

November 2006

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

# ST DUNSTAN'S Review



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

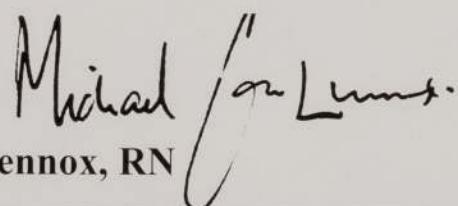
## From the Chairman

IN THE JULY issue of the **Review**, we reported that the refurbishment of the Harcourt Street offices was about to begin. We need to make better use of the space within the building and allow room for some expansion.

The work is well under way and the upper ground and first floor are nearing completion. By the time you read this, clinics should have resumed in Harcourt Street and the dining room facilities will be back in action. The second floor, Service Delivery, should be completed.

Work will then start on the third floor, plus extensions to 2nd and 3rd floors, followed by the lower ground floor and we hope to be fully back to normal by March next year.

I thank all members of staff for their patience and forbearance; there has been much temporary re-location, noise, dust and more dust! The result will be a more efficient, environmentally friendly work place, well able to deal with the challenging times ahead.



Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

### ST DUNSTAN'S Review November 2006 No 963

**Cover Story:** St Dunstaner Sydney Scroggie in Scotland's Sidlaw Hills. Syd passed away on September 9th and is remembered on pages 12 and 36.

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## ST DUNSTAN'S Calendar

### NOVEMBER

Writers' Forum November 4th  
Armistice Day Nov 11th  
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  
Christmas 'Week' Dec 17th-27th  
New Year 'Week' Dec 28th- Jan 6th

### JANUARY

Archery (I) January 19th-28th

### FEBRUARY

Music week February 11th-17th  
Fishing (I) February 12th-16th  
Computer Club (I) Feb 28th - Mar 1st

### MARCH

Amateur Radio (I) March 2nd-9th  
Bowling (I) March 11th-24th (tbc)

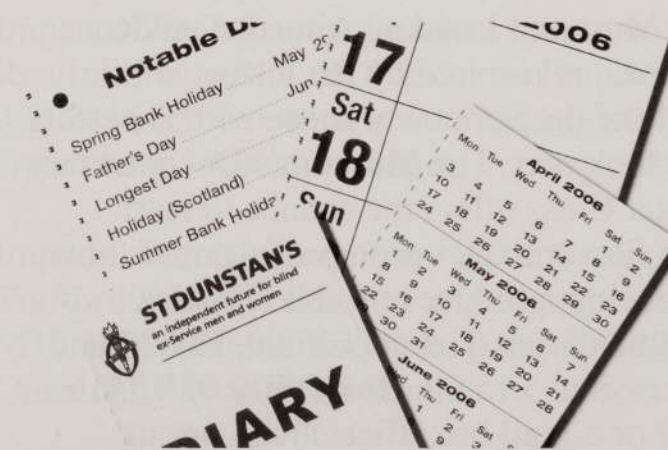
St Dunstan's Day | Large Print Diaries | Business start-up support

# Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

### ST DUNSTAN'S DAY

IN MEMORY OF SIR ARTHUR: St Dunstan's Day on December 9th will mark 85 years since the death of our founder Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart. It was his determination and inspiration that laid the foundation for the organisation that we know today. After losing his sight, he defied the conventions of the day and encouraged other blind men and women to reclaim productive roles in society.



### 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.

### BUSINESS SUPPORT PROJECT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

BUSINESS START-UP SUPPORT: Ready to Start is a unique programme providing training, sign-posting and support to enable disabled people to start their own business. It is provided by Leonard Cheshire in partnership with Barclays. It is being concentrated onto 27 towns and cities and is open to disabled people, aged 19 or over, with a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Applicants will need adequate levels of English and maths to take part in the programme, usually GCSE or an equivalent Level 2 standard, and must be actively seeking to establish their business idea.

The programme is currently active in Preston, Bolton, Warrington, Newcastle, Middlesbrough, York; Leeds, Bradford, Coventry, Kidderminster, Wolverhampton, Derby, Peterborough, Luton, Ipswich, Basildon, Thurrock, Wandsworth, Enfield, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks; Crawley, Banbury, Oxford; Southampton, Plymouth, Bristol, Swindon, Cardiff, Swansea and Belfast.

For further information on Ready to Start, check their website on [www.readytostart.org.uk](http://www.readytostart.org.uk) or e-mail [info@readytostart.org.uk](mailto:info@readytostart.org.uk) or telephone 08456 717173.



Printed by Hobbs the Printer

## HISTORY OF REMEMBRANCE

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM EVENTS IN NOVEMBER: The Imperial War Museum in Lambeth, London and its sister site, the Imperial War Museum North, Trafford Park will be holding a series of events with a Remembrance theme during November.

### Armistice

November 11th, 11:00am.

The IWM, London will commemorate the Armistice with a two-minute silence, followed by a brief recital performed on the Western Front violin. Free admission.

### Poppies

November 10th, 7:00pm at Imperial War Museum North, Manchester. Film starring Paul McGann as a writer who embarks on a play about the Battle of the Somme, followed by questions and answers with cast members. Tickets £6 (includes drinks and car parking; Group and other discounts available). Free to Friends of the Imperial War Museum. Booking on 0161 836 4007.

November 11th, 2:00pm at the Imperial War Museum, London. Film as above, followed by questions and answers with Paul McGann, Gary Kemp and Barry Bliss who wrote and directed the film. Tickets £7.00, concessions and FIWM £6.00. Box Office 020 7416 5439 or e-mail [boxoffice@iwm.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@iwm.org.uk).

### Peace Lecture - An End to War?

November 12th, 2:00pm. The Movement for the Abolition of War's annual lecture held at the IWM London, will be given by Baroness Shirley Williams. Free admission.

### Somme Theatre

November 15th-18th, 7:30pm at IWM

London. In partnership with The Old Vic Theatre and inspired by the archives of the Museum, a newly created script challenges the myths surrounding WWI. Working alongside professional actors, 50 people from community groups and schools in Lambeth and Southwark will perform in the Museum's atrium surrounded by key exhibits from WWI. Tickets are free. Pre-booking (£1 fee) is essential. Call 0870 060 6628.

### Wartime Dance Hour

November 19th, 1:00pm beginners, 2:30pm, improvers, at the IWM North. GI Jive dancers demonstrate the basic moves of popular wartime dances in lively hour-long sessions. Tickets £4 (£3 concessions or free to FIWM). Booking on 0161 836 4007.

### Documentary Master Class

November 21st, 10.00am-5.00pm at Imperial War Museum, London. Aimed at student filmmakers inspired by the history of the Battle of the Somme or those with ancestors who took part. The Museum's Documentary Master Class offers the chance to learn from film and television professionals how to develop, produce and sell historical documentaries. Tickets £35.00, FIWM and concessions £15.00. Box Office 020 7416 5439 or e-mail [boxoffice@iwm.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@iwm.org.uk)

The class will be held again on November 28th, 10.00am-5.00pm at Imperial War Museum North. Tickets £25.00, £10 FIWM and concessions. Booking on 0161 836 4007.

There are also a number of free family events:

### We Will Remember Them

November 4th-5th, 11th-12th, 11:00am-4:00pm at IWM London. Create personalised poppies for a Remembrance art installation.

### Battle Bowlers, Whiz Bangs and Lucky Bleeders

November 18th-19th, 11:30am and 2:30pm at IWM London. A chance to handle and learn about artefacts from the First World War and the 'trench slang' language soldiers used.

### Signs and Symbols

November 25th-26th, 11:00am and 2:00pm at IWM London. Discover more about the different signs and symbols that can be found on many of the exhibits in the Museum.

Children taking part in these activities must be accompanied by an adult.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of St Dunstan's membership of Friends of the Imperial War Museum should contact Nicki Hall at St Dunstan's HQ on 020 7723 5021.

Imperial War Museum London, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ. General Enquiries 020 7416 5320 or visit [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk). Open daily 10:00am-6:00pm.

Imperial War Museum North, The Quays, Trafford Wharf, Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1TZ. General Enquiries 0161 836 4000. Open daily 10:00am-5:00pm.

## DEFENCE DISCOUNTS EXTENDED TO VETERANS

ONLINE COMPANION TO DIRECTORY: The Defence Discount Directory, a guide to special offers, services and discounts for the Defence Community, is now available to Veterans. A discount website, that is completely free to join, has recently been launched with over 326 benefits online. More details can be found on [www.forcesdiscounts-mod.co.uk](http://www.forcesdiscounts-mod.co.uk).

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY HELP FROM BRITISH GAS

INSULATION HELP: The British Gas 'Here to HELP' programme provides free home insulation and energy efficiency measures to people on benefits - and subsidised insulation for people who can pay. It has signed up half-a-million households so far, with the target of a million. The programme also includes a benefits check to make sure people are claiming all the benefits they are due.

It is delivered in partnership with six national charities - Help the Aged, Save the Children, RNIB, Scope, National Debtline, and Family Welfare Association - who also provide their products and services where relevant.

British Gas also fund a series of Help the Aged Benefit Advice Projects across the country which gives face to face benefit advice to older people. Here to Help can be contacted on 0845 605 2535.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY RUGBY

SARACENS V TIGERS: Guinness Premiership rugby union club Saracens are hoping to boost the Poppy Appeal when they take on Leicester Tigers on Remembrance Sunday, November 12th. The match, which takes place at Vicarage Road Stadium Watford, kicks off at 3pm and British Legion members are invited to purchase half price tickets - with 25 per cent of the proceeds going to the Poppy Appeal. Adult tickets will cost just £10 (with concessions and juniors at £5). To claim your discounted ticket and support the Poppy Appeal at the same time, call the Ticket Team on 01923 204611 and quote RBL1. Offer closes Wednesday, November 8th.

### **POCKET SIZED MP3 RECORDER & PLAYER**

**SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE:** The Milestone311 is a portable credit card sized all-purpose voice recorder and MP3 player. Designed for daily use, it's very simple to use to record phone numbers, addresses, appointments, or shopping lists. It operates via voice prompts with no visual display and has large tactile keys.

Files are recorded in MP3 format and can be copied or played on a computer. Potentially, users can carry thousands of talking books in the device which measures 2 x 3¼ x ½ inch (50 x 80 x 14mm). With two hours internal memory it can be expanded to 140 hours using a SD or MMC card. It can be used for podcasts, radio programmes and Daisy format material. There are voice labels for folders, an internal microphone and loudspeaker and PC USB connectivity with no software required.

There is a socket for stereo headphones, radio, external microphones, and loudspeakers. Powered by a built in rechargeable lithium battery, which can be recharged from the mains or a computer connection, it will play continuously for ten hours.

Ray Hazan adds: "I used this to record reunion speeches without an external microphone. The result was impressive. It really is simple to use and CVIP have produced a user manual on tape. Please call me if you have any questions.

"The Daisy software turns this into a highly portable talking book machine. The CD is copied via your PC to the SD card on the Milestone. A further Daisy memory allows you to navigate through the book, jump

by time, place and jump to bookmarks and even incorporates a sleep timer. Pressing the 'mode' key tells you instantly where you are time wise in the book and how long remains. You cannot adjust the speed of playback."

The Milestone311 is £170 (excluding VAT, from which some can be exempt) plus delivery. SD cards additional at 512k - £15, 1GB - £30 and 2GB - £45.

Daisy software when purchased with the Milestone 311 is £15 extra, £25 when purchased separately. The Milestone311 is available from CVIP Ltd, 30 St Thomas Drive, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4SS. Telephone 020 8420 1338 or e-mail iki@cvip.co.uk.

### **WHY SWIM ALONE?**

**WATERPROOF MP3 PLAYER:** Having spent many hours swimming with nothing to do but count strokes Ray Peart has discovered the ultimate companion. An MP3 player that allows him to listen to music whilst swimming. It is called a Finis SwiMP3 Player, costing £132.95 from SwimTec UK, 2 Church View, York Road, York YO24 4NW. Telephone: 01904 788427.

It consists of a pair of swimming goggles which has incorporated into it a fully waterproof MP3 player which transfers the sound via pads which are held against the upper part of the cheek bone. It has capacity in the region of 30 tunes. There is a volume control and facility to move backwards or forwards through your music list. More information can be found via [www.swimtec-uk.com](http://www.swimtec-uk.com). Having purchased the item late August, Ray has been very impressed and it has made his swimming sessions more enjoyable.

### **BLINDNESS AND THE BLITZ**

**BLIND SUPPORT GROUP SEEK HISTORY OF THE UNSEEN WAR:** The Action Trust for the Blind, a charity that helps blind people with volunteer readers, shopping, IT, and befriending support, is undertaking a new oral history project called Blindness and the Blitz – The Unseen War. This oral history will focus on the stories of visually impaired people who lived, worked or went to school in London at any time during WWII. They are also interested to hear the stories of people who knew visually impaired people at that time. They seek memories of their ability to adjust to war-torn London, and aim to capture the emotion and actual voices of the people who lived through that time, to document part of our national heritage before it is lost forever.

For more details, contact Action Trust for the Blind, 177 Hammersmith Grove, London W6 0NL. Telephone 020 8563 2922 or e-mail: [info@actiontrustfortheblind.org](mailto:info@actiontrustfortheblind.org).

### **RNIB TALK AND SUPPORT GROUPS**

**TELE BEFRIENDING SERVICES:** The Royal National Institute of the Blind offers people with sight problems the opportunity to get together with a group of people from within the comfort of their own home. Their Talk and Support service offers useful contact during the winter months. The small and informal groups allow people to chat about anything and everything. The first four sessions are free after which there is a subscription of £2 per week. For more information call 0845 330 3723 or log on at [www.rnib.org.uk/talkandsupport](http://www.rnib.org.uk/talkandsupport).

### **NEW PRESIDENT FOR ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

**AIR MARSHAL AT RBL:** Air Marshal Ian Macfadyen, CB, OBE, FRAeS has been appointed National President of The Royal British Legion. Aged 64, he comes to the Legion following a distinguished 40-year career in the Royal Air Force. His was also HM Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man from 2000 to 2005. Educated at Marlborough, he entered the RAF College Cranwell in 1960 and graduated with the Sword of Honour. His flying career included service as a fighter pilot in UK and Germany. He also served as a flying instructor and member of a formation aerobatics team. He commanded RAF Leuchars from 1985-87 and was later appointed Chief of Staff at HQ British Forces Middle East in Riyadh in 1990, and then Commander of British Forces in the Middle East in 1991. He was promoted to Air Marshal in 1994, and retired from the RAF in February 1999. He succeeds Commander The Earl of Effingham who stepped down for personal health reasons earlier this year.

### **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

**TELEPHONE ORDERING:** St Dunstan's Christmas Cards for 2006 can be ordered by telephoning 01993 770 611 or online at [st-dunstans.org.uk/christmas](http://st-dunstans.org.uk/christmas).

### **STAFF CHANGES**

Charles Scott  
Director of Resource Management Charles Scott left St Dunstan's in September to join Help The Aged. He joined the charity as Director of Finance and IT in 2002.

# 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.

## Roadside obstacles are hazardous for the visually impaired pedestrian

May I draw attention to the selfish motorists who will insist on parking their cars on the pavements. Why, when so many have driveways to their abodes, I have yet to discover.

I am a registered blind person and love walking with my dog around the local estates, but these walks are becoming both hazardous and at times dangerous because of the thoughtlessness of the offending motorist.

What prompted me to write, was the fact that I was nearly involved in a premature exit from this life to play my harp with the angels. A car was straddled across the pavement and Paul, my dutiful dog, did the correct drill and commenced to guide me around the car, upon which a person came hurling down the road and nearly took Paul and myself to another planet. After a screeching of brakes, they then made off as fast as they could, not having sight it was impossible to make a note of the number plate. Of course,

I was upset and in shock to say the least. I informed my wife on arrival at home. She went and checked out the car parked on the pavement with my next door neighbour and then informed the Community Police Manager. The reply we got was 'unless the car is causing a complete obstruction there is little they can do'. Now, I was always under the impression that parking on the pavement was illegal no matter what.

After a screeching of brakes, they then made off as fast as they could

I am a registered speaker for Guide Dogs and for St Dunstan's and I give talks to local schoolchildren and afternoon clubs where I am invited and, hopefully, broadcast the message about hazards we, as blind people,

have to encounter when walking the pavements.

Some sighted people take all of these obstacles in their stride because they can see what lies ahead of them. We, unfortunately, have to rely on either a long white cane or, like myself, have the privilege of owning a guide dog to warn us which can sometimes prove to be difficult.

I show the children a pop-up picture of these hazards. Here are just a few: wheelie bins, bicycles, overhanging trees, hedges which have been left untrimmed and grown beyond the boundaries, shops whose wares now spill out on to the pavements, broken pavement slabs, broken bottles (not good for dogs' paws), chewing gum (also not good for paws) and, of course, cars parked on the pavements.

Please make my walks more pleasurable by keeping things tidy and not parking your car on the pavement.

**Eric Powell,  
Northam, North Devon**

## Leeds Wayfinder left me in the dark

Regarding the item in the September **Review** concerning Birmingham City's new Wayfinder system: A similar system was introduced in Leeds several years ago although, as I usually had an escort, I never bothered to use it until recently. On receiving my "trigger fob" - supplied free of charge incidentally - I ventured out on my own. Failing to get any response from the speaker units, I was supplied with two more

fobs, it being suspected that the original one was faulty. Once more, I went to Leeds, spending two hours walking around the city centre and checking out more than 30 of the 56 units installed. I was able to activate one only - that at the main entrance to the Merrion Centre. After making enquiries to the Leeds Blind Centre and RNIB, I was informed that Leeds City Council was looking into the problem. That was the last that I heard of the matter.

Surely I was not the first person to be faced with this difficulty. Had nobody ever complained before? Had the blind residents of Leeds ever been informed that the system had been installed? I became aware of its existence only through a chance conversation. I sincerely hope that the residents of Birmingham will not have to endure similar problems!

**John Lappin  
Wakefield, West Yorkshire**

## Sheffield IT tuition was a welcome eye-opener for me

Talking to the driver as he took me home after a pleasant but busy week with Matthew on IT training at Sheffield, I did not realise I had made a pun when I said that since losing my eyesight I had had my eyes opened. In fact this is true for what I remembered about St Dunstan's was little envelopes for donations, I recall that a soldier with his eyes covered and a nurse beside him were on the front.

The sighted cannot appreciate just what is achieved and given by the devoted staff at St Dunstan's to such as myself, I feel that they ought to be made more aware of

the good works that are carried on with the young as well as the elderly blinded ex-military people

I would like to express my gratitude to all the staff at Sheffield for making all our time with them as happy yet giving much needed tuition by good tutors with patience to match their knowledge. The meals were good, well presented and sufficient. The only request I made was for a room where I would get breakfast in bed but this was definitely refused!

**George Hewitt,  
Upwell, Wisbech,  
Cambridgeshire**

## Physio group recall old friends and old times

Although the planned Physiotherapy get-together was cancelled this year, several Physiotherapy widows, Doris Legge, Jean Purcell, and Jane Williamson, sat down to luncheon with Barbara Bell, Norman Perry and Tom Hart. Unfortunately, Fred and Dorothy Collingwood were unable to attend. We talked of old friends and the old days. We hope that next year some others will be able to join us.

**Tom Hart,  
Sandwich, Kent**

## Resting WWI soldier known only unto God

There is a country lane situated some ten miles east of Albert on the Amiens-Albert-Bapaume road in the Somme region. The lane leads into Caterpillar Valley and winds down to a place called Flatiron Copse. The War Graves Cemetery at this point stretches up the slope towards the ridge held by the Germans and which was attacked during the early stages of the Battle of the Somme on 14th July 1916. The Copse lies near the action at Mametz Wood and was a Casualty Clearing Station. Being at this point early in October, we were tipped off about a very special moment to take place in this cemetery the following day.

As arranged, the 30 people in our party with guide and coach drivers made our way down the valley on a brisk and bright autumn morning. When we arrived we were greeted by a Colonel resplendent in uniform and medals accompanied by his lady and an Army Chaplain. Several other people were there representing the local community and an REME contingent of young soldiers walking the battlefields to understand the implications of warfare prior to going to Iraq.

We assembled at an open grave just inside the entrance.

The Chaplain explained that we were there to inter the remains of a soldier which the earth of the Somme had yielded up and whose identity was unknown. He could have been part of the British Expeditionary Force, Australian, Canadian, and South African or from New Zealand or Newfoundland all of whom were engaged in this area. He also reminded us that he could also have been a German soldier.

A short passage from *St John's Gospel* was read by the Colonel, prayers were

said and following *The Lord's Prayer* the remains were committed to the ground. A Poppy Wreath was laid and the immortal words of Laurence Binyon spoken.

A simple but moving ceremony without fuss or bugle. We left knowing that he was some mother's son and in the sure confidence that he was, as his headstone reminded us, "Known only unto God" and now rests with 1,571 other servicemen in this cemetery.

**David T Youngson,  
Billingham, Cleveland**

## Good to see Roy recover his computer confidence

How nice it was to see the article about Roy Foulsham in the **insight** newsletter. My wife Kathleen and I met Roy at my, and his, induction to St Dunstan's. He was then new to blindness and was still getting over the shock. Through the week, he gradually told us of his plight as he was an architectural and forensic surveyor. He also told us that he was a singer but despite our requests, would not sing. I hope that he remembers us as well as St Dunstaner, Harry Fenton. Unfortunately, Harry died about 18 months ago. We

understood that Roy was quite at home with computers and used them a lot in his work but thought that he would be at a severe disadvantage now that he could no longer see the keys or the screen. He has obviously, now received some training by St Dunstan's in computer skills and we hope that he has recovered his confidence and is once again, using his valuable knowledge. I trust that the article will help to inform the readers as to the incalculable work of St Dunstan's.

**Ernie Bignell,  
Lancing, West Sussex**

## Where are the words of Brighton writers?

I look forward each month to receiving the **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, long may it continue. I notice with interest the Calendar of events and one item in particular always intrigues me. It is The Writing .Group. However, because it is Ovingdean based, in common with others I am sure, I find it impossible to consider participating as I would, if I lived in the Brighton area. But why do we never seem to see any of their work

published in the **Review**? Of course, there are other similar groups around the country, including our own here in Sheffield at the Sheffield Royal Society For The Blind. Indeed, we were included in the programme for the Sheffield City Libraries' 'Off The Sheffield' event on October 21st this year. I tell you this because within our small group we have two St Dunstaners actively involved, Mr Fred May and myself. There is a third, Miss

Sheila Rodman but sadly we see her only occasionally. Which leads me to another point, which you may care to consider? When you send out the Audio Tapes there is often 'empty tape' at the end of the **Review** itself. Occasionally you offer us an extra, so would it not be possible from time to time to include Creative Writing examples from St Dunstaners around the country?

**Arthur Morley,  
Owlthorpe, Sheffield.**

## Seaside rescue is just part of the service

I write with a little tale which might be worthy of airing in the **Review**, just to show what a 'caring' organisation St Dunstan's is and its presence felt everywhere. I was in Menorca last week. The path was steep and rocky and lonely. The day was hot and I had tumbled and tripped and was not the 'bundle of joy' I should have been to my wife, Joan. So, she left me lying on a rock, with my head on a rucksack, while she went on and down, to reconnoitre a path down to a secluded little cove. A short while later, I was shaken into wakefulness and a voice called from above: "Mister Wortley; I presume?" I was 'gob-smacked' to find it was the OC Ovingdean, Dick Lake, with his wife Ann. "Up on your feet," they said, "we'll help you down to

a gorgeous little beach". My wife was as surprised as I had been when we appeared for a swim. I told her I thought

it was all part of the service provided by St Dunstan's.

**Alan Wortley,  
Eastborne, East Sussex**

## Thank you for kindnesses

September 8th saw the 61st Wedding Anniversary of my wife Irene, who is in a Nursing Home, and myself. During the morning there was a knock at the door and on opening it, I was presented with a magnificent display of flowers! I was informed they had come from the Chairman and Council of St Dunstan's. I could appreciate the display by smell and touch but decided that I could better this by taking the display over to my wife's room in the Nursing Home for her to enjoy. This

she most certainly did. During the afternoon, the home put on a small anniversary party for us and some of our family, which was a lovely gesture on their part. May I take this opportunity to thank the Chairman, Council and staff for their many kindnesses over many years to both Irene and myself. I can quite genuinely say that I know of no other Charity who so wholeheartedly helps and supports its members as St Dunstan's does.

**Cliff Gower,  
Westbury, Wiltshire**

# As one who was fortunate to know Sydney Scroggie ...

Maurice Aldridge plays tribute to a St Dunstan's legend

AS CONFUCIUS observed, "The longest journey begins with the first step." The same is true of the hardest journey. For Dr Sydney Scroggie, the longest and hardest journey began with that fateful step on the slopes of Monte Grande when the mine he trod on blew away his left leg and took the light from his eyes for ever. Total blindness could not, however, prevent him illuminating the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to know him. He made our lives bright with his intellect, humanity, humour, generosity and great courage. Dr Sydney Scroggie, famous mountaineer, writer, poet, musician, and assuredly the leading light in the Scottish St. Dunstan's community, with the unfailing help of his lovely wife, Margaret, became and will remain famous in the land of his birth, known everywhere. I remember, for example, how, at this year's Lonach games, the mere mention of Sydney's name was enough to cause a passing highlander to stop and ask — "Do you really know Sydney Scroggie? I do too!" The same thing happened once



Sydney, a few days before he passed away, with Maurice.

on a train to Edinburgh when two fellow passengers broke into a conversation Christine and I were having with — "So you know Sydney Scroggie! We know him well. What a man!" Sydney Scroggie was more than a celebrity though. He was a "phenomenon of his time", "One of Scotland's most colourful characters". And the tributes at his death both on the radio and in the national press bear ample witness to the fact. Sadly, he has left us but his name and all that he represents

will endure for centuries. That much is certain if only through his collected writings which are now lodged in the official archives of Dundee University. That is a rare honour indeed and so well deserved as was the title of Doctor of laws which the same famous institution conferred upon Sydney in 2001 in recognition of all he achieved not only as a man of letters but also as the man of the Scottish hills.

**In Memory - page 36.**

# Raymond Baxter, OBE



The late Ken Walker on parade with Raymond Baxter.

TELEVISION PRESENTER and Spitfire pilot Raymond Baxter, OBE died on September 15th, aged 84. Feted as one of the most distinctive voices of postwar broadcasting, he introduced Britain to scientific and technological advances as presenter of the BBC's *Tomorrow's World* programme. He conducted the first interview with Christian Barnard hours after the surgeon had performed the first successful heart transplant and demonstrated a bullet-proof jacket by allowing a colleague to fire a gun at him. Other technological achievements to be described by Baxter were the first flight of Concorde and the first hovercraft.

As a Spitfire pilot, he flew during the African and Italian

Campaigns and became a Squadron Leader. It was with Forces Broadcasting in Cairo that he gained his first experience of broadcasting. In time, he would commentate on the 1953 Coronation, the funerals of Winston Churchill and Lord Mountbatten of Burma, and the opening of the Olympic Games.

The annual Festival of Remembrance was also enhanced by his commentary and he was the voice of St Dunstan's for a radio campaign that ran on Classic FM for three years. He also joined St Dunstan's contingent at the Cenotaph for Remembrance Sunday, escorting St Dunstaners Stewart Harris, Ken Walker and Paul Walker over several consecutive years.

# Lance Corporal Paul Muirhead

LANCE CORPORAL Paul Muirhead of 1 Royal Irish Regiment died on September 6th from wounds sustained during a Taleban attack on his base at Musa Quala in Helmand Province, Afghanistan five days earlier. The 29-year-old was regarded as a calm, confident and determined member of the Patrols Platoon. His grandfather, Charlie Claydon is St Dunstan's Welfare Officer in Scotland. We send our condolences to Paul's parents and all the family.

# Ana Henriques

ANA HENRIQUES passed away on October 6th, aged 25. She worked at St Dunstan's Headquarters as an Assistant Accountant. She joined the charity in June 2004, working on its purchase ledger. A popular and highly regarded member of the Accounts department, she had more recently brought her zest for life to bare on St Dunstan's banking and treasury needs. Our sympathy goes to her parents, Maria and Brian, and to her children, Cloe, aged 5, and Emma, aged 2, and all members of the family.

# BALANCING THE BOOKS

Ted Bunting fears it would have been better to go for a pint

## A Fragment of Fear

Author: John Bingham

Reader: David Geary

Catalogue No TB37

Duration: 10 hours, 30 minutes

According to Shakespeare in *Macbeth*, a tale told by an idiot signifies nothing. I think I've just listened to one and I'm inclined to agree. Like one hearing a joke without a punchline, I'm thinking

to myself, "Well that was a waste of time and no mistake." Yet the story begins so very well and it seems to promise so much more that one is interested from the very start. An English lady is murdered in Pompeii and I was so keen to learn the who and the why that I followed the narrator with the optimism of a bloodhound following a butcher's boy. How was I to know he was

leading me up a blind alley with only disappointment at its end? Another woman is killed when the book is only a few chapters along but we don't solve that case either. Nor do we identify the people who have been issuing threats to all and sundry. It is just as if the author suddenly tired of his task and decided to go out for a pint instead. How I wish I had done the same.

## Navy St Dunstaner inspired to write poems by land of Oman

INSPIRATION COMES from many places but for St Dunstaner Gary M. Lorgan who served 21 years in the Royal Navy, it was the country of Oman that stirred his poetic thoughts. Gary wrote a series of poems while he was working in the Sultanate of Oman training engineering apprentices to take their place in its armed forces.

Some of his verse is now collected in a book *Thoughts of a Shipmate*, copies of which will be available at Ovingdean. The poems explore the culture of the land, its people and geography, as well as probing personal perspectives on



isolation and the nature of being. The title verse runs in jaunty fashion:

"I'm a Jack Tar,  
I've travelled so far,

All my life just sailing the seas,  
On dozens of ships,  
Flat tops to Frigates,  
General Service and  
Submarines.

Many places I've been,  
Many fascinations I've seen,  
From Plymouth to  
Bangkok, Tokyo,  
A girl in each port,  
everyone thought,  
But the memories are mine,  
with a grin."

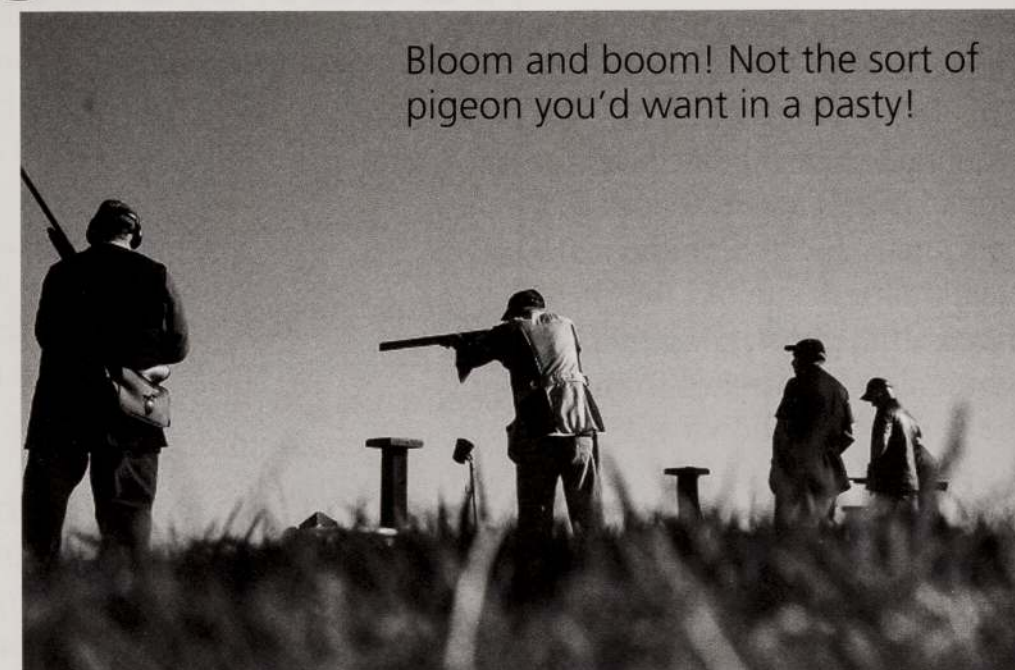
Others flow to a different pentameter, drawing portraits of star filled skies or goat keepers and wildlife. A recorded version will be available shortly, write care of the **Review** for details.

# Sure-shots land again for Ballykinler contest

Harry Beevers reports

THE 2005 CLAY PIGEON shooting competition organised by St Dunstaner Moira McGrath at the Royal Irish range at Ballykinler, County Down was such a success that on September 16th this year the event was repeated. Once again, Moira put in a marathon stint organising the activities. She was joined by fellow St Dunstaners Peter Hammond, Ron Jones, Mark Threadgold, Colin Williamson, Colin Best, Pat Sidnell and Harry Beevers. They were supported by Jen Shannon and Lynsey Pickles, Joan Beevers and Tim Pickles with Gillian (Miss Irish Fitness) Brydson as our minibus driver.

It was a gloriously sunny day and from 10am until 6pm, the 12-bore double-barrel shotguns banged and cracked and the "pigeons" flew as members of local clubs fought out the four clay pigeon shoot disciplines. Sighted competitors were given the opportunity to try their hand at shooting whilst blindfold. Prominent in their red outfits, all the St Dunstaners (with one



possible exception) shot with credit and some with distinction. It would be difficult to name an outright winner from our particular group. Ron Jones achieved most hits as he collected everybody's spare cartridges and Peter Hammond demonstrated the greatest accuracy with a series of seven hits from ten attempts. Jennifer Shannon was undoubtedly the winner of the under-five foot division but Harry Beevers with just the two hits from 20 shots, nursing a bruised shoulder, decided to stick to quizzing.

All the prizes were donated by local businesses or by St Dunstaners themselves, the Royal Irish Regiment provided barrack room accommodation

and extended Sergeants' Mess and NAAFI facilities. At the close of the shoot Lynsey Pickles on behalf of our organisation thanked all those who helped to make the day such a success. Aaron Smith of the Northern Ireland Shooting team was top gun. Once again, Colin Williamson showed his versatility boosting the day's proceeds giving a stirring performance as auctioneer.

Everyone enjoyed the shoot, over £2,000 was raised for St Dunstan's and it is now hoped that the event will become an annual affair. The party finally left Ballykinler aglow not only from a day in the hot sun but also from the warmth of the Irish generosity and hospitality.



## It strikes me...

with Gog and Magog

GOG UNDERSTANDS that St Dunstan's Accounts team are taking an interest in the Grey Lady of Harcourt Street. This legless apparition is reckoned to be a nurse who tended the ill at the hospital previously located on the Headquarters site. As they discuss the ghost, a wispy white cloud emanates from the ceiling. It billows out, takes shape and ... bang! The light bulbs blow! Serendipity or something else?

Magog also has legless ladies on the horizon. A member of staff walks up surrounded by an intense waft of alcohol. At 9:30am it seems a little early to be imbibing, even for somebody of a fundraising persuasion. But such thoughts demand apology, a bottle in the hospitality cabinet is broken and the aromatic contents are leaking on to the floor.

Gog is drawn back to the location of our smoky apparition. A refurbishment reshuffle means the spot is now occupied by Welfare staff. One young lady hears somebody say hello, but nobody is standing nearby. Could it be talking watches expanding their vocabulary beyond the time of day? Or is it something else? Perhaps ghostbuster Derek Acorah should pay a visit ...

## St Dunstaner Aubrey makes big splash for local good causes

ST DUNSTANER AUBREY JONES made a big splash for four charities in Dunstable, Bedfordshire in September. In a series of swimming sessions, he swam just over five miles at his local leisure centre. On top of that, he clocked up an unrecorded 21 miles walking the mile-and-a-half and back each time from his home.

As a Leading Aircraftsman serving in India during the war, Aubrey had the opportunity to swim in the River Kowie, but he and his mates had be wary of sharks back then. Now aged 83, Aubrey didn't have to worry about sharks this time round, but admits he wasn't always quite sure where he was in the pool.

### Simon Rogers reports

"I swam using the lane rope as a guide," said Aubrey. "It was ok, but each length seemed longer as I got tired." However, he persevered and clocked up 328 lengths over 14 visits. "I usually swim once a week, about 16 lengths which is about a quarter of a mile, but for this I went in once a day except Thursday."

Through the swim Aubrey hopes to raise funds for his local church restoration fund, Crohn's Disease, the Royal Air Force Association and Sight Concern. A local newspaper item has prompted supporters to approach him while out shopping and he hopes to draw in around £550.

## Julie encounters Welsh wails

A ST DUNSTANER'S DAUGHTER will be encountering the weird side of Wales in BBC3's new late-night science fiction drama *Torchwood* on October 29th with a repeat on November 1st! Julie Gibbs, daughter of Colin Gibbs, appears in an episode of the *Doctor Who* spin-off entitled *The Ghost Machine*. Will Julie be saved by Captain Jack Harkness and his team or is she doomed to some unspeakable fate? The episode will have audio description available to Freeview and Sky viewers. Check [www.tvhelp.org.uk](http://www.tvhelp.org.uk) for AD details.

We talk to Colin Gibbs about the *Clatter of Clogs* on page 20.

## Des wins 'biggest ever' blind golf tournament

A TOTALLY BLIND St Dunstaner came out as top gun at what has been dubbed "the biggest blind golf event ever held." Des Chandler, aged 48, from Lewes, East Sussex won the British Blind Open Golf Tournament held at Ratho Park Golf Club near Edinburgh on September 7th and 8th. Guided as usual by Mike Mephram, he achieved a net total of 129. Forty-four visually impaired golfers from around the world competed in the event and St Dunstaner Mike Mayo, aged 43, of Lesmahgow, Lanark came 21st with a score of 153.

Ratho Park also hosted the World Invitation on September 4th and 5th. Des came 12th, during that contest and Mike 18th. The trophy was won by Scottish blind golfer Paul Hennessey.

## Kent St Dunstaner is first blind skiing instructor



Kevin Alderton  
in Les Arcs.

AN EX-SOLDIER blinded by thugs has become Britain's first blind ski instructor. Kevin Alderton, 35, of Dartford, Kent has qualified as a ski instructor and has taken up a position at Chatham Dry Ski Slop. He spent September teaching children from Kent schools, telling them how he was blinded. He suffered detached retinas after a street attack reducing his vision to "shadows and shapes".

## Ten questions on...

The subject of Australia

Harry Beevers goes down under

- 1) In which Australian season of the year does Christmas fall in that country?
- 2) Who was the first Yorkshire captain to go to Australia and not play in a cricket test match?
- 3) Which Australian landmark designed by the Dane Jørn Utzon, was opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1973?
- 4) Which animal is sometimes known as a Jumbuck in Australia?
- 5) Who was the Australian business tycoon who launched controversial World Series Cricket in the 1970's?
- 6) Which Australian pop and TV star shares her first name with the Aboriginal word for "Boomerang"?
- 7) The Australian international Rugby League team is known as the Kangaroos, what nickname is given to their international Rugby Union team?
- 8) What colour is the swan which appears on the state flag of Western Australia?
- 9) Which town in the Northern Territory is named after the wife of Sir Charles Todd a former postmaster-general who gave his name to the river Todd?
- 10) What was the contribution of "Banjo" Paterson to Australian music culture?

Answers can be found on page 34.

Ray Sheriff pays his respects to RAF Dispatchers at Arnhem!

## Ray is airborne again at Arnhem

**S**HORTLY BEFORE HIS 86th birthday, St Dunstaner Ray Sheriff, returned to Arnhem for the 62nd Anniversary of the 1944 battle in which he was blinded. Ray picks up the story: Once again for the last time! This sentence has declared my intention for the past ten years, so off we go again! My wife, Betty, and I made our way to the train-tunnel crossing from Folkestone to Calais on September 14th for the 250 miles to Arnhem, Holland. Not too tiring for me just sitting with a compass on my lap.

On Friday, September 15th, we were invited to attend a newly-sited memorial



Arnhem veterans. RAF Navigator Ken Pattison and Para Ray.

on behalf of the Royal Air Force Air Dispatchers. There were obviously many aircraft shot down trying to keep the Airborne forces

supplied with essential needs. There are numerous RAF air crew personal have their resting place in the Airborne Cemetery at Oosterbeek, eight miles from Arnhem.

I was invited to take part in the ceremony representing the Parachute Regiment. There were three other people representing different groups involved such as Gliders, Polish and Air Crew. I understand the Memorial itself was black in colour, five foot high and three foot wide which supported a Golden Eagle with wings extended as in flight.

On the following day, Saturday, September 16th at the early hour of 7:30am, we



Ray gets a sense of the size of the Dispatchers memorial.

five members of the Arnhem Veterans Parachute Team. Our strength 16 years ago was 65 jumpers. However, we joined five strong young Red Devils on transport to an airfield at Soesterberg, 20 miles west of Arnhem.

I was expecting to board our usual plane, a Dakota 3, but alas, it appeared we were to board a German Dornier 26. Here we were introduced to our Tandem Masters. I received a strong handshake from Corporal Billy Blanchard. In fact, I have a photograph of a Red Devil team taken in the year 2004. I understand he is the tallest of the team. He reminded me of the drill aspects for leaving the plane.

Unfortunately, we were in flight for over an hour due to an accident on the DZ. However, we eventually made the drop. The conditions were ideal, warm and a slight breeze. Thank goodness I had a soft landing. Due, of course, to the expertise of Billy! It appeared the hold-up was due to a couple of jumpers landing in trees and a third breaking his leg. Therefore jumping had to be halted whilst the DZ was cleared. Strangely enough, on this op, I jumped No 2, my first time ever since jumping as a totally blind person.

With the jumping over, it



Ray and Billy over Arnhem.

was nice to relax with a quiet drink and shake hands with many Dutch people. I understand there were many thousands present. To complete the day we enjoyed going out to dinner with Dutch friends whom we have known for many years.

On Sunday morning, we attended the Service at the Airborne Cemetery, Oosterbeek. Nice to witness the Dutch School Children laying their wreathes to the graves of the Airborne Soldiers.



Ray is re-united with Betty after his parachute drop.

# A simple thank you to the men of the mines



**Above:** Bersham miners having completed a path to a seam. **Right:** Colin Gibbs at the minehead maintained as a monument.



**Colin Gibbs** pays tribute to the men who risk their lives in Britain's mines

**W**HEN WREXHAM ST DUNSTANER Colin Gibbs became Vicar of Penycae in 1987, he didn't have any desire to write a book on his mind. He and his wife Jennifer were getting to know the community when they launched a coffee morning.

by Simon Rogers

"The Church Hall included the local Post Office and the coffee morning just happened to coincide with pension day," said Colin.

"We were pretty busy and we had quite a number of men attending which is unusual for a coffee morning."

Colin got talking with them and discovered that they were frequently joking about working in the pit. Through them he learnt of the harsh conditions in the mines, the dangers and how life underground invariably dominated the lives of friends and family over ground. He discovered that with anniversary of the Haford mine shutdown approaching nobody had ever bothered to say "thank you".

He organised a service of thanksgiving, enlivened by some floral arrangements by local families, which meant the church was overflowing

with flowers. "We arranged things so that entering the church was like going down into a mine."

As time passed, Colin learnt more the miners' lives. "In the 1920s or 1930s, if a miner died and the family didn't have the money for the funeral, they would go door to door with a cap and get a sixpence from each miner until they had enough. That is a typical miner's story and it is the origin of the phrase 'cap in hand'.

"There was no first aid back then and the employer had no immediate involvement beyond laying out the body on a barrow. It would be carried out, put on a cart and left for somebody to come and take the body home. You would get young mums, girls and grandmothers who would wash the body, clean it for burial.

"How they dealt with such

things, as men usually deal with danger or tragedy, was that they laughed at it. I discovered they had a great humour though it often had a feel of the gallows about it.”

Colin began collecting anecdotes and examples of this humour which he collected in a volume entitled *Clatter of Clogs*. “The title came from a parishioner of mine, Colin Reese, we had a conversation where he said that all he could remember at five in the morning was the clatter of clogs of people going to work. He said it was more reliable than an alarm clock.”

The original print run was used as a fundraiser for the Miners’ Convalescent Home in Blackpool. Colin was enjoyably surprised by its successful reception. There was one surprise though!

The cover featured a photograph of a man being carried from Haford after a roof fall. Colin reported the incident as fatal. One day as he was doing some shopping a man approached. “Good morning vicar,” he said. “Just saw your book, didn’t like the cover though. I’m the man on the stretcher!” In the new edition of *Clatter of Clogs*, Colin says he is more than happy to record that stories of Harry Pierce’s demise are greatly exaggerated.

The use of nicknames is a point of fascination for Colin.

“They are usually humorous, some are rude, many have something to do with a man’s mother or sister, because they know the families. Bill Sophie is an example.”

One fellow was dubbed Dai Six-months – after a pitfall he had his left ear stitched up and well, six months is half a year! Another who commented on the mental attitude of his fellows was dubbed Morgan Reasonable while Danny Woodenleg had acquired the nickname from his grandfather.”

By contrast, the book contains a fair share of tragedy. The Gresford Disaster of 1934 is still resonant for wiping out the youth of a generation. “It was on a Friday, the youngsters put in the overtime wanting to go to the football match on Saturday. The old men went home which is why so many youngsters lost their lives.”

It is a point of pride for Colin that where many books on mining concern themselves with statistics, of tonnages and technical details of extraction, his book concentrates on the people that made those statistics work.

Colin began his working life at *Modern Woman*, published by George Newnes Ltd (a publishing house which in the late 19th century had introduced some chap called

Pearson to Fleet Street). He later joined Reuters News Agency and went on to become editor of *Point Three*, the magazine of Toc H.

He entered National Service in 1953 and joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. “I quite enjoyed it, not the first year, that was a bit of a shock but I went into a trade and came out as Sergeant.”

The ‘trade’ involved collecting caches of arms stored in case of German invasion. Some would be re-packed for future use, some had deteriorated beyond safety. “People don’t usually think of National Servicemen doing things like that, but a lot of them did.”

In the last decade Macular degeneration has taken its toll on Colin’s sight. “I lost colour totally a few years ago and if I look at steps it is all flattened out. I can’t tell the depth of things any more.

Colin has two more books in mind - a WWII story of retribution and a divine conspiracy thriller. “It’s a Dan Brown-style story but with some aspects that have been properly documented.”

In the meantime, *Clatter of Clogs* costs £6.99 (ISBN 1-84494-026-8) and if it isn’t available from a bookshop nearby, it can be purchased from Colin on 01978 823550.

## Joe Cousineau discusses education plans and tactile paving

# Just keeping it busy!

by Simon Rogers

**E**DUCATION IS SOMETHING that doesn’t stop just because you reach a particular age,” says St Dunstaner Joe Cousineau. “Just because you reach 16, that doesn’t mean it is over on a particular day.”

The 26-year-old St Dunstaner is considering his future and has targeted sports therapy as an ideal subject to study. “It opens so many doors,” he said. “You can work in all sorts of fields as a sports therapist, with athletes, in child care, with the elderly. There are a lot of options.”

The objective is part of his ongoing determination to rebuild his life after the road traffic accident that made him a St Dunstaner. He was serving in the King’s Regiment when he was injured in a car crash. Joe has no recollection of the event but he lay in a limbo-like condition in intensive care for nearly six months.

Although the accident has distorted his life, he remains determined to carve a niche in life and was looking forward to refreshing his computer skills and taking

a few cookery lessons at St Dunstan’s Sheffield. In fact, he’s kept up a remarkably hectic schedule in recent years. He has studied Spanish, acquiring a fluent eloquence, and visited the country to live amongst its people and learn more of their culture. He set up an impromptu massage service on a tourist beach while out there, not exactly a living, but it swelled the coffers.

He made a tandem parachute jump, raising some £3,000 for St Dunstan’s and has maintained an interest in several charitable causes. Joe also made a trip to the USA under the Camp America programme. While out there, he was caring for a number of elderly people.

St Dunstaners who attended this year’s Liverpool Reunion will recall Joe bringing their attention to a matter of mutual concern. “On road crossings, when they lay the tactile paving now it just slopes down to the road,” he explains. “A blind person can’t tell if he is on or off the road. I did suggest they

do half-and-half, one-side for wheelchairs, one-side for blind people, but I suppose that might depend to the size of the crossing.”

Joe mounted a petition, collecting hundreds of signatures for people concerned about the matter. After being interviewed by local press, tv and radio, his concerns are being carried by the Liverpool Voluntary Society for the Blind to the Joint Committee on Mobility of Blind and Partially Sighted People.

He is aiming to structure his environment to maintain his independence, but adds that living in the city centre of Liverpool raises a few obstacles at present. The area is subject to the ‘Big Dig’ programme, a massive urban renewal in preparation for Liverpool becoming City of Culture in 2008. A side effect is that favoured routes are blocked or changed as construction moves ahead.

In any event, Joe plans to keep busy and is optimistic that he will continue to learn new things and build on experiences with the help of family and friends.

## Maria Pikulski goes into action on the Activities Week

# A wild wah-hooooo or two!

**A**N EARLY START to the week setting off at 07:00hrs on the Monday going to Calshot Spit, Southampton. We gave a warm welcome to activities week newcomers, Tom Boal, Chris Bennett, Tony Watson and Kelly Hart, also Katy Barrett and Gordon Grey who joined us during the week. The staff who attended with us were Adam Fich, Gemma Kirkwood and Gordon, not forgetting Brian Muggerridge who is our devoted driver, but unfortunately can only be with us for two days this year, as his miss's is taking him off to Canada for his 60th even though he does not look a day over 21!

The accommodation was in the new block and was a pleasant surprise with all mod cons, even a telly in each room and the instructors were very friendly as last year. I think they were briefed on us by last year's instructors so they knew what to expect!

We started with a brief on what to expect and before lunch we had a play (I think I can call it that) on the dry Ski Slope, having fun on the toboggans, having races with each other. We had lunch which was as great as last year and the catering staff were very helpful. We then went out on the water, the weather was great. Some were brave enough to try

their hand at single canoeing but the rest of us went sailing and the instructors gave us lessons and we got to try everything out. After dinner we had a go at Skiing but left the professionals like Colin Williamson and Adam to it. However, Chris Bennett took to skiing like ducks take to water. The Monday evening of course, was spent in the bar, which was rearranged to accommodate us all.

Tuesday, the weather was glorious and off to the water we went. Some of us went sailing, windsurfing and a chance to have a go in a RIB. I think Kelly tried to knock herself in the water as Sarah, our instructor, said duck and Kelly did not. The boom nearly threw her into the water after banging her head. While our group was waiting to go out on the RIB, the windsurfers were having a play around. I think Adam thought he was supposed to be on land as he could not get way from the side, and Tom was surfing around and thought he would like a walk on the jetty instead and just walked off the surfboard onto the jetty and looked quite cool about it. Whilst on the RIB you had to hold on tight, but Kelly bounced around



Hello cheeky! Maria lags behind in the egg-and-spoon.

Sailing away from the sunset, Maria Pikulski takes the helm! Kelly Hart, James Poole and Alan Gibson enjoy the sun and the spray as the team go sailing off Brighton.



so much I had to hold onto her as I had fear of her going over board. Kelly screamed so much I could not stop laughing. I think everyone who had never driven a RIB before got a chance.

After this some had a go at some different things like velodrome, archery, climbing and abseiling. Later we went to have a go at high ropes, one of which was the Leap of Faith. You climbed up to a platform and then literally jumped off trusting your harness and your mates holding the ropes! I think the best goes to James Poole as he was nervous but he went for it - and what an achievement. I think there were quite a few spider-men about as well. Another activity was a game of how high you could build a tower of crates, everyone had a go and it was a laugh. A few of

us also had a go at abseiling and I think the best would go to Steve Finlay and Tony Watson for a great abseil. I know the weather was great but I think the water was still a bit cold, and I think Maurice Bowley and Derek Roden may have been a bit over enthusiastic at braving the outdoor pool, but had a splashing time, well done! Just a little note to say the food was excellent and the staff were very helpful and friendly and a big thanks to the instructors.

Off we went back to Ovingdean in the safe hands of Brian, and I think the majority of us stayed in our rooms to catch up with our sleep for the days to come.

Wednesday, saw an early start to the day. Paul Green drove us to the Priory Events in Redhill, Surrey and I do

not think he knew what he was letting himself in for, but since he is a good sport he got stuck in. The staff of the Priory greeted us and, after breakfast, activities started. Our whole group went down to the field and had a drive of the Apaches. This was a buggy with a Honda 750 motor bike engine,. All of us had a go, including the staff, but I think us VIP's drove the best, ha, ha! Then we had a do at off-road driving in a Range Rover. We all had a great drive and the instructor's were very calm and patient. We then had a break for lunch which was very welcome and food was fantastic. After lunch, we all went on our merry way. We had a go at clay pigeon shooting, again; thanks must go to the instructors for their patience and friendliness. We finished off with a team building game, literally!

Split into two teams, we had to build a shelter from what was given. Dubbed the desert island, and we had to build a shelter to protect ourselves from the wind and rain. I think both teams had a laugh and did not get too wet. We must not forget Milly the puppy who kept us company throughout the day. A fantastic day all-round and a big thank you to all involved.

Back to base for a rest and a quiz night, fun was had by all.

Thursday, what a beautiful day! We have been lucky all week, so off we went either sailing or racing about on St Dunstan's RIB. I think the sailing group were on a 30ft yacht and we all got lessons in sailing and having a go.

It was a different kind of sailing to what we experienced in Southampton. Later, we changed over and then got the chance to go out on the RIB and drive it. We got based at the Weatherspoons pub on the Marina, so Alan, Kelly and I had to walk back along the underpass to St Dunstan's and sun was blazing.

When we all got back, we showered and got changed, then off we went to the Dogs. Not literally, I mean Hove Dog Track to be precise. It was very busy, but the Gym staff had reserved tables for us, so we had a base so we

could get into the swing of things. I think Derek, as last year, had a wining streak. He seemed to win all the time, he had a pot of money, but let none of his secrets out, kept tightly under his belt. I hope nobody went away out of pocket, fingers crossed.

On Friday, we went ten-pin bowling, and split into teams. Colin Williamson this year did not try and throw himself down the lane like last year but managed to get some great scores. We returned to base camp for dinner and then got ready for the sports afternoon, with games and some played football. Sorry to say that while playing the sack race poor Steve Finlay lost his sunglasses. We found them at the bottom of the sack broken into many pieces, sorry Steve.

## REUNION ROUND-UP

THE REUNION season resumed in Buckinghamshire when 33 St Dunstaners and four widows met up at the Aylesbury Reunion on September 27th. Catherine Ainslie was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding at the event held at the Holiday Inn, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. St Dunstaner Harry Smith responded to Mrs Ainslie's speech with a vote of thanks on behalf of those present.

Off we went to get ready for the BBQ as it was fancy dress with a Seven Seas theme. A few notable outfits included: A very handsome Officer called Andy Alliston, a lady Officer called Katy Barrett, a lady Viking called Louise Timms, a stowaway called Colin Williamson, and a Pirate called Kelly Hart and many more well done. The BBQ food was excellent from PBK, most of us danced the night away, what a great night!

I would like to end this Activities week resume on a big thank you to all the Gym staff, and Brian, Paul, Stuart and Gordon for all there support. Also all the staff who came to the Friday night BBQ, it was great, also Katy who joined in with the Priority Events, as she was game for anything, just got stuck in.

St Dunstaner Jamie Weller, CTA, ATT was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding at the Worcester Reunion on October 3rd. The gathering at the Whitehouse Hotel, Worcester united 41 St Dunstaners and nine widows. St Dunstaner George Johnson replied to Jamie's speech on behalf of those present. Five birthdays were toasted during the occasion with many happy returns wished to all concerned.

In or out, **Harry Beevers** tells us what cricket is all about!

## Outside the line and off the stump!

**F**OLLOWING MY explicit description of the laws of the beautiful game of cricket in the September **Review** I received a number of questions from a distressed member of the Ovingdean IT department who claimed to be somewhat flummoxed. May I apologise to any other readers who may have been similarly confused and I give below my reply which should clear up any remaining misunderstandings.

Slow bowlers bowl leg breaks but they don't break legs. Fast bowlers bowl beamers, bouncers and Yorkers. A bowler may have a short leg, a long leg, a square leg or a fine leg but not usually at the same time.

Scores of 111, 222, and 333 are known as Nelson, double Nelson and triple Nelson. Those scores are regarded by batsmen in England as unlucky but in Australia the unlucky number is 87. The reason for this is so obvious that I will not insult readers by giving any further explanation.

Sometimes the twelfth man comes on the field to become the third man and if the ball strikes the batsman on the head and a run is scored then the man in the white coat lifts his leg in the air and taps it. Sometimes he lifts both hands apart in the air, sometimes just one arm and from time to time he touches his shoulder or holds his arm across his chest. He sometimes makes

other gestures but that's another story.

A googly is an off-break cleverly disguised to look like a leg-break except when the bowler is left-handed and then it becomes a Chinaman. What could be more logical?

In Australia extras become sundries and 144 for 4 becomes 4 for 144.

If the batsman makes a late cut he is not tampering with the ball and though he may have perfect 20/20 vision he may be said to have attained a pair of spectacles if he is dismissed for nought in both

innings. And finally, if the batsman's cap falls off whilst he is making his stroke and it diverts the ball from hitting the wicket then he is out leg before wicket. Obvious and perfectly logical isn't it?

And did you know that Surrey County Cricket Club once had a fine batsman named Julius Caesar, that Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle's only victim in a first-class match was W.G. Grace and that the 1969 Nobel Literature Prize-winner Samuel Becket once played in a first-class match?

I do hope that these simple explanations fully clear up any problems which the uninitiated may still have. Any further queries regarding this noble game should be addressed to the Yorkshire Home for Bewildered Umpires together with a stamped-addressed envelope.

## A great run for Jennifer

**OPHTHALMIC NURSE** Jennifer Tregenza ran 13-miles for St Dunstan's on October 1st. She was running in the Great North Run and completed the Newcastle event in 2 hours, 33 minutes and 38 seconds. Currently a

practitioner in the eye clinic at UCLH, Jennifer served six years in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. She ran under St Dunstan's colours again for the Great South Run in Portsmouth on October 22nd.

# POETS' CORNER

Poetry written by  
St Dunstaners

## THE BOTTOM OF MY BAG

How is it  
that everything I need in a hurry  
Falls to the bottom of my bag?  
I go to the Post Office  
to cash my Pension  
stand in the queue  
in a state of apprehension  
aware that when I parked my car  
I failed to display my permit –  
for although I turned my pockets inside out  
nowhere could I find it.

At last, with growing anxiety  
I reach the Cashier's Counter  
where I'm greeted with a smile:  
but where, Oh where is my Pension Book  
I could swear I had it in my hand –  
and now a restless queue mounts up behind me,  
(my heart sags as I search)  
until, finally, I find it  
at the very bottom of my bag!

Embarrassed, I murmur 'Thank you',  
clutch my money,  
bow - and leave the shop;  
Reach my car with thankfulness  
to find my keys are lost;  
- and there, in the distance  
strolls the Traffic Warden on his beat  
with countenance so determined  
he's bound to fine me on the spot!  
I hasten back to the Counter  
edging through a patient queue –  
apologise profusely  
as I knock someone's basket askew;  
once more I apologise –  
explain I've lost my keys;  
once more I feel embarrassment  
as the queue joins in the search ...  
Then a kindly fellow  
known as the local wag,  
Suggests they might – just might be  
with my permit, at the bottom of my bag!

He was right! – and as I found them  
nestling in the deep recesses,  
who should walk into the Post Office,  
but the much feared Traffic Warden  
who smiled at me, and said,  
'It's alright this time, Lady!  
because at twelve o'clock, I came off duty;  
but if again I catch you without a permit,  
- or parking on a yellow line,  
be sure, you'll get a Ticket  
and a very heavy fine!'  
**Venetia Carse (1919-2006)**

## ARMISTICE

A war is over, a battle won,  
Who will remember now It's done?  
Will it be those we've left behind,  
How could their fate's be so unkind?

Will it matter that some lie dead,  
Left on a far-flung muddy bed,  
Or wearily sharing a homeward track,  
Onward", homeward, don't look back.

Why did we go, was it just pride,  
Or something we all hold dear inside,  
Knowing full well that some will die,  
With nobody near them to say, "Goodbye".

Too many places, too many wars,  
Too many battles for no good cause,  
Ignorant rantings, they didn't know then,  
That many's the sword that defeats the pen.

Why doesn't mankind find the strength,  
And take the time, go to any length,  
To denounce all greed and avarice,  
And declare a true world Armistice?

But there's the rub, we've no true brother,  
To build that new world for each other,  
So we must strive on desperately,  
Just play your part, be fair, be free!  
**Arthur Morley**

## DEPARTED FRIENDS - THE BLESSED ONE

I would have come before  
To lift you to your grace.  
Much beloved are you,  
Your wisdom guides the young ones in gentle face.  
I remember thee Steve, thy gentle face.  
(One day you passed beyond)  
Behold! I stood within a door  
And through that door I saw a sight,  
A land of beauty fair and bright.  
Behind me, darkness pitch as night,  
In front, that land of sheer delight.

Fields so green and flowers of brilliant hue,  
Friends to greet me, friends I knew  
And some were there whom I knew not  
Come to release the silver knot  
which bound me to the earthly plot  
So I come back in love once more  
To tell me friends to weep no more.

I come amongst you day by day  
So you, like me will learn to pray  
To see the light and feel the love  
That comes from him so far above.  
Your friends unseen and friends unheard  
With whispered steps they softly tread  
And behind thee all thy days.

I come to ask thee give more love  
To those beyond the veil  
For some in darkness when they passed  
Are still, in death, held bound and fast.

And now my friends I kneel again,  
For here, no more you feel the pain  
For what you do and what you say  
Will a soul upon its way

Your friends will listen while you sit,  
For you a candle each is lit.  
So take a blessing in your turn  
And seek the love of those who yearn  
To shed their love and blessings too  
And this benediction true from  
Us beyond to each of you.

Verily my brothers, sisters 'tis  
Good thoughts I have of thee

Shush thyself, 'tis evening;  
Blessed his they head in the coolness  
Of the veil. Go forth into the light,  
For though art worthy  
Blessings heaped upon thee is thy right!  
Thou as asked for nothing: abundance  
Is with the for ever  
For thou are blessed.

Brave heart Steve.

**Bernard Cooper (1920-2005)**

## THERE IS A PLACE

There is a place not far from here,  
Where I may sit and dream,  
Of all the years that I have lived  
and all the things I have seen,  
To look into the bright blue sky  
and see a bird in flight,  
To look upon a garden with flowers with delight,  
And when my eyes get heavy and I fall fast asleep,  
I wake-up with a start,  
Is dark another day complete.

When I was a young man and life was care free,  
I would wander the fields and climb the trees,  
And watch the corn blowing in the breeze,  
When I was a young man,  
Now I am three score years and ten,  
My bones are aching and it's hard to bend,  
I sit by the window and look out to sea,  
And I dream of the days when life was care free.

I got a new cane today they tell me it's white,  
There's a ball on the end,  
That I move left to right,  
I walk in the space that the cane tells me too,  
I didn't realize what a cane could do,  
It touches the ground in front of me,  
And tells me of obstacles I cannot see,  
This cane is now apart of me,  
It gives me the confidence as if I could see,  
All I can say is thanks to those who gave it to me.

**Kenneth Reeves**

Simon Rogers follows Medway ATC on the braille trail

## A blind man told me where to go!

**T**HE TROUBLE WITH being in greens is that everyone will think we are Army Cadets," says one lad. Not that there is anything wrong with being an Army Cadet, but the 53 teenagers assembled in the Rochester countryside on the morning of October 7th are quite proud to be representing the Air Training Cadet corps. Medway ATC are marking their claim

on the St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge and are determined to apply some finesse to the task at hand. They have a 13-mile sponsored walk ahead of them, but there are some twists to the endeavour which mean they will probably cover over 14 miles before the day is through.

The cadets are drawn from 25 Parkwood, 1039 Gillingham, 1404 Chatham,

2511 Longfield and 213 City of Rochester Squadrons, Kent's finest if their progress through the day is a fair measure of their calibre.

They were joined by Rochester St Dunstaner Steve Pendleton and Tyneside St Dunstaner Colin Williamson who diplomatically answers the question "Are you from Scotland, Sir?"

The first leg of the walk sees some cadets don blindfolds, the other half guiding them. Tracey from Longfield takes the opportunity to try out a liquid level indicator with a water ration and a few people jump when her full cup starts beeping. Walking blindfold raises a few issues of trust, particularly when trees jump out in front of some, but a few have the confidence to advance while doing a conga.

The next stage combines an orienteering exercise which has been complicated by Steve, who supplies their grid reference on a Braille strip. Each team must decipher the code to find out where on the map they are going.

Chatham cadet Corporal Michael Odd made a point of reading the strip

while looking the opposite direction. "I think I have got the basics," he said. "But I find it hard to distinguish the L-shaped characters. I think with numbers I am ok, but if I had to go to letters I think I would find it difficult."

Direction confirmed, the ATC cadets move one through a muddy trail (which is nowhere near as muddy as the conditions Colin would be facing the next weekend, but more on that next issue). The path leads through a woody nature reserve down to a main road and the next twist - a member of each team would be carried forward as a stretcher patient!

A new piece of kit demands a test run and Colin was quickly press-ganged into being a guinea-pig for the City of Rochester cadets. "Stretchers weren't like this when I was in the Army," he said before being strapped into the cocoon-like device and hoisted off the ground.

Test over, it works, Colin is replaced by Cadet Sergeant Stephanie Norton who is raised aloft and carried down the hill. One lesson concerns distribution of height, it helps to even out the carriers otherwise the patient is in for bumpy ride.

There are two more Braille coded directions from Steve for the cadets to find their



Michael Odd shows the Mayor how to crack the code.



Rochester ATC have Colin Williamson where they want him.



Steve gave each ATC group a grid reference in braille.

way home and he joined one group for the last stretch of the walk. The final leg saw them form up with standards for a march back to the finish where they called eyes-right as they

were saluted by the Mayor of Medway, Councillor Angela Prodger. She applauded their achievement and congratulated them for supporting blind ex-Service men and women.



Alan Brown is proud of a badge that did not come off eBay

## My Blue Peter award

**A**BOUT SIX YEARS ago I was invited along, with five other visually impaired friends in Bristol, to take part in an educational video concerning how we took on board the feelings, emotions and acceptance of the fact that we were each going to lose some or all our useful sight.

The programme was chiefly for distribution to all Eye Hospitals in a countrywide bid to educate staff, from Surgeons to nurses and the meeters and greeters at the Reception desks. It was also to be given an airing on the BBC's *Blue Peter* programme to be allotted at a later date.

When my name was called for the interview, which was held at the RNIB Resource Centre in South Bristol, I mentioned to the cameraman that I am an avid supporter of the young, and 'young in heart' programme. For many years I watched, and now listen to every session which goes out now on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday teatimes.

All the interviews went well. At the close of my few moments in front of camera, the cameraman asked me to hold on for a few seconds.

I heard him rummaging in a bag and when he came back he asked me to hold out my hand. This done, he placed an object on the palm of my hand saying, "This is your very own *Blue Peter* badge. I will be proud and pleased to pin it onto the lapel of your blazer."

Travelling home on the bus that afternoon it wasn't long before I started hearing comments about my very distinctive and sought after badge.

I am now involved in the St Dunstan's Schools Project

and at Primary, Junior and Senior schools I make sure I am wearing my badge, be it on blazer or the, more casual, red t-shirt. The moment the children begin to assemble I can hear the whispers of "He's got a *Blue Peter* badge!"

I tell them how them how I earned it and that I didn't buy it on eBay.

Through wearing this symbol, along with the St Dunstan's shield, my aim is to encourage and possibly enable the future generations who may become visually impaired.

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## Diamond day in Devon for Brian and Marines

ST DUNSTANER Brian Beniston joined fellow Royal Marines at the Marines' training base in Lympstone, Devon for a weekend of events and activities to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Royal Marine Association in September.

Brian served in the Royal Marines for 14 years and was a Lance Corporal. He was reunited with old comrades at the base, some of whom he

hadn't met up for at least ten years. Living up to the motto "Once a Marine, always a Marine", Brian joined his comrades to march on the parade ground prior to a Drumhead ceremony.

The weekend also included a concert by the Band of the Royal Marines, a tour of the base and a visit to the Marines' museum. "It was great to see a lot of old pals I hadn't seen for years," he said.

## Welcome to ST DUNSTAN'S

**Ronald Austin** of Plymouth, Devon served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1945.

**John Baber** of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1960.

**Margaret Bailey** of Southwick, Brighton served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 or 1945.

**Robert Barnett** of Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex served in the Royal Fusiliers and Royal Army Ordnance Corps between 1940 and 1946.

**Margaret Barrett** of Westminster, London served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1942 to 1949.

**Denis Blow** of East Grinstead, West Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

**Kathleen Boxall** of Lewes, East Sussex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

**Charles Broad** of Finchley, London served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

**Derek Brown** of Torpoint, Cornwall served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1969.

**William Butcher** of Newent, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Navy in 1944.

**William Chambers** of Truidale, Oldbury, West Midlands served in the Worcestershire Regiment from 1950 to 1952.

**Josephine Chatterton** of Hove, East Sussex served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1942 to 1946.

**James Davis** of Wortwell, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Ronald Dunn** of Luton, Bedfordshire served in the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1946.

**John Gidley** of Folkestone, Kent served as Corporal in the Royal Fusiliers, Royal Armoured Corps and King's Dragoon Guards between 1939 and 1946.

**Simon Gyte** of North Stainley, Ripon, North Yorkshire served in the Royal Engineers from 1997 to 2005.

**John Harvey** of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

**Colonel John Higgins**, OBE of Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex served in

the Royal Signals, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport between 1943 and 1969.

**Kevin Leahy** of Lindale, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and as Craftsman in Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1949 and 1951.

**Peter Melliush** of Buckingham, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1950 to 1952.

**Brian Mills** from Fleetwood, Lancashire served in the Border Regiment from 1947 to 1949.

**Robert Mitchell** of Romford, Essex served in the Royal Navy from 1949 to 1957.

**Joyce More** of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire served as Private in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1945.

**Joan Morgan** of Rottingdean, East Sussex served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1944.

**George Morton** of Chorleywood, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1943 to 1947.

**Marjorie Mower** of Hangleton, Hove, East Sussex served as Private in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1939 to 1940.

**Harry Nelson** of South Hylton, Sunderland served as Able Seaman in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1949.

**Walter Parker** of Auckley, Doncaster, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1936 to 1973.

**Ernest Parsons** of Lancing, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1949.

**William Penny** of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire joined the Merchant Navy in 1936, transferred to the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946, then rejoined the Merchant fleet until retiring in 1971.

**Doreen Proctor** of Bickley, Kent served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

**Albert Richards** of Welshpool, Powys served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment from 1942 to 1945.

**Robert Ridgeon** of Worksop, Nottinghamshire served as a driver and a mechanic in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 to 1943 and Royal Engineers between 1943 and 1946.

**Jeffrey Skelton** of Hoyland, Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1953.

**Stanley W. Smith** of Bampton, Oxfordshire served in the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry from 1943 to 1945. He was a POW in Poland.

**Stanley W.G. Smith** of Shirley, Croydon, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1973.

**Sydney Spring** of Little Chalfont, Amersham, Buckinghamshire served in the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) from 1939 to 1946.

**Kenneth Storey** of Southmoor, Stanley, County Durham served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1955.

**Edmund Watson** of Preston, Lancashire served as Signalman in the Royal Signals from 1944 to 1948.

**Eric Whitley** of Chorley, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force Police from 1955 to 1959.

**Joy Williams** of Welwyn, Hertfordshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1946.

**Alexander Wilson** of Felixstowe, Suffolk served in the TA and ARP before serving in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1978.

## BEER OF THE MONTH

by Colin Williamson

### Liefmans Frambozenbier

ABV 4.5 per cent. This dark, slightly pink, Belgian beer is a delightful Raspberry beer with a sherry like acidity and a almost "woody" taste of real raspberries. A flowery start to the beer and then a surprisingly sweet aftertaste, rounding off to a complex finish, tarty and dry. It has a Flemish sour beer base using stale hops to avoid bitterness when fermented with wild yeast. Pour into a long stemmed glass and serve chilled. The brewery can be traced to Oudenaarde in 1679 but the name Liefmans does not become associated with it for another 100 years..

## Ten answers...

Answers for page 17

- 1) Summer.
- 2) Captain James Cook!
- 3) Sydney Opera House.
- 4) Sheep.
- 5) Kerry Packer
- 6) Kylie Minogue.
- 7) Wallabies.
- 8) Black.
- 9) Alice Springs.
- 10) He wrote the song *Waltzing Matilda*.

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS



**Congratulations on the birth of:** Pippa Juliana Wright in Cardiff on August 15th. She is the granddaughter of Jan Wright of Shepperton, Middlesex and late St Dunstaner *Jimmy Wright, OBE, DFC*.

### WEDDINGS

**Congratulations to:** Jonathan Hazan and Louise Salt who married in Putney, London September 16th. Jonathan is the elder son of *Raymond Hazan* of London.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:** *Peter and Anne Bradshaw* of Maidstone Kent on September 22nd.

*James and Shirley Whymark* of Ipswich, Suffolk on October 10th.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:** *Lewis and Barbara Weedon* of Northchurch, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire who celebrated 66 years of marriage on July 7th.

*Leonard and Joyce Hassan* of Warminster, Wiltshire who celebrated 64 years of marriage on September 26th.

*Derrick and Val Simon* of Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex who celebrated 67 years of marriage on September 26th.

*Wallace and Jean Burnet-Smith* of Brighton who celebrated 61 years of marriage on October 3rd.

*Dennis and Joan Brown* of Linden Village, Buckinghamshire who celebrated 65 years of marriage on October 4th.

*Dennis and Beth Parrish* of Woking, Surrey who celebrated 62 years of marriage on October 7th.

*John and Gladys Lane* of South Shields of Tyne & Wear who celebrated 61 years of marriage on October 8th.

*Edwin and Joan Holmes* of Billingford, Dereham, Norfolk who celebrated 61 years of marriage on October 11th.

*Leonard and Peggy Spendlove* of Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands who celebrated 63 years of marriage on October 16th.

*Charles and Anthea Booth-Jones* of Hentsridge, Templecombe, Somerset who celebrated 64 years of marriage on October 17th.

### DEATHS

**We regret to announce the death of:** *Ivy Lutman* on September 17th. She was the wife of *Geoffrey Lutman* of Goffs Oak, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire.

**Maureen Rawlinson** on October 8th. She was the wife of *Eddie Rawlinson* of Blackpool, Lancashire.

**Mary Williams** of Shortlands, Bromley, Kent on September 10th. She was the widow of *Henry Williams*.

**Louise 'Louie' Brooks** of Bedford, Bedfordshire on September 17th. She was the widow of *Edward Brooks*.

**Janet Bull** of Braunton, Devon on September 28th. She was the widow of *Edgar Bull* of Southampton, Hampshire.

**Vera Mays** of Steeple Bumpstead, Suffolk on September 30th. She was the widow of *Cedric 'Spike' Mays*.

**Beryl Treglown** of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire on October 1st. She was the widow of *Geoffrey Treglown, MBE*.

**Janet Paris** of Wimbledon, London on October 4th. She was the widow of *Edward Paris*.

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.

### Barbara Tate

Women's Royal Naval Service  
Barbara Tate of Knole Park, Sevenoaks, Kent died on August 26th, aged 96. She was employed in domestic work for the Sackville Family at Knole House before joining the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1943. She was stationed at Rochester and then Dover. Discharged in 1946, she returned to Knole House working for the National Trust. She volunteered for the ambulance section of the local civil defence project and also enjoyed needlework, badminton and walking. Our sympathy goes to her nephew Ronald and all members of the family.

### Sydney Scroggie

#### Lovat Scouts

Dr William Sydney Scroggie of Bridgefoot, Dundee, Angus died on September 9th, aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1945. He coined his own epitaph in the short verse:

"Alow they steens there lies a lad  
Pech'd oot an' fairly deen,  
He gae'd his ain gait a' his life  
But whiles wi' ithers' e'en."

He and his twin brother Jack (a Minister at Mains Kirk, Dundee) were born in Nelson, Canada where his parents had settled. A family holiday in Scotland became a permanent move when his father, an officer in the Canadian Army, passed away at the age of 33 - a piece of shrapnel acquired during WWI proved fatal after a riding accident. Educated in turn at John Watson's School, Edinburgh and then the Harris Academy in Dundee, he began his working life with publisher DC Thomson learning the sub-editor's craft on *The Dundee Courier* and more iconically on boy's adventure paper *The Hotspur*. His Editor, Bill (*Tough of the Track*) Blaine, described him as a "playboy" during those few years. His free time was consumed by rock climbing. Enlisting in 1940, he joined the 7th Cameronians and was commissioned the following year. Training in the Cairngorms for mountain warfare, he then transferred to the Lovat Scouts. The move saw him spending some six months training out in the open in the Canadian Rockies and leading a platoon on an unprecedented winter ascent of Mount Columbia (12,294ft). A month before the end of the war, having successfully engaged a unit of German troops near Monte Grande in northern Italy, he stepped on a landmine. The blast blinded him and also took his lower left leg. After a spell of hospitalisation, he joined St Dunstan's at Church Stretton, learning Braille and shorthand typing. He demonstrated an interest in the Moral Re-Armament movement before turning his attention to New College, Oxford where he went to study history. Although he did not pursue his studies to the point of taking a degree, he would later be feted for teaching himself two types of Greek using Braille textbooks. Training as a telephonist, he worked initially for Bundept Vider Ltd, who also relied on his skills as a shorthand typist, then he joined National Cash Register. He wrote for the NCR staff magazine when not on the switchboard. A collection of his verse *Give Me The Hills* was published

in 1978 and an anthology *Poems of the Scottish Hills* furthered his reputation as a poet. Regarding, blindness as an adventure, he continued climbing and hill walking. He is reputed to have encountered Fearlas Mor, the Grey Man of Ben MacDui. At the least, he conquered its peak. He produced an acclaimed portrait of the Scottish mountains with *The Cairngorms, Seen and Unseen* in 1989, while *Highland Soldiers* by William C. Taylor utilised his writings as the backbone of its narrative. The Cairngorms also frequently provided a backdrop to an entertaining and thought-provoking column which he penned for St Dunstan's Review. His notoriety as a hill walker, despite his wartime injuries prompted television appearances on *This is Your Life*, RTE's *The Late Late Show* and *Weir's Way*. While walking the Sidlaw Hills, Syd was unknowingly sketched by artist Lex Braes. The resulting portrait became part of the permanent art collection at Dundee's McManus Gallery. Striking up a friendship with the artist, he was subsequently dubbed a subversive by right-wing group The Economic League who were upset by Braes' painting of Nelson Mandella. In 2000 a cairn and indicator was erected on top of Balluderon Hill in the Sidlaw Hills. An 81-year-old Sydney, guided by his wife Margaret made the climb for the unveiling. In 2001, he was made an honorary Doctor of Laws by Dundee University. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret, sons Jamie and Sydney, daughter Mary and all members of the family.

### Roy Heyes

#### Royal Army Service Corps

Philip Roy Heyes of Northfield, Birmingham, West Midlands died on September 17th, aged 68. He trained as a butcher before being called up for National service in 1959. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps and became a driver, serving in the UK and in Germany. Discharged in 1961, he was diagnosed with glaucoma which was then complicated by surgery. Unable to resume

work as a butcher, he became a storeman. He was a member of the National Service Veterans' Association. Our sympathy goes to his widow Janet, daughters Louise and Marie and all members of the family.

### Paul McCulloch

#### Royal Army Medical Corps

Dr Paul McCulloch, Bsc, MB, CHB, AFOM of Tullibody, Alloa, Clack Mannanshire died on September 18th, aged 86. He studied medicine and qualified as a doctor before joining the 5th Battalion (Cambuslang) Lanarkshire Home Guard in 1940, serving as Private until 1943. In 1945, he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. After training at Fleet, he was posted to the Far East, serving in Malaya, Bombay and Rangoon. He was later posted Egypt and became medical officer on troopships in the Mediterranean. He was released to the reserve in 1947. Relinquishing his commission in 1959, he was granted the honorary rank of Captain. In civilian life, he was a Medical Practitioner Locum in Woking but later became Medical Officer to the Royal Small Arms Factory in Enfield. His interests included golf, spectator sports and playing the piano. Our sympathy goes to his widow Rene, daughters Kay and Janet and all members of the family.

### Alexander Panton

#### Royal Engineers

Alexander Panton of Rubery, Birmingham died on September 21st, aged 78. He had worked as a van boy for a bakery and then in a steel mill before being called up in 1946. He served with the Royal Engineers in Palestine and Egypt. Discharged in 1948, he rejoined the steelworks, but later went to work for Rover. Our sympathy goes to his widow Gwen and all members of the family.

### Edwin Sharp

#### Royal Armoured Corps

Edwin Frederick Sharp of Pagham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex died on September

24th, aged 79. He was a trainee with the General Electric Company before joining the Royal Artillery in 1946. After training at Colchester, he was posted to a Heavy Ack-Ack unit at Oswestry. He later transferred to the Royal Armoured Corps. Discharged in 1948, he rejoined GEC but later went to work for Osram and also worked in insurance. His interests included rugby and golf. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mavis and all members of the family.

**Roger Saddington**  
Merchant Navy

Edgar Roger Saddington of Burton Latimer, Kettering, Northamptonshire died on September 27th, aged 81. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1943 and sailed on the Atlantic convoys, to North Africa. He also sailed in support of the Normandy landings. Discharged in 1946, he resumed work in the building trade and later became a publican as licensee of the White Lion at Geddington. Our sympathy goes to his widow Irene and all members of the family.

**Ann Carse**

First Aid Nursing Yeomanry

Ann Venetia Carse nee Kempe of Fittleworth, West Sussex died on September 29th, aged 87. She trained in child development with the Froebel Institute in Roehampton for two years before joining the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry in 1938. Training at the Duke of York's Headquarters in London, she served with 1st (London) Motor Driver Company and later became a staff officer at the Education Training Centre in Cambridge. She was discharged in 1945 as Junior Commander and then worked as a medical social worker in London and Brighton. In 1958, she married Duncan Carse, who was the second actor to play Dick Barton, Special Agent, but also had great renown and also as a polar explorer and mountaineer having charted South Georgia. In recent years, she had been working on a book about her husband's work. She wrote

poetry and enjoyed gardening, travel and walking. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**John Tobin**

Durham Light Infantry

John Francis Tobin of Kirkholt, Rochdale, Greater Manchester died on September 29th, aged 83. He started working life as an apprentice butcher and slaughterman and was called up in 1942. Joining the Durham Light Infantry, he was posted to their 10th Battalion pending deployment in Iceland. However, plans changed and he became a member of a mortar platoon in time for the Normandy Invasion. His unit had advanced on Belgium by September 1944 when he suffered multiple gun shot wounds causing the loss of his right eye. Returning to the UK, he joined St Dunstan's at Church Stretton where further treatment restored sight in his remaining eye. Demobbed in 1945, he became a publican and later a brewery stocktaker. His interests included playing the piano. Our sympathy goes to his daughters Maureen, Theresa, and Suzanne and all members of the family.

**Bill Norton**

Royal Air Force

William Norton of Brinsworth, Rotherham, South Yorkshire died in September, aged 75. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1951. Stationed in Germany, he trained as a driver and gunner. Discharged as Leading Aircraftman in 1953, he resumed work as a builder and built his own house amongst other construction projects. A Braille reader, he was also adept at picture framing and tried his hand at wrought iron work. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Frank Lord**

Royal Air Force

Frank Lord of Fakenham, Norfolk died on October 3rd, aged 85. He worked in the cotton industry before joining the Royal Air Force in 1940. He served in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and the Gulf. Leaving the RAF

in 1949, he became a clerk and store keeper at USAF Laben, Heath and Mildenhall. His interests included ballroom dancing, driving, singing and DIY. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mona, son Anthony and all the family.

**Ted Gowers**

The Queen's Own  
Royal West Kent Regiment

Edward William Gowers of Broadstairs, Kent died on October 6th, aged 90. He worked in the building trade until joining the Royal Air Force in 1942. As a member of the RAF Regiment, he was deployed to guard airfields and radar sites within the UK. Then in 1945, he joined The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and was posted to Greece and the Middle East. After discharge in 1946, he became a carpenter working on civil engineering projects but later joined a factory making road signs. His interests included bowls and model ship building. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Hugh Lock**

Royal Engineers

Hugh Graham Snow Lock of Norwich, Norfolk died on October 6th, aged 87. He joined the Royal Engineers (TA) in 1939 and was embodied into the regular army five months later. After training, he deployed to Tunisia and then Italy as part of the 5th US Army. Commissioned in 1941, he was injured on three occasions and lost his left leg in an explosion. Fitted with an artificial leg, he returned to duty as a MT Officer at the Royal Engineers Driver Training School at Aldershot. Discharged as Captain in 1946, he was a car salesman, hire purchase and garage owner and also renovated houses. His interests included walking, and swimming. Our sympathy goes to all of the family.

**Hazel Barrow**

Women's Royal Naval Service

Hazel Elsie Letitia Barrow nee Fox of Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire

died in October, aged 79. She worked in a drawing office and then a GEC laboratory before joining the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1944. She served on HMS *Pembroke*, HMS *Beaver* and HMS *Blackcap*. Discharged in 1945, she returned to GEC and raised a family. Our sympathy goes to her daughters Caren and Jacqueline and all members of the family.

**Frederick Bentley**

Durham Light Infantry

Frederick Leonard Bentley of Saltdean, Brighton died on October 11th, aged 82. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. Leaving school at 14, he became an apprentice fitter with a car manufacturer in Birmingham. He later became an aircraft fitter before joining the Durham Light Infantry in 1942. He was posted to their 6th Battalion as a Rifleman, training for the Normandy invasion. On D-Day, he landed on Gold beach, in his own words "the mug up front". Subsequently, he fought through the attack and counter attack of the battle around Caen. During an attempt to take out a machine gun point, he was spotted by a German soldier who hurled a hand grenade at him. The last thing he recalled seeing was the grenade scant inches from his nose before it exploded. Back in the UK, he was hospitalised at Stoke Mandeville where he was introduced to St Dunstan's. He came to Church Stretton, training for industrial work as well as studying typewriting and Braille. Initially he joined BSA as a capstan lathe operator but, after a brief flirtation with carpentry, secured an engineering position with Wolseley Engineering. He remained with the company for 33 years. His interests included handicrafts, he studied for a City and Guilds Craftwork qualification after retiring, cooking, and he also played the accordion. He was also Chairman of St Dunstan's Fishing Club, a keen sea angler for many years. Our Sympathy goes to his sons and all members of the family.

# The beat goes on for Jerry!

IT HAS BEEN 62 years since St Dunstaner Jerry Lynch played drums with fellow blinded Servicemen in the band at Church Stretton, but the beat goes on! He stepped behind the drum kit for a few trad jazz numbers with Climax last month.

Jerry was visiting relatives in Canada and has made a point of dropping into see



Climax playing with Jerry on drums!

Climax at their Saturday night gig at the Chich'n'Deli in Toronto. The six piece band play a repertoire of marches, spirituals, blues, ragtime and other popular songs. He displaced 'Awesome' Jamie Aug from the percussion duties for some old favourites. Jerry took up the drums in 1944 with encouragement from bandleader Claude Bampton when he was blinded in the Cameronians. Also in the band were handless St Dunstaners David Bell, Dickie Brett and Tommy Gaygan.



Jerry from Horsham is in tune with Toronto!

Jerry (second row, second right) was drummer for the St Dunstan's band which included Ernie Cookson, Rex Robinson, Tommy Gaygan amongst those encouraged by Claude Bampton to follow George Shearing's footsteps!

