

July 2006

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ST DUNSTAN'S Review



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN



From the Chairman

I AM WRITING this on Tuesday June 6th which is the 110th Birthday of Henry Allingham, a veteran of the Western Front. He is the last surviving serviceman to take part in the Battle of Jutland, which took place on May 31st 1916, ninety years ago! The battle is famous as the first and only time two fleets of iron clad warships have met in battle, and although the Royal Navy lost more ships and men it became seen as a victory for Great Britain because the German naval fleet was out of contention for the remainder of the First World War.

I first met Henry at supper after the Festival of Remembrance in November 2004, and in conversation it emerged he could hardly see. "Have you ever heard of St Dunstan's," I asked? "No," he replied! I gave him the details and he became a St Dunstaner on January 31st 2005.

On the ninetieth anniversary of the Battle of Jutland on May 31st this year, I met Henry on board HMS *Belfast*, where he was the guest of honour at a ceremony to commemorate the battle, and attend the opening of a wonderful exhibition to commemorate the battle, by HRH The Duchess of Gloucester.

Henry is a remarkable man, and is now a resident at Ovingdean where I hope we will be able to look after him for many years to come. He represents all that is best in the body and spirit of St Dunstan's.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

ST DUNSTAN'S Review July 2006 No 959

Cover Story: Henry Allingham with his grandson Chris Gray onboard HMS *Belfast* on the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Jutland, of which Henry is last survivor.

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ST DUNSTAN'S Calendar

JULY

Writers' Weekend	Jun 29th-Jul 1st
Sailability	July 1st
British 10K Run	July 2nd
Fishing Club (IV)	July 11th-13th
Outdoor Bowling	July 14th
Ladies Reunion	July 16th-22nd
Indoor Bowling	July 17th
Band of the Royal Marines	July 19th
Golf	July 22nd-23rd
HMS <i>Sultan</i>	July 28th-August 5th
Sailability	July 29th

AUGUST

Outdoor Bowling	August 4th
Writers' Forum	August 5th
Racing Week	August 6th-12th
Golf	August 12th-13th
Sailability	August 12th
Outdoor Bowling	August 14th
VJ Day	August 15th
Archery (III)	Aug 25th-Sept 2nd
Sailability	August 26th
Outdoor Bowling	August 29th

HQ facelift | Calling Cassette readers | Lost property | Phone repair

Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

FACELIFT FOR HEADQUARTERS

BUILDING WORKS AT HARCOURT STREET: Refurbishment of the Harcourt Street building commenced at the end of June. Departments will move temporarily into the lower ground floor whilst their offices are worked on.

Until mid to late August, reception and entry to the building will be via the car park entrance on the lower ground floor. There will be no canteen facilities during this period. Clinics will be held at the Western Ophthalmic Hospital next door. The second and third floors will move after August.

There will no doubt be some limited disruption to telephones and e-mail and we thank you for your understanding and patience.

AUDIO PUBLICATIONS UNIT TEMPORARY CLOSURE

NOTICE FOR ALL CASSETTE TALKING REVIEW READERS: Due to refurbishment at Harcourt Street, the Talking **Review** on cassette will be duplicated and sent out by the Talking Newspaper Association of the UK for the time being. The next issue in August may well be issued in a different packaging and instructions as to what to do with the cassettes will be on the tape itself. Please listen out for any future changes.

LOST PROPERTY AT OIVINGDEAN

LOST ITEMS KEPT FOR SIX MONTHS:

It is quite common for personal items to be accidentally left behind following a visit to Ovingdean. For your information, our policy regarding lost property is as follows:

Housekeeping and Security handle and store all lost property. We will endeavour to ascertain whose property it is but that often proves unsuccessful. Clothes and similar items of no great value will be stored for a maximum of two months and then will be disposed of appropriately. Items of particular value or sentiment will be securely stored and advertised in the **Review** in the hope that they will be recognised and then claimed. If that process is unsuccessful they will be disposed of after six months.

PRIORITY FAULT REPAIR

BT KEEPS LINES OPEN FOR VULNERABLE HOMES: British Telecom has introduced a free Priority Fault Repair service for customers whose telephone is vital in emergencies. Anyone who uses home dialysis, artificial ventilators or is housebound due to chronic illness or disability or has their bill paid in part by social services can apply. For more information call BT on their freephone number 0800 800 150.



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BOOKING TRIPS AT O Vingdean

HOLIDAY MAKERS WELCOME:

Holiday makers at St Dunstan's Ovingdean are most welcome to go on trips as long as there are places available. Please book your trips on arrival at St Dunstan's as we cannot take any bookings for trips until the beginning of the week in question even if you are aware that a certain trip is happening. The only exceptions to this are on special weeks where we will send a booking form in advance of your arrival at St Dunstan's.

As a holiday maker you are not entitled to a member of staff as an escort but we will do our best to provide you with a volunteer escort. Should you require an escort please make this clear to the lounge desk staff when booking your trip. Thank you for bearing these points in mind and I hope you enjoy your trips out when staying at Ovingdean

Lyn Mullins,
Activities Coordinator

VETERANS EVENTS IN BLACKPOOL

BIG BAND DANCE AND AIR DISPLAY:

Following Veterans Day, Blackpool will continue to commemorate the Service community with a range of events. A Big Band Dance will be held at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom on July 8th. On the same day, the town will host a Tribute Air Display featuring Harrier, Hawk, RAF Falcons and the Red Arrows. A Promenade spectacular "Let there be youth" will mix demonstrations and displays of gymnastics, cadets, bands, singing and dancing on July 8th-9th. Finally, a Service will be held at Blackpool Cenotaph on July 9th. Check local press for details.

ACKNOWLEDGING DONATIONS TO THE STAFF FUND

LETTER OF THANKS ON REQUEST:

It is very generous (though quite unnecessary) when those visiting St Dunstan's Ovingdean give a small token of gratitude by donating to the Staff Fund which is divided up just before Christmas equally amongst all staff working at Ovingdean except the senior managers. Our caterers, PBK, have a similar but separate system. Currently, we acknowledge practically all such donations with a personal letter from me as Ovingdean Manager but it has been represented from several quarters, including those who have given the money, that staff time could be better spent. Accordingly, as of July 1st, we will cease to provide a letter of thanks as an automatic response unless it is specifically requested. Sometimes that request is less about wanting us to say thank-you and more about being certain that the money, especially cash, has got through. Cash is always difficult but also it is what many people wish to use on such occasions. In future we will, as far as possible, provide a receipt when making the gift (including for an unknown sum for those who understandably wish their gift to remain undisclosed). I trust that this is an understandable adjustment of our practice.

Dick Lake,
Ovingdean Manager

WERE YOU AT RAF BELVEDERE CALCUTTA?

CALLING RAF ST DUNSTANERS: Reg Fawkes of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire wonders if anyone else served at TDS RAF Belvedere, Calcutta? If so drop him a letter care of the **Review**.

ST DUNSTANERS ART HERALDS GOLDEN AGE

WORKSHOP AT PHOENIX ARTS:

St Dunstaners and the Craft Workshop will be taking part in a series of events aimed at inspiring anyone over 50 to take up Arts and Crafts. On July 21st-22nd there will be a display of St Dunstaners work at the Phoenix Arts Association Gallery and Studios on Lewes Road, Brighton. The two days will offer the chance to explore tactile creativity. Running from 10:00 to 17:00 on both days, new and unusual techniques will be taught as taster sessions by specialist tutors including soap stone carving, felt making, ceramics and more.

The workshops are open to all and there will be a private view and debate at 18:00 on Saturday July 22nd. To book places at the workshop and debate contact Belinda Greenhalgh on 01273 603700.

The workshop falls under The Celebration of Age, a Government led initiative marking the role of those aged 50 and above. Brighton has been hosting an international conference uniting older people with policy and decision makers from public services across the UK, holding a cultural festival to counter stereotypes that often define older people and an exhibition showcasing services and opportunities for older people.

DVD OVERTAKES VIDEO

NO NEW TITLES FOR RNIB HOME VIDEO:

With video tape being phased out by UK distributors, the RNIB Home Video Service will not be able to add new titles. However, a catalogue of existing titles for sale or rent can be obtained by calling 0845 702 3153.

SIR PERCY AROSE ON DERBY DAY

SWEEPSTAKE RESULTS: This year's Epsom Vodafone Derby saw a metaphorical David beat Goliath when Sir Percy won the 227th race. Described as a "Bargain Buy" – 1,600 guineas to independent trainers Anthony and Victoria Pakenham – Sir Percy started the run in 11th place but broke through the melee to win the race by a nose. Which was good news for St Dunstan's Widow Gladys Jubb of Bromley, Kent who had drawn Sir Percy in the **Review's** annual Derby Sweepstake. She won first prize of £340.50. With Dragon Dancer running a close second, St Dunstaner George Bell of Eastbourne, East Sussex won the second prize of £136.20, while third prize of £68.10 was won by Jean Hogg of Rickmansworth who had drawn Dylan Thomas.

The Starters' Prize was shared amongst John Rose of Tadworth, Surrey, David Thomas of Haywards Heath, West Sussex, Dorothy Wright of Ovingdean, Brighton, May Morrish of Peacehaven, East Sussex, Eric Beck of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, Elizabeth Smith of West Kirby, Wirral, Tom Lukes of Old Colwyn, Clwyd, Arthur Beard of Hartlepool, Cleveland, Daniel O'Brien of Cullompton, Devon, Eileen Bramley of Market Harborough, Leicester, Alexander Panton of Rubery, Birmingham, Elsie Hall of Fortrose, Ross-shire, Dorothy Thompson of Tenerife, and Louisa Peake of Preston, Lancashire.

Twenty-seven ticket numbers were selected using a random number generator, the horse names drawn from a tub with a head or tails call to allocate them to a St Dunstaner or widow. On the day of the race 18 runners left the gates though Horatio Nelson was put down after it was discovered he had been running with a broken leg.

STAFF CHANGES

RAY EAST

Ray East recently joined St Dunstan's as Welfare Officer covering Yorkshire, Cleveland and North Lincolnshire. He was previously working with dermatological charity DEBRA and the Independent Living Fund. He has been a social worker for 20 years but has also been a youth hostel warden and a brewer. He once walked from Land's End to John O'Groats and was an extra in the *Da Vinci Code* movie.



GHOSTS OF JUTLAND RISE ON HMS BELFAST

EXHIBITION: Ghosts of Jutland, a commemorative exhibition onboard HMS *Belfast*, London's floating naval museum, was launched on May 31st, exactly 90 years to the day after the Battle of Jutland took place. It will be on display until 2007 and has been especially curated to commemorate the 8,648 British and German sailors lost over the course of one day. The lives and experiences of the men that served at Jutland are profiled throughout the exhibition using oral history, artefacts, documents and film. Stationed below 2 deck, access is via a ladder and inaccessible to wheelchairs.

The exhibition features a hologram of St Dunstaner Henry Allingham, the last survivor of the battle. More on page 14.

TV LICENCE MOVES TO PAYPOINT

POST OFFICE WILL NOT HANDLE TV LICENSING AFTER JULY 31: The BBC recently announced that it had selected PayPoint plc as its supplier for a six-year contract to provide "over-the-counter" services for TV Licensing. These services have historically been provided by the Post Office. After July 31st, the Post Office will no longer deal with TV Licences. This means that anyone applying for or renewing a blind concessionary licence will no longer be able to do so at Post Office branches.

The RNIB advises anyone applying for a blind licence for the first time to contact TV Licensing by telephone on 0845 603 6999 when you receive your renewal notice. They will ask applicants to send a photocopy of their local authority blind registration document to TV Licensing, Blind Concession Group, Bristol BS98 1TL. They will validate the details and send a letter which can be taken to a PayPoint outlet when paying for the licence. Payment can also be made over the telephone, online or by Direct Debit.

BLIND SIDE OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIFE AS A ROVI: Dorothy Poss, a long serving mobility trainer with St Dunstan's South Africa has written a book of her experiences working alongside the blind of South Africa. *On the Blind Side* by Dorothy Poss is 242 pages long (print only) and can be ordered for 80 rand plus 80 rand airmail postage and packaging (that's about £12-14). Cheques made out to D.Poss should be sent to D. Poss, 5 Strathfern, 332 Surrey Avenue, Ferndale, 2194, South Africa. Please allow five weeks for delivery overseas.

BALANCING THE BOOKS

Ted Bunting on a Victorian mystery that needs to be solved!

The Hyde-Park Headsman

Author: Anne Perry
Reader: Terrence Hardiman
Duration 15 hours
Catalogue No TB 012147

The brief description of the book given at the beginning of the recording says who solves the mystery, so I knew it would be solved. It really needed to be too, for murder by decapitation was rather frowned upon even in Queen Victoria's day. You can never slit someone's windpipe for a joke, if I'm not mistaken,

but somehow, (though I don't know quite why) I was never able to take this story very seriously. Why, I wonder, was it necessary for the Superintendent in charge to be "new on the job", or to suffer insubordinate subordinates? It seemed to serve no purpose. Similarly, his mother-in-law's position in society being jeopardised by her mixing with actors does nothing whatever to advance the case. And as to the murders being ordered by a sinister secret society, why

the very suggestion proves as funny as a freemason's handshake. Whether or not one is actually meant to smile at the succession of snobbish characters I'm not quite certain but people being "showed the door" and told to be "about their business", is surely, nowadays, the stuff of farce.

Yet there is a sort of innocence about the book; an almost childlike quality that makes it appealing, and enables me to say, "I've heard worse - I think!"

Was it the right thing to do?

SKIING ST DUNSTANER Kevin Alderton engaged readers of the *Daily Mirror* in a moral debate last month. Former Soldier Kevin, who lost his sight after rescuing a woman from a vicious street attack, entered the fray on the rights and wrongs of standing up to protect others. Kevin's debate followed two street knife killings but preceded political arguments on citizens taking direct action when witness to an assault. He argued that he would do it again despite the personal loss he experienced. "I suppose it comes down to fight or flight," he told *Mirror* readers. "Some take a stand against this kind of thing and others not."

"It just depends on where you stand morally. I wanted these guys locked up. It was what they deserved after attacking a defenceless woman. We all have a duty to stand up to people who behave in this way, otherwise the criminals will win. Some say it takes guts but it's just instinct. I guess that's why so many "have-a-go" heroes insist they're not heroes. You do what comes naturally. It's like knowing the difference between right and wrong."

On the other side, David Sayer of London said he was forever looking over his shoulder after being stabbed

when he stepped in to defuse a pub row. The final word went to Jan Berry, Chairman of the Police Federation. "Part of you feels encouraged that people are still willing to stand up to protect others," she said. "But another part says that people shouldn't do it—they must look after their own safety first. I wouldn't expect somebody to try and deal with something they didn't have the ability to. But likewise I wouldn't expect people to turn a blind eye. We wouldn't encourage anyone to get involved in dangerous situations and, in most cases, the best way to help would be to call the police."

Ten questions on...

Harry Beevers on the subject of Age

- 1) Which land mammal lives to the greatest age?
- 2) What term is used for a young goose?
- 3) Which British composer wrote the piece of music entitled *Young Persons Guide to the Orchestra*?
- 4) Founded in the year 1280, Peterhouse is the oldest college at which university, Oxford or Cambridge?
- 5) The holiday company Saga specialises in holidays and travel arrangements for people above what age?
- 6) Who made her film debut at the age of three in the 1932 film *War Babies*?
- 7) Who is the youngest goal scorer for England in a soccer international?
- 8) Who is the oldest of the three tenors?
- 9) Which comic character who is permanently five-years-old has an Abyssinian wire-haired tripehound named Gnasher, a pig named Rasher and a cat named Hot Dog?
- 10) An item believed to be the first ever printed document is in the British Museum, in what language is it?

Answers can be found on page 23.

Car for sale! Only one blind user!



Speed demon! Ken Moss and the MG on the day he set the first solo blind land speed record.

IF YOU HAVE a little spare cash lying around and a hankering to have a classic car sitting in your drive way, a little green number with an exceptional pedigree has just come on the market. The vehicle in question is an MG TF Bonneville built by the MG Competitions team at Gaydon in 1997 and used by Terry Kilborne to reach 217.4 mph on the Bonneville Salt Flats in the USA.

More significantly, it is the car that blinded policeman Ken Moss was driving when he finally established a blind world land speed record in 1999. Ken was equipped with a guidance system developed by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency which allowed him to become the first blind person to drive at high speed on his own, clocking up an unprecedented 131mph.

The car, still sporting St Dunstan's shield, is being marketed by Oakfields, a firm specialising in prestige sports and racing cars for over 30 years. Anyone with deep pockets interested in acquiring a unique historical artefact can contact either Keith Wareham or Ian Donaldson at Oakfields on 01256 760256.

Like a Baxter out of hell!

Billy Baxter revs up with the biking Service men riding the muddy trail in support of St Dunstan's and ChildLine!

ON MAY 19th, two St Dunstaners – Billy Baxter and Colin Williamson – and a team from fundraising were invited to Longmoor training area in Hampshire to attend a tri-Service military event called Exercise Enduring Help.

The aim is to ride a military motorcycle around a set course for 24 hours - like a muddy version of lemons! The event is in its 11th year and raises funds for good causes, through each rider raising sponsorship from their unit. The two chosen charities this year were Childline and St Dunstan's.

Teams of riders were entered from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, the Army, Royal Air Force and the Dutch Army (who brought over seven teams).

There were over a hundred teams, each consisting of four riders and one military motorcycle, mainly the general purpose Harley Davidson (350cc machine, powered by a single cylinder Rotax engine). Other motorcycles ridden were the lighter 250cc Honda (used by Airborne Forces) whilst the Dutch teams were riding Husagavanas (the same size engines and weight as the British machines).

Each team had a service area in the form of a military tent

Bartolini and Captain Helen Currie, REME who were the organisers of the event.

which doubled up as sleeping quarters and kitchen rest area. There was a row of about 80 tents each in a perfect straight line with about 40 each side and a metal track in front of the team areas which formed the pit (Pitt Lane). The combination of tentage, support facilities such as generators and portaloos, plus vehicles took up some space, almost like a small town.

The course was set out in a circuit around the Longmoor training area, through woodland, over sand, mud and water with tricky hills and humps, testing both the skill of rider and durability of the machines. Riders were of all standards of riding ability both men and women.

We arrived on the Friday afternoon by navigating around dirt tracks of the Longmoor training area and the tac signs with Lynsey driving our car like a seasoned rally driver bumping along. We arrived at the control area to be met by WOI (ASM) Marco

We were then taken to our accommodation in the camp (the Officers Mess no less!) and shown our rooms. We were so grateful of this luxury accommodation as the weather had started to get very wet with constant rain. The pre-race BBQ which gave us the chance to meet some of the teams and riders who had come far and wide from all corners of the UK plus there were teams from the Dutch Army. We were made so very welcome!

The beer tent soon filled up with damp people as the rain was relentless. It even got through the gaps, so moving away from drips was in order. I am sure Lynsey and Natalie moved Colin and myself under these drips on purpose!

We all retired early to ready ourselves for the next day – with Colin and I sharing the Bridal Suite. We awoke to torrential rain with the camp resembling a swamp mud with puddles everywhere! It was at this point that Colin mentioned that his waterproof clothing was in a warm dry cupboard in Newcastle!

The girls, Natalie and Lynsey, put up the St Dunstan's tent and put out items like talking watches gadgets games and marketing materials. Additionally Natalie set up her massage couch and sorted out her lotions and potions so to provide a sports massage service to the riders. Riding a motorcycle cross-country in rough weather and terrain is not for faint hearted and our Natalie would be very busy over the 24-hours.

Whilst the girls were sorting out the tent, Marco, the organiser, put me into an off-road buggy complete with roll cage for a trip around the course – a white knuckle ride from dry to wet and covered in mud in sixty seconds commenced. We were out for about ten minutes and at one point the driver was just as blind as me with all the rain and mud flying inside the buggy. It was great fun and I got a feel of how hard the course would be for the riders.

On returning back from our hair-raising trip I looked like a creature from the black lagoon and Lynsey remarked that I looked wetter than a haddock's life jacket. Colin for some reason declined to have a go – probably something to do with not wanting to muddy his perfectly white trainers (so I am told!).

Lynsey went out later in the buggy too and made the

driver go through all the big puddles and banks of mud and slime. I do worry about her! I think that in a previous life she was a mermaid or was that a mud skipper!

As the morning drew on the teams gathered to have the safety brief and prepare for the race. We were joined just before the start by none other than Esther Rantzen who was representing the charity Childline and was there to help start the riders on their way. Esther was very interested in St Dunstan's and asked us many questions.

Midday came and the riders were ready. At the drop of the flag they raced to their bikes and set off in groups of 30 in a Le Mons style start and roaring off into the distance. A few unlucky ones had difficulty starting their bikes but got a cheer as they finally rode off. Once 100 plus bikes were speeding around we went to seek shelter and refreshments. Esther had a canny knack of finding teas coffees, hot rolls, and bacon butties in the most unlikely of places. We trooped up too and down the tented pit area, giving support and encouraging words to the teams, more brews and butties and drumming up custom for Natalie's massage service. At first the teams thought we were pulling their legs at the prospect of a pretty girl offering a rub down.

The things these fundraising girls do for the charity! Bless them!

It was apparent that Lynsey and Natalie were having trouble in understanding the strange phrases and words that we Servicemen use. It is a whole new language and Colin and myself were happy to teach! Let me give you a few examples - Bikini state is not ladies swimwear but the code name for a security state. A brew kit is tea or coffee making items. NATO Standard is a brew, ie, milk and two sugars. Maggot is a sleeping bag, a scratcher is a bed and hava dog is your packed lunch. These were but a few of the phrases we had to teach the girls.

It was great to be with Servicemen again and we soaked up the atmosphere. Colin and myself were humbled by the kindness shown by the guys, brilliant. The girls (Lynsey and Natalie) were amazing at guiding us through puddles and dodging bikes and wires and many other hazards – they are truly great!

We were met by the St Dunstan's balloon team on the Saturday afternoon. The weather was still appalling and a strong breeze looked like spoiling a tethered flight. The course and weather conditions were slowly taking their toll on the bikes and

riders. An endless stream of bikes were slipping and sliding around the course with teams fixing broken bikes, swapping spares and experienced riders and teams helping out less skilful riders by pulling bikes from bogs and offering advice.

We quickly learnt where to go for the best food and drinks - the Dutch lads had great coffee and syrup waffles, whilst the Welsh lads offered us bacon butties and mugs of tea. The food tent dished out high carbohydrate foods like pasta, a range of stew, chunks of meat with veggies chucked in to warm us up and fill the gaps.

As night fell the bikes were still churning around the course. The riders were now riding in total darkness with only mud speckled headlights to show the way - you wouldn't catch me riding in the dark! During the night the weather improved so our hot air balloon team were able to get our balloon tethered which lit up the tent area like a big light bulb (I am told) which boosted the teams.

The morning came and teams were riding well with only a few stopping to rest at night and then ride again at dawn.

Natalie was again in our marquee ready to soothe the sore limbs of the bikers and she received several proposals of marriage in thanks.

It was still raining hard and resembled a scene from the Western Front. Colin Williamson and myself were guided by Lynsey Pickles to visit every one of the 108 tents to thank them for their efforts on behalf of St Dunstan's. At midday on Sunday the race was finished and by 13:00, 500 wet and dirty Servicemen and women were in front of our tent in the hope of collecting a prize.

I wish we could have given all involved a prize as they were all winners! Most teams completed the event and there were only a few

major injuries ranging from a burnt finger to a broken leg. The prize giving went well and we had to choose a team that deserved the prize of St Dunstan's Spirit of the Event Award and present the award to the winners of each of the event categories.

Most of the teams were either just returning from operations all over the world or preparing to go, giving up their time when it is so precious is humbling. We wished them god speed, and our thoughts are with them were ever they are doing a fine job, for their country.

REUNION ROUND-UP

THE EDINBURGH Reunion held at the Edinburgh Marriott Hotel on May 31st brought together 17 St Dunstaners. Ex-Scots Guardsman Robert Ross piped everyone into an excellent dinner. Mr Andrew Lyburn was the Member of Council presiding and there was a joint response from Dr Sydney Scroggie and Professor Maurice Aldridge who had plotted earlier to deliver their response in this way. It was accepted very well indeed. Following dinner, amidst laughter and delight, one talented enclave found that there were Moothies in their group and Bob Crossan and Alex Lambie teamed up to delight us with their "Blawing". A very special reunion

Twenty St Dunstaners and five widows attended the Chichester Reunion on June 7th. Held at The Marriott, Goodwood Park Hotel, Chichester, Timothy Bacon was the Member of Council presiding. St Dunstaner Jeannie Hiscock delivered a response about what St Dunstan's meant to her - how when she lost her sight she couldn't do the things she used to and that St Dunstan's had changed that, enabling her to keep in contact with her friends and family. There were tears in quite a few other eyes as she closed her speech. There was also an early birthday greeting for Harry Ellaway who was 92 on June 20th.

We're football crazy

Colin Williamson on something more important than life

AS WORLD CUP FEVER is upon us I thought I'd share my thoughts with you regarding who I think will walk away the most prestigious prize in world football, the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

The competition is steeped in history. From its humbling beginnings back in 1910 (known then as the Thomas Lipton World Cup) the world famous tournament has made headlines all over the globe, and not just the back pages. The competition's roots were formed in 1904 when millionaire grocery baron Sir Thomas Lipton was awarded the title Knight of the Grand Order by the Italian government, in recognition of his many business interests there. When Sir Thomas offered to reciprocate this offer he was asked to send a representative football side to play in a tournament in Turin.

The English Football Association were reluctant to get involved and declined the invitation but Sir Thomas was not to be outdone. Eventually a pub team, West Auckland FC, consisting mainly of pitmen from the small mining community and struggling at the wrong end of the Northern Amateur League was chosen to represent England. Together they scraped up enough

money to make the trip to Turin and were greeted by a civic reception at the railway station with hundreds of people waving banners welcoming "Woolwich Arsenal FC"! Something was obviously lost in translation!

Nevertheless, West Auckland FC went on to win the tournament and were invited back to compete again two years later where they went on to beat the mighty Juventus 6-1.

In 1929, FIFA and the Olympic Committee were in dispute over who was to control the Olympic soccer tournament. FIFA seized the opportunity to run its own competition, to be known as the "Jules Rimet Cup" in recognition of the sterling work Monsieur Rimet had done in securing support for the tournament amongst member nations. Plans were soon put in place to host the first ever FIFA World Cup in Uruguay, South America. The host country won the inaugural World Cup, defeating Argentina in the final 4-1.

Since then scandal and controversy have followed the World Cup throughout its travels around the globe. One such scandal involved the arrest in Bogotá, Columbia of England skipper Bobby Moore during preparations for the 1970 tournament which was to be held in Mexico. Moore had been shopping in a jewellery shop in the team hotel's foyer along with Bobby Charlton. They were looking for a gift for Charlton's wife when Moore was accused of stealing a bracelet. What followed was a bizarre turn of events where Moore was arrested, taken to court, placed under house arrest and then eventually released without charge. In 1975 a senior member of Columbia's secret police confessed it had been a plot to frame Moore.

The year 1966 saw the victorious England team lift the cup but that too has had its share of controversy. In the 100th minute Alan Ball crossed to the near post and an incoming Geoff Hurst smashed the ball home. Did the ball cross the line? The Germans surrounded the Swiss referee who admitted he wasn't sure and consequently enquired about

the validity of the goal with the Russian linesman. The linesman was adamant, the goal stood! England went on to win the game 4-2 but recent advances in technology have shown that the ball never actually crossed the line. Nevertheless that game will go down in history as one of the great games in the Cup's history.

Some memorable World Cup moments include The Jules Rimet Cup being stolen from a stamp collectors exhibition in Westminster, London in 1966 and its subsequent retrieval.

An own goal scored by Columbian Andres Escobar in

the 1994 competition against the USA cost him his life. Escobar was shot dead in a supermarket car park for his mistake.

Pele, arguably the world's greatest footballer, lifted the trophy at 17 years of age in the 1958 finals held in Sweden.

Maradona's infamous "hand of god" goal in the 1986 game against England in which he also produced one of the greatest goals ever seen in a world cup.

Beckham's sending off against Argentina in the 1998 world cup finals cost us dearly and he suffered

many months of abuse from disgruntled fans as a result.

The betting free for all surrounding the eventual winners of this year's competition is intense. At press time, Brazil, winners of the 2002 competition and who have appeared in the last three finals of the world cup were staunch favourites. England, Argentina, Italy, France, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Spain and Germany were also in the frame. But now, with this year's final a few days away, sit back, relax and open a bottle of good old English Ale. What you are about to witness is the greatest show on Earth!

Gardening Week Poetry winners

First prize in the Gardening Week Poetry Competition was won by Cynthia Robins, wife of St Dunstaner Vincent "Robbie" Robins. This is her winning verse:

May once more has come around
Gardeners planting out the ground
With plants to brighten and delight
All their colours crisp and bright.

The skylark singing way up high
Beneath a blue and cloudless sky
Heralding summer has begun
A happy time for everyone.

All too soon the months will pass
Leaves change from green
to golf en-masse
And all will sleep once more to wake
Refreshed after their winter break.

Second prize went to Yvonne Woods, wife of Clive.

My garden is a treasure full of memories
With gifts from friends and family
All through the passing years
Such colours in the borders
Shout out with vibrant cheers.

In pots and baskets they are given
And gladly are received
A reminder of a birthday
...or an anniversary.

Although the changing seasons
are viewed with different eyes
The awakening of my memories
are beginning to arise.

The spring bursts forth with blossom
And summer blooms its best
The autumn renews its coloured links
And winter a well earned rest.

Happy Birthday, Henry!

It's not just the years that fly past, it's the RAF too as the nation sends best wishes to WWI veteran **Henry Allingham** as he marks his 110th birthday with modesty



Henry sits beneath the hologram portrait created by Robert Munday.



Henry with HRH The Duchess of Gloucester on HMS Belfast.



Henry with his great-great-granddaughter Lauren, aged 2 and her mother Ami.



Chancellor Gordon Brown brought greetings from Her Majesty The Queen.



A toast to Henry at Ovingdean.

BRITAIN'S OLDEST MAN had his 110th birthday marked with a Royal Air Force flypast over Eastbourne on June 6th. St Dunstaner Henry Allingham was surrounded by his family and friends as he raised a glass of orange juice towards two Tornado jets racing overhead.

But the good wishes for the First World War veteran were flowing in from many other quarters as well. Chancellor Gordon Brown carried greetings from Her Majesty The Queen in a letter that read: "I send my warm congratulations on the celebration of your 110th birthday on the 6th of June 2006. May your celebration be particularly happy and

by Simon Rogers

memorable." The Chancellor then gave him a letter from Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup, the Chief of Defence Staff. He also presented him with a bottle of House of Commons whisky and a copy of the budget statement from 1896, the year that Henry was born. He added that the

whisky tax was lower back in those days.

Henry thanked Mr Brown for taking time out to visit him, but there was some debate as to who was more honoured. "It was an honour for me to meet Henry and pass on Her Majesty's message," said the Chancellor. "It is said that a hero is someone who believes in something bigger than himself, and acts upon that. Mr Allingham is a patriotic Britain citizen who has bravely served his country and deserves all of the tributes he is receiving today.

"We must never forget the debt we owe to Henry and the millions of other British servicemen and women who have risked their lives in the defence of our country. They are our nation's pride."

Also joining Henry in Eastbourne was Veterans Minister Tom Watson who added his compliments.

Later, Henry enjoyed lunch with family members who had travelled from the United States, such as grandson Christopher Gray, who was amazed by the media attention, great-granddaughter Ami Gray Carlson and her two-year-old daughter, Lauren. In total, Henry has six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, 13 great-great-grandchildren and one great-great-great-grandchild.

Festivities continued next day at St Dunstan's Ovingdean with a special birthday cake and some champagne. "Not too much, I have to take it easy," said Henry. He thanked fellow St Dunstaners for their birthday wishes.

Henry was born in a leap year, Queen Victoria had been on the throne for 59 years, X-Rays had only just been discovered and theatre-goers scandalised by the first productions of *La Boheme* and *Salome*.

Apart from being Britain's oldest man, Henry is one of ten surviving British First World War veterans. Six of them live in the UK, three live in Australia, while Gladys Powers, probably the last female WWI veteran, lives in Abbotsford, Canada.

A week before his birthday, Henry and another First World War veteran, Bill Stone, were asked to recall those days onboard London's Museum ship HMS *Belfast*. They were there for opening of a commemorative exhibition remembering the Battle of Jutland.

While serving in the Royal Naval Air Service, a 19-year-old Henry was responsible for maintaining Sopwith seaplanes on HMT *Kingfisher* which shadowed the fleet during the battle on May 31st 1916. He has memories

of shells ricocheting across the sea but was unaware of the historical significance at the time. More than 8,600 lives were lost that night and Henry is the last known survivor.

Exactly 90 years on, he joined HRH The Duchess of Gloucester on the Belfast for the opening of the exhibition. She also unveiled a holographic portrait of Henry created by artist Robert Munday of Spatial Imaging. Characterised by a greeny-orange, almost golden glow, the hologram creates a stunningly realistic three-dimensional image of Henry.

"What makes this hologram so special is the fact that this is a celebration of the life of Henry Allingham that spans three centuries," said Robert Munday. "Furthermore, meeting Henry I discovered his great accomplishments in engineering technology. Henry actually instrumented the first reconnaissance aircraft camera during World War I. I am honoured to have this opportunity to create a hologram of this truly amazing and distinguished war veteran."

Henry had mixed feelings about recalling Jutland and other battles of the Great War. "You don't think about how it feels," he said. "But later it comes to you and you want to forget."

SYNCOATING SELECTIONS

Merchant Navy St Dunstaner Ernie Phillips of Walmley, Sutton Coldfield reveals a few favourites

IFEEL ONE can't really talk about music unless one actually plays the music, particularly in my case because the music I am interested in is somewhat rare.

My first piece of music is from what I discovered was one of the world's greatest military bands, The Eastman Wind Ensemble. The University of Rochester, New York has got a musical faction called the Eastman School of Music. One of the undergraduates on entering the faculty, Frederick Fennell from Cleveland, Ohio, formed a marching band to support the University football team. Or course that would be American football, and from that marching band which consisted of about 45 musicians came the Eastman Wind Ensemble. In fact Dr Frederick Fennell, as he became, said he wanted to form a band of virtuoso musicians who could play any type of music. That's how the marvellous Eastman Wind Ensemble came about.

I would never have known about this without entering a huge record store in downtown Cleveland, Ohio in the mid-1950s. My wife and I were there while I was

working for the Ford Motor Company. By then they knew me as a limey. It was there and then that this marvellous fanfare boomed out of a very good speaker system. The place was empty except for the salesmen who were beaming at me. My words were "I know it's English but I don't know who it is." What I should have been saying was "Who are the band?"

They were playing *Toccata Marziale* by Vaughn Williams.

My second piece in contrast would be one I first listened to in the late war years. My ship was in dry-dock for one month in the Bethlehem Steelyard in Hoboken, New Jersey. Hoboken is directly opposite Manhattan. The Hudson River separates the two. There was always an engineer aboard to cover any eventualities and on nights when I was aboard, I used to listen to the radio and I heard this marvellous rendition of *Nessun Dorma* from the opera *Turandot* by Swedish tenor Jussi Björling who sadly died rather young. I don't think he was 50 when he had a fatal heart attack and sadly left this world. All other versions of that don't

count for me, I was so moved by this one. It's not a very good record, it's very old but it's still the only one I like to listen to.

My third choice is a march. I'm very fond of military bands. This is from the opera of Sergei Prokofiev, *The Love for Three Oranges* and I don't know where I first heard it but it has always impressed me.

Number four is somebody who was very important in my life. In my home town of Darlington, County Durham there was a music shop in the centre of town, George Williams. It was a large shop and catered for everything musical, if you wanted to buy a piano, that's where they came from. His granddaughter Jessie was a good friend of mine. We became friends because I dealt with Jessie when buying records, usually big bands or jazz. The Catterick Camp was probably 12 miles out of town, people would come into the shop and ask if there were any jazz bands in Darlington and at that time there weren't many that I knew, but Jessie would always send strangers to my house if I was home on leave. It was one of these people who came to my house, a young man named John Potter who was a serving

soldier at Catterick Camp. He lived in Essex but told me "I've been able to bring a band from Edinburgh. I'm looking for a Saturday evening venue and I wonder can you help me?" I said "I've never done anything like that before, but I will certainly try to help you."

John Potter left me his telephone number. I didn't have much success, but I want you to believe me that I didn't have an ulterior motive when I spoke an older work mate Jack Purvis who I knew to be a very prominent freemason. I was going about the fact that I wasn't making progress looking for a venue and he said have you tried booking the Masonic Hall. I immediately jumped and said "I never even thought about it Jack because I know it is impossible to book." I mentioned the fact that a friend of mine Nat Cox who used to have the hall frequently for his small Dixieland band couldn't get it. I assumed then because Nat couldn't get it, no one could get it. But Jack said "You don't know if you don't try, go and see the caretaker and try." I can only assume Jack put in a word because we went to see the caretaker and we booked the hall.

It was October 1950, I didn't know the name of the band so on the six posters I had printed, I just called them the

Edinburgh Jazz Band. In fact the name of the band was that of Sandy Brown, a former pupil of the Royal High School of Edinburgh. That also included Al Fairweather the trumpet player and Stan Greg, the pianist come drummer. Stan used to alternate on either instrument. Sadly of the Edinburgh Band only Stan Greg is still alive.

After Sandy appeared at the Masonic Hall, John Potter asked me what I thought of them. I said "Unless I'm much mistaken, this has to be one of the best bands in Britain." And I'd never heard of them before. Sandy Brown was a self taught clarinet player who was then playing like the great New Orleans clarinet player Johnny Dodds who had been a member of the great King Oliver Creole Jazz Band and then he followed as member of the Louis Armstrong Hot Five and probably the Hot Seven. He was one of the great pioneers, and here was this Scotsman sounding exactly like Johnny Dodds. It was unbelievable. It was a good band.!

Sandy and Al Fairweather eventually went down and they formed a London band which played *Everybody Loves Saturday Night*. It has an African tinge to it. While they were still at school, on their holidays, Sandy and the boys used to go to Paris and play jazz in the cafes and

while doing this they met a group of black musicians from the French Cameroons. They became friendly. They taught them this great tune and sandy put his own lyrics to it. That particular tune became a great hit in Scandinavia so Sandy was in the charts.

My final choice is a song from the Teesdale Lead Mines that I can't put a name to. The River Tees runs just outside Darlington at a place called Blackwell. It finally runs to the sea at Middlesbrough but the Yorkshire Dales and Teesdale are favourite places for my wife and myself in our younger days, beautiful rugged scenery. This song is about the lead mines which we've explored on numerous occasions, they were literally just a tunnel dug through the hills.

The only version I have heard is one by Ewan McColl, but this song should be song by someone with a Teesdale accent. The Teesdale dialect is a beautiful soft dialect and of course, Ewan McColl just didn't have it.

If you have five favourite pieces of music you would like to share, write to the **Review**, adding a few words on why each track is special. Send your choice to 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

Golfing journey to Japan!

David Morris and Linda Charlton recount their game in the Blind Golf World Championship held in Japan

DAVID MORRIS WENT to Australia early in order to get fit and train for the World Championships spending almost every day at the Hope Island Golf Resort under the guidance of Peter Cote the golf professional. Peter's role was to perfect David's swing and all the shots required to win the Blind Golf World Championships. David's guide, whilst training in Australia, was Cindy Thackeray. The plan was to win the Blind World Championship for an unprecedented third time.

Linda, David's regular guide, arrived in Brisbane on April 3rd, after battling with jet lag they travelled to Melbourne for the Victoria Open.

Following a restful night, staying with David Blythe, the President of the International Blind Association they travelled by train and taxi to the Rosebud Golf and Country Club, David had been invited to play in the Veterans competition, being held the day before the Victoria Open.

Unfortunately, the weather was the worst recorded at that

time of year for many years. With the temperature at just 10 degrees and the wind chill factor taking the temperature down to below zero together with torrential rain and strong winds, David didn't trouble the scorer. However, they did stay on the course and complete the 18 holes, to the amazement of all the members at the club!

On the following day they travelled back to the course for the Victoria Open staying in the new motel built on the course. The weather continued to be inclement so we will not discuss David's scores over the two days (David came last!). He claimed that he could not feel his fingers saying that "I do not do the cold and wet."

On April 9th they travelled to Japan and stayed at the Narita Hotel to await other participants of the World Championships. David and Linda took the opportunity to go into Narita Town and visit a local temple, they met an American who informed them that a "Drum Festival" was to take place in the afternoon. The Temple he said was certainly worth visiting as it was built on a

hill with beautiful gardens.

The American was correct, the temple was in the centre of town on a hill and typical of Japanese shrines with an ornate entrance gateway into a beautiful courtyard. Once through the gateway you walked towards the outdoor incense burner situated in the centre of the courtyard, this was a round building, approximately 10 feet in diameter, open walls and ornate roof with a large incense burner in the centre. The Japanese placed incense sticks into this burner, once lit the incense smoke travelled throughout the courtyard and before entering the temple you would cleanse yourself by washing the smoke over your body before entering the temple it is also brings good luck. Linda encouraged David to wash in the holy smoke to bring them good luck, they both made sure they had a "good amount of cleansing". Around the courtyard there were an array of fortune tellers and stalls selling masks etc for the drum festival that was to be held in the town later that day.

Linda and David then climbed the 60 steps to the temple; the steps were

arranged in groups of 20 with a landing between lucky for David. As they travelled Linda explained what she could see. The temple was a very high ornate building heavily decorated in reds and gold. On the outside there was a glass screen so that observers could watch the monks conducting prayers for the people. Around the back was a place where people could place the ashes of their loved ones with headstones to mark the spot. This was surrounded by beautiful gardens and waterfalls stretching over about 100 acres it was a very, very peaceful place.

They then went down to the town to see the "Drum Festival". This is an annual celebration with a procession of drums all beating a rhythmic tune, taking over an hour to pass. The spectacle was enthralling and Linda and David were very thankful to have the opportunity of seeing all the young people of the area showing off their dancing and skill playing all the different types of drum.

On April 10th, the participants of the Championships were taken by coach to the Hotel Numazu Castle on the slopes of Mount Fuji. On route their guides became reporters (sight-seeing by a different name). Everyone enjoyed the tour passing thousands of cherry

blossom trees, all heavy with white and pink blossoms. The cherry blossom season is famous in Japan and only lasts for a couple of weeks. The bus stopped at Asakusa for lunch and whilst there the group visited the Meiji Shrine. Once again David spent time getting all the luck from the incense as possible.

Following the visit to the shrine they were taken for a very enjoyable lunch at the top of Asakusa View Hotel in the sky lounge. It was a buffet lunch with fabulous foods of all kinds, very healthy and enjoying unbelievable views of Asakusa. Back into the coach for another few hours and on then to the Hotel that would be their home for the week's golf.

The wake up call on April 11th, the practice day, was 5.30 am! Following breakfast, they travelled to the golf club. The Golf Club was called the 500 Club, very exclusive with 500 of the richest people in Japan being members, hence the name. The club was just outside Namusa on the foothills of Mount Fuji. The group were welcomed at the Club with such kindness and the organisation was outstanding. However, where was Mount Fuji? Shrouded in mist!

After the practice round in very cold conditions and driving rain, they gratefully returned to the hotel for

the welcome part of the Championships. The briefing was by Mr T. Aoi who was the Tournament director, and a professional golfer.

On the first day of the competition the wake up call was at 5:00am! The date was April 12th but with the distance travelled and the early calls David and Linda were unsure of what day, date, and time it was. After an hour travelling to the course and after a very good opening ceremony for the 2006 World Blind Golf Championship tournament commenced in earnest.

David and Linda started the round in good spirits remembering the holy smoke and the good luck but this dream was soon dashed as David started to rattle up cricket scores. His game started to improve as they heard that Des Chandler had just missed a hole-in-one hitting the pin with the ball dropping close by. Des said later that he was lucky it didn't go in as he could not afford to buy every one on the course a drink! Well not at these prices!! When the results were announced David was delighted to learn that they were only five shots behind and still within striking distance.

On April 13th, their wake up call was 5:30am half-an-hour lay-in! They dragged themselves down for another

unusual breakfast but they had to admit with the lack of carbohydrates they were losing weight – great. Once again the party loading themselves onto the coaches and travelled to the 500 Club for the second day of the competition. On the way everyone discussed the days play, David and Linda decided to stick to the pre arranged match plan given to them by Ian Marshall, David's golf professional in the UK and played steady and conservatively. This match plan paid off, they scored at a steady rate and actually enjoyed the golf, the sun came out briefly and as the play improved they were able to appreciate the course. Still no sign of Mount Fuji though! At the end of the competition David and Linda were unsure where they were placed but someone said, whilst passing them on the stairs they had come second.

It was then another coach journey back to the hotel for a quick shower and change into their "best bib and tucker" another coach journey to the Gotemba Koogen Hotel (Buke Tokai Pavilion) for the Award ceremony. The Blind players and their guides/coaches were also given the opportunity to meet "The Legends of the Women's Golf Tour". These women were all the great golf players throughout the world over the past thirty years.

The ceremony was wonderful, the food incredible Japanese fair. Haruhisa Handa the sponsor of the Blind World Championships greeted and welcomed everyone to the ceremony and awards. The presentation then started by Handa San as he is known, when our names were called to go up on stage we were stunned as we still had not been informed we had won the Competition, We were still World Champions! Wow, fabulous, fantastic, wonderful, ecstatic! Mike Mayo played a great match to come a very close third in his category and was awarded with a very good quality golf bag and Des Chandler finishing seventh. a great result for the three St Dunstaners and St Dunstan's. After the awards everyone was treated

to a few songs by Handa San who gave a very professional rendition of a Japanese folk song and was dressed in ceremonial gowns.

In the 2006 World Blind Golf Booklet Handa San says "Being blind does not mean you have to forsake your dreams and opportunities, despite the handicap, or rather, because of the handicap, hidden abilities are brought to the foreground and this allows for the experience of more intense meaningful joy in life". This is very true, more than ever, for us, the St Dunstaners.

David and Linda would like to thank all the people involved with St Dunstan's for all the help and advice they provided which enabled them to participate in the World Championships and traveling to Hong Kong and Taipei.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Write to St Dunstan's Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. E-mail ray.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk.

Having recently heard of the death of Irene Newbold we would like to be included in the tributes already published. She was our Welfare visitor for many years in South Wales and we were very fond of her. Irene was one of the old school and of a practical nature and all our needs were given her prompt attention. The

St Dunstaner was always her first priority. Our condolences go to her family.

**Gwen Obern
and Norman Hopkins.**

Listen to the Talking **Review**, I wonder does everyone still stiffen when the band music plays?

**Marjorie Haworth,
Fleetwood, Lancashire**

Welcome to ST DUNSTAN'S

Jack Blane of Stewartby, Bedfordshire served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 to 1946.

Cyril Catchpole of Pulborough, West Sussex served in the Welsh Guards from 1944 to 1948.

Rita Copeman of Pulborough, West Sussex served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

Charles Cosby of Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire served in the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment from 1940 and then the Royal Engineers from 1942 to 1946.

Robert Driver of Whitchurch, Shropshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947 and again from 1949 to 1982.

Margaret Dufty of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1946.

James Fox of Westhoughton, Bolton, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Louis Gilbert of Brighton served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Mary Hayter of Pudsey, West Yorkshire served in the

Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

Ernest Holtham of Ringmer, Lewes, East Sussex served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1940 to 1946.

David Jordan of Grayshott, Hindhead, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1958.

Annabella Kitson of Bayswater, London served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1946.

Douglas Knight of Churt, Surrey served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1942 to 1946.

Winifred Marrable of Thurnscoe, Rotherham, South Yorkshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1947 to 1948.

Robert Matthews of Mickleton, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1941 to 1946.

Joan Maxwell of Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1939 to 1949.

Stanley Mitchell of Great Harwood, Blackburn, Lancashire served in the Home Guard from 1941 to 1944.

Joyce More of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1944.

Hylton Overton of South Shields, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

George Randall of Bangor, Northern Ireland served in the Northamptonshire Regiment, Royal Warwickshire Regiment and Corps of Military Police between 1940 and 1946.

John Reed of Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1939 and then the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1941 to 1946.

Gladys Rowland of Clifton Pendlebury, Manchester served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1942.

Walter Schofield of Longridge, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

George Simpson of Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Ronald Swain of Edgware, Middlesex served in the Hampshire Regiment and Leicestershire Regiment between 1944 and 1946.

Ernest Taylor of Prestatyn, Denbighshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1971.

Barbara Tonkin of St Albans, Hertfordshire served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1945.

Frederick Tyrrell of Stanks, Leeds served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1941 and then

the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1945 to 1946.

Leonard Walters of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

Edward Wells of Colehill, Wimborne, Dorset served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

Evelyn Wesley of

Watford, Hertfordshire served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1946.

Leonard Wheeler of Coleford, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Corps of Signals from 1940 to 1943.

John Winter of Liverpool, Merseyside served in the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1943.

Masonic meeting

Ernie Bignell reports

OVER THE WEEKEND of April 21st-23rd, the Masonic group of St Dunstan's held their annual "get together" at Ovingdean. On the Saturday morning, the group held their AGM. Nineteen Brethren attended, a huge improvement on the eight members last year. Arrangements were agreed for the weekend's "festivities". Through the good offices of Ron Freer, it has become the custom to visit the Temple Lodge in Brighton. On the Saturday afternoon all 19 members were transported to Brighton Masonic Hall for that event. They were cordially received by the members of the Temple Lodge and treated to a good afternoon and then a meal to round off the day's events. I suppose that you could say that we "rolled" home, courtesy of our driver.

On the Sunday, it was our privilege to entertain a number of Masonic friends and their ladies to a lunch in the Winter Garden. Sincere thanks are sent to Paul and PBK Catering for the wonderful lunch. Did I forget to mention that we also had a bottle or three of the delectable 'house' wines?

Next year's meeting has been arranged for the weekend of April 20th-22nd 2007.

Ten answers...

Answers for the quiz on page 8

- 1) Man; 2) Gosling; 3) Benjamin Britten; 4) Cambridge University; 5) 50; 6) Shirley Temple; 7) Wayne Rooney, 17 years, 317 days v. Montenegro September 6th 2003, beating Michael Owen's record; 8) Pavarotti; 9) Dennis the Menace 10) Chinese.

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:



Madeleine on June 1st, weighing in at 5lb, 11oz. She is the daughter of *Jamie and Katrina Weller* of Nottingham.

Oscar Sunny Paul Bright on March 11th. He is the third great grandson of George Tytler of Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Colin and Jenny Gibbs of Ruabon, Wrexham on June 2nd.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Percy and Dilys Saywell of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire on May 25th.

Pegitha and Peter Sebastian of Hove, East Sussex on May 27th.

Edward and Lillian Chew of Chorley, Lancashire on June 1st.

Patrick and Ivy Cox of Hullbridge, Hockley, Essex on June 1st.

John and Muriel Gray of Bournemouth, Dorset on June 1st.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Nancy and Frank Chadwick of Royton, Oldham, Lancashire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on May 26th.

Ken and Anne Clare of Wendover, Aylesbury who celebrated 61 years of marriage on June 2nd.

John and Win Brown of Old Coulsden, Croydon, Surrey who celebrated 61 years of marriage on June 3rd.

Leonard and Peggy Hobbs of Waterlooville, Hampshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on June 6th.

Samuel and Grace Keating who celebrated their Platinum Wedding Anniversary – that is 70 years together - on June 6th.

Leonard and Miriam Simpson of Whickham, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear who celebrated 65 years of marriage on June 7th.

Samuel and Kathleen Bartholomew of Middlesbrough, Cleveland who celebrated 61 years of marriage on June 9th.

Alec and Daisy Higgins of Eastbourne, East Sussex who celebrated 65 years of marriage on June 14th.

George and Elsie Roberts of Cardiff, South Glamorgan who celebrated 61 years of marriage on June 16th.

Hugh and Jane Rance of Rottingdean, East Sussex who celebrated 67 years of marriage on June 17th.

Kenneth and Eileen Richardson of Benfleet, Essex who celebrated 63 years of marriage on June 19th.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Joan Wallbridge on January 5th. She was the wife of St Dunstaner *Norman Wallbridge* of Hailsham, East Sussex.

Marjorie Thomas on January 19th. She was the wife of Royal Artillery St Dunstaner *Cyril Thomas* of Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Louise Gunn on March 28th. She was the wife of *Charles Gunn* of Hove, East Sussex.

Frances Lanham on May 31st. She was the wife of Army St Dunstaner *Peter Lanham* of Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

Mary Waltho of Congleton, Cheshire on May 3rd. She was the widow of *Roy Waltho*.

Joan Jinks of Greetland, Halifax on June 4th. She was the widow of *Edward Jinks*.

Adelaide Martyn of Hyde Heath, Amersham, Buckinghamshire on June 8th. Aged 103, she was the widow of First World War St Dunstaner *Herbert Martyn* who served as Sergeant in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

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.

Ivor Mylan

Royal Corps of Signals

Ivor Michael Mylan of Hayling Island, Hampshire died on June 5th, aged 64. He joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1959, serving in the UK and Germany before discharge in 1965. Our sympathy goes to his brother Chris and all members of the family.

Reginald Philpott

Royal Corps of Signals

Reginald Percy William Philpott of Folkestone, Kent died on March 3rd, aged 87. He joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1939. Evacuated through Dunkirk, he was then posted to Ireland. He landed in Normandy on D-Day +8 and was stationed in Paris for the next two years. Discharged in 1946, he worked as a driver and mechanic.

George Townsend

Royal Artillery

George Henry Townsend of Tooting Bec, London died on May 8th, aged 96. He spent his formative years at the Princess Alice Orphanage in Birmingham, working the school farm and cultivating an interest in vegetable gardening. Leaving as a 16-year-old, he moved to London, working for the National Children's Home amongst others. He joined Pearl Insurance before enlisting with the Royal Artillery in 1940. Going into Normandy on D-Day, he fought through Belgium and Holland to Germany. Demobbed in 1946, he returned to Pearl but joined the London Ambulance Service in 1950. He was amongst the crews attending the Hither Green rail disaster in 1967. He retired in 1976. Our sympathy goes to his sons Anthony, Edwin and David, and all members of the family.

Maksymilian Thom

Polish Resettlement Corps

Maximillian Thom of Winchmore Hill, London died on May 16th, aged 89. Born in Jablonowo, Brodnica, Pomorze, Poland, he became a Chemist shop assistant before joining the Polish Army Medical Corps in 1939. Initially posted to No 8 District Hospital, he was taken prisoner by the German Army during the September invasion. He was released home in 1940 on grounds of ill health. However, he was conscripted into the German Army in 1943. After six months with the German unit, he deserted and joined fellow Poles in the Maquis, serving with the French Resistance in the Grenoble area until the end of 1944. Moving out to Italy, he enlisted with 2 Polish Corps under British command and was posted to 9 Polish General Hospital. In 1947, he transferred to the Polish Resettlement Corps and was discharged as Corporal in 1949. In civilian life, he worked in a London pharmacy. Our sympathy goes to his widow Krystyna and all other members of the family.

George Francis

Royal Artillery

George Joseph Francis of Tavistock, Devon died on May 20th, aged 89. He was an apprentice tin smith and metal sheet worker before joining the Royal Artillery in 1934. After training at Woolwich, he was posted to Farnborough, Hampshire. He left the Army in 1937 and became a platelayer for London Underground. Called up in 1939, he rejoined the Royal Artillery in Wantage, Berkshire before being posted to Dieppe. After being evacuated through Dunkirk, his unit reformed in Devizes. He was injured during a parachute training exercise, but later posted to North Africa. His unit moved up through Anzio to Rome but were then transferred to Palestine. After his discharge in 1946, he became a plasterer and worked in the building trade. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Leonard Wickson**Royal Army Service Corps**

Leonard Lewis Thomas Wickson of Worthing, West Sussex died on May 23rd, aged 94. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1942, supporting 2nd Parachute Regiment through North Africa and the Italian Campaign. He was posted to a medical unit in Gaza before being demobbed in 1946. In civilian life, he was a bricklayer. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Edward Rose**Royal Air Force**

Edward Charles Rose of Fairfield, Stockton on Tees died on May 25th, aged 84. He worked as a driver before joining the Royal Air Force in 1939. Training as an Engineer Fitter at Scampton and St Atan, he worked on Lincolns, Vickers Vincent, Avro Anson and Oxford aircraft. He was deployed in Iraq, Egypt, Palestine, and Aden. Discharged in 1964, he worked for Tarmac and later as a Training Consultant. Our sympathy goes to his widow Kathleen, sons Peter, Robert and Colin and all other members of the family.

Richard Garnett**Royal Army Medical Corps**

Richard Pearson Garnett of Fleetwood, Lancashire died on May 27th, aged 93. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1940, completing the basic nursing course in a quarter of the usual time. After completing the advance course, he was deployed to West Africa where his unit set up a 600-bed tented hospital in Gambia. He later joined 1st Field Ambulance in Italy as a nurse. He was discharged in 1945 after being injured. In civilian life, he ran a Grocers shop.

Kenneth Edwards**Royal Air Force**

Kenneth Mervyn Edwards of Gorseinon, Swansea, West Glamorgan died on May 28th, aged 72. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1951 serving as Quartermaster with Transport

Command in Germany. After his discharge in 1954, he worked as a sales representative and then as chauffeur to the director of the coal board. He then became an ambulance driver for 18 years. He was responding to a 999 call when he was involved in a collision with a lorry. He lost his sight and spent a month on life support. Our sympathy goes to his widow Sylvia and all members of the family.

Arthur Frith**Merchant Navy**

Arthur Stanley Frith of Meols, Wirral, Merseyside died on May 30th, aged 85. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1936 sailing from Liverpool to Portugal and Brazil. After the outbreak of war, he served on Atlantic runs and troopship duties. He left the Merchant Navy in 1950 and joined a stevedore company. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

William Hunt**Merchant Navy**

William Furlonger Hunt of Bisley, Stroud, Gloucestershire died on May 30th, aged 82. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1941 as a cadet with Eagle Oil and sailed on North Atlantic and Russian Convoys. He remained with the Merchant service until 1955 when he moved to Hong Kong. He continued to work in maritime and shipping industries. Our sympathy goes to his widow Catherine, son Mark, daughter Elizabeth and all the family.

Stephen Docker**Royal Corps of Signals**

Stephen Docker of Maybush, Southampton, Hampshire passed away recently, aged 63. He studied agriculture and worked in poultry farming before joining the Royal Corps of Signals in 1962. He served in the UK and Germany and was blinded in a traffic accident in Cologne in 1973. Discharged as Corporal in 1974, he returned to the UK and worked for Remploy. His interests included rock climbing and computers.

Anthony Pontet**Royal Navy**

Anthony Aloysius Pontet of Hastings, East Sussex died on June 5th, aged 86. He joined the Royal Navy in 1941, sailing as an engineer on HMS *Cyclops* during Atlantic convoys. He later joined HMS *Nelson* on the Malta run, taking part in the North Africa landings and Salerno invasion. He also served in the Far East. Discharged in 1946, he joined his father in a design and development engineering firm. His interests included building model wooden ships. Our sympathy goes to his widow Jean and all the family.

Edna Rogers**Auxiliary Territorial Service**

Edna Ada May Rogers of Cirencester, Gloucestershire died on June 5th, aged 82. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1944 and worked as a cook in Aborfield, Woking and Aldershot. Discharged as Corporal in 1947, she held a variety of jobs and raised a family. Cooking remained a keen interest and she enjoyed needlework. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Leonard Franzen**Royal Navy**

Leonard Gordon Franzen of Luton, Bedfordshire died on June 8th, aged 82. He was an apprentice fitter and turner at the Royal Albert Dock before joining the Royal Navy in 1946. He served in the Mediterranean and in UK coastal waters becoming a Sub Lieutenant Engineering Officer. Demobbed in 1947, he joined the Merchant Navy with P&O, moving later to Cunard and the South African Marine Corporation. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Bill Phillips**Royal Engineers**

William George Phillips of Saltdean, East Sussex died on June 8th, aged 82. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1943. He joined the Royal Engineers as a Boy Soldier in 1939,

training in electrical fitting and maintenance. Posted to 19th Field Squadron, he was blinded in 1943 by the accidental explosion of a home made bomb while under instruction. He joined St Dunstan's at Church Stretton and after training went to work for a firm of upholsterers. He then retrained as a telephonist and later joined Shell-Mex in that capacity. His interests included bridge, fishing, sports and sound recording. Our sympathy goes to his widow Nancy and all of the family.

Thomas Garbutt**Royal Air Force**

Thomas Stanley Garbutt of Marton, Middlesborough died on June 9th, aged 83. He was a wages clerk before joining the Royal Air Force in 1942. He served in the UK, India and Singapore. Discharged in 1947, he returned to clerical work at a foundry but later became an office manager for Bass. His interests included snooker, reading and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Elizabeth and all the family.

John Allingan**Royal Artillery**

John Allingan of Cleveleys, Blackpool, Lancashire died on June 11th, aged 90. He worked in a cotton mill before joining the Royal Artillery in 1940. He served in France, India, Singapore and Malaysia. Discharged in 1946, he returned to the cotton mill but later worked at Beckton Gasworks and on the railways. Our sympathy goes to his widow Lily and all members of the family.

Arthur Weston**King's Royal Rifle Corps**

Arthur Weston of Erdington, Birmingham died on June 11th, aged 79. He joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1946. Posted to Palestine, he spent his tour on mountain, desert and police patrols in the Gaza Strip. After discharge in 1948, he resumed work as an electrician with GEC, but joined Rover in 1969. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doris and all members of the family.

Return to the Hunter

ROYAL AIR FORCE

St Dunstaners Eric Colman had the chance to try out the cockpit of a Hawker Hunter aircraft during a visit to Tangmere Military Aviation Museum based on the former Battle of Britain Airfield near Chichester, West Sussex. He was able to sit in the Mk5 fighter which was deployed by No1 Squadron during the Suez Crisis. The aircraft was just known as the 1067 when Eric was serving. It was characterised by the introduction of pod-housed cannons which could be replaced very quickly. Tangmere is also home to the Hunter which Squadron Leader Neville Duke flew



to secure a world air speed record of 727 mph in 1953. That aircraft was ordered in June 1948 as one of three prototypes. As Hawker's Chief Test Pilot, Duke was

the first to fly the plane in July 1951. In early 1953, it was fitted with side-mounted airbrakes, extra fuel tanks and a new Avon engine becoming the sole Hunter Mk 3.

Gibbs are grounded but golden



THE GOLDEN WEDDING celebrations of St Dunstaners Colin and Jenny Gibbs of Ruabon, Wrexham began with an all day party at their home, a bouquet from Colin and a surprise visit to the bell chamber at their local church, where the bell ringers completed an anniversary peel in their honour. Unknown to Jenny this should have been followed by a ride in St Dunstan's hot air balloon from Minley Manor near Camberley. The Gibbs' son, Colonel Graham Gibbs,

is Commander of the School of Military Engineering at Minley Manor, and he had arranged the surprise which would be the chance for the couple to exchange new, secretly made Celtic Love Knot rings while aloft in the balloon. Sadly an unexpected thunder storm prevented take off. With the balloon tethered, the rings were exchanged with some applause from witnesses and a glass of Champagne. The couple were also entertained to lunch in the Officers Mess.