

October 2006

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

# ST DUNSTAN'S Review



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN



## From the Chairman



ST DUNSTAN'S HAS now 91 years of history supported by letters, documents, photographs, diaries, medals, artefacts, examples of home craft items – the list is endless. There are some very moving accounts of achievement over adversity and it is a valuable part of the life of St Dunstan's to be maintained and cherished.

Robbie Hazan, Collections and Archives Manager, is always interested in receiving any items of interest, from pay books to photographs, either on loan or donated.

Meanwhile, I thank her for her dedication and the considerable amount of work she puts in not only with regard to archiving the collections but also in all the research she undertakes for members of the public and departments in St Dunstan's.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

### ST DUNSTAN'S Review October 2006 No 962

**Cover Story:** St Dunstan's Archers Clive Jones, Norman Perry, Peter Hammond, David Poyner, Patrick Sidnell, and Keith Lanchester-Harding at Buckingham Palace.

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## ST DUNSTAN'S Calendar

### OCTOBER

Cadet Challenge	October
Widows' Week (II)	October 1st-7th
Indoor Bowling	October 2nd
Writers' Forum	October 7th
Sailability	October 8th
Indoor Bowling	October 9th
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

### NOVEMBER

Writers' Forum	November 4th
Remembrance Sunday	Nov 12th
Dancing Week	November 12th-18th
Indoor Bowling	November 20th
Fishing Club (VI)	Nov 21st-23rd

### DECEMBER

Writers' Forum	Dec 2nd
Christmas Craft Week	Dec 3rd-9th
St Dunstan's Day	December 9th

Laundry collection change | Ex-POW reunion | World Sight Day 2006

# Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

### LAUNDRY CHANGE

**COLLECTION DAYS SHIFT FOR SHORT-STAY GUESTS:** There continues to be a high demand for the laundering of personal clothing from short-stay guests at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. We are happy to still do a small amount of such material as part of the accommodation charge, but to cope we are changing the laundry collection days to as follows:

- In-house laundry will be collected on Wednesday morning and returned on Saturday morning.
- Port Hall laundry will be collected Tuesday afternoon and returned Friday afternoon.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**Velda Golds,  
Housekeeping**

### EX-POW REUNION 2007

**PRISONERS MEET UP AT OIVINGDEAN:** St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War will hold their annual reunion at Ovingdean on April 13th-16th next year. St Dunstaners who were taken prisoner in any theatre of conflict can get in touch with Tom Hart on 01304 612771 for more information.

### WORLD SIGHT DAY 2006

**BLINDNESS IS PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE:** World Sight Day on October 12th aims to raise public awareness of blindness as a major international public health issue. It seeks to influence Governments and Ministers of Health in developing countries to participate in and designate funds for national blindness prevention programs. It also hopes to educate target audiences about blindness prevention. Events are scheduled in France, Germany, Australia, India, Trinidad and Tobago.

At its core is Vision 2020: The Right to Sight which aims to eliminate avoidable blindness worldwide by the year 2020. Studies indicate that 37 million people worldwide are blind, while 124 million have low vision. Three quarters of this total is avoidable either through prevention or treatment.

Vision 2020 argue that 100 million men, women and children can be saved from going blind, reducing poverty and social exclusion as a consequence of preventative health care.

Vision 2020: The Right to Sight is a joint initiative between the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness and the World Health Organization, with an international coalition of government organisations, professional bodies and eyecare institutions. St Dunstan's is affiliated to the UK chapter.



## ACT NOW TO RECEIVE BRITISH GAS WINTER REBATE

OFFSET THOSE HEAVY WINTER FUEL BILLS: British Gas is currently offering two fixed winter discounts to help households in receipt of eligible benefits through the winter months at the end of 2006 and start of 2007. Gas customers who qualify for the rebate will receive £60, while their electricity customers will receive £30. Dual fuel customers can expect a combined £90.

There is a ceiling on the number of applications that British Gas will accept, so applying promptly is crucial. The scheme is already heavily subscribed. Paid in two instalments over this Winter, the rebate is available to households who are British Gas customers and are in receipt of:

- War Disablement Pension which includes either a Mobility Supplement or Constant Attendance Allowance
- Disablement Pension which includes Constant Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Attendance Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- Severe Disability Allowance
- Child Tax Credit and with an annual household income of £14,600 or less.
- Council Tax Benefit
- Housing Benefit
- Income Support
- Income-Based Job Seeker's Allowance

To apply for the British Gas Winter Rebate telephone 0845 601 2006. Lines are open from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday and 8am to 6pm on Saturday. Callers will be greeted by an automated system in the first instance.

## WHAT THE BEST DRESSED ST DUNSTANER IS WEARING

ST DUNSTAN'S MERCHANDISE FOR SALE: Polo shirts, sweatshirts and other merchandise is available over the counter from reception when visiting St Dunstan's Ovingdean, St Dunstan's Sheffield and St Dunstan's Headquarters. They are also available through the post.

### St Dunstan's polo shirt

Polo shirt is a Royal blue short-sleeved shirt with a white St Dunstan's shield on the chest. Available in small, medium, large, extra large and XXL it costs £10 and is made from 60 per cent combined cotton and 40 per cent polyester. Postage and packaging is extra at £1.99.

### St Dunstan's sweatshirt

This is a Royal blue sweatshirt with a white St Dunstan's shield on the chest. Made from 65 per cent Bamwolle cotton and 35 per cent polyester, it is available in small, medium, large, extra large and XXL. The sweatshirt costs £15 and postage and packaging is £2.49.

### St Dunstaner's tie

The St Dunstaner's tie is Navy blue polyester with St Dunstan's shield. Priced £5, postage and packaging is £1.

### St Dunstan's Baseball Cap

The Royal blue baseball cap has St Dunstan's shield in white on the fore. Priced £5, postage and packaging is £1.

To order, please make cheques payable to St Dunstan's and send to Merchandise, St Dunstan's 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. Postage may vary for mixed orders, so call 020 7616 7900 if unsure about the cost and we will work out the correct rate.

## DRAW A FISH OUT OF WATER

NEW ART PROJECT FOR BIG DRAW: The Big Draw is back this month! Following on from last year's success in which St Dunstan's was awarded a prize for it's Big Draw project encouraging everyone, non-sighted and sighted, to have fun and engage with drawing, we hope to go one better! Then our project involved making tactile drawings in clay which were put together to make an autumnal curtain of leaves. Out of 1,200 events held in the UK we were one of around 20 who were given prizes. With our prize money we bought an Olive tree to mark our success which now sits proudly in the Inner Garden at Ovingdean. This year we are again encouraging everyone to get involved and be part of a big collaborative project with our theme being 'a fish out of water'. With this in mind, we hope to encourage people to do an array of tactile drawings inspired by water and things associated with water. The images will be put together to form a tactile fishy scene – essentially a fish made out of water! We won't be drawing in clay but will be using other tactile ways of drawing.

So be warned. We need you in October to come and draw. The Craft Workshop will be ready to welcome anyone who wants to come and have go, but also watch out for roving art boxes that might be located near you!

Throughout October, free drawing events are being run for all ages and abilities in venues across the U.K - from The Airborne Forces Museum in Aldershot to Yates's Bar in Milton Keynes. To find events in your local area and beyond visit [www.bigdraw.org.uk](http://www.bigdraw.org.uk) or see the Campaign for Drawing website [www.drawingpower.org.uk](http://www.drawingpower.org.uk) for further details of how you can get involved.

## FISHING CLUB REEL OUT DATES FOR 2007

HOOK UP NEXT YEAR: St Dunstan's Fishing Club have six excursions scheduled for next year. The Newhaven dates will be operating out of Ovingdean. The dates for Ilfracombe and Exmouth are inclusive of travel from and to St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

Newhaven	February 12th-16th
Newhaven	April 9th-13th
Ilfracombe	June 10th-16th
Newhaven	July 23rd-27th
Exmouth	September 23rd-29th
Newhaven	November 18th-22nd

## RNIB PLAN FOR RETIREMENT

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE: RNIB has set up a new information service called the Retirement Planning Project, which is for blind and partially sighted people of any age in paid employment or self-employment.

The project aims to raise awareness among blind and partially sighted people in employment of the steps they need to take to provide for retirement income, to provide information on pensions and current pension reform proposals, and to maximise current benefit take-up to ensure blind and partially sighted people enter retirement with maximum income.

More details can be found on [www.rnib.org.uk/retirementplanning](http://www.rnib.org.uk/retirementplanning) or project worker Pippa Goldie can be contacted on 020 739 2327 or by e-mail: [pippa.goldie@rnib.org.uk](mailto:pippa.goldie@rnib.org.uk). She cannot sort out individual pension problems but can suggest sources of further help or information.

### SKYDIVE FOR ST DUNSTAN'S

PARACHUTE JUMPERS WANTED: St Dunstan's have just added to the fundraising opportunities we offer our supporters through the experience of parachute jumping! Please help spread the word on this new fundraising initiative.

Perhaps through work or socialising, you may come across a group, a unit, business or an individual who may be interested in parachute jumping for St Dunstan's— if so please ask them to contact Lynsey Pickles at St Dunstan's Headquarters or suggest they check our website at [www.st-dunstans.org.uk](http://www.st-dunstans.org.uk). If you know somewhere suitable where a Parachute for St Dunstan's poster could be placed let Lynsey know.

There are three types of jump available:

- Accelerated FreeFall where you can experience the thrill of skydiving solo from up to 12,000 feet
- Tandem Skydive from 10,000 feet attached to a professional instructor
- Static Line jump which is performed solo from up to 3,000 feet

People can jump from any one of over 20 British Parachute Association approved airfields across the UK. No experience is necessary as all training is given and by raising over £290 (depending on the type of jump chosen) the jumper will receive their jump free of charge.

Contact Lynsey on 020 7723 5021 and ask for an information pack on the exhilarating experience of a lifetime.

### RNIB SEEK PASSPORT FOR DLA

CAMPAIGN FOR HIGHER RATE: The Royal National Institute of the Blind is campaigning to extend the Higher Rate Mobility component of Disability Living Allowance to visually impaired people. They are encouraging people to join the campaign and to contact their Members of Parliament in October.

Campaign Packs including draft letters for MPs and fact sheets can be obtained by telephoning 020 7391 2123.

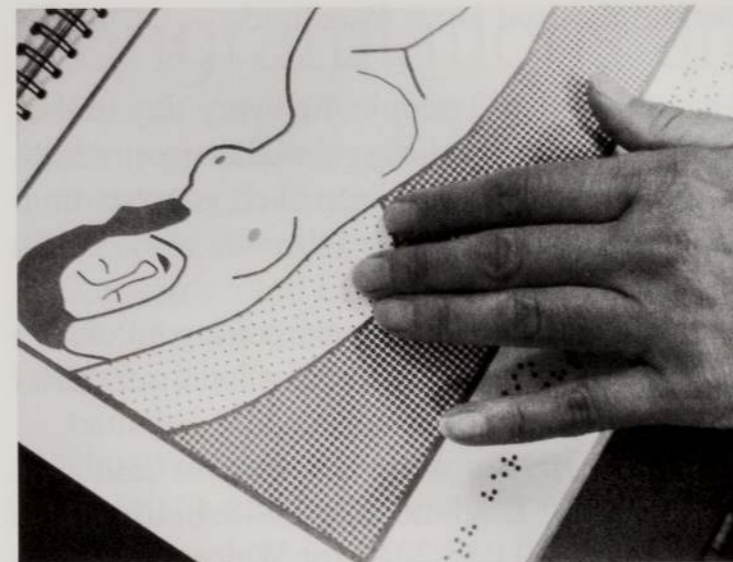
RNIB hope that people will write to their MP as they return to Parliament this month to share their frustration at not being eligible to claim the higher rate mobility component, to explain what a difference it would make to the quality of their life and what they would be able to do that they can't currently do. An Early Day Motion (EDM) supporting the campaign will be tabled in November.

There will also be a Lobby of Parliament on December 4th and the RNIB hope as many people as possible will come to London to support the lobby. RNIB will seek to meet travel costs (by prior arrangement).

### LARGE PRINT DIARIES 2007

TWO VERSIONS: St Dunstan's has a large print diary available for the coming year. There are two varieties on offer. There is an A4 version costing £6.50 and a pocket version available at £3.50. If you would like to purchase a diary please make your request by contacting Alex Dugard at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 391478. Cheques to be made payable to St Dunstan's and to be received before the order is despatched.

### GET A FEEL FOR MODIGLIANI



TACTILE AND AUDIO DESCRIPTION: A tactile booklet with Braille and audio description is available for six items in the Modigliani and His Models exhibition at London's Royal Academy of Arts which is on until October 15th. This is the first major exhibition of the Tuscan sculptor and painter Amedeo Modigliani (1884-1920) to be held in Great Britain for over 40 years. The show includes examples of his nudes and portraits together with a small selection of his sculptures and paintings of caryatids. Modigliani's art drew on a variety of sources, from the European figurative painting tradition, to the hieratic forms of Egyptian, classical and African sculpture.

The tactile booklet has been produced by the University of York Centre for Tactile Images and Antenna Audio for the Royal Academy of Arts. It is available from the audio desk on entrance to the exhibition. Large print list of works and gallery guides are also available.

The gallery is open 10am-6pm everyday except Friday when it is open until 10pm. For more information e-mail [access@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:access@royalacademy.org.uk) or telephone 020 7300 5732.

### AUDIO DESCRIPTION AT LORD'S CRICKET GROUND

BALL-BY-BALL COMMENTARY SERVICE FOR BLIND SPECTATORS: MCC have launched an audio description service, which means that blind and partially-sighted spectators can now receive a ball-by-ball commentary on every matchday at Lord's. Live commentary will be available no matter how big or how small the match. Headsets are available from stewards or the Head Steward's Office (located at the back of the Mound Stand). Spectators visiting Lord's on a major matchday (Tests and one day internationals) are advised to book a headset in advance, to ensure availability.

### NEED AN APPROVED TRADER?

LOCAL COUNCILS RECOMMEND GOOD REPAIRMEN: If you have a household item in need of repair that isn't covered by a warranty or service agreement, consider referring to an approved traders directory. Many local authorities run such schemes, usually through their Trading Standards Office. Their recommendations may also appear on Council websites. Most concentrate on tradespeople such as builders, plumbers and electricians with checks and references being evaluated by Trading Standards Officers.

### BRAILLE WATCH REQUIRED

WORKING MODEL REQUIRED FOR GOOD HOME: If anyone has a surplus manual wind-up braille pocket watch which they would be happy to donate to a good home, please contact Head of Grants Carole Woodgate at St Dunstan's HQ on 020 7723 5021.

### QUIT THE HABIT WITH NHS HELP

NHS STOP SMOKING SERVICES AND NICOTINE REPLACEMENT THERAPY: The Government has set up a comprehensive NHS Stop Smoking Service. Services are now available across the NHS in England, providing counselling and support to smokers wanting to quit, complementing the use of stop smoking aids Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) and bupropion (Zyban).

Services are provided in group sessions or one to one, depending on the local circumstances and client's preferences. Most stop smoking advisers are nurses or pharmacists, and all have received training for their role.

A study carried out by Glasgow University suggests that a smoker who tries to quit with the NHS Stop Smoking Service and NRT/ Zyban is up to four times as likely to succeed than by willpower alone.

The NHS point out that smoking causes wheezing, shortness of breath, lack of energy, poor concentration, dull skin, nicotine-stained fingers, premature wrinkling, reduced fertility and risky pregnancy, damaged taste buds, stained teeth, lung cancer, emphysema, stroke, heart attack, and can lead to damaged circulation, gangrene, and amputation. It has also been linked to some forms of blindness and schizophrenia.

Amongst the 4,000 chemicals contained with cigarettes are cellulose acetate, used in adhesive, ammonia, used as a toilet cleaner, formaldehyde, used as embalming fluid, carbon monoxide which occurs in car exhaust fumes, hydrogen cyanide, the chemical used in gas chambers, acetone used as nail polish

remover, arsenic, a common rat poison and benzene, a petrol additive. Nicotine itself is commonly used as an insecticide.

An estimated 300 people die every day in the UK because of smoking related causes, while the NHS spend £1.5 billion each year treating patients for smoke related illness.

The website [www.givingupsmoking.co.uk](http://www.givingupsmoking.co.uk) includes a facility to search for local services using a postcode or details can be obtained from the NHS Smoking Helpline on 0800 169 0 169 for England, 0800 848 484 for Scotland, 0800 085 2219 for Wales, or 0800 858 585 for Northern Ireland.

### CSCI REPORTS ON WEB

INSPECTORS' VERDICT ONLINE: St Dunstan's, like all registered care homes, is inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) on a minimum of two occasions each year. Subsequently, the CSCI publish their findings on their website. These reports enable prospective applicants to see what services the home offers and how the CSCI views them. The CSCI can make requirements, which the home must meet in order to retain its registration for care. They can also make recommendations to the Charity on how they feel these services can be improved upon.

The current report and details of previous inspections can be obtained on the CSCI website on [www.csci.org.uk](http://www.csci.org.uk) in pdf (portable document format). If you have any queries regarding the content of the report, then please ring St Dunstan's Head of Care Jackie Greer on 01273 391420, she will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

# 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](mailto:ray.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk).

## Congratulations are due to Sultan Dogs

I had the privilege together with 18 other St Dunstaners of attending this year's St Dunstan's blind Ex-Service men's Summer Camp at HMS *Sultan*, Gosport.

This year's camp was my second time at HMS *Sultan* and like in previous years was very well organised and most enjoyable. My congratulations and thanks go to Mr Dave Burrows, who is the organising secretary and WOI Nick Martin, who was the Navy's Sponsor.

My thanks also go to all the personnel, both civilian and military, who acted as our "Dogs" and helpers, without whose help and dedication to their task in hand, made the visit such a memorable one.

We were most fortunate with the weather, being that bit cooler compared to the very hot weather we had experienced prior to the camp.

The program we had was a very varied one, consisting of sailing, flights in gliders from the HMS *Daedalus* Airfield, helicopter flights in "IJ" HM Coastguard helicopter,

archery, indoor and outdoor sports; canoeing up the river Hamble, with a meal at a local pub afterwards, fresh water fishing and a trip out in the Gosport and Fareham Inshore Rescue Craft (GAFIRS).

We also made a day visit to the Isle of Wight and the Explosion Museum. On the Isle of Wight, we had the misfortune of leaving three of our number on the Island, when we set sail for home. But that is another story!

Our food and accommodation were excellent, for which I thank HMS *Sultan* for

looking after us so well. We used the WO, SR's and SNCO's Mess for our meals, plus one evening at the HMS *Sultan's* Wardroom with the Base Commodore.

It was very nice to have visits from the Chairman of St Dunstan's Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN and Mr and Mrs Robert Leader, Chief Executive of St Dunstan's together with all the other visitors during the week.

Looking forward to next year's camp.

**Bob Strickland,  
Fareham, Hampshire**

## Let's be putting on the ritz

I hope you are ready for the Autumn Ball. It is going to be videod this year, it would be nice if we wore evening dress on the Friday night. This video will be shown to friends and relations and I hope to send one to other organisations to show what blind people can achieve. There will be a charge for the video to cover costs. Other great news is that we have a Spring and

Autumn Ball next year, dates are March 25th-31st and November 11th-17th 2007. Hopefully anyone who missed out on last year's dance will get a chance to go. If you have any suggestions or comments, please get in touch with David Schofield on 0115 932 3517. Looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones.

**David and Glenys,  
Ilkeston, Derbyshire**

## Battlefield hones voice of St Dunstan's

I am writing in response to the letter published in the August edition of the **Review** by Mr Charles Hannaway who raised a question regarding the recent Somme battlefield tour.

As a St Dunstaner I was invited to attend the tour along with my colleagues from the St Dunstan's Schools Project, the Cadet Challenge Project and members of the St Dunstan's Speakers team in recognition for the work we do in promoting and raising awareness of this exceptional charity. This work is all voluntary. We do not ask for, nor do we receive, payment for this.

I, along with my colleagues, have lost count of the evenings, weekends, bank holidays etc, that we have given up in order to fulfil these commitments and to attend the various courses that we have to go on in order to be able to stand up in front of an audience and speak confidently about the charity. I personally have taken annual leave, sometimes a week at a time, from my job so that I could deliver the message to schools and other institutions about the good work that St Dunstan's do in giving us back our independence and self esteem. I know of many other speakers that do exactly

the same. For you to call this trip 'a junket' is entirely unwarranted and unjustified. This is a fantastic team bonding exercise and a much appreciated 'thank you' for the countless hours we put in.

Since becoming a St Dunstaner my interest in military history has been rekindled. I have visited many historic sights both home and abroad in order for me to be able to answer the

many questions we receive on our schools presentations regarding conflict in the twentieth century. I have visited battlefields in France, Belgium and Germany. All, I may add, at my own expense. I can recommend an excellent battlefield tour company called Anglia Battlefield Tours if you're interested, I have used them many times and they're excellent.

**Colin Williamson,  
Hebburn, Tyne & Wear**

## Do you have a story to tell?

My name is Brian Elliott, an ex-gunner, of 25 years service, retiring as a RSM Instructor, in January 1985. My wife and I have recently spent a wonderful, absorbing, and exhilarating week, at St Dunstan's; learning about this unique organisation. Many of the readers of the **Review** will already have enjoyed the experience, and many others have continued to enjoy St Dunstan's. What was so significant, with virtually everyone that we met, was their ability to deal with their visual impairment or blindness, in their own resolute way. The poignant stories, the anecdotes, the humour, all of which we heard, was quite unbelievable. My aim is to write a book on all aspects of blindness; not

as a moan or a groan of our affliction, but a light-hearted approach telling the world that we are still content, happy, and with a strong desire to live a long and useful life to the full. I firmly believe, that as a writer, there is a story to tell. I would like to hear from any member who would like to share with others their story, anecdote or humorous jokes.

Submissions can be sent to me via Donna Vaughan at St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

For this to be a success, it will need an enormous amount of enthusiasm, which I am sure we all have that in abundance. Give it a go!!!

**Brian Elliott,  
Amesbury, Wiltshire**

## Physiotherapy gave me a fulfilling career for 48 years

I am writing this to support the letter written by Mike Tetley in the September **Review**. I was one of those who took up Physiotherapy after leaving the Royal Marines in January 1944. When qualified I followed a fulfilling and stimulating career meeting so many different people over nearly 48 years. However, I do not agree with the **Review** when it appears to just focus upon individuals

achieving well publicised record events. I would like to see the **Review** give more emphasis to the achievements of those St Dunstaners who have joined the organisation and are unable to continue their life as before. There are still many opportunities that a blind person can look forward to. My thoughts are with you Mike. Keep it up!

**Bill Shea,  
Great Totham, Essex**

## STAGE SOUNDINGS

*Evita* October 12th at 14:30 and again at 19:30. Irene Richards describes costume, scenes and action in biographical musical at the Adelphi Theatre, London. Call 020 7850 8530 or e-mail customer.relations@seetickets.com.

*Starlight Express* November 16th 19:30. Musical trains with added description at the Wimbledon New Theatre. Call 0870 060 6646 for prices and details. Don't forget to ask about headphones.

## BALANCING THE BOOKS

**Ted Bunting** finds Father Brown's empty room to be bland fodder

### **The Incredulity of Father Brown**

Author: G.K. Chesterton  
Reader: Michael Aspel  
Duration: 7 hours, 50 minutes  
Catalogue Number TB272

By no means is it necessary to have read the complete works of Gilbert Keith Chesterton in order to have heard of Father Brown. For although his mild-mannered somewhat nondescript creation did not appear in print until 1911 he was soon standing high in the ranks of the fictional detective.

According to the first short story of this collation indeed,

his fame has preceded his arrival in America where his aid is sought the moment he descended the gangplank. I must tell you however, that in this initial case and in all the subsequent ones, Father Brown does what he always seems to do, which is to solve "mysteries" that prove to be anything but once he has set his mind to the problem.

Take, for example, the story of the wealthy man in his study who tells his staff he must not be disturbed for an hour. When eventually the door is opened the study is found to be empty and the occupant gone. So there is

the "mystery" which the little priest "solves" by telling the servants their master must have walked out without them noticing. There is no magic, nor anything supernatural, no brilliant deduction of the Sherlock Holmes kind, there is merely a session of intriguing situations which Father Brown boringly reduces to mundane anticlimax.

"Most disappointing" would sum up my verdict on this book. I sometimes walk on eggshells to avoid upsetting those with a favourite author, but surely nobody likes this sort of rubbish.

**It strikes me...**  
with Gog and Magog



GOG IS DRAWN to one of the most striking images of the Second World War, the raising of the American flag by five Marines and a US Navy Corpsman on the island of Iwo Jima, Japan. It was taken by Joe Rosenthal who died on August 20th, aged 94. Curiously, he became a combat photographer after the US Army rejected him for bad eyesight.

Magog wonders if this is what they mean by drag racing? Heading down to the track for Ladies Day, some equestrian minded St Dunstaners consider studying the form of some nearby lasses. Except at a closer remove, it transpires they are, well, men! Some Marines might say this is nowhere near as surprising as going ashore on a two-day pass in Deal. In the way of these things, the wise money that day went on a horse called Transvestite.

## Robert tackles blaze at historic cottage

**A** ST DUNSTANER'S SON suffered from smoke inhalation when he came to the aid of a neighbour during a blaze that destroyed a historic West Sussex house on August 1st. Robert Cookson, son of late Sapper St Dunstaner Ernie Cookson found himself tackling a fire on a thatched cottage roof. Despite his efforts, Sessions House, a listed 17th century building in High Street, Selsey was severely damaged before the blaze was brought under control.

"I was just pottering around in my garden when I smelled smoke," said Robert, aged 53. "It seemed close so I thought it was in my house at first. I went looking for it and could see a huge bonfire at the back of Sessions House which is less than 100 yards from my house, so I went to investigate but couldn't see anyone out there."

Robert knocked, trying to raise the owners of the house, but to no avail. When they did answer it transpired they had been in the garden where the bonfire was raging out of control. The intense flame was burning adjacent to a domestic garage which contained cars and gas cylinders.

**Simon Rogers reports**

When the thatched roof caught fire, Robert took a ladder and a garden hose pipe and attempted to douse the flames before the fire service arrived. "I didn't think about it at the time, I was just being a good neighbour," he said.

Following his attempt to fight the fire, Robert was taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation and had to spend two nights under observation. "A doctor was picking charcoal out of my hair and said 'Some of that might be inside you'. That convinced me to stay in. You could say that was blackened inside as well as out."

The owner of the cottage has pledged to rebuild it as it was. The name Sessions House comes from a time when court hearings were held on the site.

Robert's father Ernie served in the Royal Engineers and became a St Dunstaner after being blinded during an air raid in 1943. He played saxophone in St Dunstan's Band and was also a member of St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society. He managed a newsagents and later became a telephonist.

## Cook masters Mayo

TWENTY-FOUR BLIND golfers competed in the 2006 Lawrence Levy British Blind Masters at Patshull Park, July 31st-August 3rd. The field included three St Dunstaners, Des Chandler of Lewes, East Sussex, Mike Mayo of Lesmahagow, Lanark and David Morris of Newquay, Cornwall. Mike won the 2005 Masters but was beaten into fourth place this year by Steve Cook despite rallying on the final day. World Champion David Morris came 15th, while Des Chandler came 24th.

## Best wishes to some Shropshire diamonds

TWO LONGTIME friends of St Dunstan's celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on August 14th. Mary and Wilkie Marsden of Church Stretton, Shropshire celebrated their 60th anniversary with family and friends pledging £330 to be split between St Dunstan's and the Royal Air Force Association. We send our best wishes.

## Kiwi director to make Dam Busters movie

THE MAN WHO brought the fantasy battles of *The Lord of the Rings* to life will be turning his attention to a real battle for a forthcoming movie. New Zealander film director Peter Jackson has announced that he intends to remake *The Dam Busters*, the story of Barnes Wallis who developed the bouncing bomb and Guy Gibson who led the RAF bombing mission.

Jackson promises to remain true to the persevering spirit that imbued the 1954 version starring Michael Redgrave and Richard Todd, but will draw on elements of the mission that were still classified at that time.

## Ten questions on

**The subject of Education**

Harry Beevers takes us back to school with some new term teasers

- 1) Which fictional schoolboy is the most famous pupil of Hogwarts School?
- 2) Which military academy in Berkshire has been named "Finishing School for Kings"?
- 3) In 1972 the Scottish Music Examining Board agreed that pupils taking their O-level Music Exams could do so using which instrument?
- 4) Which famous public school was opened in 1885 by the sisters Dorothy, Penelope and Millicent Lawrence?
- 5) Which term derived from the Greek words for "wise" and "foolish" is used for a second year student at a North American University?
- 6) Queen Margaret University is one of four universities in which British city?
- 7) In which city is the University of the West of England?
- 8) What was the name of the Classics Master at Brookfield School in an Oscar-winning film?
- 9) Which university was chosen for Prince William's higher education?
- 10) In August 1997 a seven-year old girl became the youngest person to pass a GCSE when she gained a "C" in which subject?

**Answers are on page 25.**



## St Dunstaner lays wreath on VJ Day

A ST DUNSTANER LED a service of remembrance for those who fell in the Far East on VJ Day - August 15th. Squadron Leader Don Matthews joined with the six other remaining members of the Newton Abbot and District Burma Star Association at the local War memorial. They observed a two minutes silence during the service before Sqdn Ldr Matthews laid a wreath. Branch Chairman Jim Stowers conducted the prayers while their welfare officer Cecil Woods recited the *Kohima Epitaph*.

The service was also attended by members of the Royal British Legion, local Royal Marines and the Deputy Mayor. "It is a very special day," said Sqdn Ldr Matthews. "I'd like to thank St Dunstan's, a charity for blind ex-servicemen, for all they do."

## Gift of Barnstaple's tomorrow

**A**T THE REQUEST of a friend I was invited to attend the ceremony of dedication of a 'Book of Remembrance' and book stand and Closure of the North Devon and Barnstaple Branch of the Burma Star Association in St Peter's and St Magdalene Church. A short service was conducted by The Reverend Father Michael Pearson assisted by the Chaplin of the Burma Star, The Reverend Peter Burrows.

There were a small number of members and wives present, the Mayor and Mayoress of Barnstaple, also including past and present Presidents

by Eric H.J. Powell

and their guests. It was a very emotional time for a number because this was the final closure of the Branch. After the service we walked to the Park Hotel for coffee and biscuits, it was decided not to parade because of the age and health of those present.

We all assembled in Rock Park at noon by the Burma Star Memorial Stone, to lay a wreath for the very last time, prayers were led by the Padre, Rev Peter.

*The Last Post* was sounded,

(followed by two minutes silence), *Reveille*.

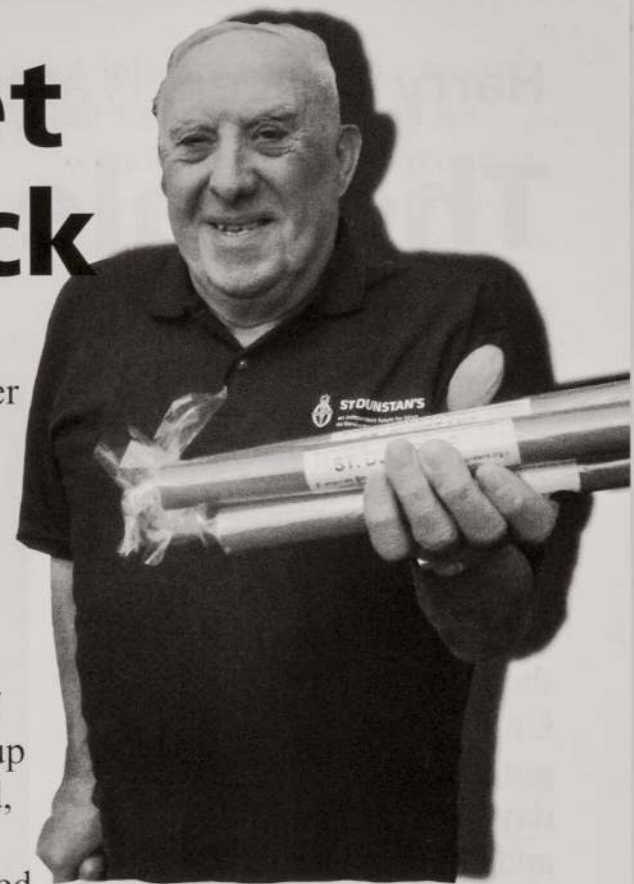
*The Kohima Epitaph* was read out. "When you go home tell them of us and say; for your tomorrow we gave our today." That was followed by the laying of the wreath.

It was the end of an era!

At the very moment of the sounding *The Last Post* a slight shower of rain fell. It was heard to be said "Tears from heaven for those who had fallen during the conflicts and never returned home." Sentimentality one might say, but very appropriate!

## Blackpool secret of Brighton Rock

VISITORS TO ST DUNSTAN'S Ovingdean have been re-acquainted with a seaside treat thanks to St Dunstaner Peter Burdon - a stick of rock with the legend 'St Dunstan's' running through the white mint core. Ex-Para Peter donated a stock of rock after hearing fellow holiday makers say they wanted something to take home for their grandchildren. Like most seaside rock, this Brighton rock has a secret - it is made in Blackpool where Peter lives. Peter called upon the second generation sweet making skills of Douglas Loynds of The Rock Factory. First sugar and glucose is boiled at heats up to 300 degrees. Some of the mix is then taken to be flavoured, while the remainder is coloured. The letters are formed by layering white and coloured candy side by side. The assembled block is then rolled and pulled into the familiar sticks.



Peter with a handful of rock.

## Bob roars in as Lions' head



Photograph: Andy Salter

St Dunstaner Bob Strickland accepts his chain of office from his Fareham Lions Club predecessor Eric Nixon.

ST DUNSTANER Bob Strickland became President of Fareham Lions Club in July. He has been a member of the Hampshire association since March 2001 and is an active participant in their fund-raising activities despite his sight loss. "I have a lot of help from the members," said Bob in the wake of a community fare at Stubbington. "It's a lot of hard work but we're coping."

A veteran of Suez and Aden, Bob served as Lance Bombardier in the Royal Artillery. He is also involved with Fareham Diabetic Association, local blind clubs, Service fellowships and Masonic lodge.



# Harry Beevers is at the mercy of the elements in Southport

## The gale of our dreams!

THE BBC WEATHER forecast said, "Heavy rain and gale force winds" for North-West England including Southport where the Service Awareness Team were attending the two-day air show to spread the word about St Dunstan's. Unfortunately, the BBC got it right for once. On day one, the team of Dave and Dot Stuttard, Harry and Joan Beevers, Rod and Nicky Heard, Jen Shannon and Steve McColm were up bright and early to set up the stand in a tent borrowed from, and erected by, the army on the vast beach (where the tide never comes in). The rain had already started and few members



Ready for everything! TA Volunteers turn the Air Show into the Boat Show as the rain keeps coming.

of the public were brave enough to venture on to an increasingly wet beach. The rain grew heavier, the puddles got deeper and the ground sheet in our tent was awash

with rain-water and sand. The few people remaining sheltered under the canopy at the entrance to the Military Village waiting for a lull in the weather which never came. We stuck it out until lunch-time when, like all the other exhibitors, we shut up shop and climbed into the warmth and shelter of our vehicle. There we watched the puddles join together into a single sheet of water with the wind blowing little waves across it. The Dunkirk spirit prevailed and later, when the rain lightened a little, we waded out again to entertain the hardy souls who came, but business was slow. We had to keep hammering the tent pegs back into the sand, but at last a sudden gust blew the tent up into the air and away in one easy movement.



Waterlogged! Jennifer Shannon, Steve McColm, David Stuttard with daughter Karen and wife Dorothy.

Members of the Parachute Regiment ran to our aid and while we checked that no one was hurt, and rescued our equipment, they re-erected the tent in the lee of our vehicle. At this point the organisers called off the event for the day. The only aeroplane we had seen was a miniature radio-controlled one.

The following day promised better things, but when we returned to the beach we discovered our storm-lashed tent had once again been blown out of the ground and erected for a third time

between our vehicle and the TA stand – but the sun was shining and the public were beginning to arrive in increasing numbers. We were soon as busy as we expect to be on these occasions, talking to adults about St Dunstan's and challenging children to blindfold games and all-comers to games of Braille dominoes. The Red Arrows were able to perform in the usual breathtaking manner and the flying programme for the day was restored. By lunch-time there were long queues waiting in the sun to buy entrance tickets.

A military band lent a festive air to the occasion and we wondered if they did requests. In view of the previous day we would have asked for either *Singin' in the Rain* or *Up, Up and Away* or even a couple of tracks popularised by the group Wet, Wet, Wet. We pondered over what might be an appropriate signature tune for St Dunstan's. We came up with Helen Shapiro's 1961 No. 1 hit *Walking Back to Happiness* or Brian Adams' 1991 blockbuster (*Everything I do*) *I do it for you*. Suggestions from our readers would be welcome.

## Cool as a cucumber!

IT WAS A scorching summer but handleless St Dunstaner Bill Griffiths was as cool as a cucumber according to the Princess Royal. Bill was presented to Princess Anne at a Not-Forgotten-Association function when she made the compliment. Bill has also been out and about, talking of his own victory over blindness with St Dunstan's support to pupils at Hodgson High School in Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire. The oldest



Bill and the Princess Royal.

secondary school in the county, it has been feted for educational excellence.



Bill and Alice Griffiths talk about life without sight to pupils of Hodgson High School in Poulton-le-Fylde.



Britannia Royal Naval College's version of *Strictly Come Dancing*, supported by the Royal Marines Band, raised £1,000 to support St Dunstan's. Staff at the Dartmouth College spent three months learning to dance. Navy St Dunstaner Nigel Whiteley was delighted to accept the cheque on St Dunstan's behalf from Commander Richard King.

# Sorting cans and paper can salvage that recycling spirit

**R**ESIDENTS OF SOUTH Shropshire are really good at it, Liverpoolians have been advised that they face a Council Tax hike of £100 if they don't get the hang of it, while one borough in north London found that it took the threat of £1,000 fines to encourage good behaviour!

The common factor here is recycling, sorting through household waste and sifting them into individual packages that can be transformed into raw material that can be used again. As a nation, we did it through the war years into the 1960s, returning bottles for the deposit, collecting silver foil for guide dogs and handing old magazines and newspapers into paperdrives for pulping.

Somewhere along the line though, it became easier to throw it all away and as a nation, the UK now throws away enough rubbish to fill the Albert Hall every two hours. Much of it goes into landfill sites, some is incinerated which generates much needed electricity, but remains controversial because of potentially toxic by-products; in either case, much of it is material that could be used again.

Most local authorities operate kerbside collections now, using either a box or bag. Check with your local council

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by Simon Rogers

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to see what they collect – paper, glass, plastic, cans or a combination. Some, such as Liverpool and Derbyshire have added Braille and tactile markings to their waste and recycling boxes. There may also be special arrangements for those who dwell in high-rise blocks or apartment flats.

London Borough of Barnet recently introduced a compulsory recycling scheme. However, it is easy for residents to participate. They just sort paper, cans and glass into a single black box separate from normal refuse. Other local authorities issue individual containers, one for paper, one for cans, one for glass, one for plastic. Many supermarkets have recycling bins in common areas. Make it a habit to “drop as you shop” is the way to go for some areas.

Most people think of only wine and beer bottles when recycling glass, but most



**Help put the lid on Hitler  
BY SAVING YOUR  
OLD METAL AND PAPER**

WWII call to reuse paper to keep the country going.

glass containers can be recycled, such as medicine bottles, jam and sauce jars, olive oil bottles and coffee jars. Glass bottles and jars come in three main colours; green, brown, and clear, which can all be recycled. Blue glass bottles can be put in the green glass bottle bank for recycling. Remove lids, plastic caps or corks, though labels can stay on.

For most areas, the collected bottles will be hand sorted at the depot, so if you don't have sighted help to pre-sort them, a few clear bottles in with the coloured will not likely make any difference.

While wine bottles can be recycled, wine and other drinking glasses cannot. Nor can mirrors, pyrex cookware, light bulbs or windows. Of course, if you have a pair of glasses to discard, organisations such as Help the Aged will redistribute them to third world countries.

Cans are usually made of steel or aluminium and that includes containers for food, drink and aerosols. Both steel and aluminium cans can be recycled, so unless specified to the contrary, cans that held baked beans and sliced tomatoes can go in with 7-Up, Irn-Bru or Heineken cans, preferably squashed. Aerosol cans, such as deodorant or household polish cans must not be squashed or punctured, but do remove the plastic top.

Cans are ideal for recycling as the metal can be reprocessed with little deterioration in quality, meaning it can be recycled over and over again.

Check if anyone in your area operates a 'Cash for Cans' scheme. Some will collect, others will be at supermarkets with a 'Yellow can van' to collect aluminium drink cans for recycling and will part with some cash which can either go towards the next six-pack or a favoured charity.

Guide dogs notwithstanding,

tin foil maybe a tricky item to recycle! In principle, tin foil, milk bottle tops, barbecue trays and cigarette foil is aluminium and once washed can go in with drink cans. However, in practice, authorities such as Bromley will shy away from the stuff, Boroughbridge asks residents to add it to their kerbside box, and Blackpool says keep it out the recycling bin but do take it along to the Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Recycling newspapers and magazines is quite common, but you can add in junk mail such as menus, flyers and leaflets, letters, envelopes and receipts, birthday and Christmas cards, coloured and wrapping paper, computer printout paper and office white paper. Many local authorities will now accept telephone directories, most likely those that use white paper, but some will have special arrangements for Yellow Pages.

Milk and juice cartons should not be included with paper nor should envelopes that have bubble wrap or plastic padding inside.

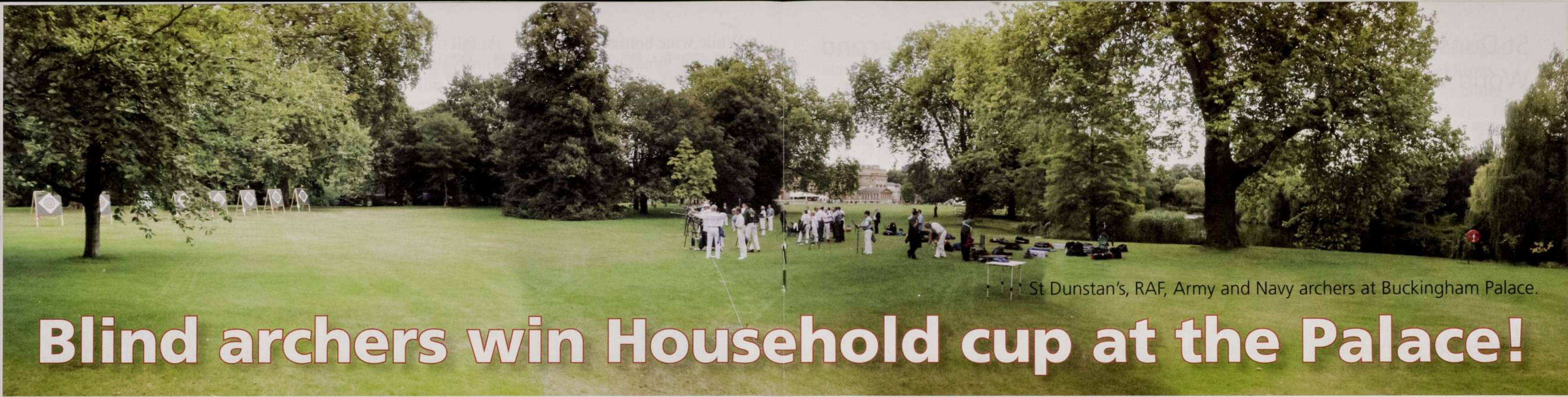
Some authorities will now collect cardboard, or have a centre equipped to recycle it. This includes flattened items such as cereal boxes and packaging with polystyrene or plastic removed. Pizza or other food boxes where

there is direct contact are an exception because they will contaminate other cardboard being recycled.

Recycling plastic is still difficult, but some boroughs offer this service for specific types of plastic. Obstacles include the hundreds of varieties of plastic, which cannot necessarily be mixed in together for recycling, compound plastic products combined with other materials which are difficult to separate and the large volume of the material even if it is light weight.

The most common types of plastic collected for recycling are clear plastic water or soft drinks bottles and opaque plastic bottles such as milk containers, which may have a raspy texture. Some boroughs are able to recycle more types of plastic than this so check with your borough what types of plastic you are able to recycle. Some might say no thank you to yoghurt pots, while others might find them a useful addition.

When you know what type of plastic can be recycled in your area, clean and dry the plastic bottle and put it into your collection box for recycling. As with glass there is no need to remove the label. However, the bottle lids should be removed as these are made of a different type of plastic to the bottle itself.

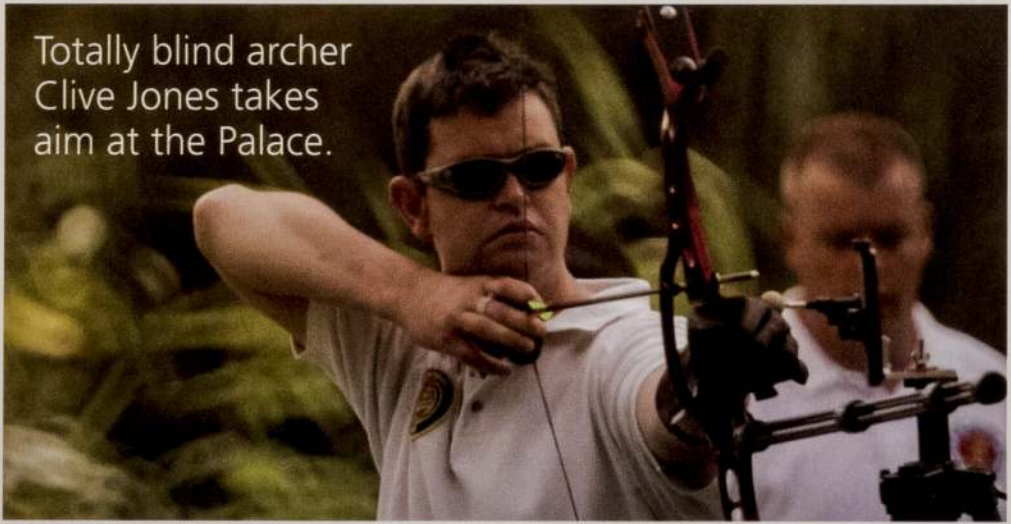


St Dunstan's, RAF, Army and Navy archers at Buckingham Palace.

# Blind archers win Household cup at the Palace!



Shades of Robin Hood! After St Dunstaner Peter Hammond hit the target, RAF archer Andy Cramb hit the same spot. That is Andy's arrow with the purple fletching, buried deep inside Peter's arrow with the red and white.



Totally blind archer Clive Jones takes aim at the Palace.

by Simon Rogers

ST DUNSTAN'S ARCHERS competed against teams from the Army, Navy and Air Force in the grounds of Buckingham Palace on August 30th. The otherwise immaculate lawn was punctuated by the odd mound of earth where Channel 4's Time-Team had been excavating a few days earlier. Soon, one chestnut tree encircled section of the main lawn was also punctuated by flying arrows, mainly hitting the targets that had been set up by Clickers Archery.

The archers were joined by St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan and Lady Paramount Major Wendy le Gassick. The team achieved a decisive lead over their tri-service opponents, appropriately winning the Household Division Trophy.



Keith Lanchaster-Harding draws his bow with spotting help from Edith.



RAF, Army and Navy archers.



Our St Dunstaners with the Household Division Trophy.



Army archer Caroline Owen gained her colours that day. Note the arrow in flight on the right of her bow.

St Dunstaner **Eve Lucas** recalls her encounter with a Second World War aviation hero who overcame extreme disability

## Meeting the man who reached for the Sky!

I HAD THE best job in the world in BBC Light Entertainment. I had started off there in the days when females were not highly regarded and only employed as clerks and secretaries. I had struggled very hard and with great difficulty proved myself as a senior researcher.

The year was 1982. Sir Douglas Bader, CBE, DSO, DFC had been invited to be interviewed by Michael Parkinson. One of these young researchers was despatched to talk to Sir Douglas prior to the day of the programme at his mews house near the Albert Hall. Within half an hour, Sir Douglas telephoned the producer to say he was sending her back as she knew nothing about him.

I was then asked to go in her place. "Do you mind?" the Producer asked. Mind! I'd have paid for the privilege of meeting my hero.

I did not know all about him, of course. But a book had just been written about him by

his friend Laddy Lucas (no relation) and I asked for an hour or two to skim through it. I didn't want to suffer the same fate of being sent back. Somehow I managed to grasp the fundamentals of Bader's technical concept about how the Battle of Britain should have been fought, what the Duxford Wing was, why there were differences of opinion between 11 and 12 Fighter Groups, pilot shortage, and Lord Dowding's strengths and weaknesses.

Nevertheless it was not without some trepidation that I rang his doorbell. My hero opened the door and beamed, "Oh thank God they didn't send a young researcher." I laughed. We understood each other. "Come in, my dear. I can only give you 45 minutes because I have to pick up the old duck." I daringly asked who that was. "My wife, Joan. And God help me if I'm late."

I asked him first if he'd be okay for coming down the steps leading to the television interview area. "No problem, my dear. I'll come down

"dot-and-carry-one". If I fall down, Parky can come and pick me up. That'll be a laugh to start with."

He said he only had problems with his legs if he had to kneel. When the day was approaching for his investiture to receive his knighthood, old Dicky Gillette (everybody was referred to as old this or old that) was a bit worried in case he overbalanced. So Major General Gillette had decided they'd better have a rehearsal. "Good idea, old boy," Douglas had said. "Don't want me falling flat on my face and bringing her down, do we." Fortunately old Johnny Mills and another chum old Neil Cameron (Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Neil Cameron) were also there. They pretended they had "tin legs" and fell about all over the place. Altogether they had "a good giggle" he said. I discovered in my allotted 45 minutes that Sir Douglas's main aim in life was to have a good giggle. "Mustn't take it all seriously, old girl." Finally

it was decided he should stand for the investiture. Very wise, I thought.

As it turned out, Sir Douglas didn't want to talk about the flying, the Battle of Britain, or being a POW. "Oh, forget about all that stuff. Everybody knows about it. After all, they've seen the film. They all think I'm Kenneth More!" He laughed uproariously.

"Let's keep the whole interview light-hearted. Let's have some humour." The next 45 minutes were filled with laughter and humour. He had a huge laugh - loud and positive. Ha ha ha ha burst out every few minutes.

It appeared that, as a result of the film, he had a huge fan mail. His favourite came from a young boy of nine, who paid him the greatest compliment he could. "Next to Tom and Jerry, you're my favourite person," the lad had said. Ha ha ha ha! He replied saying they were his favourite people too.

We talked about sport, and particularly the joy of still being able to compete, with or without legs. He was full of admiration for the chaps who competed in wheelchair basketball, the most exciting game in the world, in his opinion. He nearly fell off his chair with laughter recalling a game he'd watched in



Kenneth More starred as Bader with Muriel Pavlow in the film *Reach for the Sky*.

Canada. The referee was unpopular, so the participants ran him down and he had to be carried off. Ha ha ha ha!

His philosophy regarding the loss of limbs was that the younger you lost them the better. What he meant was that it is much easier to adapt when young, and still able to compete in some way. He was tremendously enthusiastic about the work he was doing talking to other disabled people. He was willing to go anywhere in the world to talk to anyone who asked him.

His aim was to give them a message of hope. He hadn't found this easy at first. Why, I asked? "Well you see, old girl, I'd spent the last 50 years pretending I wasn't disabled. Then here I was, having to stagger about pretending I was."

Inevitably the conversation came round to golf. Was it

true, I asked, that he'd had one of his artificial limbs shortened so that he could improve his stroke. Yes. He'd discovered that when faced with an uphill lie he could hit the ball much further. So he'd had his right leg shortened so that, on the level, he was in the same position as if facing an uphill lie. "Old Henry Longhurst could never understand the principal of this. Said I'd had the wrong leg shortened." Ha ha ha ha!

He and Henry Longhurst had an abiding friendship going back many years. When Henry was very ill, Douglas went to see him often. He was one of the last to visit Henry before he died.

The day after his visit, Henry wrote him a card of thanks. In it he put "It won't be long now before I shall know the answer we have all been waiting for. Will try and let you-know." A couple of days later Henry died. Douglas didn't go around after that, consciously expecting Henry to manifest himself, but occasionally he would find himself saying, "Come on, Henry. Where are you?" Ha ha ha ha!

Douglas said that he had always been intrigued about the future, and secretly enjoyed a spot of fortune telling. A couple of years later, he and his wife went to a fete at a Cheshire Home,

near Bambury. Noticing a booth marked "Fortune Teller" he popped in and introduced himself to the jolly lady inside. "Right, my dear," he said. "I'm your first after lunch." When he returned, she confided in him that she wasn't really a fortune teller but she was in touch with "the other side". Douglas said "Jolly good show, go ahead." First she gave him a message from his mother, and then from his father. "Ha ha," he thought, "Could apply to anybody." Then she gave him a message purporting to be from his first wife, Thelma. This was pretty near, but could have been guesswork. Then she said, "Someone called Henry wants to give you a message." "Yes, yes. Quick," Douglas said. "What does he say?" "He wants to tell you that he went to sleep for a little while and then he woke up. He's now doing exactly what he wants and he'd like you to know that the grass is a great deal greener this side than it ever was over your side." Sir Douglas was adamant that Henry had sent the promised message. No-one knew about the thank you letter sent by Henry two years ago, except himself and Lady Bader. The message could not have been invented, and Douglas believed 100 per cent that it was from Henry. It confirmed what he had always thought - that life does not just stop when this earthly



Squadron Leader Douglas Bader DSO DFC CO of 242 Squadron, Royal Air Force seated on the cockpit of his Hawker Hurricane in 1940.

body dies. In some way we go on and Henry confirmed this. "Good old Henry. Typical of him," he said.

He went on to tell me about some of his experiences when he was first learning to play golf. "Fell over hundreds of times at the beginning. Ha ha ha ha!" I'd struck gold. He was now on to his favourite subject - golf.

Douglas often went to Scotland to play golf with his good friend Ian Collins, the publisher. Ian always arranged for Douglas to have one particular caddie, Andy Anderson, a dour Scotsman. He's long since gone up there to join Henry. Ha ha ha ha!

As they were completing a round at Troon one day, Ian told him about a lovely course called Machrihanish, across the water on the Mull of Kintyre. "Let's go over," said Douglas. "I've got my aeroplane at Prestwick. It'll only take us 20 minutes to fly across the water." As they finished the game, he said to Andy, "I'll pick you up in the morning in my car, drive you to Prestwick, and we'll fly over." Andy stopped dead in his tracks and banged Douglas's bag of clubs onto the ground with a determined thump. "I'll no fly with ye, ye mad bugger," and they never did play Machrihanish. Douglas still had Andy's gift to him, an old Albert gold watch. It didn't go, because it had been stopped by a bullet in the First World War. "I loved that man," he said.

Andy's description of Douglas prompted me to say that I'd heard his language when flying was said to have been very colourful, and their RT had to be turned off in the operations room so that the girls would not hear. "Nonsense," he said. "Anyway, I can't remember saying anything worse than, 'My eyes are hanging out like dog's balls.' The WAAFS loved it!

"Perhaps that was a bit strong", he said, on reflection.

I asked him whether he

thought youngsters today would be prepared to fight and die for this country, as he and all his contemporaries had been. Could they indeed put up with the discomfort and suffering? He rushed to the defence of today's young people. "Of course they would. People don't change. The country doesn't change. Our parents thought we were a bunch of bums in our wide trousers with scarves wound round our necks."

All the time we'd been talking, Sir Douglas had either been lighting his pipe, puffing it, knocking it out, or refilling it. There was a certain finality about it. My 45 minutes were gone in a flash.

"Well, there you are, dear! Can I give you a lift anywhere?" he asked. "I'm going to Hyde Park Corner." I was going in the opposite direction. "Oh, thank you," I said. "Hyde Park Corner will be wonderful." Anything for a few more minutes with my hero!

I asked if I could use his bathroom. "Yes, but hurry. I daren't be late for the old duck." I'd hardly got up the stairs when I heard him revving up the car engine outside, and peeping the horn for me to hurry up. "Bang the door behind you and leap in", he said, the Mini already on the move. The mews became a runway, and I was in a Spitfire taking off down

the narrow cobbled lane. We darted and dived between cars on Kensington Gore, and I swear we were airborne. At Hyde Park Corner it was a case of "If you're in front, you've won," as he weaved in and out of every tiny space. As we ducked under the front of every bus in sight, he waved an airy "Thanks, old boy." The drivers gave way as if we were an ambulance on a mercy drive. We screamed to a halt just in time, as Lady Bader walked up from the other direction.

A quick hello to the elegant lady who took my place and the Spitfire zoomed and varoomed away.

## Beer of the Month by Colin Williamson Mackeson Stout

ABV 3 per cent. This stout contains lactose, hence the milk churn on the label, and was developed in Hythe, Kent with the help of a dietician back in 1907. We passed the Mackeson family vault with the South East London cadets during their challenge on September 2nd (turn to page 32). Now made by Whitbread, it remains a very popular stout with a delightful creamy texture with hints of evaporated milk, coffee and a marvellous liquorice finish. It is best served around 55 degrees Fahrenheit, although I prefer it slightly colder.

## Ten answers... Answers for page 13.

- 1) Harry Potter; 2) Sandhurst; 3) Bagpipes; 4) Roedean; 5) Sophomore; 6) Edinburgh, the other three being Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh and Napier Universities; 7) Bristol; 8) Mr Chips, (nickname of Mr Chipping). In the 1939 film of the James Hilton novel, Robert Donat and Gree Garson played the leads. In the 1969 musical version, the parts went to Peter O'Toole and Petula Clark; 9) St Andrew's University, Scotland; and 10) Computer Studies.

Dave Burrows provides a diary account of this year's camp

# Summer at Sultan

**H**ISTORICALLY, THE CAMP report has been written by a St Dunstaner, but this year I decided to give them a break! In truth, when they hear that I'm on the prowl looking for a volunteer to 'put pen to paper' they all run away! Rest easy guys, it's now my turn.

It is ten years since HMS *Daedalus* closed its gates and since 1996 the Summer Camp has been held in HMS *Sultan* which is situated on Military Road in Gosport and occupies part of the former airfield HMS *Siskin*. We have been most fortunate that successive Commanding Officers have welcomed us, despite ever increasing demands for accommodation and training of Service and Civilian staff.

Nineteen St Dunstan's Campers arrived on July 29th

and were supported by 22 full-time 'dogs' of the two legged variety. They settled into their accommodation and paired up with friends from previous years and very quickly the 'banter' resumed as if we had never been apart. Our only new camper this year was Russell Baylis, who must have wondered what an earth he had let himself in for!

Friday evening, after supper in the WO & SNCO Mess, we gathered for the usual 'meet and greet' and were

introduced to WOI Steve Rule, who is the new Mess President, and HMS *Sultan* Sponsor for our stay WOI Nick Martin. The program for the week was announced and the camp officially started when the bar opened!

## Saturday

Dawned bright and breezy, which suited us fine as we spent the morning at Gosport Cruising Club where ten yacht skippers provided an excellent opportunity to explore Portsmouth Harbour and for the more adventurous, the Solent! As it was Cowes Week, the scene was resplendent with multi-coloured sails and vessels of all shapes and sizes. This was followed by a splendid buffet lunch and beer or two. Don Oliver lost his wallet somewhere in the Solent, we later heard that a large vessel had gone aground on it!

In the afternoon our planned gliding serial was cancelled due to high winds, still there was always tomorrow. The evening was a quiet relaxing opportunity to reflect and sample the ales of the Mess.

## Sunday

Better forecast today, not so windy but dry. We started

with the traditional Church Service, where we did our best to raise the roof during the hymn singing. I always think of Trevor Tatchell during this time and we remembered him and other past campers during the reading of the St Dunstan's Prayer. It was good to meet the Rev Bernard Clarke again; his association with us began during his time in HMS *Daedalus*. We joined the congregation for tea and cakes on completion of the service, again renewing old acquaintances.

The RN Gliding Club hosted us in the afternoon, where several brave souls took to the skies, defying gravity with some serious manoeuvres.

The traditional Archery event was something of a challenge during blustery conditions, but both teams displayed immense skill and in a closely fought match, Havant & Hayling



Bob Crossan takes aim.

Bowmen were the declared the winners. The 'have a go' archers also did very well, with some commendable scores being recorded.

The evenings' entertainment was somewhat different to that planned! A musical quiz and some bar games didn't materialise due to a misunderstanding with the social sec and 'plan B' was instigated. I was forced to make a public appearance with guitar, amplifier and microphone! Where for the next two hours I did my best to keep everyone entertained. I haven't been asked back yet!

## Monday

The traditional Sports event was held in the Gymnasium, where campers quickly formed into competitive teams to do battle! Penalty goals, basket ball shots, deck hockey puck shots and bowling formed some of the events. We were pleased to welcome the Chairman, Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox RN and Louise Timms to witness the commitment displayed by all. Well done to everyone for a superb effort!

The afternoon saw the weather change to a very strong gusting wind, with heavy rain squalls. Just the ticket for our visit to Gosport and Fareham Inshore Rescue (GAFIRS)! We observed this voluntary organisation in real rescues involving sailors



Ray Price has the ball.

being 'struck with booms' whilst racing during Cowes week. Although we didn't get out to sea on the fast rib, we did have a chance to see the control room and feel the enthusiasm within the unit.

Our evening entertainment was provided by Fort Blockhouse (Haslar) WO & SNCO Mess. We were most fortunate to experience the services of the Army Medical Corp Band, who played a variety of music spanning many decades. They were excellent and rounded off the day splendidly.

## Tuesday

Cowes, Isle of Wight. 'Tot Time' on the ferry was followed by a packed lunch in the British Legion and a walk along the promenade in front of the Royal Yacht Squadron. We did have an amusing incident when one of our finest 'Royal Marine' dogs got lost on return to the ferry, ending up taking



Peter Hammond aims to get the basketball in the net.



Alan Mitchell has the fish calming trick down pat.

Don Planner on a tour of Hampshire to get back to *Sultan*. No harm done, apart from a much bruised ego!

### Wednesday

Lots of activities today, Motorcyclists from the RN Motorcycle Club took some St Dunstaners for a pub lunch and tour of Hampshire, covering around 90 miles! The golfers had a chance to fight the elements, with Chris Ottewell on fine form.

Alan Mitchell, Clive Jones and Peter Hammond tried their hands at coarse fishing with truly remarkable results. Who would have thought Clive would have been scared of a Carp! Ask him why when you see him next.

Lunch at the Conservative Club rounded off a lovely afternoon and gave us the

chance to relax in wonderful surroundings.

### Thursday

We visited the 'Explosion Museum' in 'Priddys Hard' for the first time; it was an excellent display, tactile and stimulating. I would recommend anyone visiting the area to pay a visit and ask for a guided tour, superb.

Despite the immense demands made on the Coastguard Helicopter, they still managed to provide a flight for ten campers. The flight left *Daedalus* Airfield and headed out over the Solent into Portsmouth Harbour passed the new Spinnaker Tower, towards Fareham Creek and back to base! These guys do a tremendous job under difficult circumstances.

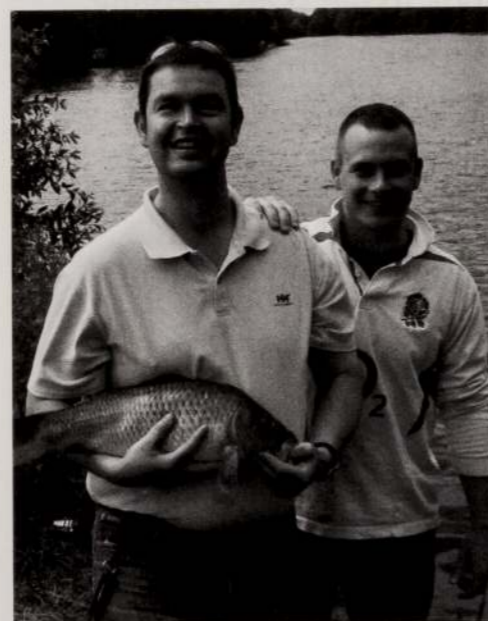
Our Presentation Evening in the WO & SNCO Mess is the highlight of the week; we were extremely pleased to welcome Chief Executive, Robert Leader and his wife Sue. Prizes were awarded by Cdre Gerry Thwaites, speeches made and those with enough energy remaining, had a dance! Bob Crossan picked up the much prized 'Don Minter Memorial Trophy'.

### Friday

Several of our group had the opportunity to visit the Airfield Museum in HMS *Sultan*; this is managed by

the curator Mr John Fletcher. This facility shows aviation from its earliest days of the First World War to the late 1950's. His conducted tour was quite remarkable and proved to be very popular. We paid our annual visit to the Royal British Legion in Lee on the Solent for lunch, enjoying a superb buffet (little pasties) and a beer or two.

The evening is traditionally referred to as 'The Farewell Dance' where we hold a raffle, enjoy a buffet supper and do some more dancing (and a bit of drinking). Quite a sad occasion really, because it is the last opportunity to be together before the camp disbands on Saturday morning.



Clive's first catch, a seven-and-a-half pound carp! Anglers calm their catch by placing a finger or thumb in the fish mouth. Clive was wary of the carp's teeth, unaware that they are further back in the mouth, an illusion encouraged by those around him.

### Saturday

An early start for breakfast, we made sure everyone packed properly and that all luggage was placed in the correct pile! Transport arrived and before we knew it, another camp was over.

### Sports Results

#### Archery

Totally Blind

1st Bob Crossan

Partially Sighted

1st Gerry Jackson

The match between Havant & Hayling Bowmen and St Dunstan's was keenly contested with St Dunstan's scoring 5,481 points and

H & H 5,612 points. Peter Hammond was congratulated for scoring a personal best during the competition.

#### Indoor Sports

Veterans Cup  
Arthur Carter.

Best Beginner Trophy  
Russell Baylis.

Penalty goals  
Totally Blind Brian Lang.  
Partially sighted  
Bryan Durber

Overall Team Winners  
Bryan's Boys  
(Bryan Durber, Billy Miller, Bob Strickland, Arthur Carter).

Best Team Effort  
Peter's Plodders  
(Peter Hammond, Maurice Bowley, Alan Mitchell and Nigel Whitely).

Walking Race  
Chris Ottewell

#### Don Minter Memorial Trophy

Awarded for outstanding contribution to camp this year to Bob Crossan.

Well done to all the St Dunstan's campers and many thanks to Staff at Ovingdean and Harcourt Street for making it another great week. See you next year!

## New facts on life of Bowen uncovered

**T**HE LIFE OF a First World War South African St Dunstaner has recently come under scrutiny. Dr Hilary Marlow of Ipswich recently travelled to South Africa to research the legal career of Robert Walter Bowen.

'Mike' Bowen served with the 2nd South African Infantry Brigade during the First World War and was blinded by shrapnel wounds in Ypres in 1917. "In the first hour of my realisation that I would never again see, I drank all the bitterness and anguish it was possible for me to feel about my misfortune. I came out of that hour with a determination to face facts as they really are and to make the best of all that remained," he later wrote. After coming to St Dunstan's, he studied law at Cambridge

and was called to the Bar in 1920. He returned to South Africa two years later and as a barrister conducted some important cases on behalf of the black community. In 1929, he was elected to the South African Parliament and held the Green Point, Cape Peninsula seat until his death in 1948. He was also President of the National Council for the Blind in South Africa.

Dr Marlow commented "This attitude of facing reality propelled Bowen into a

renewed life of achievement and service. Having learned the Braille system for reading and writing, Bowen qualified in law at Cambridge and became a barrister. On returning to South Africa, he continued his legal work and became a Member of Parliament where he prepared legislation for the welfare of the blind. He was a founder of the first school for coloured blind children in South Africa."

Marlow was aided by a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship and claims that many new facts were discovered which will provide the basis for a book which he is now writing.

Chris Ottewell praises caring volunteers at Eastbourne

## Mystery day out had us Airbourne in Eastbourne

**O**H DEAR, THE forecast for August 18th was rain, so as we are constantly told by our walking group, come prepared. We packed our haversack with all the wet weather clothes we had, in preparation for a wet day wandering around an unknown location in Eastbourne.

Eventually arriving in Eastbourne, turning into what looked like a private drive, we were informed that we were the guests for the day of The Chasely Trust for the Eastbourne Airshow.

We were directed to walk through the building into a bar area out of the bar down a ramp into the garden. During the walk we were welcomed by several members of the trust. Upon arrival discovered

that only a short walk in the opposite direction from the coach would have brought us to the same spot. Never mind it was dry plenty of seats and although slightly cloudy the weather was not too bad.

Packed lunches were distributed with the normal comments made and then wonder of wonders out came the sun and it stayed out for the rest of the day, not enough clouds in the sky to stop our enjoyment and the Airshow commenced. I seemed to be the only one dressed for the day in shorts and polo shirt so I enjoyed the rays and the ambiance of the day.

For most of the time we relied on the carers, wives or friends to let us know what aircraft was making all the noise. A parachute display team, a Spitfire duo,

Wing Walkers, F16's from Belgian and The Netherlands, a Sukhoi 26 from Russia and several jets that had us grasping for breath, Oh what a day. Christine Carlton one of our wonderful carers was obviously into aircraft as the noisier it got the more excited she seems to be!!! Ah well everybody to their own!

A raffle was organised by The Chasely Trust. When overhead aircraft allowed, the numbers were called out. We are a lucky bunch us St Dunstaners, out of ten prizes we won eight.

A big thank you to Carole Lyons, Carol Emslie, Kathy Eley and of course Christine, together with Nancy Bickley, Vera Bunker, Eileen Hoddinett, St Dunstan's forgotten army of carers and volunteers. What a wonderful day can't have done it without you all.

Both my wife Joyce and I together with all other St Dunstaners really enjoyed our wonderful day at Eastbourne and hope that The Chasely Trust will extend the invitation to host us again next year.

Jax Whiteley joins the Awareness Team at seaside airshow

## Take off at Eastbourne!

**O**NCE AGAIN your intrepid awareness group braved the elements to talk to what seemed like many thousands of people attending this year's Eastbourne Airbourne which took off from August 17th to 20th. We handed out hundreds of St Dunstan's stickers to the young and some not so young enthusiasts.

We are lucky, we are all aware of the wonderful help we get from St Dunstan's. Not all ex-service personnel are as well informed, and we were able to enlighten lots of people, several knew of someone with, a severe degree of visual impairment. Loads of children came along eager to have a go at the blindfolded games and try on the simispecs. Most of them left with a different perspective and attitude towards the blind.

Our St Dunstaner volunteers were kept busy, answering loads of questions and demonstrating some of the gadgets available to help blind people be more independent. Mind you, a talking tin lid gets drowned out by a Eurofighter Typhoon, it doesn't even fare very well against a Spitfire!



St Dunstaners Nigel Whiteley and Henry Allingham at the Airshow with six Air Cadets from Hastings.

We were visited on the stand by our oldest St Dunstaner, Henry Allingham, and a group of Air Cadets from Hastings.

The team comprised, Graham Footer, Jenny Shannon, Natalie Garden, and Lynsey Pickles from Headquarters, Joy Sired and Claire Green from Ovingdean, and St Dunstaners Ron Jones, David Weltman, Moira McGrath, accompanied by her daughter Stephanie, and Nigel Whiteley, all of whom retired exhausted at the end of four very busy but rewarding days.



Should have gone to...! Natalie makes a spectacle with optician's sloth mascot.

## Autumn airshow at Duxford

PROPELLER-DRIVEN vintage aircraft and modern day jets will be in the air over the Imperial War Museum Duxford in Cambridgeshire on October 8th. The aviation museum will host the last

major airshow of the season. St Dunstan's will be amongst the stallholders. Advance booking has closed, but admission for disabled adults and carers will be £10 per person on the day.



## New challenge attempt for SE London cadets



Gerry and the pacesetters! Gerry Jones and cadets enter historic Hythe. **Top right:** No enemy planes detected with the acoustic mirror. **Bottom right:** Well done, Alex!

AROUND 90 ARMY Cadets from South East London made a brave start on this year's St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge, breaking out on a 13-and-a-half mile hike through Hythe in Kent on September 2nd. They were joined by St Dunstaners Gerry Jones, Steve Finlay and Colin Williamson who remain impressed by the cadets' perseverance. The route took them from Shornecliffe Garrison along the Military Canal and gave Steve and one group the opportunity to try out a wartime acoustic mirror. Alex Boswell stepped beyond the bounds of duty by allowing herself to be pushed into the canal for extra sponsorship - and she still had another six miles or so before the walk ended!



## Twigg is named as new Veterans Minister

HALTON MEMBER of Parliament Derek Twigg was named Veterans Minister on September 6th. His predecessor Tom Watson resigned after signing a letter encouraging Tony Blair to declare a date for stepping down as Prime Minister.

Hailing from Widnes, Cheshire Mr Twigg was a civil servant at the Department of Education and Science for 19 years. He became Branch Secretary of the CPSA union

as an 18-year-old and was elected onto Cheshire County Council by the time he was 21. He was later Chairman of Halton Borough Council's Housing Committee, pushing for renewal of the area's housing stock. He became MP for Halton in 1997 and during his time in the House of Commons has served on the Public Accounts Committee and as a Parliamentary Private Secretary, first to Energy Minister Helen

Liddell and then Transport Secretary Stephen Byers. He became a Government Whip in 2002 and has also served as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in Education and Transport Departments. His primary interests are; education, health, economy and local government concerns.

Outside of politics, he is said to enjoy hill walking, military history, particularly World War II, Rugby League and football.

## Welcome to ST DUNSTAN'S

**Sydney Bailey** of Ashford, Middlesex served in the Devonshire Regiment, Gloucestershire Regiment, Corps of Military Police, Essex Regiment and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1940 and 1959.

**William Bainbridge** of Chester-le-Street, County Durham served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

**Eric Ball** of Watlington, Kings Lynn, Norfolk served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1942 to 1954.

**Robert Barnett** of Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex served as Corporal in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1940 to 1946.

**Stella Barton** of Haslemere, West Sussex served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1939 to 1940.

**Roy Beaven** of Rossendale, Lancashire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1947 to 1949.

**Peter Brice** of Rochester, Kent served in the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1946.

**Mary Colville** of Bromley, Kent served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1940 to 1945.

**Richard Crawford** of Shooters Hill, London served in the Royal Signals from 1964 to 1969.

**Dorothy Cross** of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1940 to 1945.

**John Dyer** of Corby, Northamptonshire served as a cook in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

**Donald Edwards** of West Malling, Kent served in India and Malaysia in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

**Joseph Elsander** of Chester-le-Street, Durham, County Durham served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1958 to 1960.

**John Endacott** of Wandsworth, London served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1979.

**Gladys Farmborough** of East Harling, Norwich, Norfolk served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

**John Flett** of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1945 to 1948.

**Arnold Fox** of Plympton, Plymouth, South Devon served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1948.

**Marie Goodman** of Kingswood, Surrey served in the Voluntary Aid Detachment from 1942 to 1944.

**John Grinham** of Stockport, Cheshire served in the Royal Marines from 1942 to 1946.

**Edwin Harris** of Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the Reconnaissance Corps, Suffolk Regiment and then the Royal Artillery between 1941 and 1946.

**Marguerite Hartland** of Worthing, West Sussex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1939 to 1950.

**Ernest Hatt** of Chatham, Kent served in the Royal Artillery from 1949 to 1951.

**George Haylock** of Maidstone, Kent served as LAC in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

**Arthur Hodges** of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1970.

**Michael Hunter** of Honiton, Devon served in the Coldstream Guards from 1957 to 1959 and then the Royal Military Police from 1960 to 1979.

**Arthur Impey** of Luton, Bedfordshire served in

the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment from 1932 to 1946. He was taken prisoner in Singapore and held in Changi Gaol.

**Michael Ion** of Vauxhall, London served in the Royal Fusiliers from 1988 to 1990.

**Henry Kerfoot** of Adlington, Chorley, Lancashire served in the Royal Artillery from 1941 to 1943 and then the Royal Army Service Corps until 1947.

**Kenneth Kettle** of Catherington, Hampshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946. He was posted to the Middle East.

**Ronald Jeffries** of Trowbridge, Wiltshire served in the Wiltshire Regiment from 1954 to 1956.

**Cyril Jones** of Bilston, West Midlands served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1942 to 1947.

**Frances Mackegg** of Wrexham, Denbighshire served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

**Ronald Marsh** of Preston, Lancashire served in the East Yorkshire Regiment from 1947 to 1949.

**Harold Michael** of Worthing, West Sussex served in the Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1947.

**Edward Milthorpe** of Staincross, Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

**Gerald Morris** of Owestry, Shropshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1951 to 1953.

**William Oates** of Hayle, Cornwall served in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry from 1940 to 1941 and then the Pioneer Corps until 1946.

**Roy Ramsay** of Harrow Weald, Middlesex served in the Middlesex Regiment and then the Parachute Regiment between 1954 to 1966.

**David Roberts** of Llundudno, Gwynedd served in the Army Catering Corps from 1950 to 1952 and then in the Royal Artillery (TA) until 1964.

**David Robinson** of Peterlee, County Durham served in the General Service Corps from 1954 to 1955, then the Parachute Regiment, Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport between 1961 and 1968.

**Maureen Shuker** of Witham, Essex served in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps from 1957 to 1959.

**Marion Soep** of Greenock, Inverclyde served in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service from 1940 to 1946.

**Richard Sunderland** of Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**Robert Swann** of Gateshead, Tyne & Wear served in the King's Own Scottish Borders from 1945 to 1948.

**Douglas Sweet** of Tiverton, Devon served in the Devon Regiment from 1939 to 1946.

**Thomas Vincent** of Burnley, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps, the Lancashire Fusiliers and finally the Royal Scots Fusiliers between 1943 and 1947.

**Thomas Waugh** of Walney, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria served in the Border Regiment from 1955 to 1957.

**Pamela Webster** of Saxmundham, Suffolk served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

**Ben Whitehouse** of Plungington, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Geoffrey Whitworth** of Dereham, Norfolk served in the East Surrey Regiment from 1947 to 1959.

**Edwin Willmott** of Sutton, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1948.

## VI banker wins squash

DELHI BANKER Sanjeev Anand won India's Squash National Championship on September 10th. He won the 40-44 men's title at Delhi Gymkhana Club in New Delhi, India despite having lost an eye as a 14-year-old boxer. The senior vice-president of ABN Amro Bank persevered despite his problems in sighting the ball which shot around the court at an average 80mph.

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## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

**Congratulations on the birth of:**  
Madeleine Louise on August 9th. She is the first great-granddaughter of *Leonard and Peggy Spendlove* of Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands.

Reice Sendell on August 26th. He is the great-grandson of *Noel Wharf* of Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire.

Harry Matthew Rhodes on September 3rd. He is the son of *Matthew and Michelle Rhodes* of Peacehaven, East Sussex.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**  
*Alan and Molly Wainwright* of Folkestone, Kent on September 1st.

*George and Joan Swann* of Chorley, Lancashire on September 8th.

*John and Rosemary Covey* of Fordingbridge, Hampshire on September 15th.

*Leonard and Joan Moules* of Chichester, West Sussex on September 16th.

### DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**  
*John and Audrey Perfect* of Yealmpton, Devon on September 14th.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**  
*John and Joan Whiteley* of Sutton, Surrey who celebrated 62 years of marriage on August 30th.

*Roy and Pauline French* of Shepstone, Natal, South Africa who celebrated 67 years of marriage on September 3rd.

*Clifford and Irene Gower* of Westbury, Wiltshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on September 8th.

*Arthur and Margaret Wood* of Barnsley, South Yorkshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on September 17th.

*Joseph and May Gregory* of Coventry, West Midlands who celebrated 66 years of marriage on September 18th.

### DEATHS

**We regret to announce the death of:**  
**Don Stroud** on June 26th. He was the husband of ATS St Dunstaner *Molly Stroud* of Obaston, Monmouthshire.

**Kathleen Barker** on August 7th. She was the wife of RAF St Dunstaner *Bernard Barker* of Irchester, Northampton.

**Queenie Crabb** on September 3rd. She was the wife of Army St Dunstaner *William Crabb* of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

**Lesley Mayberry** of Warlingham, Surrey on August 23rd. She was the widow of Royal Artillery St Dunstaner *Gerry Mayberry*.

**Mary Harby** of Derby, Derbyshire on August 26th. She was the widow of *William Harby* who served in the Military Police.

**Mary Cox** of Bristol, Avon on September 1st. She was the widow of *Thomas Cox*.

**Mary Armstrong** of Formby, Liverpool, Merseyside on September 2nd. She was the widow of *Patrick Armstrong*.

**Marjorie Hordyniec** of Winchester, Hampshire on September 4th. She was the widow of *Edward Hordyniec*.

**Eunice Gregory** of Aingers Green, Great Bentley, Essex on September 6th. She was the widow of *George Gregory*.

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.

### **Hugh Mackenzie** Australian Army

Hugh Thomas Mackenzie of Macksville, New South Wales, Australia died on June 26th, aged 100. He worked as a grocery assistant in a department store in Kempsey before joining the Australian Army in 1942. Serving as Craftsman, he was posted to the workshops in Lae, New Guinea where Australian forces headed off a Japanese offensive. Discharged in 1945, he returned to the grocery trade but was frustrated by not being able to sell families what they needed due to rationing restrictions. Subsequently, he turned to farming growing bananas and small crops. Our sympathy goes to his widow Dora and all members of the family.

### **Richard Wadey** Royal Navy

Richard Walter Wadey of Gillingham, Kent died on July 26th, aged 95. He was an apprentice gardener before joining the Royal Navy in 1929. As a Signaller and then a writer, he sailed on all of the oceans and served in Iceland, Malta, North and South America. He was discharged in 1954 as a Chief Petty Officer. In civilian life he worked for BP. His interests included bowls and listening to the radio. Our sympathy goes to his widow Peg, sons and daughter and all members of the family.

### **William Rutherford** Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

William Edward Rutherford of Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester died on August 9th, aged 81. He had been a coal miner and then a gardener before joining the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1943. He served in Shropshire, over in Canada and at RAF Handform. Demobbed in 1947, he returned to the Durham coal mines. He later re-trained to become a Child Care Officer. His interests include a variety of sports, walking, painting and decorating. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret, daughter Anna and all members of the family.

### **John Gale** Royal Navy

John Stephenson Gale of Hailsham, East Sussex died on August 10th, aged 75. He joined the Royal Navy in 1948, serving as a Leading Electrician 1st Class. Discharged in 1955, he worked as a clerk for solicitors and accountants and later as a self-employed electrician. His penchant for playing the trumpet earned him the nickname 'Gusty' and he played with St Dunstan's Band at Ovingdean for some years. More recently, he had joined the Ian Price Quartet on stage during their performances in house. His interests also included gardening and picture framing. Our sympathy goes to his son Paul and all members of the family.

### **John Bruce** Royal Signals

John Edward Bruce of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne & Wear died on August 12th, aged 78. He was an apprentice fitter and turner before joining the Royal Signals in 1946. After training at Catterick, he was posted to Malaya for the duration of the emergency. Demobbed in 1949, he returned to Vickers Armstrong, but later joined a packaging company. His interests included golf and bridge. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret, son and daughter and all members of the family.

### **Frank Woodcock**

9th Division Signals, Australian Army  
Frank Woodcock of Burradoo, New South Wales, Australia died on August 12th, aged 88. He was a coach driver before joining the 9th Division Signals, Australian Army in 1940. Serving as a Despatch Rider, he was wounded in July 1942 and discharged shortly after. Our sympathy goes to his widow Maud and all other members of the family.

### **Gordon Grimsey** Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Gordon James Grimsey of Ovingdean, Brighton died on August 13th, aged 90. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1939, serving in East Anglia, Scotland, and Leicester. In 1942, he transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers with the HQ Guards Armoured Division. He took part in the Normandy landings and moved through France, Belgium and Holland. Mentioned in Dispatches during the latter part of the war, he finished up on the Baltic coast. After discharge in 1946, he returned to work for Consolidated Gold Fields. His interests included photography and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his daughters and all the family.

### **Edward Yeaman**

Royal Northumberland Fusiliers  
Edward 'Ted' Yeaman of Ovingdean, Brighton died on August 15th, aged 85. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1992. He was an apprentice joiner who enlisted along with a group of friends in the Territorial Battalion of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers in 1938. After basic training, he played tenor drum in The Corps of Drums. He was embodied into the regular Army in 1939 with the 7th Battalion. This was one of the first battalions to go to France, but being under age, he was transferred to the 9th Battalion as Corporal. Many of his friends remaining in the 7th were amongst a group of British soldiers shot by the Gestapo before the

withdrawal from Dunkirk. The 9th Battalion were subsequently posted to the Far East, arriving in Singapore in early February 1942. From disembarking, they were involved in continuous action for ten days until Singapore fell. Having surrendered to the Japanese, he and his Company were marched to Changi Gaol. From there he was moved out to spend the next three-and-a-half years captivity working on the Burma Railway. He was discharged from the Army in 1946 having been awarded the Territorial medal. Returning to his old firm, he completed his apprenticeship and became Foreman Joiner before retiring. His interests included music, particularly singing, bowls and gardening. He also enjoyed showing tourists around his local church in Alnwick, Northumberland. Apart from sight loss, the malnutrition and privation he experienced as a Far East Prisoner of War left Ted with claustrophobia and anxiety when travelling. He combated the problem in 1999, joining Tony James for a flight in a light aircraft and taking over the controls for part of the journey. He was also a member of St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War group. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Sandra and all members of the family.

### **John Henry** Royal Irish Fusiliers

John Henry of Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire died on August 19th, aged 85. He joined the Royal Marines as a 15-year-old but left due to ill-health. He worked as a farm labourer before joining the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in 1940. He was posted to Madagascar where he contracted Malaria and Black Water Fever. Returning to the UK, he transferred to the Royal Irish Fusiliers and was posted to India. After the invasion of Sicily and Italy, he moved on to Austria. He completed a tour in Suez before being discharged as Sergeant in 1949. In civilian life, he worked for Garrington's of Bromsgrove manufacturing engine parts. Our sympathy goes to his widow Cornelia and all of the family.

**John Wellings**  
Royal Artillery

John Henry Wellings of Neston, South Wirral, Cheshire died on August 19th, aged 84. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1987. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1941 and served as a Gunner. The onset of sight loss led to his discharge in 1942, and he resumed his life as a steelworker. His interests included woodwork, fishing, picture framing, toy making, gardening and he won an award for brass rubbing. Our sympathy goes to his widow Sheila, their eight children and all members of the family.

**Robert Dean**  
Royal Navy

Robert Arthur Dean of Bournemouth, Dorset died on August 22nd. He was a lorry driver before joining the Royal Navy in 1941. He served as a Stoker, sailing in the North Sea, Atlantic and Mediterranean. He took part in Operation Torch escorting supply ships across the English Channel on D-Day. Demobbed in 1946, he became a painter and decorator. Our sympathy goes to his widow Sylvia and all members of the family.

**Alexander Murray**  
Royal Air Force

Alexander Murray of Harrow, Middlesex died on August 22nd, aged 87. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939. Commissioned in 1943, he served in the UK and South Africa. Discharged in 1946 as Flight Lieutenant, he became a sales representative. His interests included golf. Our sympathy goes to his widow Liz and all members of the family.

**John Champ, CBE**  
Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire  
Light Infantry

John George Harold Champ, CBE of Earley, Reading, Berkshire died on August 24th, aged 75. He was an apprentice heating and ventilation engineer before joining the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light

Infantry in 1952. After training at Cowley, Oxford, he was posted to Egypt and then Germany. Demobbed in 1955, he joined the Atomic Energy Authority in Aldermaston. While working there, he studied to become a Chartered Engineer. He later worked in Further Education becoming Senior Lecturer at Reading College. More significantly, having joined the Royal British Legion in 1973, he became a tireless campaigner for the welfare of ex-Service men and women. As Vice-Chairman from 1995, and then National Chairman from 1998, he led the Legion through a period of radical change with the annual Poppy Appeal increasing year-on-year. He was feted for his efforts in seeking reconciliation with Japanese Veterans and was honoured for his work with ex-Service men and women in the 2001 New Year's Honours when he was made a CBE. He was also Vice President of the Berkshire branch of the Royal British Legion. Our sympathy goes to his widow Jill, his son and daughters and all other members of the family.

**Pawel Wyglendacz**  
Polish Resettlement Corps

Paul Wyglendacz of Brislington, Bristol died on August 24th, aged 85. He lived in Katowice, Śląsk, Poland which was occupied by the Germans in 1939. In 1941, he was conscripted into the German Army and posted to North Africa. Taken prisoner by the US Army in 1943, he was transferred to the UK. There he joined Polish Forces under British Command and was posted to a Mobile Casualty Clearing Station. He was seconded to the Polish Military Bureau in Glasgow for six months and then transferred to 4 Infantry Division, 1 Polish Corps. He served with 12 Field Ambulance and completed a course at 1 Polish Corps Medical Services Training Centre before transferring to the Polish Resettlement Corps in 1946. After his discharge in 1948, he worked for the Polish Union and later as a bar manager for the Grand Hotel and Bristol University. His interests included sports and classical music.

Our sympathy goes to his sons Mark and Jan, daughter Helen and all of the family.

**Jack Illingworth**

King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry  
Jack Illingworth of Barnsley, South Yorkshire died on August 31st, aged 81. He was a collier and then a trainee butcher before joining the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1944. He served in the UK, Malta and Egypt before being discharged in 1948. Returning to civilian life, he became a driver and later managed a garage. Our sympathy goes to his son Stephen, daughter Tracey and all members of the family.

**Richard Molloy**  
Royal Artillery

Richard Molloy of Dunkewell, near Honiton, Devon died on September 5th, aged 82. He was a factory worker and builder before joining the Royal Artillery in 1942. He fought through North Africa, Sicily and Salerno. Discharged in 1946, he resumed work as a builder and plasterer but later joined Gestetner. His interests included fishing. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Peter Churchill**

Royal Army Medical Corps  
Peter Francis Churchill of Thurlstone, Kingsbridge, Devon died on September 5th, aged 79. He was an electrical engineer with Vickers Supermarine before joining the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1944. After serving in Pakistan and India, he was demobbed in 1948. After a few years with a Rover car distributor, he entered the knitware trade as a sales representative. His interests over the years included squash, cricket, running and rugby. He also sang with a choir and was a member of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

**Cecil Tyler**  
Pioneer Corps

Cecil Tyler of Dunstable, Bedfordshire died on September 7th, aged 93. He had been a baker

and a builder before joining the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps in 1940. Having been involved in the construction of coastal defences in Scotland, he landed at Arromanche on D+1 and remained in France assisting with POW camps until discharge in 1946. In civilian life, he became a power tool operator.

**Herbert Trewren**

63rd Infantry Battalion, Australian Army  
Herbert James Trewren of Merrylands, New South Wales, Australia died on September 9th, aged 80. He joined the Australian Army in 1942, serving with the 63rd Infantry Battalion. He was discharged in 1946 and was a postman in civilian life. Our sympathy goes to his widow Ivy and all of the family.

**Edward Burtenshaw**  
Bedfordshire and  
Hertfordshire Regiment

Edward 'Ted' Albert Burtenshaw of Ovingdean, Brighton died on September 11th, aged 91. He joined the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment in 1940 and served in North Africa, Tunisia and Italy. He carried an oil can for lubricating guns that his father had carried during WWI. He was briefly taken prisoner but escaped and acted as a sniper during the battle at Monte Cassino. His interests included gardening and sea fishing. Our sympathy goes to all of the family.

**Charles Addison**  
Royal Air Force

Charles W Moray Addison of Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, Canada died recently, aged 89. He was a construction engineer before joining the Royal Air Force as a pilot in January 1940. He was twice wounded, first in 1940 and again in 1944, suffering a skull fracture, facial and internal injuries. He was discharged as Flight Lieutenant in 1945. In 1978, he moved from Norfolk to Canada and enjoyed sailing during his retirement. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret and all of the family.

# Terry wins the first blind Paralympian archery gold!

**S**T DUNSTANER TERRY Ottewell set the standard for the first salvo of arrows to be fired in a Paralympic tournament in August. He claimed the gold at the 4th European Paralympic Committee Archery Championships at Nymburk in the Czech Republic from August 14th-19th.

Although archery has long been practised as a sport by blind people, it was only in February this year that the International Paralympic Committee agreed the terms under which blind archers could compete as Paralympians. St Dunstaners have previously demonstrated the tactile sight at EPC events, but this was the first time they have been able to compete. This year's competition saw Terry set four world records.

"I never expected to be doing this at 66," said Terry from Brecon, Powys who was joined by Dorothy Cooper as the first blind archers on the Great Britain Disabled Archers Squad. "I am a fully fledged international archer." Terry shot 144 arrows with a total score of 761. The silver medal was taken by French archer Gabriele Noel, while



Gabriele Noel, Terry Ottewell and Dorothy Cooper take the pedestal as the first blind Paralympian archers.

his fellow team member Dorothy took the bronze.

Terry added that he was indebted to his wife Avril who spotted for him during the tournament. Hailing from Brecon, South Wales, he was the oldest member of the British squad at 66, having developed his skills as a member of St Dunstan's Archery Club.

Terry shot the event using a recurve bow but is considering making the change to a compound bow. "The competition allows you to use either, but there are a lot of advantages to using a compound bow over a recurve," said Terry. "You don't do yourself any favours by staying with a recurve, the compound has a lot more power behind it."