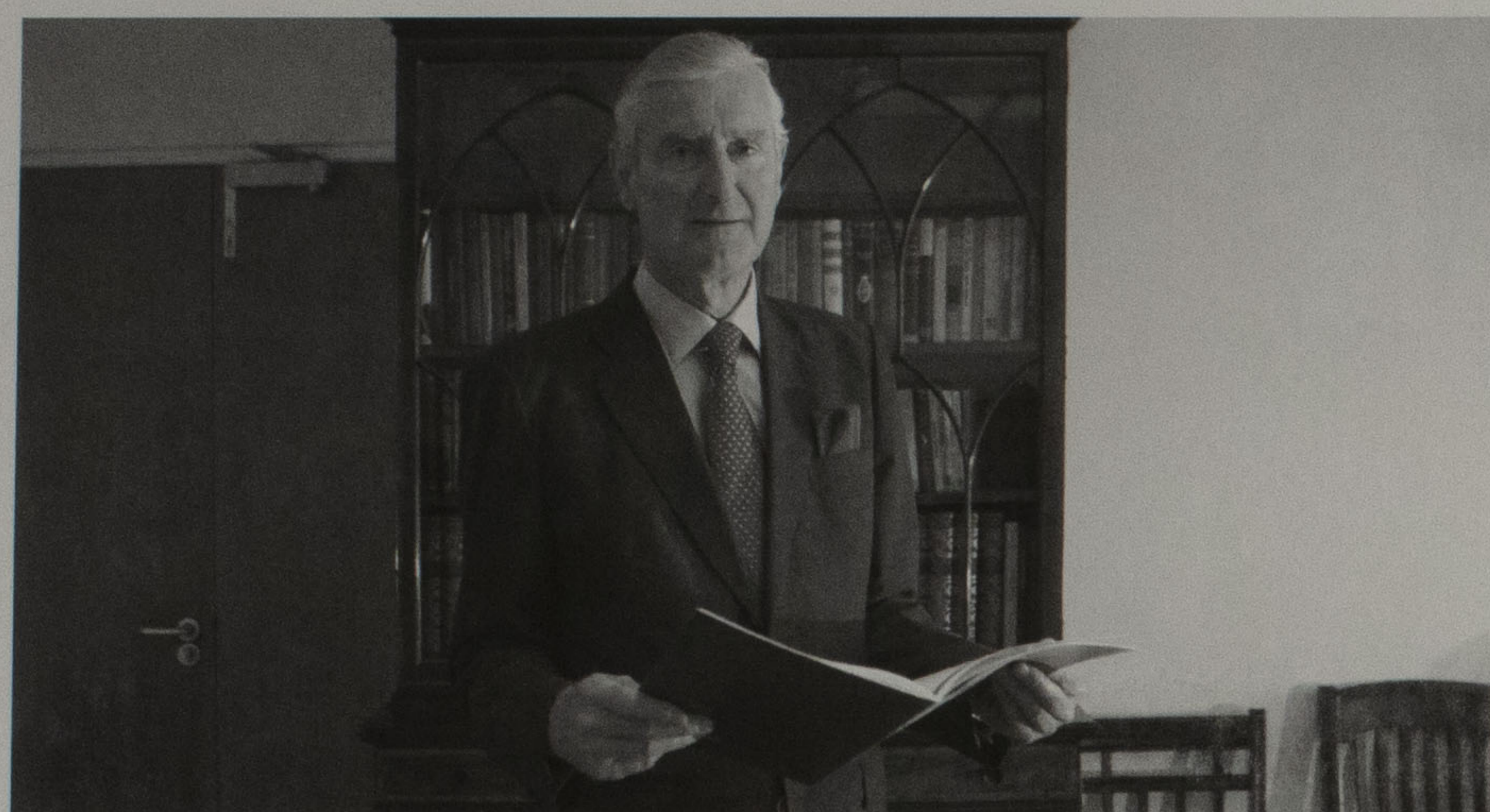


# R ST DUNSTON REVIEW



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

## From the Chairman



IT SEEMS AS soon as we appear to be over one crisis somewhere in the world, another takes over. Terrorism especially, is foul and, like all wars, is indiscriminate. Despite the so-called pin-point accuracy of modern weapons, women, children and innocent members of the public must continue to suffer particularly as long as terrorists use innocent human shields.

Our Service men and women serve in all these hot-spots, constantly risking their lives in other countries' troubles. We continue to be ready to play our part in supporting consequential blindness.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

## ST DUNSTAN'S Calendar

### SEPTEMBER

Writers' Forum September 2nd  
Activities Week September 3rd-9th  
Sailability September 9th  
Fishing Club (V) Sept 11th-15th  
Sense and Sensuality Sept 14th-Oct 7th  
Golf September 16th-17th  
Outdoor Bowling September 21st  
Physio Weekend Sept 22nd-25th  
Sailability September 23rd

### OCTOBER

Cadet Challenge October  
Widows' Week (II) October 1st-7th  
Writers' Forum October 7th  
Sailability October 8th  
Computer Club (II) Oct 11th-12th  
World Sight Day October 12th  
Amateur Radio (II) Oct 13th-20th  
Commando Challenge Oct 14th-15th  
IKK October 21st-25th  
Great South Run October 22nd  
Bowling (II) Oct 26th-Nov 9th

## ST DUNSTAN'S Review September 2006 No 961

**Cover Story:** Royal Marine St Dunstaner Stuart Maynard with RM Corps Secretary Lt Col Ian Grant during the Band of the Royal Marines annual concert at Ovingdean.

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Printed by Hobbs the Printer

Rifle shooting | Wayfinder | Action website | Decoding artwork

# Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

## ACOUSTIC RIFLE SHOOTING

HAVE A GO AT OIVINGDEAN: Any St Dunstaners wishing to participate in rifle shooting sessions at St Dunstan's Ovingdean should contact Mark Brownlow in Sports and Recreation on 01273 391465.

## WAYFINDER IN CITY CENTRE

BIRMINGHAM BLIND CAN USE TALKING SIGNS: Birmingham City Council have installed 57 Wayfinder speaker units around the city centre to provide blind people with practical and audible information. Another three units are due to be installed before the end of the year. They are placed on street lamps or purpose built posts. They can be activated by trigger fobs purchased or hired from Birmingham Focus on Blindness or Birmingham Shopmobility. The voice is local radio presenter Paul Franks.

## NEW WEBSITE FOR ACTION

BLIND CHARITY RESTRUCTURE ONLINE IMAGE: "Action for Blind People relaunch their website this month. "The new website will be our shop window, a place where people can find out exactly who we are and what we do," they say. The website gets a new address [www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk](http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk).

## BLETCHLEY PARK DECODE CHURCHILL'S ARTISTIC SIDE

PAINTINGS AND MEMORABILIA ON DISPLAY AT ENIGMA BASE: The National Codes Centre at Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire will host its fifth Churchill Weekend on September 23rd and 24th. They will celebrate the life of Winston Churchill with a display of his paintings, Rolls-Royce and other memorabilia. The weekend also coincides with Bletchley Park Veterans gathering for the 2006 Enigma Family Reunion, which will include a Drumhead Memorial Service and march past by cadet units.

More details can be obtained online at [www.bletchleypark.org.uk](http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk), by e-mailing [info@bletchleypark.org.uk](mailto:info@bletchleypark.org.uk), or by telephoning 01908 640404. Admission for adults is £10.00, concessions: £8.00, family ticket £25:00 and children under eight are admitted free of charge. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at a discounted rate.

Local resident with postcodes starting MK1, MK2 and MK3 may visit the Codes Centre free of charge between September 7th-10th. The offer forms part of the Culture Milton Keynes initiative and includes audio tours. Visitors will require an item showing their postcode, such as a driver's license or utility bill to claim free entry.

## ST DUNSTANERS ART MAKES SENSE OUT OF SENSUALITY

PRESTIGIOUS DISPLAY FOR BEACH BALL AT LONDON EXHIBITION: From September 14th a sculpture made by St Dunstaners in the Craft Workshop at Ovingdean will be exhibited, as part of the Sense and Sensuality Exhibition for Blind Art 2006, at the Bankside Gallery in London.

Blind Art is a charity that promotes artistic excellence and encourages a re-evaluation of what constitutes visual art. This exhibition aims to directly challenge the notion that sight is essential for creating and enjoying artwork and our sculpture will be one of many pieces available to view.

The St Dunstaners sculpture is based on a beach ball and will be displayed at the exhibition inside a smooth white box with arm holes. The aim is to encapsulate both the feeling and atmosphere of the seaside whilst simultaneously forcing the observer to visualise the sculpture through touch and sound. The team were very lucky to have the support of Phil Dixon, from GB Electronics, who rigged up touch sensors and a sound device within the ball. As the observer's hands approach the ball, sounds of Brighton seaside will be triggered.

Inspiration for the design of this piece came from the way in which a beach ball is passed from person to person during a game. This sculpture was similarly passed between six St Dunstaners, who each incorporated different techniques to achieve their interpretations of the seaside. Each artist chose to represent the seaside in a variety of ways. However, there was also a group emphasis on creating different textures for



each panel. The panels explore such textures as netting, deckchairs and the side of a boat, whilst the sounds create the atmosphere of standing on the beach.

There was stiff competition to get selected for this exhibition and I hope that you will all join me in congratulating all of those involved in making this piece. It is a great achievement for the whole department.

The exhibition will run from September 14th to October 8th and is open from 11am -6pm. It is an inclusive exhibition that provides large print, Braille, tactile images and audio-descriptive information for visually impaired visitors, as well as making the Gallery fully wheelchair accessible. The Bankside Gallery is at 48 Hopton Street, London SE1 9JH. It is near the Tate Modern and Globe Theatre and the nearest Underground rail services are at Blackfriars, Southwark, Waterloo and London Bridge. The Gallery is also home to the Royal Watercolour Society and the Royal Society of Painter Printmakers.

**Sarah Jarron, Craft Workshop Supervisor**

## NEW ONLINE BLUE BADGE PARKING BAY MAP LAUNCHED

FIND DISABLED PARKING NEAR YOU: A new interactive online service is now available on [www.direct.gov.uk/bluebadgemap](http://www.direct.gov.uk/bluebadgemap), which will make it much easier for disabled people to find Blue Badge scheme parking bays in 64 cities across the UK.

This mapping facility will enable people to search by postcode, town or area name for designated Blue Badge parking bays, parking bays that fall on red routes in London and accessible petrol stations. The service will also outline any time restrictions or special notices that apply to individual allocated Blue Badge parking bays.

The Blue Badge scheme provides a range of parking benefits for disabled people with severe walking difficulties who travel either as drivers or as passengers. The concessions apply to on-street parking and include free use of parking meters and pay-and-display bays and are administered through local authorities.

## WINTER FUEL PAYMENTS

PAYMENT AUTOMATIC IF CIRCUMSTANCES UNCHANGED: The Government makes Winter Fuel Payments every winter to help people aged 60 or over pay their fuel bills. Most should be paid automatically if they are receiving a social security benefit during the qualifying week September 18th to 24th or previously received a payment. Other claims should be made before March 30th 2007. To make a claim or check details of entitlement, call the Winter Fuel Helpline on 08459 151515 between 8:30-16:30, Monday to Friday.

## CAPITAL RUNNERS WANTED

THE ULTIMATE RUN: Now is the time to get your running kit out of the cupboard and blow those cobwebs away by preparing to taking part in next year's London Marathon! Entry is conducted by ballot which closes on October 20th this year. The 26-mile event will be held on Sunday April 22nd 2007. It is the running event to be part of, and it is worth getting your entry form sent off as places fill very quickly, well before the closing date. For more details of the event and how to prepare, contact Andy Alliston at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 307811.

## VA AND AFPAA TO MERGE

ADMIN LINK UP IN 2007: The Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency (AFPAA) and the Veterans' Agency (VA) will merge on April 1st next year, Veterans' Minister Tom Watson announced on July 17th.

The merger will bring together the management and administrative support of the two organisations. The two current contact points will be retained for clients.

At present an individual may need to deal with both agencies, especially if they are entitled to pension or compensation payments. In future, veterans and serving personnel will each have their own dedicated contact point where they can discuss any aspect of the services currently provided by the two organisations.

The VA and AFPAA provide personnel services, such as the provision of pay or pensions, to veterans, their dependants and current members of the Armed Forces.

## 1066 AND A WHOLE LOT MORE!

LARGEST EVER RECREATION ON ORIGINAL BATTLEFIELD: English Heritage will be staging a large scale re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings at Battle Abbey with Viking and Norman groups on October 14th and 15th. There is also an opportunity to take a *Tour Through Time* on October 14th. Called 1066 – Year of Three Kings and also organised by English Heritage, the guided tour features Pevensey Castle, Battle Abbey and the re-enactment.

To mark the battle's 940th anniversary, over 1,000 re-enactors from all over the world will participate in the biggest ever re-enactment on the original battlefield site. Visitors will be able to wander through Saxon and Norman encampments, see traditional crafts, falconry displays and enjoy medieval music, combat displays and children's activities.

The family friendly event will be held between 10:00 and 17:00 on both days and costs £12.50 for adults, £9.40 concessions, children £6.30 or £31.30 for a family. Members of English Heritage can expect further concessions. Tickets can be booked on 0870 333 1183. Full details can be found at [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk).

Historians will be able to say how our namesake Dunstan engineered the political situation the led up to the Battle, but while there were no ROVIs about to provide succour for Harold last time round, there will be a Welfare Officer in the melee on this occasion. Alan Hay will be taking part in the re-enactment on both days – he will be one of Harold's Saxon Huscarle on Saturday but will join William's Norman forces of liberation for the Sunday event.

## DOMESDAY IN THE 21st CENTURY

HISTORIC RECORD ONLINE: The Domesday Book, the oldest public record held at The National Archives, came into the 21st century last month. Domesday Online allows people to take the opportunity to search the Book by name of town, city or village. For £3.50 it is also possible to purchase a copy of the original page featuring the place name and a translation of the entry into modern English.

The website, provided by The National Archives' DocumentsOnline service, also contains information about the history of this 920-year-old document. It was commissioned in 1085 by William I to discover the resources and taxable values of all the boroughs and manors in England. He wanted to discover who owned what, how much it was worth and how much was owed to him as King in tax, rents, and military service. Also known as the Winchester Roll, King's Roll, or the Book of the Treasury, it can still be used to settle land registry disputes. In 2005 it was voted the nation's finest treasure, yet a recent survey revealed that less than one per cent of the population have actually been to see the original in the museum at Kew.

The Domesday Book pages are stored as image and text in PDF format compatible with JAWS7. The Book can be explored at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday).

## BLIND SEARCH FROM GOOGLE

BLIND FRIENDLY SITES GO FIRST: Google has developed a search engine that prioritises websites according to accessibility for blind web surfers. The new search engine is at <http://labs.google.com/accessible/>.

## COMMANDO CHALLENGE 2006

CAN YOU BEAT THE BEST?: The Royal Marines Commando Challenge will be held in Exmouth, Devon over October 14th-15th and is set to be another superb weekend. It provides an opportunity to have a go at overcoming the famous commando obstacle course that the Royal Marines still currently use as part of their training. Inevitably participants get covered in mud and raise money for a great cause at the same time.

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

The Sunday event uses the same obstacle course but also incorporates a run that covers a variety of terrain before you tackle the assault course – then you have to run back to the finish. This is much more physically demanding for the participants, who have to be prepared to run whilst tired, cold, wet and covered in mud. It is not easy going but St Dunstan's teams have found it an exhilarating experience. The event runs rain or shine. The closing date for entering the Commando Challenge is September 25th. If you feel you are physically up to the challenge contact Andy Alliston at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 307811.

## REGULAR COVERAGE OF DISABILITY SPORTS ON BBC

RESULTS AND MASTERCLASSES: The BBC carry regular news of disabled athletes at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/other\\_sports/disability\\_sport](http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/other_sports/disability_sport). The web page also includes masterclass features for blind golf and other activities such as swimming.

## WALES TO GET COMMISSIONER FOR OLDER PEOPLE

BLIND AND DEAF INTERESTS A PRIORITY: After three years of consultation and Parliamentary debate, Royal ascent was granted on July 25th for the Welsh Assembly to appoint a Commissioner for Older People in Wales or Comisiynydd Pobl Hoen Cymru. The Commissioner will be tasked with promoting and safeguarding the interests of older people in the Principality. Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales Nick Ainger, MP told the House of Commons that examining the needs of an estimated 100,000 blind people would fall within the Commissioner's role.

## PRELIMINARY DATES FOR 2007

WHAT'S ON NEXT YEAR: These are preliminary dates for activities at St Dunstan's Ovingdean next year. A fuller listing will appear in December's **Review**.

Archery (I)	January 19th-28th
Music week	February 11th-17th
Fishing (I)	February 12th-16th
Computer Club(I)	February 28th – March 1st
Amateur Radio (I)	March 2nd-9th
Bowling (I)	March 11th-24th (tbc)
Dancing (I)	March 25th-31st
Widows (I)	April 4th-11th
Fishing (II)	April 9th-13th
Ex-POWs Weekend	April 13th-16th
Masonic Weekend	April 27th-30th
Gardening Week	May 6th-12th
Blind & Handless Reunion	May 9th-15th (tbc)
Archery (II)	May 25th – June 3rd
50 year badge Reunion	June 1st-4th
History Week	June 17th -23rd
Writers Forum Weekend	June 28th – July 1st

**CHRISTMAS CARDS PREVIEW**

SOMETHING FOR THE WINTER:  
The time to think about ordering Christmas Cards is looming. Here is a preview of St Dunstan's latest collection, including a new style dairy for 2007.

St Dunstan's Craft Workshop has been busy producing two very stylish Christmas cards which create a partridge themed twin pack. The Notelets this year have also been created by St Dunstaners in the Craft Workshop.



**Don't forget Me**  
Painting of cute tabby kitten tapping Santa's boot. Ref: SD01  
5.9" x 5.9" (150mm x 150mm).  
Price £3.75.

**A Welcome Visitor**

Painting of Robin on fence during snow. Holly on left. Ref: SD02 4.75" x 4.75" (121mm x 121mm). Price £3.25



**St Dunstan's Craft Card (Twin Pack) - Partridge in a Pear Tree**



Ref: SD03  
3.4" x 9" (86mm x 228mm).  
Price £4.00

Close up of partridge beneath pears.

Partridge in potted tree over italic song lyric.



**Village Snow**

Sheep being driven past snow covered cottages at dusk. Ref: SD04

4.75" x 6.75" (121mm x 171mm). Price £3.50.

**Peace on Earth**

White Dove flying against blue background and text with spring of olive.

Ref: SD05  
6.25" x 6.25" (159mm x 159mm). Price £3.75.



**The Twelve Days of Christmas**

Painting of pear tree with assorted poultry, leaping lord and maid. Ref: SD06

6.25" x 6.25" (159mm x 159mm). Price £3.75.

**Jolly Snowman/ Winter Village (Twin Pack)**

Circular cut out painting of snowman and trees reflected on glass bauble topped with purple bow.



Complimented by painting of snow covered cottages, trees and track, again reflected in a glass bauble with green bow.

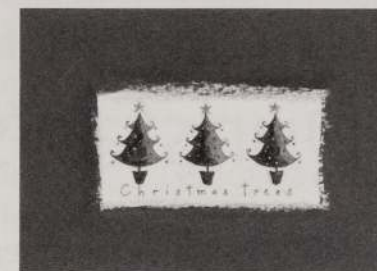
Ref: SD07  
4.75" x 4.75" (121mm x 121mm).  
Price £3.75.



**Three Curly Christmas Trees**

Trio of evergreens on white background with deep red border. Ref: SD08

4.75" x 6.75" (121mm x 171mm). Price £3.50.



**Three Wise Men come to Visit**

Painting of classic nativity scene. Joseph and Mary are beside manger as three wise men enter with gifts.

Ref: SD09. 4.9" x 6.85" (125mm x 174mm). £3.50.

**O Little Town**

Stylised watercolour with gold leaf star shining above hill top buildings of Bethlehem.

Ref:SD10  
3.9" x 8.25" (100mm x 210mm).  
Price £3.75.



**St Dunstan's Craft Notelets Macintosh Rose**

Collage of pink rose made by St Dunstaners from tissue. Ref: SD11  
4.15" x 5.8" (105mm x 147mm).  
Price £3.25.

**St Dunstan's Craft Notelet - Lest We Forget**

Montage of poppy field made by St Dunstaners.

Ref: SD12  
4.15" x 5.8" (105mm x 147mm). Price £3.25.



**St Dunstan's Diary 2007**

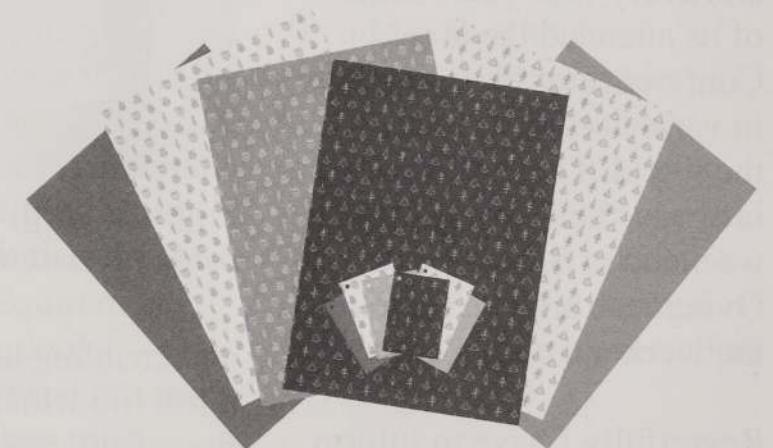
Pocket sized, green mock leather finish, ringbound plus ruler.

Ref: SD13.  
Price £5.00.



**Wrapping Paper**

Six sheets, gold, silver, white and turquoise with christmas tree and bauble motif plus 12 matching tags. Ref: SD14. Price £3.50.



Next Month's **Review** will contain the Christmas card order form and catalogue with details of postage and packing rates. Alternatively, if you want to order Christmas cards sooner you will be able to place orders on St Dunstan's website from September 14th. Just log onto [www.st-dunstans.org.uk](http://www.st-dunstans.org.uk).

**AUDIO DESCRIBED THEATRE**

MUSICAL AND MORE: *Annie* October 21st 14:30. Irene Richards adds description of scenes, costume, and action to popular Thirties-styled musical based on newspaper cartoon at Bromley's Churchill Theatre. Telephone 0870 060 6620 or e-mail [bromleyaccessbookings@theambassadors.com](mailto:bromleyaccessbookings@theambassadors.com).

# 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.

## End of an era for St Dunstan's Physios

When I first entered St Dunstan's in the early 1950's there were over 120 working physiotherapists trained by St Dunstan's and working in the NHS or in Private Practice.

We had an annual conference and every four years some of us attended the World Conference of Physiotherapy in various capitals round the world. The conference is always held on the last weekend in September at Ovingdean and we finished the weekend with a dinner.

Regretfully I have to inform all surviving physiotherapists and their widows that the last dinner was held last year. This year there are insufficient numbers to justify holding a dinner, but in future years the Physio weekend will still be the last weekend in September, so if you wish to meet up with the few still alive do join them at that time in future years.

I think that I can speak on behalf of all St Dunstan's trained physiotherapists that we are very grateful to St Dunstan's for retraining us



Physiotherapy can take you anywhere in the world.

and enabling us to lead such a full life which was also financially rewarding.

I would urge any newly blinded member of St Dunstan's to seriously consider doing the hard slog to train as a physio as you are never bored, the world comes into your treatment room and you can treat all walks of life from Kings to Prime Ministers to the local tramp and even dogs and horses.

The age range of patient can vary from four hours old to over a hundred years. The treatment can vary from hands on in your

own Treatment Room to answering a telephone when a voice at the other end says "Mr Tetley, I am stuck in a bed with dreadful spasms in my back. I cannot stand and I am in Tokyo. What can you do to enable me to catch a plane home?"

In 1990, I found myself treating reformed cannibals on Tomann Island in the south Pacific and all they were wearing was a six-inch grass skirt. My treatment plinth was a plank of wood placed on two 44 gallon drums under the open sky with other reformed cannibals watching intently what I might do to their friend. Incidentally they were most generous and hospitable folk.

Thank you St Dunstan's for retraining me.

Fifty years ago I crossed London in a taxi with a St Dunstaner, Bill Shakespear and he said to me "In 50 years time you will look back and not believe that what you have done was possible as a blind man." He was right!

**Mike Tetley, MBE**  
**St Albans, Hertfordshire**

## Thank you for organising Physio reunion

May I write a vote of thanks to Mike Tetley through the **Review** for organising the annual St Dunstan's Physiotherapists Reunion. He does this with the help of Thelma, his wife. A big 'thank-you' too, to Trevor and the catering staff, who always made us so welcome and gave us such excellent fare.

Unfortunately, the response this year was scant. Our numbers can't really warrant the special occasion we have enjoyed over the years. I do hope that the 'Group' members, enjoy themselves, as usual, on their in-house holiday. It's always rewarding, meeting with them for a chat. Of course, I would like to

say again, how grateful I have been to the St Dunstan's physiotherapists over so many years for their generous guidance and instruction. They helped to make it possible for me to pursue an independent and rewarding career for so many years.

**Alan Wortley,**  
**Eastbourne, East Sussex**

## I didn't find this release so equitable

I was looking at Equity Release recently. I was reading about a woman who took £20,000 on her home. As I read on, I was astonished what would be taken from her estate when she died some 15 years later. I then shied quickly away from the idea.

I am sure that many St Dunstaners would be interested to know what the pitfalls are in a project such as this.

**Dennis Fleckney,**  
**Basingstoke, Hampshire**

• Equity Release is a means of using the value of your home to receive either a lump sum of cash or regular monthly income instalments. Arrangements are age related. St Dunstan's Management Accountant Paula Kenny says "Advice on equity release is best sought from

an Independent Financial Advisor (IFA). This is usually free. IFAs are bound to the Financial Services Authority rules, which obliges them to provide advice most suited to your personal requirements and your risk outlook. When financial products are recommended they must take into account the benefits provided, charges, flexibility, service and financial strength.

"All IFAs must be authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority and are obliged to offer what is termed 'suitable advice'. This means that they have to gain a full understanding of your circumstances and requirements before helping to choose any financial products (they will record your information so you can double-check that they really have understood).

"In addition, when recommending a product all financial advisers have to provide written reasons why they think that it is right for you - again to make sure that you are fully informed before committing yourself to anything."

St Dunstan's Head of Estates Stephen Chambers adds "Everyone's circumstances are different and that's why Paula is right that you need an IFA.

"The lesson in life is that nothing is for nothing. The company providing the cash quite rightly has to earn interest and make a profit for the risks it takes and this is deducted from the eventual sale price. Interest rolls up to large amounts over 20 years. The money is not provided for nothing."

## Tribute to Jim



Ray and Jim walking out on the South Downs in 1992.

I want to pay tribute to my friend and escort, Jim Wild, who recently passed away aged 92. Those early members of the St Dunstan's Walking Club may remember him striding out in the front! Together, we walked literally thousands of miles in marathons or just for the pleasure and exercise. Jim was a fastidious man who walked marathons in jacket, collar and tie, though he did make a concession to the weather once by undoing the top shirt button! He was a member of the Brighton Swimming Club whose notoriety is to swim every day of the year, whatever the weather. Jim swam in sub-zero temperatures. He was a private person and I don't know about any family. But I shall mourn his passing and offer thanks for the pleasure of having known him.

**Ray Sheriff,  
Rottingdean, East Sussex**

## CCTV scans an independent future for Army St Dunstaner

I have got to write and say a big thank you to St Dunstan's for the PC and the CCTV Scanner and Magnifier that are now playing a very big part in my life. With the help and instruction I am receiving on how to get the most out of the equipment and the positive encouragement that is offered at every stage of training, the confidence that develops along the way is incredible. The CCTV Scanner and Magnifier has restored in my life the opportunity to read my own mail, read and check my own typing and look at photographs, something I haven't been able to do for over 30 years and I would

also like to say my wife Rose, is grateful for being made redundant.

Thank you seems to sound so inadequate but I do sincerely mean it when I say it and I would also like to offer sincere thanks to everyone who has had any sort of involvement with me since I became a St Dunstaner in January 2003, my thanks also to everyone at Sheffield for their continued help and support. Once again many thanks and long may you continue to go from strength to strength.

**Allan Bembridge,  
Allenton, Derby**

## Eastbourne day was wonderful

I must say a big thank you to Debbie MacKenzie and her team of helpers for a wonderful Reunion at the Hydro Hotel in Eastbourne. I understand that this was the third Reunion at this venue and the whole of the welfare team and the staff of St Dunstan's helped to make it a day to remember. There was quite a large number of St Dunstaners attending and I am sure that a wonderful day was had by all. Thank you.

**Ernie and Kathleen Bignell,  
Lancing, West Sussex**

## Sheffield lets me cook up a treat!

I recently attended a cookery course at Sheffield. I wanted to thank Chris, the Manager, Margaret, the instructor and all who made it a fantastic week. It's a great place and I thoroughly recommend it!

**Ron Delaney, Birmingham**

## Arboretum erratum

Last month's report on National Service Day should have said that Roy and Janet Heyes attended the National Arboretum in Staffordshire, not Roy and Marie.

# BALANCING THE BOOKS

## Ted Bunting on the twists and surprises of a fine mystery yarn

### Last Seen Alive

Author: Dorothy Simpson  
Reader: Andrew Timothy  
Catalogue No TB 005653  
Duration: 7 hours, 28 minutes

You may not have heard of Inspector Thanet before; neither had I until I began *Last Seen Alive*, so perhaps he will not go down in history as the most famous fictional detective of all time. But as murder mysteries go I can't immediately recall one I have enjoyed more. It is a fine tale, well told and there are various twists and surprises on the way that any crime

writer could be justly proud of.

The case begins with the discovery of a beautiful woman's body in a hotel bedroom. She had been strangled so she was not a pretty sight but nevertheless the inspector recognised her as someone he had once known.

He hadn't "known her" in a Biblical sense and he couldn't even claim they had "been at school together" for she had been a sixth former whilst he was in the lower third or something. So he had worshipped her from

afar and thought her friends and associates were the very last word in sophistication and style. After the body was discovered several of this once exalted elite were still around to be questioned by the inspector, and to be suspected too, although the victim had not been in the vicinity for many years. In the traditional who-dun-it the writer aims to conceal the who and the why for as long as possible. In this novel with a little bit of help from the ancient Greeks, Dorothy Simpson has done a splendid job and I congratulate her.

# A balloon for every year!

LANCASHIRE ST DUNSTANER Victor Morgan and his wife Margaret were toasted by fellow parishioners with the release of 70 balloons in a double celebration in July. Their Platinum Wedding Anniversary on July 25th coincided with the bicentennial of St James' Church in Stalmine, Poulton-le-Fylde.

The Church marked its 200th birthday by releasing 200 balloons into the open air. The gathering then retired to the village hall where a further 70 balloons - one for every year the couple have been married - were released indoors. "Who blew them all up, I don't know," said Victor.

He and Margaret celebrated further at a local hostelry with 17 family members and

then travelled to Normandy where they spent a week with their son. "We all enjoyed ourselves very much indeed."

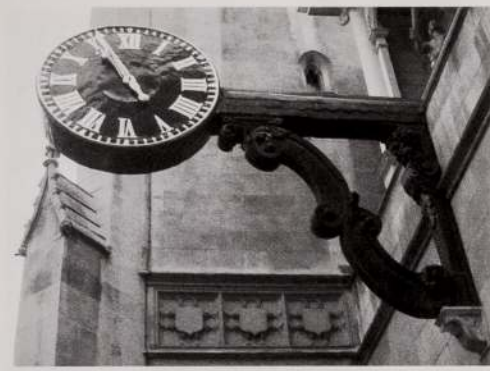
Asked if there was a secret to a long lasting marriage, Victor said "It's all a bit of give and take, you can't have one boss."

## Braille could cost £5

Engineering students at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, USA have developed a portable Braille writing device that requires no electronic components. The six-button machine can be operated with one finger and would cost about £5 if it goes into production.

## It strikes me...

with Gog and Magog



GOG FINDS that balloons released for charity are quite popular at present – with some people that is!

One schoolchild hits the headlines because his balloon, released in the UK, was found a continent away by a Royal Marine serving in Alamara. Another is similarly feted because their balloon landed at Chequers and was posted back with a note from Cherrie Blair.

However, police group Pride of Place in Leigh Park, Hampshire found their plan to release a balloon for every Havant child injured in a traffic accident would fall foul of littering laws. An £80 pound fine could be imposed for every burst balloon that landed on the ground.

So Magog would like to know if St Dunstaners Nigel Whiteley and Ron Jones blew the budget at the Army Show in neighbouring Aldershot the other month? The pair are incriminated in helium heaven on page 21.

## Kent Tea Party encore



Tea is served to St Dunstaners and Widows at Wealden Hall.

### TWENTY-FOUR

St Dunstaners and Widows with their escorts sat down at a hugely enjoyable tea party at Tim and Marylyn Bacon's home in Kent on July 27th.

This is the second year we have been invited. Tim is a member of St Dunstan's Council and many of you will have met both Tim and Marylyn when they have attended some of the Reunion lunches around the country.

Despite the heatwave, all bar a few were able to attend, and we sat down to an informal and marvellous tea in the Barn. We had walks round the gardens and ponds and a viewing of their lovely Wealden Hall House, which

by Pam Wait

is about five hundred years old. It is set in a glorious rural spot and we welcomed the cooling breeze that came from proximity to the coast.

So, many thanks once again to Tim and Marylyn, for all the hard work and also to their daughter, Rosalind, and helper, Janet.



## Sussex St Dunstaners score high in Surrey

ST DUNSTANER DES CHANDLER of Lewes, East Sussex came second in a Par 3 golf competition at Hoebridge, Surrey on July 1st. Scoring 53 points, he was pipped-at-the-post by another blind golfer David Scott who scored 54 points, a one-point lead. St Dunstaner Derek Roden of Hassocks, Sussex came fourth in the same match with 25 points.

## Best wishes, Maureen



ST DUNSTANERS BADE farewell last month to a voice that has greeted them at Ovingdean for over a decade. Manager Dick Lake presented a token of their esteem to Maureen Mann on her retirement. She joined the organisation as a Care Assistant in 1993 and then transferred to the reception staff at Ovingdean in 1995.

## Caring career for Julia



Care Assistant Julia Bishop left St Dunstan's in August after six years with the charity. She has joined a care home in Peacehaven specialising in palliative care for terminally ill patients.

## Ten questions on ...

Harry Beevers tests your knowledge of addresses and residences

- 1) The London address of the headquarters of which famous organisation shares its name with that of Lord Rosebery's successor as leader of Britain's Liberal Party?
- 2) According to the words of the old song, on which thoroughfare did Mother Kelly live?
- 3) Pine Street in the Canadian city of Winnipeg, Manitoba, was renamed Valour Street in honour of three of its residents, Fred Hall, Leo Clarke and Robert Shankland. What honour did the three men receive which prompted the city of Winnipeg to make this change?
- 4) Which Walt Disney cartoon character lives at 1313 Webfoot Walk, Duckburg?
- 5) 393 Old Commercial Road, Portsmouth was the birthplace of which renowned 19th century English novelist?
- 6) Which strange spot cartoon and TV family lived at 000 North Cemetery Ridge?
- 7) What is the name of Queen Victoria's residence in the Isle of Wight which was used as the location for the 1997 film *Mrs Brown*?
- 8) Who was the first ruling British monarch to reside at Buckingham Palace?
- 9) In the TV soap, who has lived for many years at No. 1 Coronation Street?
- 10) Dove Cottage, Grasmere, now a museum, was the home of which former Poet Laureate and his sister Dorothy?

Answers are on page 26.



It was the hottest show in town when The Band of the Royal Marines made their highly anticipated return to St Dunstan's

# A blazing performance



An impeccable performance from the Marines Band.



The Corps of Drums march into the rear garden.

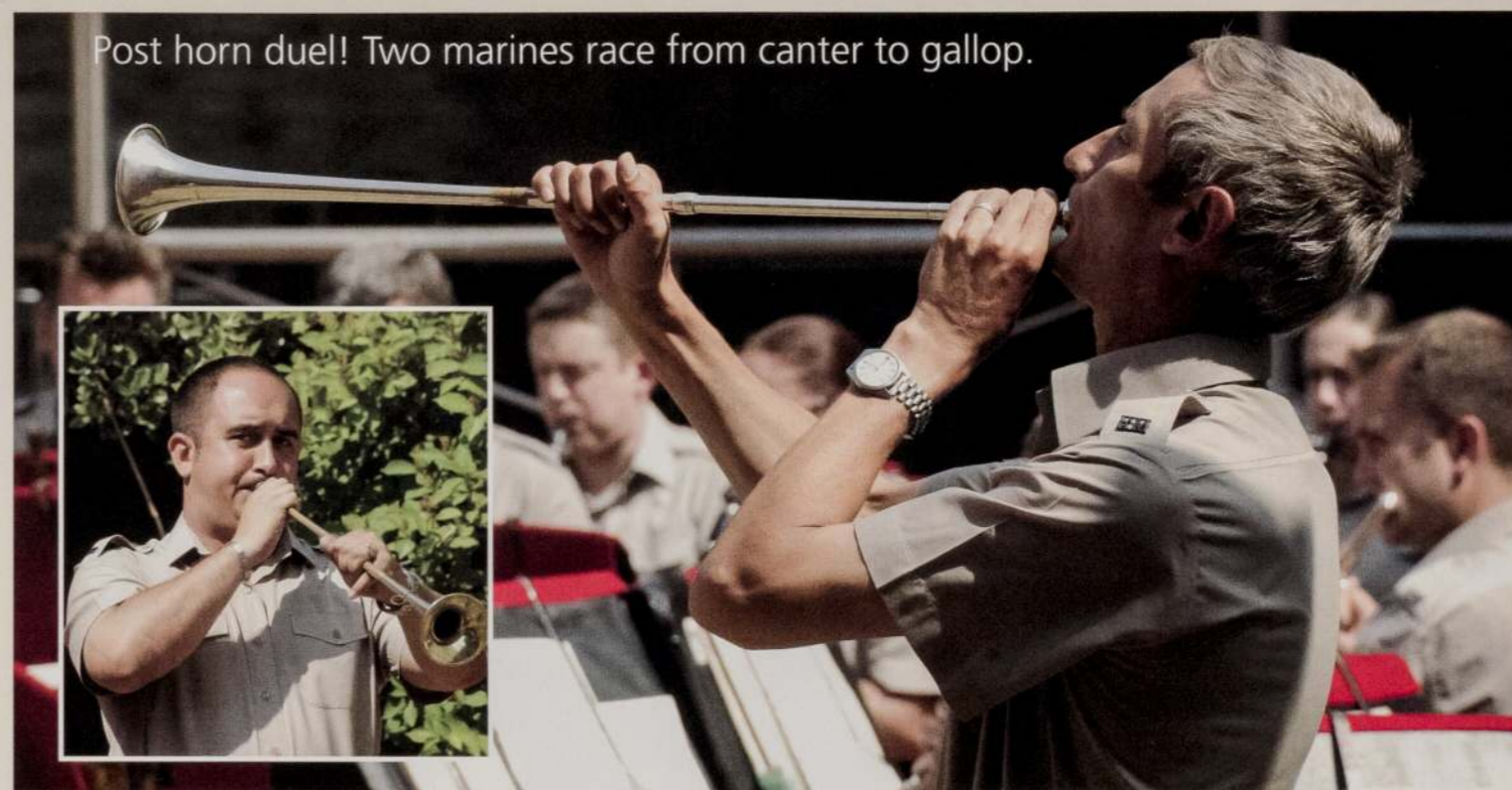
THE BAND OF the Royal Marines (Portsmouth) made an outstanding return to St Dunstan's Ovingdean for a concert on July 19th. With the Summer heatwave making an early overture of 103 degrees in the sun, they played a selection of classical and popular favourites that embraced the tastes of all three services. This included a medley from films such as the *Battle of Britain*, *Bridge on the River Kwai* and *Dambusters*. The audience listened with deep appreciation from beneath the protection of several strategically placed gazebos.



Trustee Richard Kyle and St Dunstaner Jean Hiscock.



Jessie McNulty, Eddie Ginn and Barbara Bell were amongst those who enjoyed some strawberries and cream.



Post horn duel! Two marines race from canter to gallop.



Sheffield's Russell Price with Ralph Vernon and Howlie.



Wallace and Jean Burnet-Smith have a post-concert chat with Kathy Watts from the Veterans Agency.



Selections from the hat parade! President Raymond Hazan, Lady Walker, Sue Leader, and Air Vice Marshal Kyle.



The audience included RAF St Dunstaner Ken Richards.



WAAF St Dunstaner **Joyce Philippon** recently discovered the exhilaration of paragliding at 6,000ft in Oludeniz, Turkey with Visually Impaired holiday organiser Vitalise

# Walking off a mountain

**W**HAT AN UNFORGETTABLE experience paragliding in Turkey! As we set off in the jeep up the rocky dusty road, at an angle of 45 degrees, bumping along over boulders and grit, swaying from side-to-side, our water bottles were ready to bounce out of the truck never to be seen again. There were two other visually impaired people like me and some others we didn't know, all having the time of our lives on the hour-and-a-half ride to the very top of an 8,000 foot mountain. The adrenaline rush we were having then was nothing like that which we would be experiencing when we reached the top.

There we found our pilots waiting for us. We had to be fitted up, our pilots making sure we were all strapped into our harness, helmets on, everything where it should be, each strapped to a bucket seat and to our pilots as well. Then we were all ready to just walk off the mountain! My strict instructions were hardly anything, just "Walk when I tell you to walk."

I heard him loud and clear and I walked right off the mountain! I was certain I would feel myself drop but in one great rush of air, I was hauled upwards and outwards from the mountain, very fast! It was as if I was between heaven and earth. I didn't know what I would touch first. It was such a wonderful feeling.

My legs were dangling in mid-air. From the head down, my elbows and fingers were free, otherwise there was no 'wriggle room' in the seat. Thank goodness! My pilot was explaining all the time what we were doing in-between swinging from

side-to-side, and viewing the Mediterranean 6,000ft down. Then we'd turn around getting different views in between mountains, across the islands and again over the Mediterranean.

I think when we were coming back down, maybe at 2,00ft, there we were over our Blue Lagoon, right on the Mediterranean at Oludeniz, a beautiful little spot.

As we came in, at about 1,00ft, he gave me the video camera to hold, fixing my hand in position against the ropes and telling me to hold it as steadily as I could. Whether I did or not I don't know, but although he recorded all he could, he couldn't record my feelings. However, I got a nice DVD out of it.

Then the beach seemed to be rushing at us. I saw many people there and our Vitalise group. I hoped we would not crash into them, but of course, my pilot was far too experienced to do that.

Finally, I thumped and slid onto the beach and a hilarious reception.

I thanked my pilot intensely. He was wonderful. After taking off my helmet I found a microphone thrust near to me, by a television reporter, so I had to talk to them for a while through my translator and Osmat, the boss of 'Easy Rider'. Not all the questions they asked me are on the video, thank goodness, for I am not very experienced at that sort of thing. When I saw it I thought, "Why did I say that!" However, when they asked me "Joy, how old are you?" I realised why I was on TV. At 83 years old, I was the oldest person who had ever come down on that beach.

Anyway it was all so wonderful and one of the most thrilling experiences I could have. I don't think I would have come back into life if it wasn't for St Dunstan's and their compassion and patience. A little later, I joined WFT, now Vitalise, the organisation that creates holidays for the blind. All my trips have been wonderful and all so different. In this one I had, at last, the opportunity to paraglide, to actually walk off a mountain and survive!

So thank you St Dunstan's and Vitalise for giving me the opportunity of getting back into life again.

## Jax Whiteley on red shirts, red marques and some red faces Advancing with the army

**O**N WHAT MUST have been the hottest weekend of the year, the Service Awareness team once again represented St Dunstan's at the Aldershot Army Show on July 15th-16th. Dressed in red polo shirts and inside a bright red marquee, it wasn't long before all our faces matched the shirts. Still it made us and the tent easier to spot.



A Company Cadets put first class effort into supporting blind ex-Service men and women at the Army Show.

The show includes a grand display of British military vehicles and equipment, two arenas, a funfair, activity zone, traders and exhibitors, a farm, ski slope, and musical entertainment drawing 70,000 people over two days. We talked to hundreds of people walking past – whether it was

our close proximity to the line of “portalos”, or the “have-a-go” at the Paratroopers stand we weren't quite sure.

Many youngsters came

to have a go at the games on offer, and while they were suitably occupied, St Dunstaners Ron Jones, Moira McGrath and Nigel Whiteley demonstrated liquid level indicators, talking tin lids and colour detectors to their parents and grandparents, all the time talking about St Dunstan's and the help and advice available.

Many ex-service personnel were unaware that the criteria for entry to St Dunstan's had been changed in 2000, and were more than happy to take information about us.

Unbeknown to us until the second day, two different organisations were raising money for us just a few



Moira joins the Royal Signals at their obstacle course.

hundred yards away. One group of cadets from A Company, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Army Cadet Force under the guidance of Rod Lambert were organising a balloon race. Ron and Nigel helped to release the hundreds of balloons on Sunday afternoon. The balloon which travels the furthest will gain the winner a mountain bike!

Elsewhere, the Royal Signals were having a blindfold obstacle course, round some traffic cones beginning from a chair in the centre, and negotiating their way

to the exit. It's funny how many times people say “left” when they mean “right”. Both groups borrowed our St Dunstaners for a few hours to help promote the charity.

All in all, a very tiring but successful two days, our thanks to Jenny Shannon and Lynsey Pickles for braving the all-night Tescos to keep us supplied with bottles of water, and a special thank you to Moira's lovely daughter Stephanie, aged only 17, who worked like a Trojan all weekend, giving the lie to the rumour that today's young people are a feckless mob.



Nigel and Ron release a balloon into the wild.

## Harry Beevers relishes the prospect of some test cricket It might be out, but it's not over!

WITH THE SOCCER World Cup now over, sport lovers are looking forward with relish to the forthcoming Ashes clash between the England and Australian test cricket teams. But what of those not familiar with the laws of this wonderful game? A few words of explanation I feel would not be out of order.

Cricket, a game in which you have two sides, one out in the field, one in. Each man goes in and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he is out. When they are all out the side that has been out in the field comes in and

the side that was in goes out and tries to get those coming in out. When they are all out including the not-outs that's the end of the game. Don't be misled by the umpires who will shout “Over” after every six balls. It certainly isn't over, it may go on for five days! You may hear expressions such as “Maidens” and “Fine Legs” and these may not be obvious to the casual observer.

Finally, don't criticise the parents of the opening batsman if you hear that he was dropped when he was only three! Please note, the two men wearing long white coats are not ice-cream sellers.

So now you know exactly what it's all about and I'll leave it to Colin to recommend an appropriate beverage for the occasion!

### Beer of the Month by Colin Williamson Young's Summer Beer

ABV 4.5 per cent. The label shows a cricket ball hitting the wicket and the stumps are flying away. The beer itself is a nice light refreshing ale with vanilla fruitiness and a dry appetising finish. Perfect for a summer night listening to cricket!

RAF St Dunstaner **Eric J.H. Powell** recalls his life with splint, stretcher and bandages as an Ambulanceman in Avon

## Your life in my hands!

**P**ICTURE THE SCENE if you will, having consumed a hearty breakfast, kissed the wife and the children goodbye, jumped into the Merc and kicked the engine into life, away you go setting off for work! Along the way your mind wanders, thinking pleasant thoughts, momentarily losing concentration on your driving. Suddenly, quick as a flash, from a side street shoots another vehicle. Bang, crash, wallop! What on earth was that? At that moment you black out.

Slowly drifting back to reality, you can hear the sound of wailing sirens, shouting and screaming, people running around in all directions. "Oh! my god! what a mess!" You can't see through the shattered windscreen or through the side windows, a quick mental check to see if everything is in working order. Arms, OK. Body, OK. Legs, NO-AH!, can't feel a damn thing.

Suddenly a quiet voice says: "Hello, my name is Eric. I'm from the Ambulance Service, how can I help you?" His reply "Dun-know mate, can't feel a damn thing in my ruddy legs" or words to that effect, hoping that somewhere along the way that help has arrived. You have put your life in my hands!

After an assessment of the situation, I set the ball

rolling. The Fire Rescue Service assisted by cutting the patient free from the twisted framework that was once his pride and joy. All the time I was giving comfort to the patient and assurance that they were in safe hands, applying first aid, administering Entonox, which is a mixture of Oxygen and Nitrogen (laughing gas as it is commonly known) to help relieve the pain.

So, how do you cope with this kind of scenario, in whose hands do you put your life? I put myself in the hands of the Lord to guide me through, to help me arrive at the right decisions. Time and time again I have asked for my Lord's guidance. Without my faith, I don't think I could have coped with the job. So not only does your patient put his life into your hands, you have to put your life in the

Lord's hands and pray that you come up with the right answers.

Why did I become an Ambulance man? Well this is my story. By the time I reached the ripe old age of 43 in the year 1973 I had had enough of gents hairdressing, staring all day long at the backs of customers' heads, snipping and chipping, listening to their complaints, political dos and don'ts, football, in which I have no interest and putting the world to rights according to their rule book. Finding hairdressing rather boring, repetitive work, I longed for something more exciting, probably for the wrong reasons, but something more meaningful in life.

I decided to apply to join the Avon County Fire Service, because at that time I was also employed as a Retained Fireman. In the capacity of a Leading Fireman, I had a taster, only to be told at the end of the interview I was too old to start training as a full time Fireman. Upset, ego dented, there are not enough words to describe my feelings

at the time, I thought I would try my hand at the Ambulance Service. After an interview at Shepton Mallet Ambulance Station, the Interviewing Board offered me a post as a Trainee Ambulance man at Norton-Radstock Ambulance Station. They welcomed me with open arms, not too old for them you might note, because I could prove to be useful member to the service. I was after all a trained Fireman and holder of a 'First Aid to the Injured' Certificate.

Looking back over old documents which I recently found, I was engaged under the following conditions: Wages, £38 per week plus 6p per hour shift pay, for a trainee. Standby at home 68p per week, plus hourly rate if engaged in duty. Meal subsistence allowance 56p if engaged in duty at the appointed hour. Annual leave was two weeks. After training, an increase to £44.00 per week with the pluses already mentioned.

On Monday morning when I reported for duty, I was assigned to a two-man crew, Jack and Maurice, and issued with my very own First Aid Box.

Our first call out of the day was in response to a 999 emergency call. The control relayed by Teletext the history and the address. A 'Blue Light' job, oh boy, did the adrenaline flow! We were off!

Was this what I was looking for? Only time would tell.

The history was about an elderly lady who had fallen down the stairs at her home.

The Ambulance arriving at the address caused quite a stir amongst the neighbours they came rushing out to see what the trouble was. Maurice went in to recce the incident, came back and reported the lady was conscious and had fractured her femur. I was puzzled, how did he know that without an X-Ray machine? "Experience," he told me.

Appointed 'fetch and carry boy', I collected the splints and triangular bandages from the locker onboard the vehicle and took them to the other two. They applied first aid by splinting the fractured bone and gave some reassurance she was in safe hands, but she was in dreadful pain, so Entonox was administered. This gave her some relief, so they were able to proceed with the task. I was permitted to tie the last bandage, I did know how to tie a reef knot I'm glad to report.

These kind of happenings, transporting patients to hospital for all sorts of reasons - heart attacks, road accidents - went on for several weeks until one Monday morning I was summoned to the Station Officer's office. My immediate reaction was that

I must have done something wrong, but no. Because I had done well, it was time to move up the ladder and become a fully trained Ambulance man, so my colleagues had reported. I was to report to Bishops Waltham in Wiltshire, the Southern Ambulance Training School.

The school is a purpose built complex with lecture rooms and out buildings, also fully equipped workshops so that one could practice all sorts of incidents. Not only did we learn about accident scenarios, the care of the sick at home, the transportation of patients and high speed driving, we had one high light, a trip to the Police Driving Centre in Guildford on their skid pan. Also we had to study 'Anatomy and Physiology' and 'Home Nursing'. If anyone thinks that these are easy subjects, and also high speed driving, then give it a try! Tell me some of the names of the 365 bones which go to make up the skeletal framework of the body and the muscles which help to make the bones work in a coordinated fashion. I felt exhausted after using so much grey matter.

However, I did stay the course and qualify. Many dropped out only halfway through, realizing it just was not for them. They had concentrated more on the glamour side, tearing along at

high speeds, sirens blazing, and flirting with the nursing staff, not the less glamorous side like having to clean up the vomit, blood and gore which goes with the job.

One of the big exercises on the course used the scenario of a crashed aircraft in the middle of a field late at night. The scene was so realistic, (the Casualty Union saw to that), burning fuselage, people (taken from a nearby Police Cadet Training Centre) running about in all directions, Ambulances and Fire Engines, all rushing to the disaster scene. Several members of the public reported it as the real thing and would not take 'No' for an answer. It was even reported in the local press that "If the emergency services were to stage an incident of this magnitude, the general public should at least be made aware." The subject rumbled on for ages.

And so passing the final exam, I returned to my home Station of Norton-Radstock a fully fledged Trained Ambulance man.

There was one incident from which my fellow crew member and I received a citation. Whilst taking a patient home to the City of Wells in Somerset, the radio burst into life and asked our location? I responded "Wells, with a patient on board and

proceeding to his address." We were told to hastily drop our patient at their home address and proceed to The Steel Rope Factory nearby.

So with 'blue lights flashing and sirens sounding' we arrived on the forecourt of the factory and were swiftly directed around the back to the Rope Spinning Shed, there to be met by a large crowd of the workforce.

The history: A man was passing the end of a spinning steel hawser, when it came away from its anchorage point and recoiled back to emit five strands which entered the man's leg in a five star pattern. There were some 30ft sticking out one side of the leg and 6ft out the other. What a puzzle, how on earth were we going to transport the patient like that? My crew member radioed the control, explained the situation and requested the presence of the Flying Doctor for guidance.

He duly arrived and after a consultation with him and the foreman of the shed, we came to the agreement of using Oxyacetylene Cutting equipment, rather than hack sawing our way through the strands, which would have taken an age and would have caused the patient a great deal of discomfort and distress.

We packed either side of the leg with torn-up cloth and any

material we could get hold of. Using sand bags to hold the leg in the required position whilst the operator cut away through the strands of wire, we poured what appeared to be gallons of water on the cloth to help keep the leg cool and also the wire which was running through the patient's leg. Cutting strand-by-strand, we finally reached our goal, one foot of wire either side of the leg which was much easier for transporting the patient. All this while, the patient kept drifting in and out of consciousness, but with the doctor present administering the appropriate drugs (which we were not allowed to give in those days before Paramedics).

The amazing thing was that not a drop of blood was spilt because the wire strand caused a tight seal rather like a bath plug stemming the flow.

Finally, the patient was released and we transported him to the Royal United Bath Hospital. The doctor travelled with us just in case any more complications should arise. The firm of the Steel Rope Factory recommended us for the Citation we later received.

I spent five years as a full time Ambulance man and returned later as a part timer. I would have liked to have stayed longer but circumstances did not permit. However, I enjoyed it.

# Steve earns his FITA Star

BRISTOL ST DUNSTANER Steve Moseley set a new standard for visually impaired archers over the weekend of July 22nd-23rd. First he earned a 500 Award on a FITA 70 metre shoot while competing against fully sighted archers, then on the next day, he became the first St Dunstaner to earn a FITA 1000 Star Award. He was shooting at Cleve World Record Status FITA 70 Metre & Olympic Head-to-Head held at Yates Outdoor Sports Centre in Bristol. Steve achieved the first award with a score 508, shooting against

members of the GB Archery Squad and other Olympic hopefuls. For the 1000 Star award, he scored 1,034 points, in stages of 90m with 213, then 70m with 289, 50m with 226 and finally 30m with 306. "I only recently changed from a recurve to a compound bow, but I seem to have hit the floor running," said Steve. "I'm grateful to St Dunstan's for supporting me in making the change and thankful to Colin Dickinson for all his coaching. He spent hours on the green to make sure I could shoot straight."

## Good shooting at local events

**P**ETER HAMMOND shot a Burntwood FITA round in the Sussex County Championships on July 8th. Peter won the visually impaired section with a score of 622 despite it being a windy day. Special thanks to Malcolm Higman for taking the time off to spot for Peter.

Peter stated that he didn't think that many people realise how much of a commitment it takes to be a spotter, they give up time with their families and their weekends and in some cases they have to use annual leave to spot for us during archery weeks.

On July 16th, Peter was invited by the Wight Bowmen on the Isle of Wight to shoot a Western. "It was a lovely day with about 30 local archers turning up," said Peter. "They were all fascinated with my

by Pat Sidnell

set-up as they had never seen a visually impaired archer shoot. Anyway I shot my arrows and was surprised at the end of the shoot to find out that I had shot a score of 698 (a personal best by 76 points) and a club record for a B1."

Peter travelled over there with Jackie and Dali and was picked up at the ferry port. Once there, the club supplied him with a spotter called Sam who proved to be a fine spotter.

It was a very long day, he left home at 06:30hrs and returned

at 22:00hrs. They have invited him back next year.

On July 9th, Clive Jones shot at the 120th Wenlock Olympian Games at Much Wenlock, Shropshire. The weather was quite nice with the exception of a very gusty and strong crosswind.

After one dozen arrows with which Clive missed the target, he borrowed a pair of limbs from a friend, swapping his 28lb limbs for a set of 42lb ones. Clive continued and shot 164 and to a handicap of 1,501, a personal best and a totally blind club record.

## Terry draws his bow for Britain

ST DUNSTANER Terry Ottewell was shooting for Britain in the 4th European Paralympic Archery Committee in August. He was part of the National Disabled Archery Squad competing at Championships in Nymburk in the Czech Republic.

## Rev David leads tribute to Somme fallen

ST DUNSTANER REVEREND David Youngson laid a wreath in memory of those who fell on the Somme during the First World War. He took part in a ceremony at Norton War Memorial that had been organised by the War Memorials Trust in association with the National Association of Flower Arrangers on July 1st.

David was previously Curate at Norton Parish Church which is home to the memorial, a granite cross on a pedestal mounted on two sandstone steps and carved

with Anglo-Saxon styled scrolls. It lists 24 local men who died during the First World War. "The Western Front Association, Royal British Legion et al was present and I conducted a short ceremony, reading out the names of those of that parish who I have identified as having fallen on the Somme," said David. "Wreaths were laid and some fifty or so people other than signatories were present."

Of the 24 names on the memorial, David confirmed that 18 had perished during the Battle of the Somme.

## Ten answers...

Answers for page 15.

- 1) St Dunstan's at 12-14 Harcourt Street, Sir William Harcourt, a Yorkshireman and former Home Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer being the one-time Liberal Party leader;
- 2) Paradise Row;
- 3) They were all awarded the Victoria Cross, believed to be the only occasion that three residents of the same thoroughfare have been so honoured. A bronze plaque is mounted on a street lamp to tell this story;
- 4) Donald Duck;
- 5) Charles Dickens;
- 6) The Addams Family;
- 7) Osborne House;
- 8) Queen Victoria;
- 9) Ken Barlow; and
- 10) William Wordsworth.

# REUNION ROUND-UP

The Exeter Reunion at the Southgate Hotel in Exeter on June 15th united 33 St Dunstaners and 11 widows. St Dunstan's Vice-Chairman Major General Andrew Keeling presided. Jim Fraser replied on behalf of those present.

There were 32 St Dunstaners and four widows at the Surrey Reunion on June 21st. They met at the Ramada Hotel, East Horsley, Surrey where Member of Council Major General David Joliffe, CB, FRCP presided. St Dunstaner

Roy Foulsham made an impression with a very moving speech.

Lord Low of Dalston presided at the Bristol Reunion on June 28th. There were 22 St Dunstaners and two widows gathered at the Arnos Manor Hotel, Bristol. The response was made by St Dunstaner John Brazier.

The second Eastbourne Reunion held at the Hydro Hotel, Eastbourne on July 6th brought together 43 St Dunstaners and eight

widows. David Knowles was the Member of Council presiding and St Dunstaner Alf Dogdson responded with a vote of thanks.

St Dunstaner Geoff Hockridge made a valiant response at the Cardiff Reunion on July 12th having been knocked down by a reversing car several days earlier. He was one of 17 St Dunstaners and eight widows at the St Melons Hotel, Castleton, Cardiff. St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan presided at the reunion.

# Welcome to ST DUNSTAN'S

**William Armer** of Kendal, Cumbria served in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders from 1944 to 1948.

**Ian Ash** of Frinton-on-Sea served in the Royal Artillery from 1945 to 1947.

**Ronald Berry** of Norwich, Norfolk served in the Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Army Ordnance Corps and then the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1942 and 1947.

**Thomas Bond** of Alston, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Artillery from 1941 to 1946.

**Ronald Boxell** of Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**John Buxton** of Watchet, Somerset served in the Royal Corps of Signals from 1931, leaving as Sergeant in 1946.

**Michael Card** of Plymouth, Devon served in the Royal Marines from 1960 to 1984.

**John Carrell** of Lytham St Annes, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1939 to 1946.

**Raymond Conquest** of Matlock, Derbyshire served in the King's Own Royal Regiment from 1943 to 1947.

**Henry Corless** of Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan served in the Royal Marines from 1941 to 1946.

**Arthur Cox** of Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1946 to 1948.

**Hans Eilenberg** of Twickenham, Middlesex served in the Pioneer Corps and Royal Engineers between 1940 and 1947.

**Mary Ferguson** of Dereham, Norfolk served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1943 to 1946.

**Colin Green** of Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1955 to 1957.

**William Hall** of Ashton, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Artillery from 1946 to 1948 and the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) TA from 1956 to 1960.

**Stanley Hayward** of Fakenham, Norfolk served as Lance Bombardier in the Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1946.

**Kenneth Heath** of Chippenham, Wiltshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 to 1946.

**Margaret Hewitt** of Roughton, Swindon,

Wiltshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

**Joyce Holland** of Worthing, West Sussex served in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry from 1943 to 1946.

**James Ingram** of Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire served in the Gordon Highlanders from 1952 to 1954.

**Harold Lyons** of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire served in the Royal Artillery, West Kent Regiment, Royal Berkshire Regiment and Dorsetshire Regiment between 1944 and 1952.

**John Mason** of Winchester, Hampshire served in the Royal Engineers from 1944 to 1947.

**Cyril Munday** of Rochester, Kent served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1950.

**Reginald Newton** of Wallingford, Oxfordshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

**Rosemary Richards** of Pulborough, West Sussex served as Sergeant in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1940 to 1946.

**Cecil Tyler** of Dunstable, Bedfordshire served in the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps from 1940 to 1946.

**Ken Whittingham** of Gillingham, Kent served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1944 to 1946.

**Leslie Whitmore** of Birmingham, West Midlands served in the Royal Army

Service Corps and then the Royal Engineers between 1944 and 1948.

**Cecil Wilson** of Coventry, West Midlands served in the Royal Army Service Corps and then the Royal Electrical

and Mechanical Engineers between 1940 and 1946.

**Frederick Yates** of Claughton-on-Brock, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946. He was a FEPOW.

## POET'S CORNER

### THE EYE EXAMINATION by Roy Symons

Open wide the sister said  
Into my eyes drops she fed  
Now everything is a blur  
I shall have words to say to her  
In for a long wait  
On the list at number eight  
Now it is my turn to go  
And I am taken in tow  
I sit on high stool  
For that is the rule  
Man in the white coat  
Clears his throat  
Look up at that screen  
What is there to be seen?  
First line I do see  
It is a big letter P  
Try the third line  
Not in luck this time  
Now I have to peer  
In a gadget so queer  
Put chin on rest  
Ready for the test  
Look at the shining light  
Oh boy, it is so bright  
Look up, down, left now right  
I'm just checking your sight  
Look at the line  
you are doing fine  
What does he see  
Will he tell me?  
Sit back and relax  
I will tell you the facts  
It will get worse  
No! you cannot have a nurse

I must let this sink in  
Pass me a glass of gin!  
I will put you on the register  
And what does that incur?  
I now have a white stick  
It opens with a flick  
A watch that speaks the time  
Corny voice, not in rhyme.  
Do not feel too bad  
All is not that sad.  
Go for a walk  
Meet strangers and talk.  
Challenges new  
Quite a few  
Upset favourite tipple  
I swear a little  
Pour out more  
Enough for four  
Much frustration  
Meet with determination

#### Post script

Sight now is much worse  
No! Do not call the hearse  
I have gadgets galore  
And I do more and more  
I work the garden in the sun  
With the computer letters and  
accounts get done  
Then there's all the  
meals I cook  
End of day, relax with a  
talking book

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

**Congratulations on the birth of:**



Nathan Blockley, weighing in at 6lbs, 4oz on July 19th. He is the great-grandson of *Charles and Peggy Blockley* of Sileby, nr Loughborough, Leicestershire. Nathan is pictured with his parents Becci and Simon.

### SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**  
*Randall and Danna Williams* of Tiverton, Devon on July 25th.

*Jack and Pat Fulling* of Lochgilphead, Argyll on July 31st.

*Ray and Clare Peart* of Abbeydale, Gloucestershire on August 8th.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**  
*Gordon and Annette Paxford* of Braunton, Devon on July 21st.

*Brian and Ruth Chandler* of Coventry, West Midlands on July 30th.

### DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**  
*Ray and Jeannie Ball* of Fleetwood, Lancashire on July 20th.

*George and Irene Slater* of Leyland, Lancashire on August 1st.

*Edgar and Ellen Gilert* of Doncaster, South Yorkshire on August 3rd.

*Tug and Dorothy Wilson* of Southwell, Nottinghamshire on August 10th.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**  
*William and Joyce Burchell* of Brighton who celebrated 61 years of marriage on July 21st.

*Harold and Joan Sparrey* of Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire who celebrated 67 years of marriage on July 21st.

*Victor and Margaret Morgan* of Stalmine, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire who celebrated 70 years of marriage on July 25th.

*Donald and Betty Lorenz* of Blofield, Norwich, Norfolk on who celebrated 65 years of marriage on July 27th.

*John and Mary Painter* of Birdham, West Sussex who celebrated 61 years of marriage on August 1st.

*Ronald and Mil Ballard* of Horley, Surrey who celebrated 65 years of marriage on August 2nd.

*Leonard and Marge Bragg* of Basingstoke, Hampshire who celebrated 63 years of marriage on August 2nd.

*Alfred and Audrey Waters* of East Sussex who celebrated 61 years of marriage on August 11th.

*William and Lilian Miles* of Leyland, Lancashire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on August 12th.

*Wally and Johnny Winter* of Whitburn, Tyne & Wear who celebrated 62 years of marriage on August 12th.

*Joe and Alice Pontin* of Stroud, Gloucestershire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on August 18th.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

**Congratulations to:**  
Andrea Maynard who has passed her CIMA management accounting exams. She is the daughter of Royal Navy St Dunstaner *Douglas Hackney* of Gosport, Hampshire.

Jenny Blockley on earning a first class honours degree in Business Studies. She is the granddaughter of *Charles and Peggy Blockley* of Sileby, nr Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Lucy Evans who achieved a 2.1 degree in Archaeology at UCL. She is the granddaughter of *Kathleen Evans*, Christchurch, Dorset.

### DEATHS

**We regret announce the death of:**  
**Edna Maple** of Rushden, Northamptonshire on July 16th. She was the widow of Royal Norfolks St Dunstaner *Kenneth Maple*.

Anne Phillips of Itchen, Southampton, Hampshire on July 22nd. She was the widow of Royal Artillery St Dunstaner *Albert Phillips*.

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.

### Charles Greenwood Royal Navy

Charles Arthur Greenwood of Halesowen, West Midlands died on July 12th, aged 78. He was an apprentice baker and then a chain maker for ships before joining the Royal Navy in 1945. He trained at Skegness and completed a cookery course at Malvern before being posted air sea rescue duty in the Bay of Biscay. He also served on a minesweeper before discharge in 1947. In civilian life, he resumed work as a baker. Our sympathy goes to his widow Gwyneth, son Nigel and all members of the family.

### Leonard Langhorn Royal Signals

Leonard Henry Langhorn of Worthing, West Sussex died on July 17th, aged 83. He was a printer in Fleet Street before joining the Royal Signals in 1942. He trained at Catterick and was then posted to Petts Wood. He was attached to American forces and landed with them at Utah beach on D-Day to help establish communications links from the UK to France. He then moved through to Belgium, Holland and Germany. He was posted Egypt before being discharged in 1947. Resuming work as a printer, he enjoyed dancing, travelling and reading. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joan, son Peter and Kevin, daughters Susan and Joan and all members of the family.

### John Jones Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

John Kenneth Jones of Burgess Hill, West Sussex died on July 18th, aged 75. He was an apprentice motor mechanic before joining the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1949. Training at Honiton, Devon, he served around the UK. Discharged in 1949, he continued to work as a mechanic. His interests included bowls and classical music. Our sympathy goes to his widow Anne, sons Alistair and Guy, daughters Julie and Hailey and all members of the family.

### Leslie Pilmoor Highland Brigade

Leslie Pilmoor of Bowburn, Durham died on July 18th, aged 79. He joined the Highland Brigade (Seaforth Highlanders) in 1948, but transferred to the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders to serve in the Suez Canal Zone. After a tour of duty with Black Watch, he rejoined the Seaforth Highlanders in Germany in time for discharge in 1953. In civilian life, he worked as a coal miner, for Chrysler cars and then in an asbestos factory. His interests included gardening. Our sympathy goes to his sons, daughters and all members of the family.

### Herbert Roome Royal Artillery

Herbert Clifford Roome of Chislehurst, Kent died on July 18th, aged 91. He worked in the wine trade before joining the Royal Artillery in 1939. He served in North Africa, Greece, and Crete before taking part in the invasion of Sicily. He returned to the UK prior to the Normandy landings and then fought through Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. Discharged in 1946, he rejoined the wine trade and later worked for a Suffolk brewery and then Allied Domecq. His interests included bowls, shooting and horse racing. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret and all members of the family.

### Hedley Gelsthorpe Royal Corps of Signals

Hedley Gelsthorpe of Skegness, Lincolnshire died on July 19th, aged 73. A farm worker before joining the Royal Corps of Signals in 1951, he served in the Middle East. He completed tours in Benghazi, Port Said and Ismalia. Discharged in 1955, he worked for Ordnance Survey and then became a miner. Our sympathy goes to his widow Dorothy and all members of the family.

### Leslie Quayle Royal Army Medical Corps

Leslie Douglas Quayle of Skidby, Cottingham, East Yorkshire died on July 21st, aged 85. He worked in a greengrocery before joining the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1938. After training at Fleet, Hampshire, he was posted to Southampton as a Medical Orderly before being deployed to France. After being evacuated at Dunkirk, he was posted to a military hospital in Poona, India. Discharged as Corporal in 1946, he trained as a nurse in Blackpool. After working in hospitals around the UK, he emigrated to Rhodesia where he set up clinical facilities in five prisons. He returned to the UK in 1967. Over the years, he kept a variety of birds, such as finches, doves, canaries and weavers. He recently donated 50 such birds to a new walk through aviary at East Park, in Hull. Our sympathy goes to his widow Betty, sons Lester and Jeremy and all of the family.

### Louis Gilbert Royal Air Force

Louis Henry Gilbert of Brighton died on July 30th, aged 95. He worked for the General Post Office before joining the Royal Air Force in 1941. He served at Cambridge, Newmarket and Hemswell. Demobbed in 1946, he returned to work for the GPO until retirement. He also worked part time at a residential hostel for the homeless until he was 70. Our sympathy goes to his niece Marjorie and all members of the family.

### John Brazier Royal Navy

John Oliver Brazier of Stroud, Gloucestershire died on August 3rd, aged 75. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2002. He joined the Royal Navy as a Writer in 1948. After three years stationed in the UK, he joined HMS *Glasgow* in Malta, then transferred to HMS *Chevron*. He later returned to Portland, working on and offshore before being posted to the Royal Navy Drafting Unit. Retiring as Petty Officer in 1961, he joined IBM as a Project Administrator. He also ran a small holding in Wales and a bed and breakfast in Broadway. His interests included making model aircraft and he was involved in a project to restore a steam engine. He enjoyed walking and was a member of the Gloucester Archaeological Society. Our sympathy goes to his widow Josephine, son, daughter and all the family.

### Roland Veysey

#### Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Roland Hugh Veysey of Cocking, Midhurst, West Sussex died on August 3rd, aged 88. He served with an ambulance unit attached to the Finnish Army while fighting the Russians. He flew back to the UK via Moscow and joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1941. Attached to Naval Intelligence, he was sent to the Soviet Union near the Black Sea. He was later posted to Egypt, serving in Syria and Lebanon before becoming Assistant Naval Attaché in Istanbul. After a spell in Cairo as Senior Intelligence Officer, he was deployed to Bucharest to negotiate with the Russians about operations on the River Danube. He was stationed in Yugoslavia and finally Norway before discharge in 1946. In civilian life, he worked for De Havilland Aircraft, Rolls-Royce and Associated Electrical Industries. He joined an advertising agency before retiring. His interests included sailing, sports and languages. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret, son Simon, daughter Charlotte and all of the family.



# Lady St Dunstaners meet at Ovingdean



Twenty-two lady St Dunstaners met up for their annual reunion at Ovingdean from July 16th-22nd. The week included a talk from a local magistrate, prize bingo, wine tasting, a tour of Chichester Harbour, the Marine Band, and a visit to the Toy Museum. Bess Cummings gave a talk on her experience of being bombed at sea during World War II.



Elsie Scullion and friend during the Band concert.



Barbara Bell at the concert.

## Oh yay, oh yay! It's a happy birthday!

IF ST DUNSTAN'S Widow Rose Shed thought she was going to celebrate her 90th birthday quietly with her family, she was much mistaken. Burgess Hill Town Crier Neil Batsford arrived on the scene, ringing in the news of her celebration. "I was with my daughter, son and grandchildren in the garden and my daughter suggested we sit in the lounge. Then my grandson popped his head round the door and asked me to come outside and have a look at something. When I got out there, the Town Crier

was walking up the road, ringing his bell and calling out 'Oh, yay, oh yay'.

"I don't know what the neighbours thought but they came out and had a look," said Rose.

Rose and her family celebrated with champagne and spent some time reading through the 90 birthday cards that she received from friends and family. "I didn't know I knew so many people."

Rose and her friend Joyce



Morgan joined up for a further celebration at the weekend. "We were driven round town in a Jaguar with a glass of champagne. Joyce said that she felt like a gangster's moll."