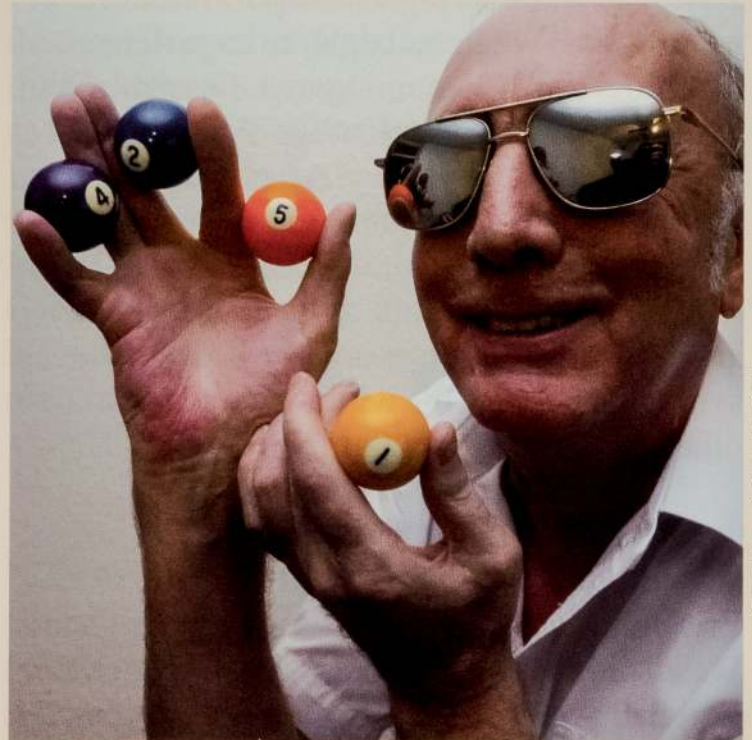
Ronald Charles Everitt of Hailsham, East Sussex died on January 13th, aged 83. He joined the TA in 1938, and a year later was deployed to the Middle East with 59th Essex Regiment Royal Artillery, a heavy ack-ack unit. He remained with the 8th Army and deployed to Sicily and Italy, transferring to the Royal Army Service Corps in 1943. He took part in Casino and was stationed in Austria by the end of the war. After being demobbed in 1946, he returned to Smithfield Meat Market but later became a watchmaker. His interests included bowling and fencing. Our sympathy goes to his son, daughter and all members of the family.

# Ray eyes-up Kelly's spot in Bingo

ST DUNSTANER RAY Peart has become the UK's first blind bingo caller. He's calling "eyes down" at Gloucester's Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes Club every Sunday. A Corporal with the Glorious Glosters before he lost his sight in a Belfast explosion, Ray, Five Dozen, has even drawn on his regimental history for personalised bingo calls.

But how can Ray tell if he's "Stuck in a tree" or in a right "Pick and mix". The answer lies with an adaptation to a standard random number generator used by modern bingo callers. Steve Drinkwater, a volunteer electrician with REMAP, fitted the caller with a voice synthesiser. REMP is a charity dedicated to creating one-off technical aids for disabled people.

"He's added a little bit of circuit board and a box that tells me which number has been drawn," said Ray. "I then tell the players what the number is." The controls also allow Ray to tell how many numbers have been called



Courtesy of SWNS.COM

and clear the board for the next game when someone calls house.

And as for that personalised call – it is "two and eight, the Gloucester Regiment." They were once known as the 28th Foot (North Gloucestershire).

## Forties Fun at Rushden History day



Courtesy of the Evening Telegraph

Organiser PC Dave Loveridge gets the better of black marketeer Gerry Bennett at the old Rushden railway station.

RUSHDEN HISTORICAL Transport Society recreated the spirit of the 1940s for a weekend at the former railway station. Period clothes, gas masks, soldiers, spivs and policemen and music helped conjure up the lighter side of the era. However, air raid sirens provided a cue to stay clear as there was an explosion on the tracks and a 1940s fire engine drove in to extinguish the fire.

Children learnt a little of what it was like to be an evacuee as they jumped on and off the trains, while some veterans stepped back into the uniforms they wore 60 years ago. The Society held the re-enactment in aid of St Dunstan's and the Royal British Legion.