

ST DUNSTAN'S Review



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN





From the President

ONCE AGAIN, St Dunstan's can look back on a busy and fulfilling year. World records in April and June, commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, the heat of July, highlighted for me by the Royal Marine Band concert at Ovingdean, clubs and reunions and the International War Blind conference at Ovingdean in October are just some of the memories. Underlying all this is the continued work in helping ex-Service men and women and the daily achievements of everyone – unsung heroes!

Robbie and I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a fruitful 2007.

Raymond Hazan

ST DUNSTAN'S Review December 2006 No 964

Cover Story: President Ray Hazan, Chairman Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN, and St Dunstaner Harry Beevers, followed by Edgar Gilert, General Sir Peter de la Billiere and George Jackson, headed St Dunstan's contingent in Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday. An estimated 10,000 former Servicemen and women had gathered to march in the Nation's annual act of Remembrance. They all stood to attention during the two-minute silence. Also amongst St Dunstan's group, which is formed up with other columns in the centre of the road approaching the Cenotaph, are Clive Woods, Jock Carnochan, Wallace Burnett-Smith, and Ted John. The pavement on the west side of the road is packed with members of the public who had turned out to witness the ceremony. The east side of the road was lined with detachments from the Household Cavalry, King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, the Guards Division, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, the Royal Logistic Corps and the Adjutant General's Corps, TA and civilian services such as Police, Fire, Ambulance, St John's, and British Red Cross.

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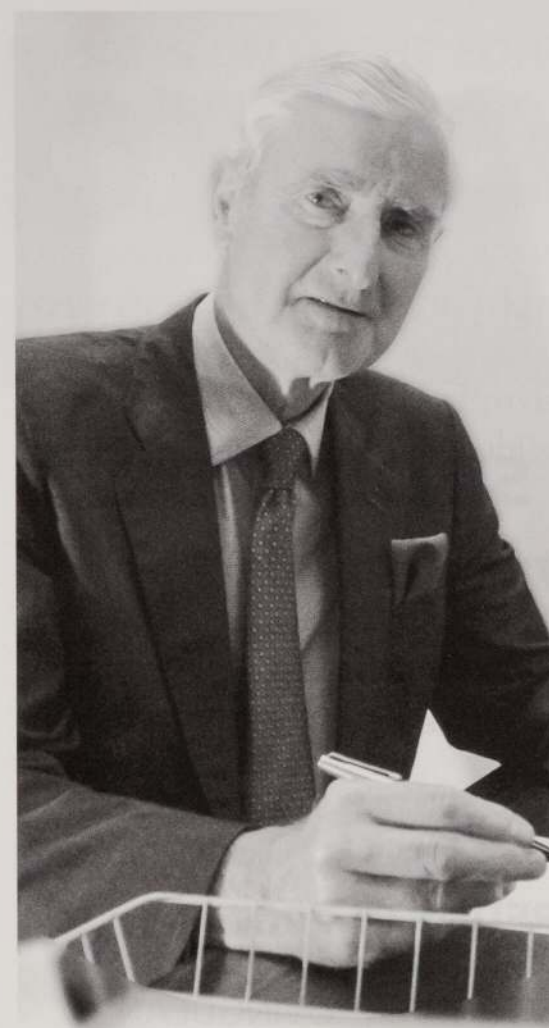
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From the Chairman



THE YEAR 2006 has been busy, with a large intake of ex-service people needing our help, which is healthy for the charity, and inspires the continuing support from our donors. We must remember that it is the spirit, courage and determination of those from World War II and conflicts since that has created the atmosphere for newcomers to become independent and continue their daily lives. I am hugely grateful for this, and ask for their patience when Ovingdean becomes ever more crowded. Sheffield has been very successful in a short time and they have already achieved great things saving the northerners the long trip to Brighton.

The enthusiastic turn out for the Remembrance parade was once again superb. There are some very exciting projects making good progress, and I congratulate you all on your contributions to keeping our activities in the public eye.

Jenny and I wish you all a very happy Christmas, and a productive New Year.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

From the Chief Executive

THE ST DUNSTAN'S family grows ever larger and I know that it is this feeling of inclusiveness that makes such a difference to new St Dunstaners, who often felt very alone in the world until they joined us.

There will be many in this world of ours who will indeed be lonely and alone this Christmas time and I am so grateful that all of us who are part of this unique family are able to do what we can to help and support each other.

As we approach this festive and for many, magical time of year let us not forget those who are alone and see whether there is a little thing that we can do to make a difference.
I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas.

Robert Leader



Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM ST DUNSTAN'S

PEACE AND GOODWILL TO ALL DURING THIS FESTIVE MONTH:

All staff at Headquarters, Ovingdean, Sheffield and working around the country wish the members of the St Dunstan's family a very Happy Christmas. We trust everyone will enjoy good health and happiness during the coming year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

HAM RADIO EASIER HOBBY WITH NEW FOUNDATION LICENCE

HAM AGM AT OIVINGDEAN: New regulations set out by OFCOM make Amateur Radio an easier hobby to take up. Those interested can now take a "Foundation Licence" which is simpler than the old City & Guilds examination. OFCOM will replace all valid annual licences with new free lifetime licences from December 2006. New applicants will pay a £20 administration fee for a lifetime licence. Anyone requiring further information should contact Ted John, Secretary of St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society on 0151 638 5514.

SDARS will hold its next meeting at St Dunstan's Ovingdean from March 2nd to March 9th next year. The Annual General Meeting will be held on March 3rd.

The call-sign GB30STD will be in use until December 31st. More on SDARS on page 30.

EX-POW REUNION 2007

PRISONERS MEET UP AT OIVINGDEAN: St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War will hold their annual reunion at Ovingdean on April 13th-16th 2007. St Dunstaners who were POWs can contact Tom Hart on 01304 612771.

COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES

REFLEXOLOGY, HEAD MASSAGE AND HOPI CANDLING AVAILABLE: Complementary Therapies are available at Ovingdean for visitors to the building. St Dunstaner Iain Millard is able to do Reflexology on either feet or hands, Indian Head Massage, or Hopi ear candling. Iain can come to the building on most days to suit clients. In addition, he holds a clinic on Wednesday and appointments can be made via the Lounge Desk. For an appointment other than Wednesday, telephone Iain on either 01273 302412 or 07968 740089.

WHAT'S ON IN THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

A WIDE CHOICE OF ACTIVITIES: These are just some of the events and activities that make up St Dunstan's 2007 calendar. Details of other meetings will appear in future issues. For events at Ovingdean the dates quoted are usually the day of arrival and departure, but arrangements will be made to maximise use of Ovingdean vehicles. All holiday and club activity bookings should be made via Jackie Castle, Bookings Coordinator on 01273 307811 ext 1422 or e-mail jackie.castle@st-dunstans.org.uk. Provisional dates have been marked (*tbc*) to be confirmed and further information will be published when available.

DECEMBER 2006

Writers' Forum December 2nd
Christmas Craft Week December 3rd-9th
St Dunstan's Day December 9th
Christmas 'Week' December 17th-27th
New Year 'Week' December 28th- January 6th

MARCH

Brighton Reunion (I) March 7th
Amateur Radio (I) March 2nd-9th
Writers Forum March 3rd
Indoor Bowling March 5th
Bowling Club (I) March 11th-24th
Newcastle Reunion March 13th
Durham Reunion March 14th
Derby Reunion March 21st
Dancing Week (I) March 25th-31st
Middlesbrough Reunion March 28th (*tbc*)

EVENTS FOR 2007

JANUARY

Indoor Bowling January 8th
Indoor Bowling January 12th
Indoor Bowling January 15th
Indoor Bowling January 19th
Archery Club (I) January 19th-28th
Skiing (Italy) January 20th-27th
Indoor Bowling January 26th

FEBRUARY

Writers Forum February 3rd
Musical Week February 11th-17th
Indoor Bowling February 14th
Fishing Club (I) February 12th-16th
Indoor Bowling February 16th
Indoor Bowling February 23rd
Computer Club (I) February 28th-March 1st

APRIL

Brighton Reunion (II) April 4th (*tbc*)
Indoor Bowling April 4th
Widows' Week (I) April 4th-11th
Writers Forum April 7th
Fishing Club (II) April 9th-13th
Cambridge Reunion April 12th
Ex-POW Reunion April 13th-16th
Indoor Bowling April 16th
Birmingham Reunion April 17th
Eastbourne (I) Reunion April 19th
London Marathon April 22nd
Central London Reunion April 25th
Anzac Day April 25th
Masonic Weekend April 27th-30th

Thirteen months of activities around the UK

MAY

Writers Forum	May 5th
Gardening Week	May 6th-12th
Outdoor Bowling	May 7th
VE Day	May 8th
Leeds Reunion	May 9th
Blind & Handless Reunion	May 9th-15th
Blackpool Reunion	May 15th
Preston Reunion	May 16th
Barrow Reunion	May 17th
Feast of St Dunstan	May 19th
Burley Reunion	May 23rd
Archery Club (II)	May 25th-June 3rd
Scotland Reunion	May 30th

JUNE

50 Year Badge Holders Reunion	June 1st-4th
Writers Forum	June 2nd
Chichester Reunion	June 6th
Outdoor Bowling	June 7th
Fishing Club (III) (Ilfracombe)	June 10th-16th
Outdoor Bowling	June 11th
Exeter Reunion	June 13th
Falklands 25th Anniversary	June 14th-17th
History Week	June 17th-23rd
London to Brighton Bike Ride	June 17th
Surrey Reunion	June 20th
Bisley Clay Pigeon Shoot	June 20th
Outdoor Bowling	June 22nd
Veterans Day	June 27th
North London Reunion	June 28th

JULY

British 10K	July 1st
Eastbourne Reunion (II)	July 5th
Writers Forum Weekend	July 5th-8th

Llandudno Reunion	July 11th
Liverpool Reunion	July 12th
Outdoor Bowling	July 13th
Ladies' Reunion	July 15th-21st
Indoor Bowling	July 16th
Cardiff Reunion	July 17th
Band of the Royal Marines Concert	July 18th
Fishing Club (IV)	July 23rd-27th
North Hampshire Reunion	July 24th
HMS <i>Sultan</i>	July 27th-August 4th

AUGUST

Outdoor Bowling	August 2nd
Writers Forum	August 4th
Race Week	August 5th-11th
Outdoor Bowling	August 13th
VJ Day	August 15th
Archery Club (III)	August 24th-September 2nd
Outdoor Bowling	August 28th

SEPTEMBER

Writers Forum	September 1st
Sporting Activities Week	September 2nd-8th
East Anglia Reunion	September 12th
Aylesbury Reunion	September 19th
Outdoor Bowling	September 20th
Fishing Club (V) (Exmouth)	September 23rd-29th
Bristol Reunion	September 26th
Physiotherapists Weekend	Sept 28th-Oct 1st
Widows' Week (II)	September 30th-October 6th

OCTOBER

Indoor Bowling	October 1st
Worcester Reunion	October 2nd
Writers Forum	October 6th
Indoor Bowling	October 8th

What's On 2007 | London Triathlon | Battle of Britain | Council changes

Kent Reunion	October 10th
Computer Club (II)	October 10th-11th
World Sight Day	October 11th
Amateur Radio (II)	October 12th-19th
Marine Commando Challenge	October 13th-14th
Cornwall Reunion	October 24th
Bowling Club (II)	October 28th-November 10th
Great South Run	October 28th

NOVEMBER

Writers Forum	November 3rd
Remembrance Sunday	November 11th
Dancing Week (II)	November 11th-17th
Fishing Club (VI)	November 19th-23rd

DECEMBER

Writers Forum	December 1st
Christmas Craft Week	December 2nd-8th
St Dunstan's Day	December 9th
Christmas 'Week'	December 16th/17th-27th
New Year 'Week'	December 28th- Jan 5th

Bookings will be confirmed two months before the event. Where there is insufficient space to accommodate everybody, decisions on priorities will be made with club officials.

We recommend that you confer with club secretaries to check how activities are structured - is the event a formal or informal meeting, tournament or competition, programme of visits, etc?

Visitors to Ovingdean can listen to a recorded weekly programme of events. The speaker is on the left of wall between the door to the lounge on the right and the dining room on the left. It has a prominent button for playback.

TRIPLE THE CHALLENGE

TRY OUT THE TRIATHLON: St Dunstan's Sports & Recreation department are looking for entrants for the 2007 London Triathlon. This will consist of a 1,500m swim, a 40km bike ride and a 2.5km run. Entrants will need a good level of fitness to compete in the event on August 5th next year. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Adam Finch on 01273 391465 before January 20th.

THANKING THE FEW

BATTLE OF BRITAIN THANKSGIVING SERVICE: The Ministry of Defence has announced that the Battle of Britain Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication will be held in Westminster Abbey at 11:00am on Sunday September 16th 2007. Applications for tickets, stating all names of individuals wishing to attend, should be made in writing, accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. Applications should reach Mrs Michèle Small, SO3 RAF Ceremonial Events, Room 22, Building 263, RAF Bentley Priory, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 3HH by no later than June 15th. Applicants are requested to state if they are ex-Battle of Britain aircrew, relatives of aircrew who lost their lives in the Battle or since, past or present members of the RAF and its Reserve Forces, or members of the general public. Please state if you are a wheelchair user.

ST DUNSTAN'S COUNCIL

CHANGES: Crispin Odey, Catherine Ainslie, and Michael Delmar-Morgan stepped down as Trustees of the Charity in November.

LIONS' MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE CAN BE A LIFE SAVER

KEEP PERSONAL AND MEDICAL DETAILS ON ICE: Lions' International are encouraging people to keep their personal and medical details on a standard form and in a common location – the fridge! While they are focusing on more vulnerable people in the community, they point out the easy to use scheme can be of benefit to anyone.

The scheme is simple, complete the details on the form, put it inside the bottle supplied and place in the door compartment of the fridge. Emergency Services will know to look for the green crossed bottle in event of being called to your home. Two green cross stickers will alert them, one is placed on the fridge door, the other on the inside of your front door.

The form within the bottle lists any illness or drug therapy that might affect treatment, allergic reaction to medication, allergies, current medication and where it can be found, GP contact details, pet details, names of carers or dependants, distinguishing marks and emergency contacts. In an emergency, the bottle will be passed by Emergency Services onto a doctor or hospital staff. If you would like to obtain an MIAB bottle, contact Barbara Sweeney at St Dunstan's Headquarters on 020 7616 7922.

RNIB AND BLIND CENTRE MERGER

NORTHERN IRELAND LINK UP: RNIB Northern Ireland and Blind Centre Northern Ireland plan to merge in spring 2007. They are set to join together to form the largest organisation supporting blind and partially sighted people in Northern Ireland by April.

HELP PLAN MOBILE TELEPHONES FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

COMMENTS WANTED FROM BLIND PHONE USERS: A former employee of mobile phone network Orange, St Dunstan's Gerry Jackson recently joined a customer forum team, The Accessible Communications Team or TACT. Their mandate is to investigate systems and methods, whereby communicating, primarily by mobile telephone, can be made easier for people with impairment, be it sight, hearing, physical or a combination of these.

Gerry would welcome any constructive comments which people think would be useful in planning phones for the future. The forum cannot deal with problems on an individual basis as comments will be assessed and prioritised for investigation.

Anyone wishing to make comment can e-mail Gerry on gem.jack@ntlworld.com or write care of the **Review** at Harcourt Street.

TACTILE TUBE MAPS AVAILABLE

LONDON UNDERGROUND IN RAISED LINES: Books of tactile and large print maps of London tube stations can be borrowed from RNIB on 0845 702 3153 or NLB on 0161 406 2525, viewed at the station, or obtained free of charge from London Underground's Customer Service Centre on 0845 330 9880.

The maps have been designed to complement detailed station descriptions on www.describe-online.com which also lists guides for National Rail, Glasgow, Strathclyde IBIS and Watford Town Centre.

VETERANS LAPEL BADGE NOW EXTENDED TO 1969

BADGE AVAILABLE TO EVEN MORE SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN: Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram announced an extension to the Veterans Lapel Badge scheme on November 8th. The badge was originally intended for those Second World War veterans who, under the Heroes Return Scheme, travelled back to the countries in which they had fought.

Eligibility for the HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge and the UK Merchant Seafarers Veteran Badge has now been extended to include all those who served in the Armed Forces or Merchant Navy at any time up to December 31st 1969.

"Today there are 10 million veterans living, working and contributing across every walk of life in the United Kingdom," said Mr Ingram. "The HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge and UK Merchant Seafarers Veterans Badge are marks of our respect and gratitude.

"I am delighted to announce that we are extending the eligibility to a new group of thoroughly deserving veterans. These men and women served in small wars and counter insurgencies; in conflicts that are perhaps less in the limelight today. Conflicts that saw bloody fighting from the jungles of Malaya, Borneo and Sarawak to the dusty plains and city of Aden.

"The HM Armed Forces Veterans badge has already been awarded to over 328,000 veterans - this latest extension will, I am delighted to say, reach out to yet thousands more. Similarly with its recent introduction in June this year the UK Merchant seafarers

Veterans Badge has already been awarded to over 3,000 recipients.

"As Winston Churchill said: 'A medal glitters, but it also casts a shadow'. And those words certainly resonate today, in this week of Remembrance Sunday. As we commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of our commitment of our service personnel we also remember those who did not return. In Aden, for example, 167 British service personnel lost their lives."

If St Dunstan's holds details of your military service, you can now make an easy application by contacting St Dunstan's Headquarters in London. Telephone Barbara Sweeney on 020 7616 7922.

Direct applications to the Veterans Agency must still be made via a form which can be downloaded from their website: www.veteransagency.mod.uk.

You can also telephone the Veterans Agency for an application form on 0800 169 2277. Complete the application form, sign and date it, then either fax it back or return it by post.

All completed application forms for the Veterans Lapel Badge must be returned to the Veterans Agency, Veterans Service Team, Room 6108, Tomlinson House, Thornton Cleveleys FY5 3WP.

Eligibility criteria and further information on the UK Merchant Seafarers Veterans Badge can be obtained from two other organisations. The Federation of Merchant Mariners can be contacted by telephone on 01480 412958 and by e-mailing info@merchant-mariners.co.uk. The Merchant Navy Association are on 01472 851130 and mna.national@virgin.net.

FALKLANDS CAMPAIGN REMEMBERED 25 YEARS ON

ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS: The 25th anniversary of the Falklands Campaign will be commemorated across 8,000 miles and four time zones, in London, Pangbourne and the Falkland Islands from June 14th to 17th 2007, Veterans' Minister Derek Twigg announced after Remembrance Sunday.

"The Falklands campaign was one of the most memorable events in post-war British history. The liberation of the Islands was a huge achievement by our Forces, operating in harsh conditions 8,000 miles away from home," said the Minister onboard HMS *Illustrious*.

"The commemorations next year will provide us with an opportunity to reflect on the events of 25 years ago. We will take time to remember those who gave their lives to defend the freedom of the Falkland Islands.

"As well as the principal events in London, Pangbourne and Stanley, we anticipate that local communities and veterans groups around the country will organize smaller scale events."

The Falklands story is not just an historic one. Over the past 25 years a great many current Service men and women have served in the Falklands and have been moved by the memorials to the fallen they maintain around the Islands; the Armed Forces connection with the Falklands remains personal and current.

Commemorations will also look at what the Islanders themselves have achieved in the quarter-century since the conflict, building a robust and thriving community worthy of the sacrifices made.

Official events will begin on Liberation Day, Thursday, June 14th at the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel in the grounds of Pangbourne 'nautical' College, Berkshire. This service of Commemoration and Remembrance is held annually on behalf of the Falklands Families Association, but will have special significance in 2007 when it will be attended by senior members of the Royal family, and carried live on BBC.

Later that day (UK time) attention will turn to the Falkland Islands and the first of a series of ambitious live link ups with the Islands. A service at Christchurch Cathedral, Stanley will be followed by an Act of Commemoration at the Falklands War Memorial, and British Forces based on the Islands will parade through Stanley exercising the Freedom of the City that was bestowed on them by the Falkland Islands Government in 2002.

A commemorative event with Drumhead ceremony will be held on Horse Guards Parade on June 17th. It will be followed by a march past of veterans and their modern day service counterparts, up The Mall to Buckingham Palace to witness a fly past of aircraft from the Falklands era as well as some of those flown by the same squadrons today. Central to the event will be personal recollections of veterans and Islanders.

Space in the audience on Horse Guards Parade will be limited, so tickets will initially be restricted to veterans (military and civilian), their guests and families. Anyone wishing to attend should apply using the application form found on the Veterans Agency website: www.veteransagency.mod.uk or by writing to: The Veterans Agency, Room 6108, Norcross, Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire FY5 3WP. The application

form can be either e-mailed or posted to the Veterans Agency. Applications should be made before the end of February 2007. Only those successful in their applications will receive notification from the VA, and tickets will be sent out along with an information leaflet about the event in late May 2007. The Veterans Agency Helpline on 0800 169 2277 will be able to help with any problems.

It is hoped that as many as possible of the campaign's veterans will be able to attend the event in Horseguards, and up to 15,000 tickets will be available. If demand for tickets is high they will be allocated, in priority order, to: Holders of the South Atlantic Medal (1982) and war widows; other widows and families; and others, both civilian and military, associated with the conflict.

Further details of the events will be made available from the official Falklands 25 website on www.falklands25.com.

RNIB SEEK PASSPORT FOR DLA

CAMPAIGN FOR HIGHER RATE: The Royal National Institute of the Blind is campaigning to extend the Higher Rate Mobility component of Disability Living Allowance to visually impaired people. They are encouraging people to join the campaign and to contact their Members of Parliament. Campaign Packs including draft letters for MPs and fact sheets can be obtained by telephoning the RNIB on 020 7391 2123.

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

NEW REMEMBRANCE TOURS

FIVE DESTINATIONS ADDED: Remembrance Travel is launching five new Battlefield Tours for 2007, including Falklands, Guyana and Vietnam, bringing their total number of tours to 50. The details for these can be found in their 2007 brochure.

To commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Falkland's Conflict, Remembrance Travel are organising a Battlefield Tour of the Islands. The tour will be lead by Major Bob Darby, a Falkland's veteran who fought during the conflict with the 3rd Parachute Battalion. As the tour is in November it will include the Remembrance Day Parade in Stanley and visits to famous Battlefields such as Goose Green.

Other tours during 2007 include The Somme, Burma, Libya, Northern Germany and Thailand. All Remembrance Travel's tour guides and managers are very experienced and some are qualified badge holders with the Guild of Battlefield Guides.

Piers Storie Pugh, who set up Remembrance Travel in 1985, said: "Each journey is designed to provide the visit of a life time. We aim to make it relaxing but also to bring history to life through the eyes of those who served and to provide a special opportunity for our travellers to pay respects at the war cemeteries and memorials."

Remembrance Travel's 52-page brochure can be requested from Remembrance Travel, RBL Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX. They can also be telephoned on 01622 716729 or 716182, or e-mailed on remembrancetravel@britishlegion.org.uk. To find out more about the Remembrance Travel please visit the website www.remembrancetravel.com.

BREAK NEW BOUNDARIES IN STORY WRITING COMPETITION

WRITE ABOUT LIFE, THE UNIVERSE OR EVERYTHING: We are asking budding authors to explore new worlds, probe the unexpected or find the unusual under everyday items. Budding authors are invited to unlock their creativity with a science fiction tale for the new **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** story writing competition. The subject and title are yours to decide,

You can fly with the tragedy of Icarus, rise with the whimsy of Cyrano de Bergerac, or the dilemma of Swift's Laputa; adopt the gothic romance of Mary Shelley, the industrial prophecy of Jules Verne, the political expositions of H.G. Wells or the technical rationalisations of Fred Hoyle. When Isaac Asimov wrote of intergalactic civilisation in *Foundation and Empire*, he had Gibbon's *Fall and Rise* in mind, while Kurt Vonnegut drew inspiration for *Slaughterhouse Five* from his experience as a POW during the bombing of Dresden. Indulge in paranoia like Philip K. Dick, cybernetic thrillers like William Gibson or the humour of Douglas Adams. Whether you like your science hard of soft (sounds like Swift's eggs again) the only limit is your imagination!

Submissions should not have been previously published. The competition is open to St Dunstaners, their wives, husbands, widows or widowers or members of the Diana Gubbay Trust.

Please follow these steps when submitting entries for the competition:

- 1) Entries should be typewritten and should not exceed 1,500 words.

- 2) Please submit your entry under a nom-de-plume.
- 3) Please write your nom-de-plume and your real name on a sheet of paper and seal them up in an envelope, which should accompany your entry. Envelopes will not be opened until the judge has made his or her decision.
- 4) Only one submission per person. Multiple entries will be disqualified.
- 5) Entries must be received by the Editor, **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD by Wednesday, February 28th 2007.

The winner will receive £50, second prize is £30 and the third will win £20. Winning stories will be published in the **Review**.

CALLING KOREAN VETERANS

GET IN TOUCH: St Dunstaner Ron Stevens would like to contact other veterans who served in Korea. Write to Ron care of the **Review** at Harcourt Street.

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.

WWII CAMPAIGN MEDALS FOR GREEK SERVICE

GREECE OFFERS COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL: The President of Greece has decreed that a Commemorative Medal should be bestowed on veterans who served in Allied Military Forces in Greece between October 28th 1940 and May 8th 1945. The Defence Attaché of Greece in London requires an application form stating the period of service in Greece and an original certificate from the British Ministry of Defence in which service in Greece is specified. (Applications without this certificate will not be taken into consideration.)

Royal Navy and RAF veterans can obtain an MOD certificate from Defence Records, Bourne Avenue, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 1RF. Tel: 020 8573 3831 ext 318. Army veterans should contact the Army Personnel Centre, Civil Secretariat, Historical Disclosures, Mail Point 400, Kentigem House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow G2 8EX. Tel: 0141 224 2822, 0141 224 2825 and 0141 224 3612.

The Hellenic Embassy advise that processing applications might take one year to be completed. The medal will be presented in the nature of a keepsake and is not to be worn.

Application forms can be obtained from Barbara Sweeney at St Dunstan's Headquarters on 020 7616 7922.

ST DUNSTAN'S REVIEW WILL BE BACK IN FEBRUARY

NEXT ISSUE OUT AT START OF FEBRUARY: There will be no edition of **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** published during the month of January. The **Review** will be back, in all formats, in February 2007 with more news, features and information. In the meantime, all comments, suggestions and contributions are welcome. Write to Ray Hazan, **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD or e-mail ray.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk.

STAFF CHANGES

Sharon Talbott:



Sharon joined St Dunstan's in October as our Area Welfare Officer in Ipswich and East Anglia. With over 20 years experience of working with disabled adults, she also enjoys swimming and spending time with her seven-year-old grandson.

REMEMBRANCE PODCAST

PAUSE AND REMEMBER ONLINE: The Royal British Legion has produced a Two Minute Silence podcast, designed to encourage a new generation of supporters to pause and remember. Downloadable from <http://tinyurl.com/ubam7> or <http://british-legion.blogspot.com>, it includes a four minute Act of Remembrance, recorded at last year's Festival of Remembrance. The podcast features the Queen's trumpeters playing the *Last Post* and the *Reveille*, recitations of two traditional poems, as well as the Two Minute Silence itself. The Legion hopes that those who do not have the time, or feel attracted to attend a traditional Remembrance ceremony will pause to reflect on the human cost of war.

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.

After I walked into his car, path parker called me names no child should hear!

In the November **Review**, Mr. Eric Powell writes about his experiences at the hands of a certain brand of motorist. I can assure him he is not alone in his plight.

I live in a village and through it runs a road which has a intolerable content of traffic. It is used by many large lorries. To walk along its narrow path is to take the risk of losing one's life and it is certainly out of bounds for partially sighted persons. This road is about 100 yards to the right from our gateway. I always went to the left and met with no hazard until

a newcomer to the village decided his little car was too big to park on the road so parked it half on the road and half on the path. Sure enough I walked into it.

I thought no more about it but the next day, as I walked by with my 12-year-old granddaughter and four-year-old grandson, he backed his car along the road calling me various names no child should hear.

A few days later, I was near the shops when he came at me, I was once again given various titles. He then said it

was a good thing I was hiding behind a white stick or he would have sorted me out (a pity he did not try).

I went into the Post Office and as I was visibly upset they rang the police, but I heard no more about it. I now have no wish to go either way and if I go outside I only sit on the wall. I do not really wish these people harm, but they ought to be made to experience what eyesight and the lack of it really entails.

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

Iain's reflexology was a relaxing treat!

I am just dropping a line to let you know that our October visit to St Dunstan's Ovingdean was a wonderful stay and we were both very spoilt as usual by all the amazing staff and carers.

As I care for my husband I don't usually find time to relax and I don't have much

time to myself, so one of the ladies on the Widows' Week told me of her experience of reflexology at St Dunstan's with Iain Millard.

I have never been to a reflexologist before and I don't think I have the best looking feet in the world, but I thought I would give it a go.

I would definitely recommend this treatment to anyone, as it was truly a wonderful experience. I came away feeling like I was walking on air and so relaxed. Along with all the other things going on at St Dunstan's it was another bonus for me.

**Margaret Caddick,
Whitchurch, Bristol**

Sad to see Fred, Sydney and Louie go!

Since I first crossed the threshold of St Dunstan's sixty-one years ago I have each month eagerly looked forward to the arrival of the **Review** and through the years my first interest has changed greatly, but latterly I find the first interest sadly is always the Obituaries.

This month how sad to have three such long-standing pillars of the organisation

- each one of whom I thought they would live forever. Dr Sydney Scroggie and all his wonderful columns throughout the decades, Fred Bentley with his penetrating Corncrake voice telling another wonderful story from 'his' corner of the Bar and Louie Brooks who for so many years danced so beautifully with her husband George at the weekly dances on a Monday night in the Lounge. I am gasping

for breath wondering will Ovingdean and the **Review** ever be the same?

It is ironic that three such well-known characters of such long standing have passed away at the same time they have all left an empty place in our life. There may not be too many of us left to remember them all but they will be sadly missed.

**Marjorie Humphrey,
Crosby, Isle of Man**

Fred is now fishing in a better place



Fred Bentley in his element, catching a trio of fish.

Our friend Fred Bentley leaves us to go fishing in another place. A very active and colourful member of the fishing club, who led us as Chairman for many years, he will be sadly missed. His jokes and stories kept us amused when the fish were dining elsewhere. Every trip in the future, he will be with us.

One lasting memory will be of his old yellow sou wester hat falling down over his face and him joking about who turned the lights out. God bless you Fred! You will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with his family.

**The members of
St Dunstan's Fishing Club**

Thank you to my sponsors

A very big thank you to everyone who sponsored me. We raised £150 for the Exmouth charity, The Gemini Trust, run by the local radio station. Forty years ago, I did the Commando Endurance course for real. To go back to Woodbury Common and to face it again was just brilliant.

Thrashing around in the mud and cold water was a dream come true! My thanks to the team who helped me, it was the best weekend ever. I can't wait to do it again next year.

**Stan Bowers,
Brighton**

• More on the Commando Challenge on page 39.

BALANCING THE BOOKS

Ted Bunting says this WWII secret unbottles as a fine vintage

The Secret of Santa Vittoria

Author: Robert Crichton

Reader: Robert Gladwell

Duration: 15 hours, 20 minutes

Catalogue Number TB000221

FANCY IS EVERYTHING, as the old lady said when she kissed the donkey, so I suppose you could ask a hundred people to name their favourite book and get a hundred different answers. But I think *The Secret of Santa Vittoria* is one of the finest yarns ever told. It is not just the story of a community of Italian peasants who hid their wine from the Germans in the Second World War, it is much more than that. It gets right under the skin of the people, that's the marvel of it; into their minds, even, so you identify with them from

the very beginning. It is quite a long story too but every minute is crammed with interest. Not always with pleasure however, because some sections describe the very worst aspects of human nature, torture and brutality born of cowardice. But happily, these are counter-balanced by nobler facets, heroism, and love, and self-sacrifice in a common cause. But for all it tells of the suffering and ill treatment of a poor and simple people, the story is related with humour very much uppermost; a cruel humour at times, savage even, but a humour that allows them to survive and to win. There are lots of morals in his brilliant story, not the least is that we should never assume we are brighter than the man next door. The Germans in the story were not the first, nor the last to be outwitted by a clown.

Bonfire night 30th birthday for Birmingham Talking Newspaper

BIRMINGHAM TALKING Newspaper celebrated its 30th Birthday on November 5th. It was on that day in 1976 that they sent their first audio cassette was to 75 blind and partially sighted listeners in north Birmingham.

The Talking Newspaper, which sends a weekly tape of news and magazine items to over 500 listeners in all parts of the city and Sutton Coldfield, can trace its origins to the Indian sub continent. David Chakravati and Ted

Davis met in India whilst working for ICI. When they returned to England, it was David's enthusiasm that swayed a number of his Asian business colleagues to provide money to purchase the necessary equipment to launch the project.

Birmingham Talking Newspaper Association is run by teams of volunteers who compile, record, copy and distribute weekly tapes containing 45 minutes of news taken from local

newspapers and a 45 minute magazine of items of more general interest relevant to the local blind communities.

Anyone interested in receiving the Birmingham Talking Newspaper should contact the New Listeners Referrals officer, Joan Tuffley, on 0121 608 4398. For more information about the Association, please contact the General Secretary, Peter Oxton, on 0121 449 2334, or visit their website at web.ukonline.co.uk/btna.

The best of enemies!



Photograph: MOD Crown Copyright

Henry Allingham, 110, meets Robert Meier, 109. The two men were on opposing sides during the First World War.

IN 1916 THEY were on opposite sides of the battlefield at the Somme. Some 90 years later, on a rainy October day in a small town in the Ruhr industrial heartland of Germany, Britain's oldest war veteran Henry Allingham met his German counterpart, 109 year-old Robert Meier, for the first time.

For 110 year-old Henry, it was the first time in over 85 years that he has set foot on German soil. The last time he had been serving in the RAF of 1919. For Robert, it was a chance to share memories with a fellow veteran and remember those who never made it home. Born in the Ukraine, he fought on the Somme and was shot in



Thoughtful Henry at St Omer.

"Why make a war?," said Robert "Why can't we all be friends? It's better to be without war."

the leg four months before Armistice Day. In WWII, he ran logistics in a German camp before being taken prisoner by the Russians.

On Armistice Day, Henry attended Memorial Services in St Omer, France where he was stationed during the First World War.



Photographs: Cpl Scott Robinson, Crown Copyright

Henry Allingham stands in silent tribute at The British Air Services Memorial in St Omer, Northern France.

REUNION ROUND-UP

The Kent Reunion was held on October 11th at Eastwell Manor, Ashford, Kent with Tim Bacon as the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding. There were 25 St Dunstaners and ten widows present and Dick Hollingsworth made the reply on behalf of everyone.

The 2006 Reunion season closed in Penzance on October 18th. Thirteen St Dunstaners and four widows met up at The Queen's Hotel, Penzance, Cornwall. St Dunstan's Vice-Chairman Major General Andrew Keeling presided and Gerry Jones made the reply on behalf of everyone there.

It strikes me... with Gog and Magog

GOG AND MAGOG are pleased to say they are basket cases! Anyone attending the Lord Mayor's Show in the City of London will have encountered impressive wicker effigies of the giant duo made for the parade by the Basketweavers

Gog and Magog were also due to report on the revival of an ancient St Dunstan's sport, "Leave the glass eyeball where it will scare someone" but we have run out of space.

Fusilier Reg is glad to be sent to the Tower!

ST DUNSTANER Reg Goding of Rottingdean was sent to the Tower of London shortly after his 90th birthday. However, as he points out, this was no bad thing. Reg's regiment, the Royal Fusiliers have their HQ in the London landmark. Reg and his wife Eileen attended a regimental function in the wake of his birthday celebrations. Reg, blinded in Italy during WWII, discovered that another Fusilier, Frank Chambers shared the same birthday.



Is Kev first Briton to hold two ski records?

ST DUNSTANER Kevin Alderton set a new blind skiing record on November 15th, this time on an indoor slope in Holland.

Kevin "Cannonball" Alderton, from Dartford, reached a speed of 56.36mph (90.7km/h) at the 569yds (520m) indoor slope at Landgraaf in Holland.

Kevin skis with the aid of a guide who sends him commands via a radio link. He reckons that he might be the first British skier ever to gain two world records. "It humbles me a bit, I'm

gobsmacked," he said. Describing indoor skiing as being "a bit like doing 50 to 60mph inside a fridge", he added that he was glad to be seen as a role model for other disabled sportsmen and women.

"It's a great thing if I can inspire somebody to take up a sport or push themselves in sport," he said.

Kevin lost his eyesight in a street attack, but set an outdoor skiing record last April and recently became an instructor at a dry slope in Chatham, Kent.

Air Marshal bowled over at St Dunstan's



Photograph: David Bryant.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief and COMAIRSTRIKE Headquarters Strike Command Air Marshal Sir Clive Loader, OBE, FRACS, RAF is used to keeping NATO's air response on target, but on October 27th he found out how St Dunstan's bowlers stay in the game. The Air Marshal and Lady Loader toured facilities at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, meeting St Dunstaners in the Craft Workshop, Rehabilitation & training, and other areas in the building. Sir Clive is pictured with Colwyn Lloyd, Bob and Joan Osborne and Graham Johnson during an intense match in the McKinley Sports Hall.

Korean presentation



St Dunstaner Ron Stevens presented Dick Lake with the British Korean Veterans Association Shield on November 2nd, in the Blue Room at Ovingdean. Korean veterans Arthur Stone, Peter Burdon, Dick Lake, Billy Orr and Steve Hawes also attended.

Ten questions on ...

Harry Beevers knocks on the door of Tony's den with this Premier quiz!

- 1) Who was the last British Prime Minister not to have a wife?
- 2) The 20th century British Prime Ministers Herbert Asquith and Harold Wilson were born in which English county?
- 3) Which British 20th century Prime Minister played first-class cricket for the MCC?
- 4) In 2000 Tony Blair became the first British PM since George Russell in the 1840's to become what whilst in office?
- 5) Who was the last British Prime Minister before Tony Blair to be born in Scotland?
- 6) Who was the only 20th century British Prime Minister to have held all the great offices of state, PM, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary?
- 7) Which word derived from the name of Britain's current Prime Minister appeared for the first time in the Oxford English Dictionary in 2002?
- 8) Which British Prime Minister lived to the greatest age? He was 92 years and 322 days when he died in 1986.
- 9) Who was the last British Prime Minister to serve both a King and a Queen?
- 10) Which British Prime Minister took part in the last cavalry charge by the British army at the Battle of Omdurman in the Sudan?

Answers are on page 38.

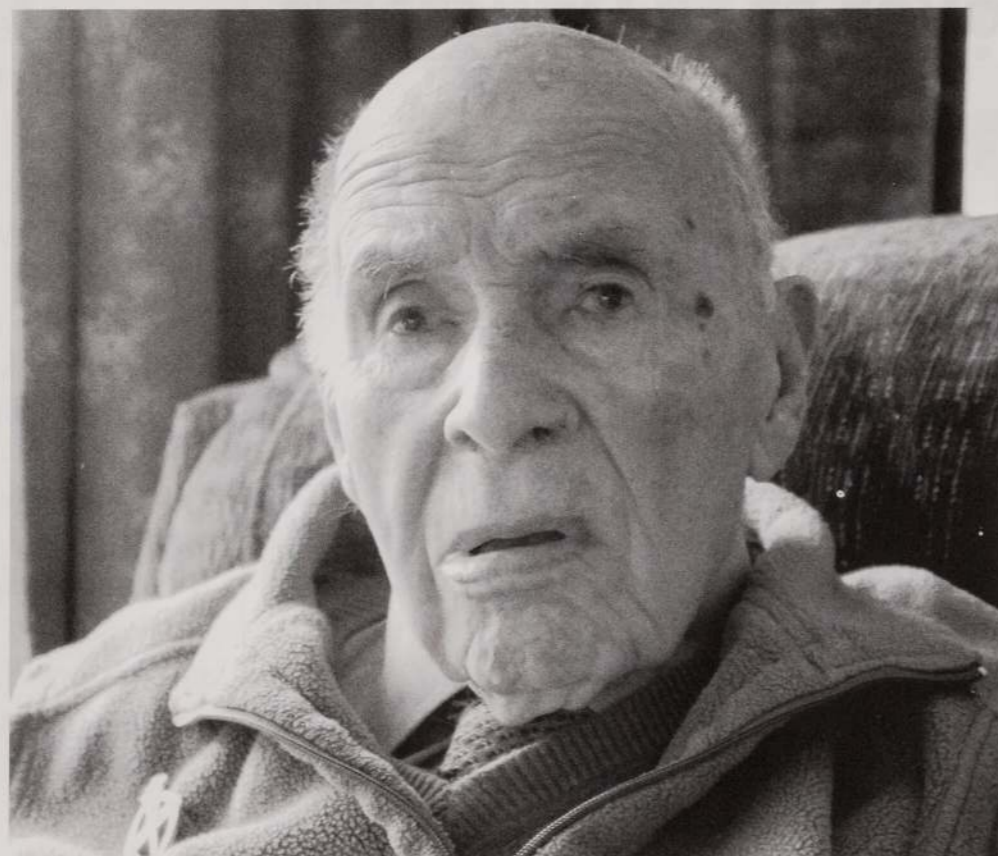
Captain Cummins joins St Dunstan's

THE ONLY SURVIVING serviceman to have seen active service in both First and Second World Wars became a St Dunstaner in October. Captain Kenneth Cummins from Wiltshire, now aged 106, began his maritime career as a 15-year-old during the 1914-1918 conflict.

Born in Richmond, he was educated at the Merchant Taylors' School in Crosby. He trained with the school's OTC and was on manoeuvres with the King's Liverpool Rifles when war was declared.

As a 15-year-old, he signed on with P&O and was granted a scholarship which guaranteed an education in seamanship. He trained as a cadet on HMS *Worcester*, an iron clad sailing ship. Based on the Thames, he witnessed a Zeppelin shot down in flames during an air raid on London. Called up to serve in the Royal Naval Reserve, he trained as a gunner, serving on HMS *Morea*, an armed merchant vessel seconded to protect convoys in the Atlantic.

His first voyage brought something of a shock, passing through the Bristol Channel, they encountered the bodies of nurses, killed when the Germans sank a Hospital ship, the *Llandover Castle*.



After the war, Midshipman Cummins joined the Merchant Navy with P&O, qualifying as an officer in 1921. Early voyages involved transporting ANZAC troops to Australia and Kenneth speculates that he may have taken his future father-in-law home to Sydney.

Continuing to sail with P&O, he became Chief Officer and remained on HMS *Viceroy of India* when was commandeered by the Royal Navy as a troop carrier. In November 1941, having just put 2,000 troops ashore at Algiers, his ship was hit by a torpedo. He had just taken over the watch as it hit. Four of the engineering crew lost their lives, but the other 425

were picked up by British ships as the *Viceroy* sank.

He then became Chief Officer on the *Ile de France*, overseeing its conversion to a troopship. His first command was on the *Maloja*, sailing to the African coast, taking Italian prisoners and Zulu soldiers to their respective homes.

When he was 52, Kenneth met his wife, Rosemary, on a voyage from Australia. They married in Sydney but regulations then dictated that they sail to the UK on separate ships. They have two boys and two girls. In recent years, Kenneth has been affected by macular degeneration but retains a positive outlook.

Big gathering with tiny talk!

Ray Hazan on the latest St Dunstan's Computer Club meeting!

THE COMPUTER CLUB enjoyed the largest gathering for many a year on October 11th and 12th. Although there were only two specific items on the programme, the Winter Garden resounded with lively conversations throughout, covering a range of topics, not all computer related.

Brad Crawshaw's presence is both imperative and a fixed item. No problem or query raised is beyond his knowledge and he can translate 'computer speak' into language we can all understand!

The evening buffet, with the much appreciated assistance and company of Janis and wives of attendees, made a convivial and cheerful atmosphere. The usual joke session at the end remained relatively clean and a light hearted conclusion to the meal.

Once again, Iki and Gabriel of CVIP Ltd paid us a visit with several 'goodies' in his bag. With Christmas not too far off, the wives no doubt received many suggestions for Christmas stocking fillers! He gave a demonstration of the Milestone311, featured in last month's **Review**. Using a large capacity storage card he demonstrated held 16 talking books – nearly a year's reading for some!

Although very small and fitting easily into the

aforementioned stocking, the Tiny Talk computer needs a larger cheque (approximately £1,500). Similar in size to a PDA, it measures some eight inches by four. It is a full capacity PC with Windows XP, whichever screen reader you use, a 30GB drive and full communications with external devices. The keyboard is obviously rather small and so an external folding keyboard makes the system highly portable. Iki also showed a four way USB hub. He did not, unfortunately, have with him the Talky USB keyboard, which has in-built speakers, sockets for external microphone and speakers and a Skype compatible handset, at around £45 with delivery.

Topics covered during the two days ranged from the purchase of railway tickets, writing a computer programme, and tutorials. Jonathan Mosen has produced two excellent step by step lessons in MP3 format using the Google search engine and Skype. These cost around \$5 and \$15 respectively and

are available for download from his web site at: www.themosenexplosion.com. The Google search engine can be used for converting currency, weather reports, and a whole host of information, which he explains very clearly.

Skype is a programme which allows the use of the computer as a 'telephone' enabling conversations with friends and family throughout the world at no extra cost other than your monthly broadband fee, which is recommended rather than dial up. You can also make calls to landlines.

Our thanks to all who attended, to Janis and Michael Crawford our facilitators, to PBK, and all staff at Ovingdean. The next meeting takes place on February 28th and March 1st 2007.

NOT SO BLIND MICE

SIGHT HAS BEEN restored to blind mice. A team from University College London and an eye surgeon from Moorfields implanted stem cells that were developing into photo receptors. The method may be developed for human use in ten years time.



The Winter Garden housed the delegates during the conference. Note the booths near the entrance which housed the translators who kept the dialogue flowing .

War blind of the world look to the future at conference

Ray Hazan reports on the meeting of international War Blind Organisations, hosted by St Dunstan's in October

THIS IS THE third time St Dunstan's has hosted the triennial gathering of the International Congress of War Blind Organisations (IKK), as the UK held the Presidency. Ten other nations attended the International Meeting of War Blind Organisations at Ovingdean between October 21st-25th, including: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, Russia, United States, Sri Lanka and South Africa (for the first time). It was great to hear the many different languages in the lounge and around the bar.

The first full day, Sunday, is a 'light' programme allowing those who have travelled great distances to

come to terms with their jet lag! In the morning, we laid wreaths at the Brighton War Memorial. We were

honoured to be accompanied by the Mayor of Brighton and Hove, Councillor David Smith. Once again, Gary Foster, in Royal Marine Reserve uniform sounded the *Last Post* and *Reveille*. Heavy rain started just as we paraded, but the closeness and companionship of fellow delegates, linked by the common bond of ex-military and their blindness, made a moving ceremony as we all remembered lost comrades.

In the afternoon, instead of a sight seeing tour, we were grateful to Adam, Roger and Cliff for enabling delegates and their wives to try their hand at archery, darts and rifle shooting. This was the first time for everyone, surprisingly.



Ray Hazan, Dieter Renelt of Germany, , new IKK President Italo Frioni of Italy and Tom Miller from the USA.

On Monday, the conference got down to work with the presentation of reports from all countries on their activities during the past three years since we last met.

St Dunstan's is the only independent organisation 'for' blind ex-Service people. The organisations of all other countries are made up of the war blind themselves, exerting pressure on respective governments to provide facilities for training, pensions and benefits. Military representatives from the UK, Canada and Germany were present to hear their country's report.

In summary, only the US and UK are expanding the assistance they give to a wider number of war and non-war blind ex-military personnel. Many organisations are simply running down amongst financial concerns. It is sad to see the expertise, experience and knowledge gradually declining.

We enjoyed the wisdom of two excellent speakers on day two. Major Gerry Clare, BSc MRCOphth Royal Army

Medical Corps is a Specialist Registrar in Ophthalmology at the Western Eye Clinic and Moorfields. He gave a very interesting talk on the nature of modern eye injuries. He was able to confirm that, to his knowledge, the UK had sustained no totally blind casualties from Iraq or Afghanistan. He also talked about the future of medical technology. The retina comprised ten layers of cells, each with a different function in perceiving light, movement, texture, etc. This was very difficult to replicate artificially and he believes stem cell research was the future.

The other speaker was Tom Miller, a Vietnam War Veteran and the Executive Director of the US Blinded Veterans Association (BVA). Incredibly, he said that some 11,500 service men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan had suffered from bomb blasts either physically or mentally. They had suffered 36 blind casualties who were going through the civilian rehabilitation services, where their injuries permitted. As in the UK, the BVA had experienced

difficulty in trying to get the figures of wounded from their government.

The remainder of the day was taken up with internal matters including resolutions, amendments to the constitution and elections. Ray Hazan stood down after nine years as President, handing over to Italo Frioni of Italy. Ray becomes 1st Vice-President, with Dieter Renelt (Germany) and Tom Miller (USA) as the other Vice-Presidents.

Everyone returned home after a successful conference. They were most praiseworthy of all the staff at Ovingdean, who had made them so welcome. Thanks go to all these people, too many to name individually, who were involved and to Robbie who dealt with all the administration.

Above all, it was a coming together of organisations and people, who have overcome visual impairment, language barriers, but who are united by their military service and their blindness, to talk and work towards the benefit of blind ex-Service men and women the world over.



Billy Baxter strikes an energetic pace as post-War St Dunstaners march towards the Cenotaph. The group also includes David Simmonds, Don Planner, and Linley Stephens.

In memory of the fallen!

Ray Hazan on Remembrance Sunday, November 12th 2006

WE GATHERED FROM all corners of the United Kingdom – England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Some took advantage of a cheaper rate Friday night at the Regents Park Marriot Hotel to enjoy a fuller weekend in London.

Many arrived to attend the matinee and evening performances of the Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall. Others ‘washed’ away the fatigue of the journey in the hotel or local bars. The weekend is an important gathering for St Dunstaners, giving a rare opportunity to meet up with friends from all over the country.

But we must not forget that we are there to spend solemn moments to remember those known and unknown who did not return from conflict. Most of those attending will have lost a friend or family member. The process of remembering starts at 6:30 on Sunday morning when the room telephone alarm rings. But many are already awake

in anticipation. By the time we walked on to Whitehall, a watery sun was already shining and not a drop of moisture threatened. Indeed, as Big Ben tolled out eleven o’clock, the sun seemed to grow even warmer. A strong breeze sighed through the trees, unusually cloaked in leaves – normally they are bare at this time of year. Our memories returned to pleasant and unpleasant times.

In our minds, we saw happy and smiley faces of friends unseen; not due to our



Whitehall from south to north, as the crowds amassed for the Remembrance ceremony.



Charlie McConaghy in quiet contemplation in Whitehall.



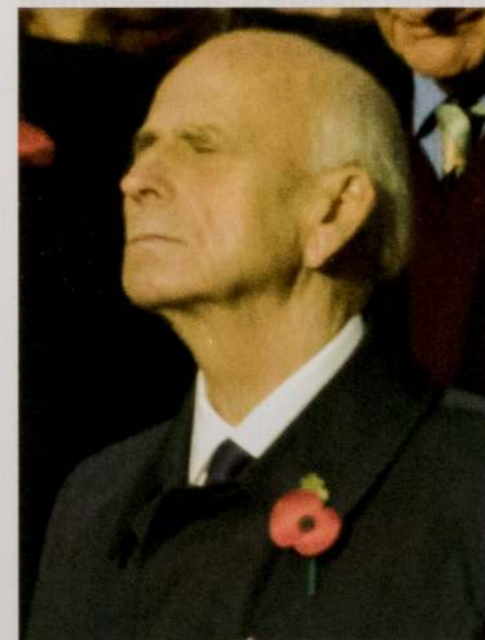
Edgar Gilert wore his father's medals alongside his own, while Sir Peter de la Billiere escorted George Jackson.



St Dunstan's Widows marched in memory of loved ones.



Jerry Lynch and Marjorie Scott thinking of old friends.



Ever dignified, Harry Beevers recalled his great uncle.



Alf Lockhart thinking of Far East prisoners of war.



Navy St Dunstaner Jamie Weller was a wreath bearer.



Matthew Rhodes on parade.

blindness, but because they were no longer. Perhaps it is with a slight tinge of guilt and relief that we pushed these thoughts back as the band struck up for the march-off. It grows harder for some to get their legs going again after standing around for so long! It is good to hear the beat of the base drum just ahead of us, and with straight backs, shoulders back, and arms swinging with difficulty in the confined ranks we set off, with eyes left as we pass the



RAF St Dunstaners David Corscadden after the march.

Cenotaph. It is warming to hear the applause of the crowds lining the streets, their calls of good wishes, and to get the blood re-circulating. Some 95 St Dunstaners, ten widows and one widower, who, with their escorts numbered some 195 in all, had set off behind the second band.

Passing the Cenotaph, George Jackson and Jamie Weller handed over the St Dunstan's wreaths to be placed on the Memorial. The Duke of Kent took the final salute as we passed Horse Guards.

Drinks, swiftly followed by lunch, awaited all back at the hotel. It has become a tradition that 'after dinner' speeches become 'during dinner' addresses in order to avoid missing buses and trains due to over zealous speakers!

The Chairman, Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN, was the first to speak. He thanked escorts and staff for giving up their weekend to attend the day. He particularly thanked Sergeants 'Cliff' Hanger and John Wilson of the Coldstream Guards, who had kept the column in order during the march.

After some statistics – 1,829 St Dunstaners throughout the country - he mentioned some of the highlights of the past year. The Ghana water project was on-going, with more finance coming from the

Army this next time. Three villages now enjoyed clean water, free from trachoma, a water-borne disease which causes blindness. The windows were complete at Ovingdean but the repairs to brickwork would take until March next year.

The Chairman then handed the microphone to General Sir Peter de la Billiere who had commanded British troops during the first Gulf War and was Director of the SAS during the Iranian Embassy siege.

Sir Peter was proud to have been on parade with the St Dunstan's contingent. He had received a briefing from the Chief of Defence Staff and he thought it might be of interest to talk about the situation in the Middle East, comparing the two Gulf conflicts. Today, they were grossly under strength and service people were spending long periods away from home. The conflict was going to go on for a long time. "We shall be in Afghanistan for many, many years," said Sir Peter. As for Iraq, "I think we are on the way out."

Sir Peter went on to talk about courage. He mentioned the late St Dunstaner Fred Bentley, who had served in the same Regiment and whom he usually escorted on these occasions. He went on to talk about 'courage'.

Courage was there to conquer fear. It took courage sometimes to stand up for what you believed. There was plenty of it in this very room.

The speeches were concluded by St Dunstaner Harry Beevers. He started by summarising a short CV of Sir Peter. He alluded to some of his own thoughts as a National Serviceman in the 1950s.

Harry related how Castleford in Yorkshire from where he came, did not build a war memorial but a maternity home; his wife, son and other relatives apart from himself had been born there. But now that it had been turned into an old folks' home ...

This year was significant for Harry's family. It was 90 years since the Battle of the Somme. "My grandfather's younger brother Sergeant Mark Beevers of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry survived the Battle of the Somme in 1916.



St Dunstaners marching by the Women of WWII memorial.

But at the age of 36, he was killed near Ypres the following year and is buried at Arras. His grave is literally in the corner of a tiny foreign field along with about 24 Allied and German graves."

The other victim he quoted was the father of his escort for the day. Private Joe Aspland, aged 20 of the Lincoln Regiment was severely wounded at the Somme in 1916, survived, and returning into action lost a leg in April 1917.

Harry concluded by thanking St Dunstan's for enabling us all to take part in the day's events. He reiterated the words of the exhortation, repeated at the brief ceremony held at the Thiepval memorial on the Somme earlier this year: "We will remember them." All those, not just in the Great War, but in the many conflicts since, including Iraq and Afghanistan."



St Dunstaner Maria Pikulski remembers those who will not grow old.



St Dunstaner Steve Pendleton marching with BLESMA.

Remembrance at Rottingdean



Photograph: Dick Lake

Tom Gardner lays a wreath at the Rottingdean War memorial. Arthur Lowe carries St Dunstan's standard.

ST DUNSTANERS FROM Ovingdean and the Brighton area paid their respects to fallen comrades at a Remembrance service held at Rottingdean War Memorial on the morning of November 12th.

After a parade which started by the White Horse and headed to the war memorial, Parish Priest and Chaplain to St Dunstan's Father Martin Morgan conducted the service organised by the local chapter of The Royal British Legion.

Joining local parishioners at the memorial were St Dunstaners such as Evelyn Lucas, Maurice Bowley, Marise Falkingham, Eddie Ginn, Alf Waters, Jessie

McNulty, Jim Hetherington, Barbara Bell, Dorothy Wright, Geoff Hagger, Michael Ryan and Chris Jordan. The service followed a traditional programme of prayers and hymns, and



St Dunstaners from Ovingdean attended the service at Rottingdean on Remembrance Sunday.

two minutes silence, after which RAF St Dunstaner Tom Gardner laid a wreath at the base of the memorial. St Dunstaner Arthur Lowe carried our standard throughout proceedings.

Meanwhile, in Sunderland, St Dunstaner Arthur Carter from Bolton was amongst 700 members of the Service and Veterans' Community who attended the parade and service in Burdon Road in Sunderland City Centre.

The service was led by the Band and Bugles of the Light Division. The salute was taken by Lieutenant-General Robin Brimms, CBE, DSO, Regimental Colonel of the Light Infantry.

Arthur laid a wreath on behalf of St Dunstan's at the Sunderland War Memorial.

Arthur remembers those who fell liberating Holland

ARM Y ST DUNSTANER Arthur Patton recently took part in a Commemorative Service in Holland. The former Paratrooper joined fellow members of the Teeside Branch of the Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport Association visiting war cemeteries in the area on September 17th.



Arthur and his escort make a last salute having laid a wreath at the British War Cemetery in Valkenswaard, Holland.

"My escort and I took the opportunity of laying a St Dunstan's wreath, a duty I was proud and honoured to perform," said Arthur.

He recited the following verse, paraphrasing Shakespeare's *Henry V*:

You are the fallen
on the battlefield,
Your souls borne by the
Valkyries to your Valhalla,
You lay there in peace
and in glory,
You band of brothers.

You will be remembered both
in history and in legend even
until the end of the world.

"This remembrance parade took place at Valkenswaard, very near to where the first British troops set foot in Holland during operation

Market Garden," added Arthur.

"This War Graves Pilgrimage is an event we have attended for the last ten years and we are always made very welcome by the people of the Netherlands. Our visit includes British and Allied war cemeteries in St Oedenrode, Mierlo, and Oriel.

"We also visit Arnhem where the British, Polish, and Allied airborne forces fought so valiantly to take and hold the famous Bridge too far.

"We also attend the Eindhoven liberation parade held annually on September

18th. Here we are invited into the town hall for food and drinks and to meet other veterans from Europe and the United States, we also meet old friends and veterans of the Dutch underground and the Belgian secret army."

• Arthur, from Peterlee, County Durham, wrote this report, putting computer skills acquired during a training session at St Dunstan's Sheffield into practical use. "I had a wonderful week there and learnt something I didn't think I would be able to do," he said. "I am looking forward to going back for a further course."

Photograph: Lyn Mullins

GB30STD 'AIRED' ONCE AGAIN

Ted John reports on the Amateur Radio Society meeting

Photographs: Patrick Murphy



St Dunstaner Ray Peart has the whole world in his reach.

Due to the shortage of operators of our own, Eddie Wilson, of Freeman, Hardy and Willis fame, enlisted members of the Worthing and District ARC to help man the Station. Six volunteers attended Ovingdean on a rota and this worked out extremely well.

There is no doubt that their efforts contributed tremendously to the near 500 contacts were logged over the week. The 'loggers' did a wonderful job.

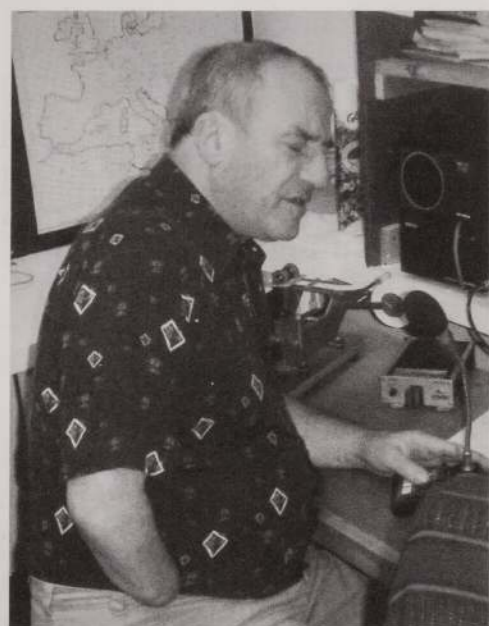
Countries such as Morocco, Brazil, Argentina, The Faroe Islands and many stations in Europe, Canada and America - a good bag!!

The use of the special call-sign, GB30STD, will be used until December 31st 2006.

CELEBRATIONS TO MARK the 30th Anniversary of the St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society continued on Saturday, October 14th, when the General Meeting was held at Ovingdean. Many matters were discussed, the biggest surprise came from 'Other Business' We were told that discussions had been going

on for some time that the Radio Shack may be moved to the 4th floor fuselage. This was the first we had of these proposals and the meeting ended on a quiet note.

We revived with a splendid lunch provided by PBK in the Winter Garden - our gratitude for the excellent meal and service, the wine was good, too!



Ray Hazan on air.



A volunteer supporter checks the logs with Ted John.

THE GREAT SOUTH RAIN!

Our daring die-hards dash through deluge with determination



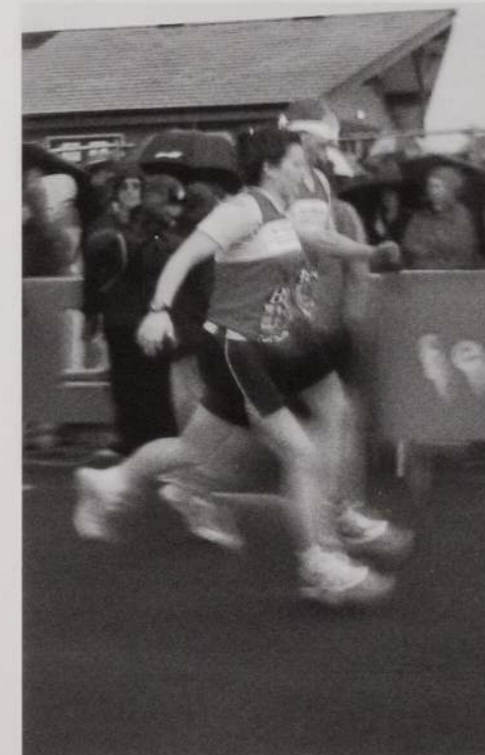
St Dunstaners Iain Millard and Don Planner set off with guides Lynda and Chris as rain clouds gather over Portsmouth.

AN UNPRECEDENTED 40 people ran for St Dunstan's in the Great South Run on October 22nd. Not only were they committing themselves to a ten-mile run, but they did so in the midst of a heavy deluge that rarely gave up. As the morning unfolded, so did the heavens.

Strong winds and a deep depression in the south brought a weather front that deposited 18mm of rainfall in about two hours that morning. The Met Office reported that Hampshire rainfall was 39 per cent above normal that month.

Despite the soaking, our runners persisted with their

by Simon Rogers



Nick Harper relied on his wife Suzanne to guide him while running blindfolded.

endeavour to support blind ex-servicemen and women with some exceptional results.

The Great South Run crosses through 900 years of history that still leaves its mark on Portsmouth. It starts on Clarence Esplanade by the Norman fortifications of Southsea Castle. The first mile carries runners along the coast past the ultra modern Spinnaker Tower that now looms over the wharf. Mile two enters the historic port, passing HMS *Warrior*, the first iron-clad battleship, and leading over the cobbles to HMS *Victory*. Past the Guildhall, through a mix of houses, modern and ancient, such as that in which the Duke of Buckingham was assassinated in 1628. Mile five brings the runners back

towards Southsea Common and round to the east. At mile eight they turn back, through the Southsea front, along Eastney Esplanade and back to Southsea Castle.

Royal Navy St Dunstaner Alan Lock set what must be a St Dunstan's record for the event (Andrew Mahoney take heed!). He cracked the event in one hour, eight minutes and 18 seconds, ranking 339 out of 18,000 runners. That's 21 minutes behind Kenya's Simon Arusei who won the Elite Men's race in 47 minutes and 17 seconds.

RAF St Dunstaner Iain Millard, guided by Lynda Stringer, completed his run in one hour, 57 minutes and 56 seconds. "I really enjoyed the run, even though it was wet," said Iain. "We ran without stopping. We knew it was going to rain when we reached the start which we thought would be cold, but as it turned out it felt quite warm.

"The only problem was after we finished. We had to walk through a quagmire to get to the tent, everything was covered in mud!"

Likewise, Army St Dunstaner Don Planner was on top form as he and co-runner Christopher Moorley made it home in under two hours. "It was a hard run, what with the rain and the wind!" said Don. "Chris and I both agreed

that even with the training we had done, we couldn't have anticipated the rain. When we finished we just wanted to get some dry clothes on. It took us a good hour to warm up."

Nicholas Harper decided to experience the run in the same way as a totally blind runner such as Don. He ran blindfolded with direction from his wife Suzanne, crossing the finish line after one-and-a-half hours.

Jennifer Tregenza, who also ran the Great North Run for St Dunstan's, made the close in a little over two hours.

Trevor Davies, Neil Taylor, Steve Dawes and Gavin



The Great South Run was a true family affair for the Hamills. Young Charlotte Hamill ran a mile in 12 minutes and 35 seconds in the Tesco Mini Run on October 21st. A St Dunstan's running shirt was converted into a rather fetching dress for the occasion. "I was the fastest," she told the Review, adding that she held Dad's hand just in case she went too fast. Ian, who served in the RAF Regiment, and his wife Sandra then ran together for St Dunstan's in the main event on the 22nd.



Despite the downpour, St Dunstaner's granddaughter Anwyn Donnelly ran on.



Don and Chris set off on the run with a good pace.



Donna-Marie and Matthew Evans ran in memory of St Dunstaner George Roake.

Connolly maintained RAF Northolt's tradition for supporting St Dunstan's, while BFBS Radio 2 Producer Will Inglis entered the fray with vigour.

Donna-Marie Evans and her brother Matthew ran the event, as they have before, in memory of their St Dunstaner grandfather, George Roake. Likewise, Anwyn Donnelly ran in memory of her St Dunstaner grandfather.

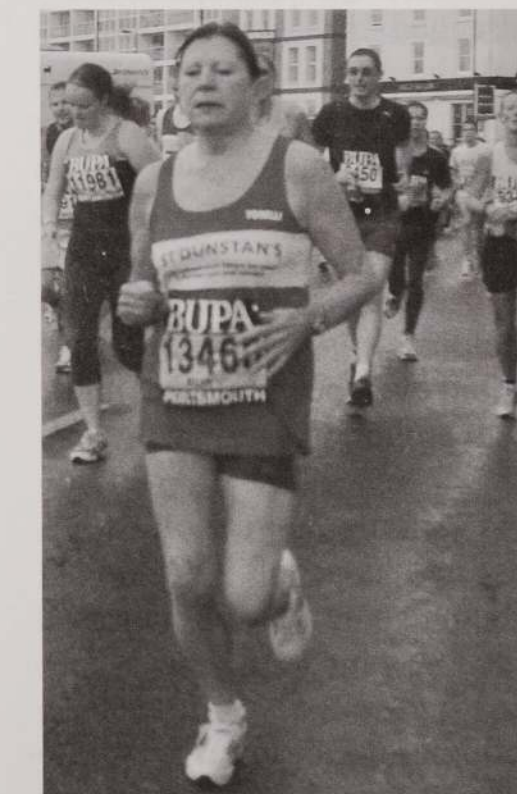
Our thanks go to everyone who supported St Dunstan's on the Great South Run.

Alan Lock	01:08:18
Gavin Connolly	01:12:35
Trevor Davies	01:15:03
David Johnston	01:15:58
David Wilson	01:18:12
Neil Taylor	01:19:09
Richard McCrow	01:20:08
Joanne Rutter	01:20:51
Nick Timms	01:22:21
Andrew Alliston	01:22:24
Steve Dawes	01:23:04
Jane Bonar	01:24:22
Stuart Steele	01:25:39
Matthew Evans	01:26:49
Nicholas Harper	01:31:41
Suzanne Harper	01:31:41
Patsy Noble	01:32:16
Will Inglis	01:33:02
Anna Silverman	01:33:05
Denise Ingram	01:35:46
Jonathan J. Lehrle	01:36:44
Lyn Mullins	01:43:22
Leslie Timms	01:43:31
Lynsey Pickles	01:45:33
Tim Pickles	01:45:35
Donna-Marie Evans	01:47:08
Iain Millard	01:50:26

Lynda Stringer	01:50:26
Anwyn Donnelly	01:51:45
Martin Adams	01:52:34
Emma Reville	01:56:33
Paul Draper	01:56:34
Don Planner	01:57:56
Christopher Moorley	01:57:56
Jennifer Tregenza	02:00:29
Ian Hamill	02:03:59
Sandra Hamill	02:04:00
Andrea Maynard	02:17:14
Christopher Coles	02:33:43



Nicholas Timms with only four more miles to go!



Denise Ingram ran well!

My children are my joy!

A parenting magazine recently asked **Steve Pendleton** what it was like to be a disabled father? This is his reply!

BEFORE I WAS left seriously disabled, I had a number of views of what a good father provided for his family. These views were based on my own upbringing, and these ideals included: taking the children to the park, reading them bedtime stories, making sure my wife and children were provided for financially and a list of other activities based more around fun and enjoying the children. The more routine parts of parenthood I would leave to the wife! Very sexist I know, but this was the way I had been brought up or perhaps dragged up as some mothers out there will say. The things mothers did were cooking, cleaning, ironing, school runs and all that sort of thing. I should say future wife, because these were my views before I was injured, before I had even been married and had children of my own.

As a young 22-year-old soldier, I was left blind, minus my left leg above the knee and totally deaf in my right ear, plus a chapter of other minor injuries that some 15 years later have started to come back to haunt



Photograph: Michala Pendleton

Daddy and the girls! Steve monkeys around on a day out with his daughters Bethany, Shannon and Amy!

me. These disabilities were as a result of a helicopter crash whilst I was serving in Northern Ireland. The thought of having children was a long way off for me at this time. But not that far away from my mind, as one of my first questions to the doctor in the military hospital illustrates quite well. "Because I am blind, does this mean that my children will be born blind?" I must admit, this question seems ludicrous to me now, but was of immense importance to me at the time. I feel I will need more than this article to answer why

this was so important to me at the time, so I won't even try to, I will leave this up to the readers' own experiences. The other thing was, I didn't think that any woman would look at me ever again! I mean, what woman in her right mind, would settle for a guy who could not see, had only one leg and was partially deaf. The fact that I might meet a woman who would love me enough to have children with her seemed quite unimaginable to me at this time.

It is nice to look back at those early days of disability

and realise that my early fears were not realised. In fact, I never had any trouble in finding girls. One in particular who would go onto become my wife of six years and my constant partner for 11 years. Her name is Michala and she is without doubt my one-and-only for the rest of my life. She is also the mother to our three children, Bethany aged nine, Shannon aged eight and last, but by no means least, our little terror, Amy aged three.

Obviously, when my first daughter was born, I wanted to be as involved as I could. However, because of my disabilities I had to be realistic! The first thing I wanted to do for Bethany, when we got her back from the hospital, was to give her a bath. But there was a constant thought in the back of my head. "Because of my leg, will I slip up in the bathroom when I am carrying her?" Because I wanted my daughter to be safe, I decided not to give her baths, leaving this job to Michala.

In fact like all parents, we put the safety of our children first, so this limited my involvement with regards to their early upbringing, and I in no way feel guilty about this, simply because I was doing what all responsible parents do - I put the welfare of my children first! And in some way, I have made up

for the shortfall in this area by maximising on the activities that I can do with my children. I feel it is important to realise one's limitations by not bothering about what I cannot do but then concentrate on what I can do.

There is no book out that tells us how to be a good parent. We all just have to muddle through as best we can. When my first child was born, I tended to look back at my own early childhood, for some sort of inspiration.

What did my own father do when I was growing up? The more I asked myself this the more I realised that I didn't want to bring my own children up anything like my dad brought me up.

My father had been in the Army also and my early memories were of me being dragged around from camp to camp, forever changing schools and I certainly didn't want this for my own kids. Because my father was always at work, I never saw him much. So in reverse, I wanted to always be there for my children, so early on in their lives I decided that I would be there always.

The thing that really wound me up about my main disability and my children's up-bringing, was that I could not read them bedtime stories. So I managed to get around

this problem by making up stories in my head and telling them by memory.

But then I took to learning Braille which also proved to be very useful in this area. I also found spending those last minutes before the children went to sleep a good time to talk with them and recap over the day, concentrating on all the great things we had done together that day. This, I hope, gives the girls nice things to think about before they go to sleep, I feel this is very important.

I see my main role as a father, even a disabled father, is to make sure my wife and children are safe. I am the protector of my family. I am the one who has the responsibility of making sure there is enough money to pay the bills and keep the fridge and freezer stocked with food. All these things I do very well. The reason I know I do this well, is that Michala doesn't have or want to go out to work. Which means she is where she is supposed to be, at home, looking after the kids!

I am also the rough-and-tumble man! When the children want to play fight, I am the man who gets it! I have lost count of the amount of times my girls have pulled my leg off! Sometimes these games can get quite serious! But what the hell, that is what dads are for!

A time for introduction!

Rehabilitation & Training Programme Coordinator **Claire Green** explains what new St Dunstaners can expect when they first go to Ovingdean or Sheffield training centres

WELCOME TO ST DUNSTAN'S! Now that you have become a St Dunstaner, you will be invited to attend our Introduction Week, which will take place either at Ovingdean or Sheffield, depending on where you live and whether or not you have any care needs. If you have a spouse or primary carer, they will be invited to attend with you. As a St Dunstaner, your own stay will be free of charge (a charge is made for accompanying spouses or carers) and door-to-door transport can be provided, which is also free of charge.

The purpose of the Introductory Week is, in a nutshell, for you to find out more about St Dunstan's and what we can do for you. You will have one-to-one sessions with one of our Rehabilitation Officers for the Visually Impaired (ROVIs) about ways we can help you in your daily life. They will ask you how you manage

in everyday situations, e.g. dealing with correspondence or making a cup of tea, and demonstrate any equipment that is relevant to your individual needs. In addition to these sessions, you will be introduced to computing, visit our craft workshop, and our Sports team will encourage you to try your hand at non-energetic sports, such as



A group session in full swing.

archery. Go on, have a go! There will also be free time to relax and socialise.

Quite understandably, you may feel somewhat anxious about coming and wonder what you are letting yourself in for. Please do not be worried. We do not expect you to do anything beyond your capabilities and I am sure you will have a good time and benefit from the week. We at St Dunstan's are proud of our family spirit and you will be made to feel very welcome. By the end of the week, you should find yourself thinking what on earth was I worried about!

Here are some extracts from letters of thanks we have received from St Dunstaners after attending the Introduction Week. They are all taken from real letters – we haven't made them up!

"I recently stayed at Ovingdean for the introductory week and am writing to thank you for such a truly wonderful experience. The manner in which my wife and I were welcomed and the subsequent week were unbelievable.

Everyone on your staff could not have been kinder, more helpful or reassuring and their sheer dedication was so very commendable. The whole atmosphere and homely feeling led to my fellow trainees and I bonding from day one and we have formed what I hope will be lasting friendships."

"A very big thank you on behalf of my mother, whose sight doesn't permit her to write to you directly. My mother was rather apprehensive about the trip but in the event had a wonderful time. She returned full of the joys of spring! Thank you so much."

"I would like to thank you and all your colleagues for your help and encouragement last week. My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed our stay at Ovingdean. It was with some trepidation that we waited to be picked up, but the driver soon put us at ease, and that feeling continued as soon as Martin met us on arrival. My ROVI was so helpful and encouraging, and I am sure I am going to be able to be much more independent and positive as a result of all her help and advice. Having had very little contact with Social Services over the years, it was so reassuring to gain so much help under one roof. Nothing was too much trouble for anyone, and any question was answered and, where possible,



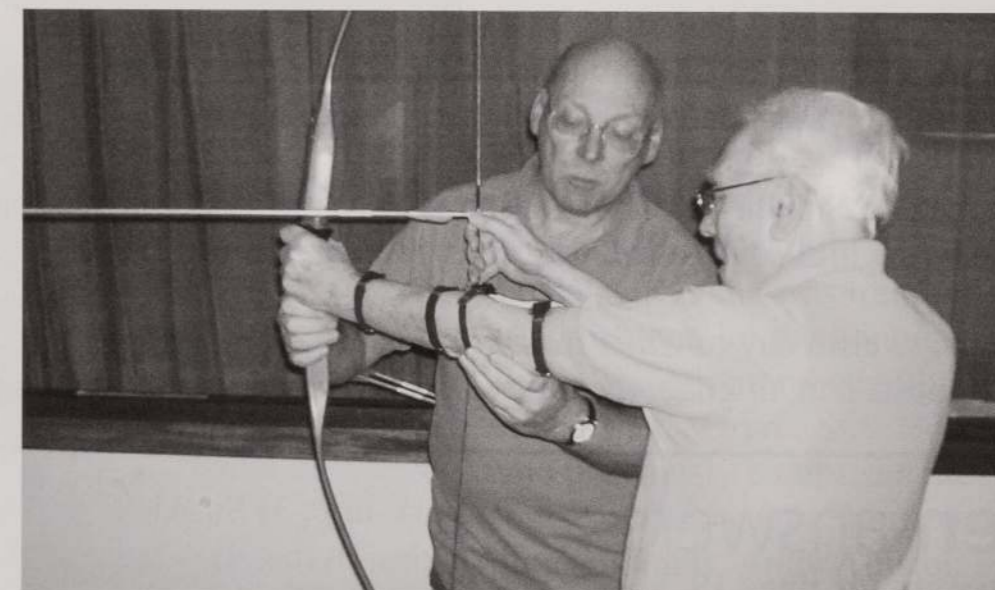
A St Dunstaner trying out low vision equipment.

acted on straight away. Please pass on my grateful thanks to all the staff who helped me. Their kindness and expertise was so encouraging."

"We approached our stay at Ovingdean with some apprehension, not knowing what to expect. In fact we could not possibly have had a more enjoyable, valuable and inspiring week. The course was well constructed

and progressive, they were universally kind and helpful, the facilities and activities were much enjoyed and the place was run like a first class hotel. My wife came away invigorated, inspired and full of determination to develop her potential."

We hope that you too have an enjoyable and beneficial week and look forward to meeting you.



Having a go at archery for the first time.

POET'S CORNER

The Twelve Days of Christmas by Colin Oakes

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey a delicious bird

On the third day of Christmas came the people from next-door
And the turkey tasted just as good as it did the day before

On the fourth day of Christmas came the relatives young and old
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold

On the fifth day of Christmas outside the snowflakes scurried
But we were nice and warm inside because we had the turkey curried

On the sixth day of Christmas the Christmas spirit died
The children fought and bickered and we had the turkey fried

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love made me wince
When we sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince

On the eighth day of Christmas the dog had run for cover
He had seen the turkey pancakes and the glass of Alka-Selzer

On the ninth day of Christmas by lunchtime Dad was blotto
He knew the turkey was back this time as a risotto

On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home brew
And if that wasn't bad enough we were eating turkey stew

On the eleventh day of Christmas the Christmas tree was malting
And with chilli soya sauce, the turkey was revolting

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles on our lips
The guests had all gone, the turkey too, we dined on fish and chips

BEER OF THE MONTH

by Colin
Williamson

Broughton Scottish Oatmeal Stout

4.2 per cent ABV.
A real stout with a beautiful sweet silky, creamy texture with a hint of ginger and other spices.

Its label has the image of Robert Younger, founder of Younger's Brewery in Edinburgh and great grandfather of Broughton's father.

In some markets this beer is sold as Kinmount Willie after a border raider from the Armstrong clan. Kinmount Willie is alleged to have been a forbear of the US astronaut Neil Armstrong, a claim the brewery emphasizes in the American market.

Gerry lives up to the Commando challenge

ARMY ST DUNSTANER Gerry Jones was deemed to be man of the hour when he joined our team tackling the Royal Marines Commando Challenge in Exmouth on October 14th. The team enjoyed the hospitality of the Sergeant's Mess at the Royal Marine Commando Training Centre in Lympstone, but in between they tackled a three-mile assault course with hills, streams, mud pits, tunnels, water crossings that come up to your neck and the infamous sheep dip. Gerry, who was rendered totally blind while serving in the Navy, took it all in his stride. He made such an impression that Ceri Lewis presented him with a shoulder stripe presented to Marines when they complete their training.

Marine Owen Wilson checks ahead for Gerry, kept on track by Marine Robert Emerson. Paul Meredith is hot on their trail.

At 65-years-old Gerry was the oldest member of the team that also included St Dunstaners Peter Walker, Colin Williamson, Tom Boal and Paul Meredith. For Paul, it was a nostalgic return to the days when he was training at Lympstone for the King's Troop, though more recently than St Dunstan's Driver Stan Bowers who previously completed the course 40 years ago. Sports staff Louise Timms, Andy Alliston and Adam Finch also completed the challenge in mud-coated fashion.

Ten answers... Answers for page 19.

1) Margaret Thatcher;

2) Yorkshire; 3) Sir Alex Douglas-Home. 4) A father;
5) Ramsay Macdonald;
6) James Callaghan;

7) Blairite;
8) Harold Macmillan;
9) Winston Churchill; and
10) Winston Churchill.

Small team, but big spirit

Colin Williamson joins Sutton Valence CCF during their attempt to tackle St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge

THE BRITISH WEATHER never ceases to amaze me. The date was October 16th, the temperature, somewhere in the high seventies. The location, Edgerton, a picturesque village deep in the heart of the Kent countryside where I had arranged to rendezvous with the Army Cadets from Sutton Valence CCF who were competing in this year's cadet challenge. They had started out at 07:45 from a camp site at Broadhembury where they had camped the previous night in readiness to walk the 13.1 miles which is the distance required to take part in the challenge.

As far as numbers go, this was probably the smallest contingent of cadets ever to tackle the 'go the distance' cadet challenge (there were eight of them).

As far as spirit, determination and teamwork they were up there with the big boys! Despite their numbers they did themselves, their school and the CCF proud.

Able led by Andy Bee, an adult instructor (and the



Colin and the Sutton Valence cadets after their walk.

school's geography teacher, (which comes in handy when reading the map) these intrepid explorers tramped over fields, through forests, over stiles and along country lanes with yours truly in tow to finally reach our destination which was the school. A much appreciated cup of tea was waiting. (My packed lunch mysteriously disappeared after a kind soul offered to carry it for me. Did I learn nothing whilst I was serving?)

Joe Davies, the headmaster and keen supporter of St Dunstan's, whose late father was a resident at Ovingdean, was there to greet us. We chatted for a while

in his study and then all too soon it was time to go.

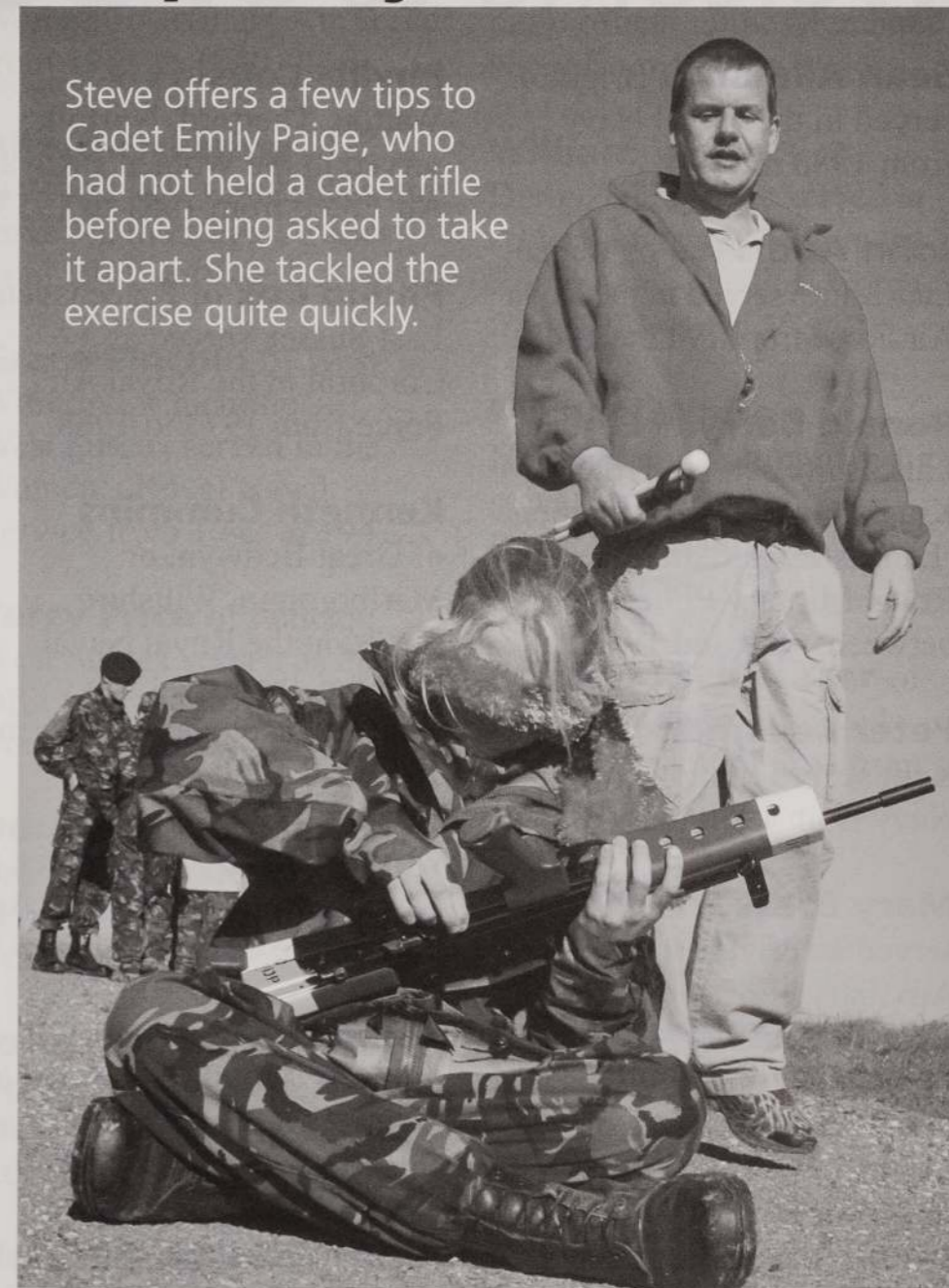
I was conveyed to the nearest railway station by the delightful Mrs Mary Hall, (who basks in the grand title of Director of Extracurricular Activities) and who did all of the logistical planning for the event including arranging the packed lunches (which I was later told were delicious). I promised to return to present the cadets with their certificates and badges for completing the challenge.

It was a really great day and some really wonderful people. This school should feel immensely proud of their cadets. Well done!

How to make a square you can't see!

WHEN THIRTEEN CHIPPENHAM Army Cadets of Ferozeshah Company laid their claim on the St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge it brought a few memories back for St Dunstaner Steve Pendleton. Steve had worked at Wiltshire ACF as an instructor before his final discharge after being blinded and losing a leg in a helicopter crash. Steve and Colin Williamson joined them on the 13-mile walk through Salisbury Plain. The cadets were following a route on a map, but it seems sheep pens can be moved. With shifting landmarks, the next turning isn't always so apparent.

Apart from orienteering, a few command exercises punctuated the route. How do you arrange a straight rope into a square when you can't see it and only one person can talk? Nobody had quite the right answer though there were some bold attempts. Some first aid exercises went well, and while there may have been some frustration with stripping down a cadet GP rifle or reassembling it, they all stepped up for the challenge. A final exercise saw the blindfolded cadets lined up single file while their team leader directed them via a series of whistle blows. Their challenge was completed with good spirit!



Steve offers a few tips to Cadet Emily Paige, who had not held a cadet rifle before being asked to take it apart. She tackled the exercise quite quickly.

Janet Adams, MBE

Janet Adams, MBE died on October 16th, aged 86. For 25 years, she tended the sick and wounded in circumstances of natural disaster and man-made conflict with the British and International Red Cross.

She served in Malaya during the Emergency, on hurricane relief in Grenada, provided relief for Ugandan refugees and cared for war casualties

in Yemen and the Mekong Delta. She was awarded the MBE for providing succour in conflict zones and also held the Florence Nightingale Medal and the British Red Cross's award of Honour.

St Dunstaners will recall her from occasions when she attended the Summer Camps in Lee-on-Solent. Our sympathy goes to her sister Elspeth.

Welcome to ST DUNSTAN'S

Sean Allman of Brighton served in the Royal Navy from 1980 to 1984.

John Andrews of Wigan, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1948.

Ronald Berry of Leyland, Lancashire served in the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) and then the Royal Military Police between 1950 and 1952.

Peter Boorman of Hythe, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1950 to 1958.

Mary Brett of Deal, Kent served as Private in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1947.

Frederick Burfot of Letchworth, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1943 to 1946.

John Cast of Seaford, East Sussex served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 to 1946.

Grace Chadwick of Puttenham, Guildford, Surrey served in the Merchant Navy from 1940 to 1943.

Basil Chappell of Fishponds, Bristol served in the Gloucestershire Regiment from 1957 to 1959.

Phyllis Cousins of Watton, Thetford, Norfolk served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1953.

Phillip Cox of Peacehaven, East Sussex served as Corporal in the Royal Air Force from 1973 to 1988.

Kenneth Cummins of Great Bedwyn, nr Marlborough, Wiltshire served in the Royal Naval Reserve, the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy between 1914 and 1960.

Henry Darby of Purfleet, Essex served in the Royal Air Force from 1938 to 1949.

Kenneth Dundas of Ashford, Middlesex served in the Far East with the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1954.

Albert Edwards of Wickford, Essex served as Corporal in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

Brian Eldridge of Gotherington, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps from 1966 to 1975.

William Finnemore of Richmond, Surrey served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946 and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1948 to 1969.

Albert Forder of Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1947.

Leonard Ginno of Plumstead, London served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

Edmund Gough of Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1942 to 1947.

Donald Hillman of Nottage, Porthcawl served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1949 to 1955.

Sydney Hugill of Stolesley, Middlesbrough served in the Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment) from 1939 to 1944 and then the Cheshire Regiment until 1946.

David Jones of Penyfai, Bridgend, Glamorgan served in the Royal Artillery from 1957 to 1962.

John Lainchbury of Merstham, Redhill, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

John Lawford of Trowbridge, Wiltshire served in the Royal Electrical and

Mechanical Engineers from 1988 to 1992.

Dennis Lockwood of Carnforth, Cumbria served as Able Seaman in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1948.

James Lumsden of Brundall, Norwich, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1964.

Patrick Knibbs of Buckingham served as Private in the Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's) from 1958 to 1960.

Arthur Knowles of Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1970.

Leon Monkman of Witherslack, Grange-over-Sands, Lancaster served as Able Seaman in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Audrey Morrow of Spalding, Lincolnshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

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

Shirley Owen of Longstock, nr Stockbridge, Hampshire served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1945.

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

Eileen Parr of Earls Court, London served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Alfred Pickering of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1941 to 1946.

Grace Pinchin of West Wittering, Chichester, West Sussex served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1942 to 1947.

Percy Price of Lancing, West Sussex served as Petty Officer in the Royal Navy from 1938 to 1948.

Douglas Pritchard of Broomhall, Worcester served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1943 to 1947.

Joseph Roberts of Uppingham, Leicestershire served in the Worcestershire Regiment from 1940 to 1946.

Noel Simon of Chidham, West Sussex served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1940 to 1946.

Barry Stones of Haggerston, London served in the Royal Artillery from 1970 to 1976.

Joseph Symn of Cockermouth, Cumbria served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

Peter Symonds of East Horsley, Surrey served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1957.

John Thompson of Lambeg, Lisburn served as a radio officer in the Merchant Navy from 1940 to 1946.

William Walters of Derby, Derbyshire served at Aldershot as a Private in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1951 to 1952.

Michael White of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire served as a driver in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1951 to 1953.

Rowland Whittaker of Poynton, Cheshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Edna Wilkinson of Eastbourne, East Sussex served as a Leading Wren in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1945.

Terence Williams of Shard End, Birmingham, West Midlands served as Sergeant in the Grenadier Guards from 1956 to 1968.

Harold Woodford of Fareham, Hampshire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1941 and 1946.

Anthony Woodworth of Blackburn, Lancashire served in the East Lancashire Regiment and then the Middlesex Regiment between 1946 and 1948.

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Charlie James Middlemiss on October 4th. He is the great-grandson of *Henry and Joan Williams* of Brighton.

Samuel Hiles on October 25th. He is the first great-grandson of *Dennis and Phyllis Fleckney* of Basingstoke, Hampshire.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Elizabeth and Martin Shelley who married on September 9th at St Nicholas Church, Saltdean. Elizabeth is the granddaughter of *David Humphrey* and the late Doreen Humphrey of North Woodingdean, Brighton.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

David and Ann Marshall of Enniskillen, County Fermanagh on October 24th.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Ken and Lorna Westcott of Minehead, Somerset on October 26th.

James and Doris Fox of Westhoughton, Bolton, Lancashire on November 9th.

Robert and Peggy Hlland of Stapleford, Nottinghamshire on November 16th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Margaret and George Bailey of Southwick, Brighton who celebrated 61 years of marriage on October 6th.

Jack and Kitty Blane of Stewartby, Bedfordshire who celebrated 66 years of marriage on October 9th.

Jack and Marjorie Wakeford of Brighton who celebrated 61 years of marriage on October 20th.

William and Evelyn Beardsmore of Lower Gornal, Dudley, West Midlands who celebrated 61 years of marriage on October 24th.

Alan and Joyce Hirst of Darlington, County Durham who celebrated 61 years of marriage on November 1st.

Stanley and Florence Rickard of Southwick, Trowbridge, Wiltshire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on November 8th.

George and Ann Taylor of Loose, Maidstone, Kent who celebrated 66 years of marriage on November 9th.

Fredrick and Gladys Smith of Blyth, Northumberland who celebrated 61 years of marriage on November 10th.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Jean Goodwin on October 27th. She was the wife of Army St Dunstaner *William Goodwin* of Sanderstead, Surrey.

Ada Redstone of Kingswood, Bristol on October 27th. She was the widow of RAF St Dunstaner *John Redstone*.

Phyllis McKay of Brighton on November 6th. She was the widow of *Thomas McKay*.

Our sympathy goes to their family and friends

CORRECTION

Last month's entry concerning the passing of Louie Brooks of Bedford, Bedfordshire on September 17th, should have stated that she was the widow of St Dunstaner George Brooks who served with the Royal Engineers. Many St Dunstaners will recall Louie helping them as a guide or reader at Ovingdean over many years and we apologise for any confusion caused.

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.

Gordon Stillwell

Royal Canadian Navy

Gordon Samuel Stillwell of Peterborough, Ontario, Canada died on August 29th, aged 79. He served in the Royal Canadian Navy. Our sympathy goes to his widow Shirley, daughter Susan and all of the family.

John Bullock,

Royal Army Service Corps

John Edward Bullock of Raynes Park, London died on October 10th, aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1993. While working for the local authority in Folkestone, Kent he joined the Royal Artillery (TA) in 1938. Embodied in 1939, he was subsequently posted to North Africa. He suffered injuries to eyes during an artillery barrage in Tobruk during 1941. As a WOII, he transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps before his discharge in 1946. In civilian life, he rejoined the local authority and became an Entertainment Director. His interests included theatre, bridge, and bowls. Our sympathy goes to his daughters, Philippa and Jan, and all members of the family.

Herbert Lee

Royal Air Force

Herbert John Lee of Aylesford, Kent died on October 12th, aged 85. He worked in a Vickers Armstrong munitions factory before joining the Royal Air Force in 1941. After training, he was posted to RAF St Athan and worked on engines for Hurricanes, Spitfire and Typhoon. His unit was sent to France after D-Day and moved through to Germany on airfields supporting the Allied advance. Discharged in 1946, he joined an agricultural engineering firm but was injured by a tool

fragment that pierced his left eye. He then worked in a paper mill. His interests included gardening, DIY, and classical music. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joyce, son Andrew and all members of the family.

Trevor Foulkes

Royal Tank Regiment

Trevor Wigley Foulkes of Guilsfield, Welshpool, Powys died on October 15th, aged 85. After leaving school, he worked for distillers Halliwell and Stien who became part of plasterboard manufacturer Gyproc. Having joined the Territorial Army early in 1939, he was embodied into the Royal Tank Regiment some five months later. After taking part in landings in North Africa, he trained for the Special Service Squadron that would be used in Madagascar. However, he was posted to Freetown prior to taking part in the Italian Campaign, fighting through to Venice. He was discharged as Sergeant in 1946 and went to agricultural college in Wales. After working on a variety of farms, he joined a feed and seed supplier, retiring as their district manager. His interests included golf, driving, photography, music and freemasonry. Our sympathy goes to his widow Elizabeth, daughters Ruth and Anne, and all members of the family.

Theodore Giles

Royal Air Force

Theodore Leonard Giles of Saltdean, Brighton died on October 15th, aged 77. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1954. He had been studying to become a sanitary inspector before joining the Royal Air Force in 1947. While serving in Egypt as Aircraftman I, he experienced deterioration of vision. Discharged in 1950, he was introduced to St Dunstan's two years later where he studied braille, telephony, woodwork, and basket making. Considering pig keeping, he embarked on a garden small holding, combining it with poultry keeping. In the 1960's he became a capstan lathe operator.

He was a mainstay of the Brighton Club. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mary, son Theo, and all members of the family.

Ron Ellis

Gloucestershire Regiment

Ronald Daniel Edmond Ellis of Ovingdean, Brighton died on October 17th, aged 87. Born on October 28th, 1918, he served in the Gloucestershire Regiment from 1935 to 1944 and in his own words "went, did his bit and came back."

Peter Mills

**RAC The Queen's Bays
(2nd Dragoon Guards)**

Edward Peter Mills of Cherry Willingham, Lincoln, Lincolnshire died on October 20th, aged 86. He joined The Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards) in 1937. The regiment was transferred to the Royal Armoured Corps in 1939 prior to being sent to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force. He was wounded and taken prisoner and held in France, Belgium, Germany and Poland. He escaped with a companion and was eventually picked up by the Rifle Brigade. He was discharged as Lance Corporal in 1947 and joined the Ministry of Defence, later working with the British Frontier Service which maintained the conditions of the 1945 Armistice. His interests included photography and computers. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joy, daughter Barbara and all members of the family.

Ralph Phillips

**The Wiltshire Regiment
(Duke of Edinburgh's)**

Ralph William James Phillips of Welshpool, Powys died on October 20th, aged 87. He joined the Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) in 1939 and was posted to India. He served in Madras, Delhi, Poona and Burma. After his discharge in 1945, he joined the accounts department of Wolseley's motor car company. Our sympathy goes to his widow Verona, daughter Pat and all the family.

**Albert Sisson
Fleet Air Arm**

Albert Alexander Sisson of Aston-on-Trent, Derbyshire died on October 23rd, aged 77. He was a grocer's assistant before joining the Royal Navy in 1947. Posted to Lee-on-Solent, he became an air mechanic with the Fleet Air Arm. After a tour of duty at Lossiemouth, he served on board HMS *Ocean*, *Glory* and *Theseus* around the Mediterranean. He returned to Lee-on-Solent to train new recruits. Discharged as Acting Petty Officer in 1954, he joined Sketchley's dry cleaners and later set up his own business in that field. Our sympathy goes to his widow Sheila and all members of the family.

**Clifford Sneath
Royal Navy**

Clifford Raymond Sneath of Oldbury, West Midlands died on October 23rd, aged 82. He worked for an import and export company before being called up to join the Royal Navy on Boxing Day 1941. He trained at HMS *Collingwood* as a signalman, then served on escorts and minesweepers in the Mediterranean, between Gibraltar and the Suez Canal. His ship cleared the coast off Sicily and the French coast before D-Day. Discharged in 1947, he returned to the export trade but later joined the electricity board. His interests included painting and jazz. Our sympathy goes to his son Ryyll, daughter Vanessa and all members of the family.

**Harry Nelson
Royal Navy**

Harry Nelson of South Hylton, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear died on October 26th, aged 79. He joined the Royal Navy in 1947, serving on HMS *Brissenden* and HMS *Duke of York* in the UK and Caribbean. After his discharge in 1949, he returned to the General Post Office as a telephone engineer. Our sympathy goes to his widow Audrey and all of the family.

**Jesse Timperley
Royal Army Service Corps**

Jesse Timperley of Warton, Preston, Lancashire died on October 29th, aged 85. He

worked for a mirror manufacturer and then on the buses for the Manchester Corporation before joining the Territorial Army in 1939. He was embodied into the Royal Army Service Corps on the outbreak of war and was posted to France. Returning to the UK, he served around the country before deploying to Egypt. His unit moved on from the desert to Italy and advanced to Bologna. Discharged in 1947, he returned to the Manchester buses but later worked as a window cleaner and then as an ambulance driver. His interests included walking, caravanning, reading and driving. Our sympathy goes to his widow Sylvia, sons Geoffrey, Stewart and Nigel, and all members of the family.

**Graham Watts
Somerset Light Infantry
(Prince Albert's)**

Graham Kenneth Watts of Leeds, West Yorkshire died on October 31st, aged 79. He joined the General Service Corps in 1945 and transferred to the Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's) after seven months. In 1946, he transferred to the Royal Norfolk Regiment for three months and then joined the Hampshire Regiment. He rejoined the Somerset Light Infantry in 1947 and was discharged the following year. In civilian life, he qualified as a tailor, working in Saville Row and later becoming sales director for a clothing business. His interests included golf and caravanning. Our sympathy goes to his widow Angela, son Clive, daughter Emma, and all members of the family.

Bert Wood

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Herbert Charles Wood of Ovingdean, Brighton died on November 3rd, aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1972. Having joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1940, he was posted overseas. He was taken prisoner in Java in 1942 and held in camps in Java and Sumatra. During his years as a captive, he contracted beri-beri and suffered from dysentery, malnutrition and other privations. After being liberated,

he returned to the UK for discharge in 1946. In civilian life, he was a warehouseman and labourer. His interests included poetry, gardening, swimming and bowls and he was a member of St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War group. He was also a member of St Dunstan's Archery Club for over 20 years, competing with them around the country and abroad. He also reported on the Archers' activities for St Dunstan's Review. Our sympathy goes to his daughters Marilyn and Jacqueline and all members of the family.

**Gordon Evans
Royal Navy**

Gordon Evans of Port Talbot, West Glamorgan died on November 5th, aged 86. He worked in a soft drinks factory before joining the Royal Navy as an Able Bodied Seaman in 1938. He suffered injuries to his face and hands when his ship hit a mine on D-Day. Discharged in 1944, he went to work for the Post Office and then a Sheetworks. A keen supporter of the local rugby club, he also enjoyed pool, cards, dominoes and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his sister Betty and all members of the family.

**Donald Wright
Royal Engineers**

Major Donald Wright of Devizes, Wiltshire died on November 5th, aged 84. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1942. In 1943, he was commissioned and posted to India, then serving in the Middle East before joining the army of occupation in Japan at the end of war. After a tour of duty in BAOR, he was posted Korea as a Squadron Commander. Following the end of the Korean War, he served in Hong Kong, Ghana, Congo, Kenya and the British Army of the Rhine. He returned to the UK prior to discharge in 1974. In civilian life, he was a Health and Safety Advisor for Wiltshire County Council. His interests included cricket and golf, tinkering with cars and DIY. Our sympathy goes to his widow Shirley and all members of the family.

Two minutes of silence at 11:00 on Remembrance Sunday 2006.



Photograph: Simon Rogers