

# St Dunstan's Review



**St Dunstan's**  
An independent future for blind  
ex-Service men and women

February 2007

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

# From **the Chairman** St Dunstan's



## Calendar

### FEBRUARY

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

### MARCH

2nd-9th	Amateur Radio (I)
3rd	Writers Forum
5th	Indoor Bowling
11th-24th	Bowling Club (I)
25th-31st	Dancing Week (I)

### APRIL

4th	Indoor Bowling
4th-11th	Widows' Week (I)
7th	Writers Forum
9th	Fishing Club (II)
13th-16th	Ex-POW Reunion
16th	Indoor Bowling
22nd	London Marathon

HAVING EXPERIENCED the hottest summer last year since records began and a mild November, December seemed to be catching up with winter as we used to know it. But it was short lived. Despite the, at times, seemingly endless rain, little seems to flow into the reservoirs and there is still a water shortage in the south east. Is global warming really beginning to bite?

Let us be positive when we face the year ahead. There will be new opportunities and St Dunstaners, more than most, know how to make the best of each day, grasping those opportunities with determination and courage. May you continue to do so, enjoy a fruitful year and keep dry, warm and free from winter bugs!

**Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN**

## St Dunstan's Review

**February 2007 No 965**

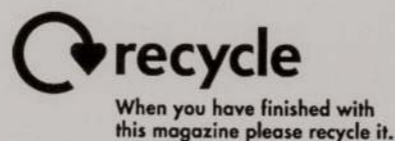
**Cover Story:** St Dunstaner Gerry Jones uses his long cane and some assistance from Romney Marsh ATC Cadet Josh Coombs as they cross a railway bridge. More on page 24.

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Dates for your diary and useful information

# Noticeboard

## NOTIFY WELFARE AND GRANTS DEPT OF ADDRESS CHANGES

PLEASE KEEP US UP TO DATE: We would like to remind St Dunstaners to let us know of any relevant changes in their circumstances, such as change of address or telephone number. Any changes should be notified to the Welfare and Grants department who can be contacted at St Dunstan's Headquarters on 0207 723 5021. If you prefer you may e-mail details of any change directly to [DataChanges@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:DataChanges@st-dunstans.org.uk).

## MASONIC MEETING IN APRIL

**BROTHERS AT OIVINGDEAN:**  
The St Dunstan's Masonic Group are holding its Annual Meeting at Ovingdean during the weekend of 27-29 April. Any St Dunstaner, who is a Freemason, is eligible to attend. Further information can be obtained from Ron Freer, telephone 01843 601421, or write to 23 St Michael's Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate, Kent CT9 3UH.

## EX-POW REUNION 2007

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

## REUNION UPDATE

**MIDDLESBROUGH CONFIRMATION AND TWO DATE CHANGES:** The Middlesbrough Reunion is confirmed as taking place on 28 March. The Newcastle Reunion has been rescheduled for 31 July and the Durham Reunion will be held on 1 August.

## CAMP OUT AT HMS SULTAN

**CALLING ALL CAMPERS:**  
The next HMS *Sultan* Summer Camp runs Friday, 27 July to Saturday, 4 August. Any St Dunstaner wishing to attend should contact Dave Burrows by 7 April. Write to him at 18 Portsmouth Road, Lee on the Solent, Hampshire PO13 9AG, or telephone on 02392 550532, or send an e-mail to [DCB119399@aol.com](mailto:DCB119399@aol.com).

## CUP FINAL TICKET DRAW

**WHO WILL WIN?:** The FA Cup Final will be held on Saturday, 19 May 2007 at Wembley. It is possible that St Dunstan's will be allocated tickets. Any St Dunstaner wishing to go should send their name and address to Lisa Coyle at St Dunstan's Headquarters by 13 April. Names will be drawn at random. Any St Dunstaner offered tickets for the event will be responsible for arranging their own travel and accommodation.

## LORD WALKER OF ALDRINGHAM

FORMER DEFENCE CHIEF JOINS HOUSE OF LORDS: General Sir Michael Walker who was Chief of the Defence Staff (2003-2006) and previously Commander-in-Chief of Land Command joined the House of Lords on 19 December. Created a Life Baron, he becomes Lord Walker of Aldringham. His wife, The Lady Walker is a Member of St Dunstan's Council.

## KEEP IN THE SWIM WITH MANDI

SWIMMING LESSONS AND COACHING AT ST DUNSTAN'S OIVINGDEAN: Mandi Fermer, a new member of the Sport and Recreation department at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, has recently introduced swimming lessons and coaching. Anyone interested in learning how to swim, improving their technique or performance through some coaching, can contact Mandi Fermer at by telephoning 01273 391463.

## SQUADRONAIRES FLY IN FOR MARCH DANCE

RAF BAND AT OIVINGDEAN: A Happy New Year to all St Dunstaners. Hope you are looking forward to Dance Week as much as we are. I have been fortunate enough to book the Squadronaires for the March dance.

After the dark winter months it would be nice to start the season off with our best dance yet. We look forward to seeing you all on 25 March. Any queries, please phone me, David Schofield, on 0115 932 3517.

**David and Glenys**

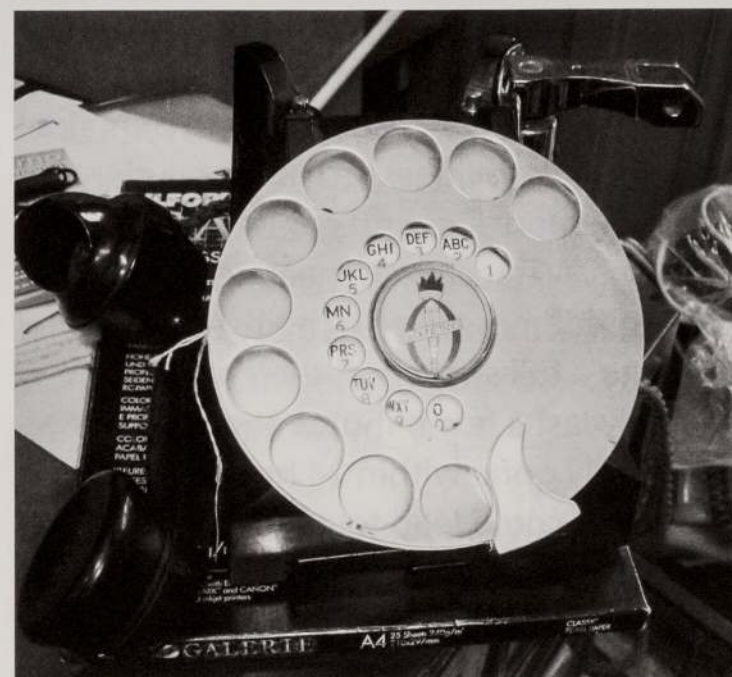
## VI MOUNTAINEERING COURSE

STRETCH YOUR ABILITIES IN SCOTLAND: A mountaineering course for visually impaired people will be held at Glenmore Lodge on 9-14 September. This five-day residential course is held at the National Outdoor Training Centre near Aviemore, and is run by highly qualified and experienced instructors. The week's activities will include a full days walk in the Cairngorms, introduction to rock climbing and abseiling and Canadian canoeing. The highlight of the week is an overnight expedition using one of the above activities. The full cost of the week is £350. This includes: accommodation in twin rooms, cooked breakfast, evening meals and packed lunches. Glenmore Lodge will supply all equipment required for the week.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Sports and Recreation Coordinator Louise Timms at St Dunstan's Ovingdean by telephoning 01273 307811.

## GO APE FOR SOME TREE-TOP ADVENTURE

MONKEY AROUND ON AERIAL ASSAULT COURSE: Go Ape is an activity centre that promises to sort the Johnny Weissmullers from the Fay Rays. It has a network of rope bridges, trapezes and death slides that stretches for roughly a mile through the tree canopy of Bracknell Forest. Anyone who wishes to test their mettle in this impressively extensive cat's cradle of ropes, netting and platforms, set high in the trees should contact Andy Alliston in Sports and Recreation at St Dunstan's Ovingdean by telephoning 01273 307811.



## DOES THIS TELEPHONE RING ANY BELLS WITH YOU?

GIVE ARCHIVES A RING: This antique pre-War telephone bearing St Dunstan's crest has an enlarged dial and handset rest designed for use by a handless person. If you have ever encountered a similar device or recall a St Dunstaner using one please contact Roberta Hazan in Collections and Archives on 020 7723 5021.

## AUDIO DESCRIBED THEATRE

CURRENT SHOWS IN THE UK: Irene Richards will be enhancing the following stage productions with live descriptions of the scenery, action and effects.

*Love Story* on 8 February at 19:45 at the New Ambassadors, London. For prices call the box office on 0870 060 6627 or e-mail ticketcentre@theambassadors.com.

Agatha Christie's *The Unexpected Guest* at the Cheltenham Everyman on 15 February at 14:00. Call 01242 572573 for details.

Roxie's legs get the treatment in *Chicago* at the Norwich Theatre Royal on 24 February at 17:00. Call 01603 63 00 00 for details.

Charley's Aunt at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley on March 3rd at 14:30. Call 0870 060 6620 or e-mail bromleyaccessbookings@theambassadors.com.

## ST DUNSTANERS E-MAIL LIST

HELP WITH PROBLEMS: I have been running a mailing list for St Dunstaners for five years and wondered if there are any new St Dunstaners who are not aware of the facility. The system is run by e-mail and is there to help with any problems to do with being visually impaired. It could be a frustration with a computer, a new gadget on the market, or a problem with day to day living. The list is managed to prevent it becoming a chat site. If I cannot answer the question then there are other members on the list who maybe have the answer. Just send a blank e-mail to vi-std-subscribe@topica.com.

If you would rather talk a problem through, you could always call me on 01612829524 and if I can help I will.

**David Poyner**

## HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR

ALL THE BEST FOR 2007: Members of St Dunstan's staff throughout the country, both serving and retired, wish to thank all St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows, widowers and their families for their cards and kind wishes received over the Christmas period. They wish you all a healthy and happy 2007.

## RECOGNISE A STROKE FAST

PROMPT ACTION CAN BE A LIFE SAVER: With over 150,000 people in the UK having a stroke every year, the Stroke Association say it is imperative that people can recognise a stroke when it's happening and take prompt action. A stroke is a brain attack. It happens when the blood supply to the brain is disrupted. Most strokes occur when a blood clot blocks the flow of blood to the brain. Some strokes are caused by bleeding in or around the brain from a burst blood vessel.

To help people recognise the symptoms of stroke quickly, The Stroke Association has developed FAST - the Face Arm Speech Test - which is used by paramedics to diagnose stroke prior to a person being admitted to hospital. By diagnosing the possibility of stroke before reaching hospital, it is possible for appropriate referral to a stroke unit to be made as quickly as possible.

FAST requires an assessment of three specific symptoms of stroke.

Facial weakness - can the person smile? Has their mouth or eye drooped?

Arm weakness - can the person raise both arms?

Speech problems - can the person speak clearly and understand what you say?

Test all three symptoms.

If the person has failed any one of these tests, call 999. Stroke is a medical emergency and by calling 999 you can help someone reach hospital quickly and receive the early treatment they need.

Prompt action can prevent further damage to the brain and help someone make a full recovery. Delay can result in death or major long-term disabilities, such as paralysis, severe memory loss and communication problems. A Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA), sometimes called a mini-stroke, is similar to a full stroke but the symptoms may only last a few minutes and will have completely gone within 24 hours. Don't ignore it. It could lead to a major stroke. See your GP as soon as possible and ask to be referred to a specialist stroke service. This should happen within seven days.

## STAFF CHANGES



Yvonne Smithers joined St Dunstan's last month as Director of Finance and Resources, after three years as Assistant Director of Finance for Jewish Care, the UK's largest Jewish social care organisation. With a background in retail finance, she was previously Director of Finance for Sony Signature which dealt with licensing for the 1998 World Cup in France and other projects.

## CONTEST DEADLINE LOOMS

UNLOCK YOUR IMAGINATION: We are asking budding authors to probe the unexpected or unknown. 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.

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**.

## WILL VODAFONE DERBY GIVE YOU A PRIZE CONNECTION

REVIEW DERBY SWEEPSTAKE NOW OPEN: With the 2007 Epsom Vodafone Derby scheduled for June 2nd, the **Review** is opening its annual Sweepstake. The draw is open to all St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows and widowers.

Tickets are 30p each and issued consecutively to a maximum of 25 (costing £7.50). Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered. We are unable to take orders by telephone. The closing date is May 30th and the draw will be made that day.

Each applicant should send their name and address, the number of tickets required, and a stamped addressed envelope, to Simon Rogers, Derby Sweepstake Department, **St Dunstan's Review**, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. Prize money will be distributed amongst the winners as follows:

**50 per cent** to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse.

**20 per cent** to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse.

**10 per cent** to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse.

**20 per cent** to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts the race.

No prize won in the sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

# 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.

## Sunderland remembered war's fallen with pride!

Another Remembrance Weekend has passed when we remember all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in two world wars and other conflicts including Korea, The Falklands and now Iraq and Afghanistan to mention just a few.

During the weekend I had the honour along with my escort Mr Tom Lang to represent St Dunstan's once more thanks to an invitation from the Lord Mayor of Sunderland via Headquarters.

The first part of our visit on Saturday morning was to attend a Dedication Service at Sunderland Civic Centre, where a garden bench with an engraved plaque was unveiled to the Memory of L/Cpl Anthony Carr, Coldstream Guards who

was killed in training prior to leaving for service in Iraq. This was attended by a Guard of Honour of 12 Guardsmen and three Officers of his Regiment, several Standards, including St Dunstan's and about 300 spectators.

In the evening at 4:30pm of the same day, we attended the Seaburn Centre where a concert and Service of Remembrance was held, similar to the Albert Hall but on a smaller scale.

This consisted of music played by the Band and Bugles of the Light Infantry Regiment. At the end of the concert and Service, assisted by my escort, I had the honour along with the National Standard of Northumberland to lead on 60 British Legion and Association Standards into

the arena for the salute whilst a pipe band played a lament. This was followed by the Last Post and Reveille played by a Bugler of the Light Division.

Sunday morning started a little overcast and slightly windy but soon gave way to sunshine. It was then that I and my escort were interviewed by Tyne Tees Television and told them about St Dunstan's and what they did and the benefits of being a St Dunstaner. The interview seemed to go very well.

We then formed up and marched to the Cenotaph where a very moving and solemn Service of Remembrance was conducted by the Mayor's Chaplain, Deacon John Hill. Wreaths were laid, one of which I had the privilege,

assisted by my escort Tom, of laying on behalf of St Dunstan's.

When the wreath laying concluded, I and my escort were conducted to the front of the parade and had the honour and privilege of bearing St Dunstan's Standard and leading about 4,000 Service Men and Women, British Legion and others through the city and past the City Hall where the salute was taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland and Lord Mayor accompanied by Defence representatives of America, Australia, Canada, France and Holland and continued by to the Civic Hall. It was there that we were again interviewed, this time by BBC News North East. Again, we told them of the great work done by the staff of St Dunstan's.

After the interview, we went into the centre where a buffet had been laid on for invited guests. Both Tom and I cannot speak too highly of the people of Sunderland and their warmth and friendliness and the hundreds of spectators who gave us great applause on the parade.

**Arthur Carter,  
Bolton, Lancashire**

## Remembrance Sunday was heart stirring event

As a new St Dunstaner I wish to express my immense appreciation and pleasure for being chosen to attend this year's Remembrance weekend in at the Marriot Hotel in London. My wife and I soon realised that we were to be given the utmost care and attention by the staff of a very excellent hotel. It was not long before I began to meet other St Dunstaners some of whom I had met when attending my assessment week at Ovingdean.

Saturday morning dawned and after breakfast I started to make contact with other St Dunstaners, and perhaps more importantly the Staff Members, who went out of their way to welcome us and to ensure that we were all happy, comfortable and informed as how the weekend was to plan out.

Saturday afternoon, my wife and I along with eight other St Dunstaners had the privilege of the attending the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

What a truly spectacular event it was and one which we both enjoyed immensely. As an ex-Coach Driver, my heart went out to St Dunstan's Driver, who had the most difficult drive from the Marriot Hotel to Albert Hall. Traffic was at a stand still, because roads had been closed off for the Lord Mayor's Show, and the unveiling by Her Majesty The Queen of the New Zealand Memorial. A normal 30 minute journey took nearly three times as long, but 'good on him', he got us to the Albert Hall with about 10 minutes to spare!

Saturday evening, we enjoyed an excellent dinner with good food, wine, and especially good company. We retired to bed with a feeling of great contentment, ready to rise very early on Sunday morning to take part in the Cenotaph Parade.

What a truly memorial occasion this proved to be. Before leaving the hotel, I met my escort Tony Harbour

who was a very attentive companion and joined the other 190 plus St Dunstaners and their escorts to take part in the Parade. Thankfully the morning was sunny and mild which, together with the wonderful feeling of camaraderie that prevailed amongst us all, helped to make the long wait before the Parade moved off go very quickly. Now the Band strikes up and we are on the march; and our hearts start stirring with a great sense of pride with our Escorts giving us encouragement and the crowds showing

their appreciation during the 45 minutes it takes for the Parade to past by.

Back to the hotel for an excellent meal with a great feeling of euphoria of companionship and warmth of being with such a grand bunch of comrades.

Lunch finish it was time to say goodbye to some old friends and to some new friends with the hopes that we would all meet up again next year.

This whole weekend had been made possible by the

wonderful generosity of St Dunstan's, and the expert organisation of St Dunstan's Staff, in particular Niki Kokonas who brought the whole weekend together.

To say thank you for all of this may seem adequate enough, however I do want to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all who were involved with the planning, especially to Tony Harbour, who looked after me so well; and to Niki for her truly amazing organisation skills.

**Tony Lee,  
Mildenhall, Suffolk**

## A unique Christmas at Ovingdean

What a unique experience my husband Joe and I have just had, after spending our first Christmas in Ovingdean.

From the time our St Dunstan's driver called for us on 17 December until our arrival back on 27 December, we have had a brilliant time. So our extended family of St Dunstan's really excelled themselves. From the administrative staff, carers, restaurant staff, lift operators, the team who organise all the entertainment, no stone was left unturned to ensure that each and every

St Dunstaner and their carers felt really special. So thank you one and all for making our Christmas one that will live in our memories.

We were so happy, even tried up to the last minute to stay on for the New Year, alas it was not to be, and we do realise other St Dunstaners needed to celebrate the New Year and enjoy St Dunstan's extended family.

Thank you doesn't seem adequate to praise the great work St Dunstan's have been doing all these past 91

years. We are so privileged to be among the ranks of St Dunstaners at this time.

By the way, Ray Hazan's part in the concert was excellent. I think there should be a regular dramatic society at St Dunstan's. The talents were terrific.

**Laura and Joseph McNamara,  
Tottington,  
Bury, Lancashire**

• More on Ray's performance and other Christmas treats on page 22. We also have some seasonal melodrama with Billy Baxter on page 17.

## It was a joyous Christmas

The building looks decidedly tatty. The front canopy has disappeared. Raggedy strips of red and blue plastic sheeting were blowing in the wind. In fact, it was one of the ruins that Cromwell knocked about a bit. So this was to be Xmas at St Dunstan's.

But inside, what a transformation! The entrance was magical snow scenes in every corner, smiling faces, a lovely welcome. A joyous

atmosphere throughout the building. We had a ball! From the staff concert, the carol singers, bingo and pass the parcel to the French caberet, New Year dance and fond farewells with staff and friends.

A big thank you to staff and caterers and all who made this such a memorable occasion for me.

**Jean Rowe,  
Goring-by-Sea, Worthing**

## An unforgettable pleasure

It was a tremendous pleasure and certainly a great surprise to receive that beautiful basket of flowers from St Dunstan's on 21 December – our Diamond wedding anniversary!

Thank you all so much for helping make a day unforgettable, together with the congratulatory card from HM The Queen!

**Henry and Ray Sheridan,  
Brighton**

## My thanks to St Dunstan's staff

Dear Staff of St Dunstan's, In recognition of the roles you all have working at St Dunstan's.

I would like to thank you all for the parts you play in making St Dunstan's what it is today. For those of you that aren't

clear on this I will show you:

1. Mobility
2. Independent Living Skills
3. Motivation
4. Enhanced Social Life and a lot more.

For this it allows each one of

## Thank you for the love and sympathy

Thanks to St Dunstan's. Everyone has been so kind and thoughtful to myself and all the family. We do appreciate the love and sympathy you gave us.

Sydney had a great respect for St Dunstan's and was always aware of the debt he owed them for their care and attention when he was wounded in 1945. With their encouragement he went on to live a happy and fulfilled life. To the end he considered himself to be a lucky man.

With many thanks to everyone.

**Margaret Scroggie,  
Bridgefoot,  
By Dundee, Angus**

us to live with Independence, Confidence and Sociably as we did before.

To each and everyone of you, thank you.

**Joseph Cousineau,  
Liverpool, Merseyside**

# Two weeks that changed my life

I was registered partially sighted in 2005. In shock I staggered home contemplating what I could do. Losing my driving licence. Not being able to read daily newspapers on to tapes to send out to blind people which I had been doing for ten years. I felt my life was ending.

Shortly after this tragic news I was contacted by St Dunstan's. I was invited by them to travel down to the Headquarters in London. They may be able to help me. I accepted the invitation

and I was asked to bring a carer with me. My son and I travelled to London with all expenses paid. My eyes were examined and eventually I was pronounced a 'St Dunstaner'.

I was invited to the National Training Centre at Ovingdean which overlooks the sea to the east of Brighton. During that week I was asked what interested me most and I let them know that I had a computer but did not know how to use it properly. Recently, I was invited by St Dunstan's

to come back to Ovingdean for two weeks to discover the computer and all the wonderful things that can be achieved with the computer.

I spent two wonderful weeks. The experts at Ovingdean educated me in a very pleasant and friendly way to achieve the utmost from the computer.

Thank you St Dunstan's for two wonderful weeks of knowledge and satisfaction.

**Bill Mackintosh,  
Inverness, Inverness-shire**

# Computer training has been a boon

As I see St Dunstan's, it is different things to different people, there is virtually something for everyone to involve themselves in, and my opportunity happened by accident. A talk with St Dunstaner Maria Pikulski about her enthusiasm for the computer set me thinking this could be what I should try to master.

I learnt touch typing with help from Ovingdean and after the next stage at

Sheffield came home with a new computer complete with Supernova software to practise what I had learnt.

For a start, this letter would never have existed, because for the last 15 years or so, my wife Brenda has had to handle all our correspondence. Now I handle my own and help Brenda with some of hers. I send and receive e-mails. I am working on a collection of family photographs and

have made a start on the story of my life. In addition to this, because of the rural location of our home and the lack of public transport, I have made a start on online shopping on the internet. We would like to thank St Dunstan's for the opportunity we and people like us have been given and the hundreds of people who have donated to St Dunstan's to make this all possible.

**Ted Hindley,  
Welshpool, Powys**

# Swift's eggs are this way up!

Herewith is a piece of doggerel inspired by a comment in the Story Competition item in December's **St Dunstan's Review**.

A Political Scramble?

Dear reader of St Dunstan's Review,  
A simple point I put to you,  
The Politics of Lilliputia  
Did not depend upon minutiae  
Or dogma whether Left or Tory,  
Nor yet of Liberal, old and hoary,  
Still less, as you unwisely spoke  
On the consistency of white and yolk  
Of Breakfast Eggs, Oh No my Friend,  
But on the large or smaller end,  
Which of these was the rightful sector  
To open your egg, which the corrector.

Indeed, so high did passions rage  
That twixt these twain a war did rage,  
Wherein tall Gulliver play his part  
(Though for which side I daren't remark)  
But towed away the ships in sail  
Thus causing their attack to fail,  
And ending thus an egg-centric contest  
Permitting Lilliputians their eggs to digest.  
And so was avoided one Hell of a.... debacle  
By the intervention of Mr Lemuel Gulliver.  
But at the last I remain your friendian  
Whether you be a big or Little-Endian.

**F. R. H. Elgood,  
Saltburn-by-Sea, Cleveland**

• The closing date for entries for the Story Competition should be submitted by 28 February. Details are on page 7.



Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers we received for our 65th wedding anniversary on December 13th. We had a very nice family party and on December 18th, our 12th great grandchild was born, a girl (Carys) which made it a happy month.

**Annie and Thomas Wood,  
Sheffield**

# Doorbell rang with an Anniversary surprise

It was the afternoon of December 28th, our Diamond Anniversary. We were sitting quietly after having a pleasant lunch listening to a favourite programme on Radio Four, Open Country, which is set in "Dovedale" in Derbyshire. Then the doorbell rang. After a short discussion, my wife Eva answered it under protest and what a surprise we had. It was a beautiful basket of flowers

from St Dunstan's, absolutely unexpected but so welcome.

We thank you for remembering this special wedding anniversary and say how proud we are to be St Dunstaners.

**Alfred Stansfield,  
Northwich, Cheshire**

• We celebrate similar anniversaries with members of St Dunstan's family in Family News on page 37.

## Bill Woodward

Bill Woodward passed away on 8 January after a period of illness. He trained at the Royal Agricultural College, and developed a great interest in forestry and experience in property purchase and development.

For 18 years Bill looked after South Wales and the West Country property interests of St Dunstan's and gave service and advice to St Dunstaners and widows; not only those in St Dunstan's properties but also those who owned property. Bill relished a challenge whether it was an extraordinary project or a legal dispute, he would be there sorting it out. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

## Leonard Woodgate

Len Woodgate of Saltdean, Brighton died on 22 November, aged 88. He worked as a General Orderly at St Dunstan's Ovingdean for almost 40 years, mostly on the Night Security shift. When he retired in 1992, he was feted as being amongst the "Top Ten" staff members at Ovingdean. Our sympathy goes to all his family.

## Victor Hazan, MBE

Victor Hazan, MBE (Mil), Croix de Guerre passed away peacefully on 6 December, age 91. He was made a Member of St Dunstan's in recognition of the many recordings he made for St Dunstaners. These included bi-monthly notes for physiotherapists, the Sapper magazine, recipes, instruction manuals and many French books for the student tape library. We extend our sympathies to his wife Evelyn, sons Ray and Toby, daughters Valerie and Veronique and all of the family.

## Maria Lawrence

Maria Lawrence passed away on 29 November. Many St Dunstaners enjoyed her hospitality while she was Housekeeper at St Dunstan's hostel in Broadhurst Gardens. Also known as Mary, she joined the charity in 1969 and ran the hostel with the aid of her late husband, Charles. She retired in 1983. Our sympathy goes to her family.

## Accident free Esso staff put a tiger in our tank



A HEALTH AND safety drive at Esso Petroleum was good news for the employees and good news for St Dunstan's. For every accident free shift, night and day, at Fawley Refinery, Hampshire, the company earmarked £500 to be donated to charity. As a result, the refinery workers were able to give £1,500 to support blind ex-Service men and women. Their donation was presented by Esso's Bob Mitchell and accepted on behalf of St Dunstan's by Colin Williamson.

# Balancing the Books

## Ted Bunting finds no evidence of this thriller being exciting

### Vanity Dies Hard

Author: Ruth Rendell  
Reader: John Curle  
Duration: 5 hours, 45 minutes  
Catalogue no: 207

IN HER HIGHLY successful career Ruth Rendell has written many a good crime story. But this tale is rather different because there seems to be no evidence of a crime. I would describe it as a psychological thriller except it's not very thrilling so I'll call it a kind of mystery and leave it at that.

Alice, a wealthy 27 year-old with a young husband, has been corresponding with her friend Nester, but when she visits the town and street in which Nester supposedly lives, there is no house name matching the one she's been writing to. Neither the police nor the Post Office are able to shed any light on the matter, and in next to no time Alice is dreaming up all sorts of ridiculous explanations. Nester is a prostitute, for example, and has been murdered by one of her

clients and buried under the new by-pass, Nester has been poisoned by Harry, her GP, Alice herself is being poisoned, she thinks, so she refuses to eat.

Everyone is suspect, including her doting husband who she decides to escape from by running from the house one evening in a state of undress. We

never really get to know why Alice is do anxious to locate Nester (who no one else cares a hoot for) but as the humourless story reaches its tedious end, Harry the doctor provides a feeble explanation for the rest. But it is all very unsatisfactory and, like a wet weekend spent in Cleethorpes, not an experience you would wish to repeat.

## RNIB and NLB join forces

THE ROYAL National Institute of the Blind (RNIB) and the National Library for the Blind (NLB) merged on the 31 December 2006 to form the new RNIB National Library Service. The new service will build upon the strengths of both organisations to bring benefit their readers who have sight problems.

They add the combined service will mean more resources channelled into direct services for customers, the ability to speak with a single, united voice when pressing the Government to meet its obligations to

readers with sight problems. Both parties have brought their own specialist staff expertise, facilities, contacts, book stock and readerships into a new National Library Service. The combination of the braille lending stocks previously held by NLB and RNIB will help to improve the overall service for braille readers. Existing users are unlikely to experience any change of service with free and subscription services remaining as they are.

Questions and comments can be e-mailed to [nlbmerger@rnib.org.uk](mailto:nlbmerger@rnib.org.uk).



## Ten questions on

### The subject of Fifties

Harry Beevers has some golden teasers in his 50th set of questions

- 1) Which letter of the alphabet represents the number 50 in Roman numerals?
- 2) Which Book of the *Old Testament* consists of just fifty chapters and includes the story of Noah's Ark?
- 3) Which metallic element, No 50 in the Periodic Table has the shortest name?
- 4) Which snooker player who won the World professional title six times in the 1980's is due to celebrate his 50th birthday on 22nd August this year?
- 5) Complete the title of Paul Simon's hit in 1976, "Fifty ways to ---".
- 6) In an alphabetical list of the fifty United States, which comes first?
- 7) In June 1945 fifty nations signed the United Nations Charter in which US city, New York or San Francisco?
- 8) In which year did Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary?
- 9) Which famous British architect has appeared on an English £50 note?
- 10) Which Olympic event, held only once in Paris in 1900, resulted in more than fifty deaths?

Answers can be found on page 36.

## St Dunstaner Joe qualifies to encourage new athletes

HE DID NOT let losing his sight keep him out of the Great North Run and St Dunstaner Joe Elsander is determined that it shouldn't be a barrier to encouraging youngsters to take up athletics. In November, he passed Level One UK Athletics Coaching Certificate which qualifies him to act as an assistant coach. He is now aiming to try for the Level Two qualification. Joe, aged 68, has been assisting at Chester-le-Street District Athletics Club. He is also training for his 19th Great North Run, with co-runner Susan Shand, having completed the last one in 2 hours and 19 minutes - an improved time three years on the trot.

## Oldest airman gives new Navy pilots their wings

THE OLDEST SURVIVING British war veteran presented naval helicopter pilots with their wings on 21 December. St Dunstaner Henry Allingham, aged 110 presented the honours at RNAS Yeovilton in Somerset. He also visited the Fleet Air Arm Museum accompanied by Vice Admiral Adrian Johns, Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm and Second Sea Lord. The museum's prized exhibit is a Short 184 seaplane that was flown during the Battle of Jutland.

## Terry trains for Wales

ST DUNSTANER Terry Ottewell, the winner of the first blind Paralympian archery gold medal, joined the Welsh Archery Training Squad in November. Terry, from Brecon, Powys has been training with them at the Welsh Institute of Sport at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff.

## Panto time for Billy the Whizz

**Billy Baxter** tells of the roar of the greasepaint and the smell of the crowd as he treads the boards in an Ely Christmas special

**W**AITING IN THE WINGS, stage right, music for my entrance, a flock of seagulls in my tummy, a stage hand places his hand on my shoulder and whispers "Good luck!" He taps me twice, I am on, and walk on to face my first audience, control my breathing, heart pounding, reach my spot, and into my routine. I can hear the audience laughing. I have them! What a feeling!

What is he on about, I hear you say? Well, I will start from the beginning. During my six years as a St Dunstaner I have been involved as a speaker, and what a privilege it is to be an ambassador for this wonderful family. I love speaking and entertaining the many different types of people, from infants to senior citizens, and people in different professions, which makes being a St Dunstan's Speaker an interesting job.

As a result, I blame the staff and fellow presenters who have encouraged me to pursue my ambition to become an actor. I think becoming a lion tamer would be easier, but then again I like a challenge, this one being my most scary yet.

Whilst I was attending the village beer festival, I

plucked up my courage, and some might say it was Dutch, due to the real ale I was sampling, and asked Barry Starr who runs the local amateur theatre group if I could audition for the Christmas Panto. Barry told me he would let me know, and I left it at that.

A couple of days later my wife, Karen, received an e-mail from Barry, she came down the stairs in fits of laughter. After she had composed herself, she informed me that the panto was to be *Snow White*, and my audition part was attached. What was it I thought to make my wife become a mass of giggles and laughter? One of the dwarfs perhaps, or maybe a waiter? Oh no, I was told, more laughter, they want

you to audition for Fairy Dew Drop, the good fairy. Alarm bells started ringing, this is no small part. How will I learn my lines? Where do I start? Already I started to think I had bitten off more than I could chew. Attached was a couple of pages of script for my audition. With the help of Crystal, my friendly screen reader, I set down to learn my lines, and remarkably I learnt my lines quite quickly by repeating my lines and typing them out again and again.

I then waited for the dreaded day when I was due to attend the auditions in the village hall, with the other hopeful potential cast members, some people I knew, others I did not. I had put my lines on a tape, so if in need of a prompt I had one.

The audition casting panel were made up of six seasoned amateur actors sitting behind a table, with pens and note pads ready. There were about ten of us waiting to be called on,

worse than waiting at the dreaded dentist. After what seemed an eternity I was called on the stage, my legs felt like lead. Now I have done some scary stuff in my life but nothing like this feeling, my whole body was shaking like a leaf.

Armed only with a smile, I began my lines, and even made some actions up and a high funny voice, after a couple of lines I started to relax a little. Before I knew it, it was over, phew! I do not know what I did but the panel were in fits of laughter, at the end they told me to wait.

They told me there and then with the other actors that I had got the part, what a feeling. During the summer we were given the whole script for the panto. Karen helped me by typing all my scenes and lines with leading lines and actions and high lights for notes for performing my parts. After a couple of weeks to learn my lines, and start to think about actions and mannerisms, etc, again using my computer to write and listen to my lines. Rehearsals started early September and we were all briefed on the running of the panto. We met the director, a man called Alan,

who explained how we were to perform. I knew what everyone was thinking and that was "How on earth can we get a totally blind man to sing and move around the stage safely?" To be truthful I thought this myself.

The whole company consisted of around 30 people ranging from school children to middle aged people, from all walks of life and professions, bringing the entire village together, and soon we got to know each other.

From the very start I was determined to memorise and learn every inch of the stage, front and back, and the layout of the hall. I knew my trusty white cane was to be left in my bag. After no time I was able to know where I was on stage, and move around freely, only with help back stage to avoid cables and scenery and large props. All the cast got used to guiding me around, a mobility lesson with a difference I can tell you. The adults were the worst at guiding, the kids were great, they really enjoyed taking me around, and soon we were able to get to positions quickly.

As the rehearsals progressed it became apparent that

I had an advantage over the other actors in the fact that I had learnt my lines by heart. I was not distracted by looking at my script. I could hear the other actors ruffling their papers, or losing their places. I was able to assist them by knowing their leading lines to my character. I was learning so much from the other actors, and their help to me was humbling, as they coaxed and guided me in performing my part.

I was starting to learn a few tricks to assist me in knowing where I was on stage. One useful aid was a little wand that Maria Walsh, one of my schools presentation friends had bought for me. I was able to gently tap the blacks, these are the main backdrop curtains behind the front of the stage. I knew that a slight lip and ridge on the stage floor was three feet from the front edge of the stage and this saved my bacon several times.

During one of my scenes I had to turn round completely three times during one of my spells, at first I was facing all over the place and very disorientated, but we found that by

stopping the sound effects I would be facing the audience. I also tapped the blacks every turn which helped.

The weeks marched on and the show slowly took shape, and we were all getting more confident with our parts and started to ad lib and interact more naturally with each other. We were starting to act like a well-oiled team. Whilst we were hamming around on the stage, the real work of making props and stage scenery was also progressing, painting backdrops and setting up lighting and the technical stuff. Without these people, a performance would not happen. The little theatre we were in is most professional and high tech for a small village.

We were measured up for our costumes, most of which came from the Newmarket King's Theatre, which were on loan for a small fee. When they arrived, we were called in one at a time to try them for size. I was nervous as I was convinced that I would have to wear a tu-tu. Worse than that, my costume was a full-length long sleeved dress, silver in colour with little stars and sequins adorning it. Very glittery and fairy like, finished off

with a tiara, wings and a under hoop to fill out the bottom skirt. We were told to take them home, you can imagine what my poor wife said when I returned home holding my pretty bundle. I was instructed to go and purchase some silver high heel shoes and accessories to finish the costume. As I was working with the girls on the St Dunstan's schools project they had great delight in helping me select these items. You can only imagine the look on the shop assistants' faces when a blind man was presented to them for help in purchasing shoes, tights and jewellery. Rebecca and Maria must have taken me in every ladies' shop in East Sussex. It's not easy being a fairy you know! Anyway I finally got the items required, and presented these to the wardrobe ladies at the next rehearsal. Amongst fits of laughter and giggles I was told to wear the shoes as much as possible at home to break them in, and get use to wearing them. Now I can tell you this, it is not easy walking in five-inch stilettos when you cannot see. I looked like Dick Emery! Karen told me she would kill me if I answered the door wearing the shoes so I was banished to the shed.

After no time at all, I got used to wearing the shoes and could walk and move freely in them. The reason I am telling you this, is because I had enough to worry about in getting my positions right on stage and interacting freely with the other actors. I also discovered negotiating steps in high shoes is a totally different ball game, I can tell you, having to descend and ascend with your foot angled sideways, very elegant.

Now you would have thought that this was enough to worry about, oh no, wearing a full-length dress presented its own problems. Now then fellas, what you have to do when walking in heels and a long dress is as follows: I found that you must lift the skirt from the floor to run. Yes, I did say run. In one of the scenes I had to run off stage from the lion. For ascending and descending stairs, lift the bottom skirt high to avoid snagging the heel or tripping in a non-lady like manner, a mobility lesson with a difference I can tell you.

The days were marching on, posters and adverts were placed in the villages, and soon the dress rehearsal was upon us. We were all put through our paces, and fine

tuning. It was amazing to see the panto in its entirety, there was an air of excitement buzzing around the cast it was a great feeling.

The panto was to run for three nights and one matinee, nerves were rising again, as until this time I had never done this to a real audience. I was trying to put this to the back of my mind. Before I knew it, the opening night was upon us, the auditorium was full and back stage we heard the audience talking and getting settled for the performance. My tummy was doing cartwheels, just waiting back stage with the other actors. They too were nervous which made me feel better.

Alan the director came in and wished us luck, and we were off, lights music and action, we could hear the audience laughing and clapping, soon a friendly hand guided me to my position walking back stage to my entrance point, stage right for the good. I waited for my cue. I was trembling not knowing what reaction I would get from the audience.

The next thing I knew I had my cue and I was on, what a feeling nothing like it, after I came off on my first scene



Take a bow, Mr Baxter! Billy wows the crowd as Fairy Dewdrop

I was buzzing, adrenalin pumping through every vein in my body, and I was looking forward to my next scenes.

As I kept going on for my scenes my confidence grew every second, and I was interacting with the audience and ad-libbing with the other actors brilliant. During the performances some of my friends and family and work mates came to see the show, no pressure then, especially my Welfare Officer Jenny and her family, Debbie and Maria from the schools team, I only hope I have not traumatised them too much.

To sum it all up, I have

discovered an amazing way of confidence building and way of releasing tension. I fully recommend to anyone to have a go it is unbelievable what you learn. So a big thanks to those responsible, who encouraged me to have a go at acting. What next? Well, it is the *Little Shop of Horrors* to be shown in the summer, singing and dancing, god help us! Laurence Olivier I am not, but I get so much out of performing.

• Quiz show addicts may have spotted Billy take on 'Queen of Mean' Anne Robinson on the BBC's *Weakest Link* on 26 January. Unfortunately, he was voted off the first round.

## A Fish out of Water is on display

By Sarah Jarron

During October 2006, St Dunstaners attending the Craft Workshop embarked on the latest Big Draw project. The Big Draw is a national initiative run by the Campaign for Drawing and it aims to encourage as many people as possible to engage in drawing activities of some kind.



This year, around 100 St Dunstaners and staff were challenged to make drawings inspired by the sound of water. Many people attended workshops where watery sounds (such as the sound of the sea or a river) were played and were then encouraged to draw what they felt. Others took their

paper and went to sit by the sea, fountains or taps for inspiration. All of the drawings were produced on tactile paper or acetate so that they could be clearly felt.

At the end of the month all of the drawings were collected and carefully threaded together to produce this large

fish. Thereby completing our title for the event, namely a fish out of water.

The fish is presently hanging in the corridor between the craft workshop and the swimming pool at Ovingdean. Please come and see and feel all the hard work that was put into its creation.

## Band of Royal Marines goes down a storm

WHILE A GALE raged outside, the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines delighted an audience of 500 at Exmouth Pavilion



with a delightful and varied selection of music in November. During the second half, Captain Peter Curtis, BMus(Hons), PGDip, LRSM, AMus, TCL, RM, Director of Music invited St Dunstaners Nigel Whiteley and Gerry Jackson up on to the stage to receive a donation on behalf of St Dunstan's.



Nigel Whiteley, Captain Peter Curtis and Gerry Jackson.

# A fine Christmas Concert!



Ray Hazan and Donna Vaughan claim that they 'Remember it well' with a Gigi favourite.



St Dunstaner Harry Preedy was amongst an appreciative Christmas Concert audience.



Dave Thomas had further adventures of Albert.

IT WOULD NOT be Christmas without the traditional Concert at Ovingdean. St Dunstaners, Care Assistants, Nursing and Administrative staff took to the stage for a variety of songs, jokes and skits, old and new.



Keith Goodger did it his way.



Elsie Scullion gave a turn with a Joyce Grenfell monologue.

Dave Thomas slipped back into Stanley Holloway's shoes with ease, Elsie Scullion stood in for Joyce Grenfell, while Tom Gardner sang a tear-jerking lament and Keith Goodger did Sinatra's *My Way*.

Another highlight came when Donna Vaughan, dressed as Brunhilde, was followed by Karen Payne and Adam Finch. They extolled the virtues of high opera, only to deliver a high pitch rendition of Kylie Minogue's *I should be so lucky*.



Tom Gardner in melancholy.

# Forward together with Medway



Arthur Lowe with Mayor of Medway Angela Prodger.

THE MAYOR OF Medway visited St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 16 January to learn more of the charity's work with blind ex-Service men and women. Councillor Angela Prodger had previously met two of her hosts, St Dunstaners Steve Pendleton, from the Medway town of Hoo, and Colin Williamson, when she attended Medway ATC's attempt on the St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge on 7 October. The cadets completed a orienteering course using braille grid references from Steve.

Steve, Colin and Ovingdean Manager gave the Mayor a tour of facilities at Ovingdean,



St Dunstaner Eric Church explains some of the mosaic work he has been constructing in the Craft Workshop.

explaining the history of the organisation and how its different elements enable blind ex-Servicemen and women to reclaim independent lives. She met other St Dunstaners, such as Eric Church in the Craft Workshop, Stan Grimsey and Arthur Lowe. ROVI Supervisor

Iain Hebborn demonstrated some simple techniques and adaptive technology to help with daily living skills.

"Today has been a real eye-opener and it is comforting to know that people such as yourself are taken care of," said Mayor Prodger.

## And a Happy New Year to all



New Year's Eve at Ovingdean was celebrated with a dance.



New Year's Day found everyone in festive mood.

# Is anyone up for a challenge?



The Romney Cadets pull away from Dungeness, the Old Lighthouse and nuclear power station in the background. The terrain is shingle and they have only another 13 miles to go.

**W**HEN ST DUNSTAN'S asked cadet forces around the country if they were up for a challenge, many replied that, yes, they were! Which is why on the chill morning of 18 November, St Dunstaners Gerry Jones and Matthew Rhodes, with Win Jordan and Geraldine Plaw, ventured on to the plains of Dungeness in Kent. They met up with 22 cadets and 15 instructors of 2513 Squadron, Romney Marsh ATC who were intending to complete the challenge by pulling a train



Arrival at New Romney, but despite the cheer there is still more to come for the cadets as they continue with their challenge.

carriage along the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway line. Starting in the shadow of a historic lighthouse and Dungeness B nuclear power station, their final destination is 13-and-a-half miles away in the Cinque Port of Hythe. They pulled in shifts, though stopping the carriage was harder than starting it.

The event drew in wide support from the community, each crossing seems to bring donations or applause from local residents. RNLI, local council members, police and fire service all dropped by to lend a hand or moral support. Each station had a welcoming committee and at the first stop, the cadets revealed that they had their musical instruments in the carriage they were pulling. They played a selection of music at three of their stops. The route took the cadets past a cottage at St Mary's Bay where Edith Nesbit, author of *The Railway Children* spent her final years.

Ultimately, they arrived at Hythe to great applause and congratulation. Not a moment too soon it seemed as the heavens opened up and a hailstorm commenced.



Marlborough College CCF in First World War uniform.

MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE Combined Cadet Force carried out their challenge on 19 November with a flourish. Taking it as an opportunity to learn about the conditions faced by men on the front line

in the First World War, they put on period uniform. They then marched through town and up to Barbury Castle, an old earth fort in the heart of Wiltshire. St Dunstaners Gerry Jones and Ron Jones joined them on their march. Later in the day, the cadets staged a fierce re-enactment of a fatal Great War battle.

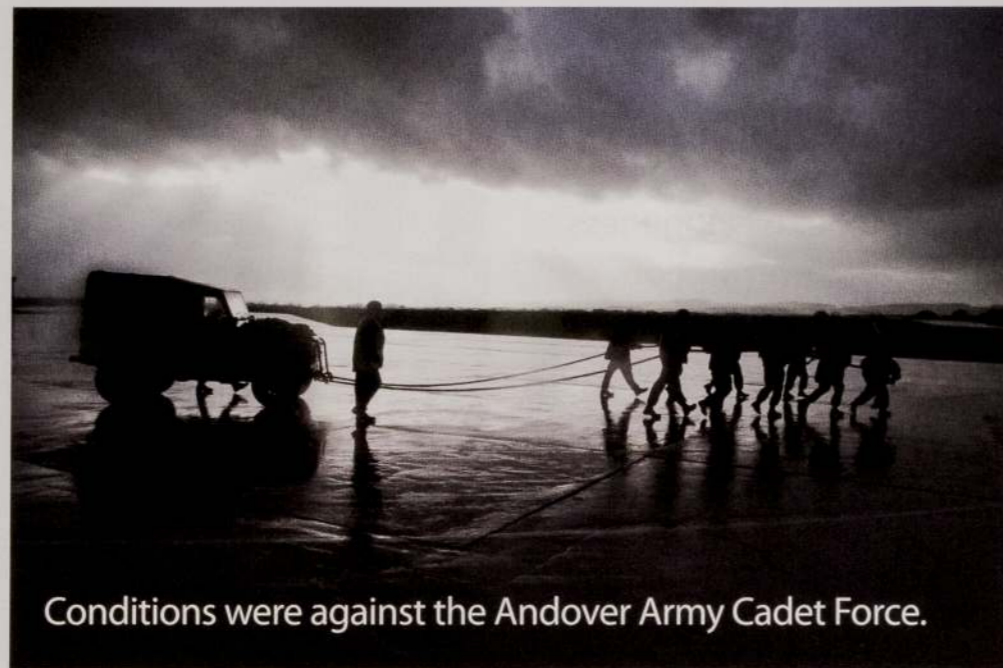


Eye casualty at Marlborough.



Ron Jones and wounded.

ANDOVER CADETS headed out to the airfield in Middle Wallop on 26 November for their challenge. Their plan was to operate a shift system to haul a jeep round the airfield. St Dunstaners Colin Williamson and Ron Jones joined them in what proved to be less than palatable conditions. Torrential rain and high winds swept across the airfield barely letting up through the morning.



Conditions were against the Andover Army Cadet Force.

Andover Cadets keep it rolling!



Ron and Colin with jeep pulling Andover cadets.

However, the Andover Team, all 18 of them, boys and girls persevered, somehow keeping spirits high with songs and jokes and tugged the jeep around the airfield. When the rain did give over there was the obstacle of water accumulated on the ground. Obstacle? Maybe not! They just kept on going, gaining speed if anything.

At certain points, a rainbow formed in the sky above. A good omen surely, since it



ended back at the hanger where the cadets were able to take a well-deserved break.



Ron and Graham thank WO1 Keith Reade for his support.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARMY Cadet Force approached the St Dunstan's Challenge as a Company competition on 2 December. St Dunstaner Ron Jones and Services Awareness Coordinator Graham Footer joined them on a trek through the



Dursley Cadets pitch a tent whilst blindfold.



Did we really have to walk that way? Cirencester Cadets at the end of a muddy trail which others sensibly avoided.

Cinderford section of the Forest of Dean.

One initial surprise came from WO1 Keith Reade who presented a donation from the WO & Sergeant's Mess, £172 culled from swearbox fines. "Most of it was me,"

he added, pointing out that he was familiar with St Dunstan's work having served with Ray Peart in Northern Ireland.

The Gloucestershire teams had to combine some map reading and command tasks with their march. One exercise involved tying a reef knot on a tree with all team members holding the rope, another asked them to pitch a tent while blindfold.

Early on, there was some concern that Cirencester were off course, particularly as they encountered a rather muddy track. Stonehouse Cadets, coming the other way, were quite vehement that they were not walking down that track. Sure

enough, a few feet to the right a cycle track emerges as the desired path and they avoid the muddy obstacle.

The Gloucestershire Cadets also raised an impressive £3,000 to support the work of St Dunstan's with blind ex-Service men and women.

WHILE RON was in the Forest of Dean, Colin Williamson and Win Jordan were in Ramsgate, Kent with 2433 (RAMSGATE) Squadron. ATC. He had taken the rain with him and was bemused by grey parakeets (who are actually green in colour) living at MOD Manston Fire Service Central Training Establishment.

This group were going the distance by coupling up fire hoses for the entire length. The hoses that they were using measured 23 metres. Three teams, each with three hoses, worked tirelessly,



Ramsgate ATC linked fire hoses 900 times cover their 13 miles.

coupling and pulling the hoses up and down the road. One team member originally from Thailand as a refugee from the Tsunami, Wutthikrai Wannasomphorn, (or Cadet Om for short).

Exactly four hours after they started, the last hoses were joined together, making 900 separate couplings.

IT WAS back to the airfield at Middle Wallop on 10 December as Colin and Win joined up with Harry and Joan Beevers to go cycling with A Company, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Army Cadets who had decided to cycle their distance. Harry, Colin and Win joined in with some tandems and the cadets made good time with Ben Cook and Chris Stead beating everyone back to the finish line.

EARLIER IN the year, Colin and Moira McGrath had joined H Company, 2nd NI Battalion cadets who completed a hillside walk as their challenge.

More on the Challenge in May.



Hampshire and Isle of Wight Cadets cycled their 13 miles.

# Triple final for Marjorie

**Bob Osborne** reports on the National Bowling Club activities held at Ovingdean on 26 October to 9 November last year

ONCE AGAIN WE were pleased to welcome three new bowlers David Greenwood, Bill King and Wallace Burnet-Smith who stepped in at the last minute when Geoff Collins was taken ill. Having never played before, he played very well. I am also pleased to say Geoff is well again.

Marjorie Scott did extremely well being involved in three group finals. She was part of the winning teams in the Pairs and Triples and came third in the PS Singles.

I must not forget to mention Colwyn Lloyd who was presented with a magnificent trophy – two inches high – having scored 21 shots in the Singles in eight ends. This isn't achieved very often.

What would we do without David Humphrey and Frank Smith who were on the green most of the day. And the boys who stepped in at a moments notice to help where necessary. Nor

should we forget Roger and Jack who came in from the Saltdean Bowling Club.

I must not forget our Officer-in-charge-of-refreshments, Marjorie Mills, and the ladies who helped her, nor those who did scoring for me.

Many thanks to all the staff at Ovingdean who helped during the tournament.

To end our tournament, Joan organised a lovely dinner celebrating the 25 years our club has been bowling on the English national circuit. We were delighted to welcome Ray and Robbie Hazan. We finished the evening with our usual sing-song and Trevor did us proud with an excellent meal.

I know I have been using the word "thanks" many times but I must say it most sincerely, when Joan was presented with a gift to acquire some of her favourite plants for her lovely garden.

Joan would also like to thank all the bowlers and ladies who supported her during the bowling as she was recovering from her illness. Our next tournament will be held 11-24 March when I hope we will all meet up at Ovingdean again.

## RESULTS

### TB SINGLES

- 1st Peter Hammond
- 2nd Peggy West

### PS SINGLES

- 1st Graham Johnson
- 2nd Alan Gibson
- 3rd Marjorie Scott

### PAIRS

- 1st Marjorie Scott and Syd Wisdom
- 2nd Graham Johnson and Bob Osborne
- 3rd Ted Arnold and Frank Smith

### TRIPLES

- 1st Colwyn Lloyd, Marjorie Scott and Bob Osborne
- 2nd Alan Gibson, Eric Church, and Peter Hammond

# What Writing Means To Me

Army St Dunstaner Roy Ramsay muses on his ambitions as an author

**T**HE AGONY AND the ecstasy' is to overstate the case, but aspiring writers know what I mean. Writing brings on the pains and joys of wrestling the right words onto the page.

I used to think writing was an art, but found there's a great deal of craft in it. A craft that can be learned I've been assured. I've been at it since 1988 - I think I must be a slow learner. Real writers say, 'It's a little inspiration and a lot of perspiration.' I'm good at that part, and often rise in the small hours to get on with it.

I try to write every day but I can be the world's greatest procrastinator, finding a dozen things to do instead of getting my bum on the seat. (The sign on my wall says 'It Won't Write Itself - Get On, Lazy B.')

Other times I'm full of ideas

and yearn to write but the jobs get in the way - I'm supposed to be down the garden right now, collecting the few eggs my dutiful hens continue to lay in winter.

I enjoy the company of fellow writers but a good reason for belonging to a creative writing group is to receive constructive criticism from the initiated. I used to be secretary to two writing groups, which generated lots of tasks to prevent me from getting on with what I call 'my work.' I don't have that particular problem now, but find plenty of others.

When I get the bit between my teeth I can work on a project for hours on end, my concentration so great I offend my family by only grunting to their queries and attempts at conversation.

I firmly believe that

'rewriting' is more important and rewarding than writing. Only when I rewrite do I find out precisely what it is I'm trying to say. My reference book on the subject says we should rewrite for style, structure and meaning. This concept seems invaluable and I often draft many times. I feel that if it comes easily, I'm probably doing it wrong - or can find a better way.

Mary Wesley said you can tell when an author has a word-processor - the language becomes too precise. She may be right, though I used to confess only to doing my revision in longhand. Nowadays I use black Papermate pens for a dense script, but can't train myself to write large enough to read it back comfortably. At the computer, I use 16 point Comic Sans MS font in white letters on a black screen. If, like me, you are still blessed with a little sight, you may find this arrangement helpful.

One effect of rewriting is constantly to find extra things to say. Short stories become long, and when it comes to editing we all know how difficult it is to reject a passage we've sweated blood over.

My writing experience has forced me to recognise that the euphoria I often feel at the end of a hard-won piece may well be dashed when I re-read it a week later.

'This is pretty good,' I might tell myself at the

end of the third draft, and, 'This is rubbish,' I say, all too often, after a decent interval. I usually give myself a hard time, but it's the only way to impress the editors. It does slow the flow of rejection slips, if only because I submit less substandard work nowadays.

I could extend this article, but I want to get back to the fictionalised memoir I've been working on all summer. Of five 2k episodes, only two seem to be almost right. I'm

anxious to get them done so I can start to rework the book of a screenplay I have away - then there's a half finished novel, which must be revised before I can continue the story.

Writing makes me a dedicated loner, when in fact I'm highly gregarious. To get something significant published one day will be sufficient reward for the effort.

**Roy's article has been set in 16pt Comic Book Sans MS on 20pt lead.**

## Archers still hold trophy

ON SATURDAY 18 November, four St Dunstan's archers and spotters left Brighton, and were met in Norwich by another two for their annual competition against Taverham Archers and the Thorpe Hamlet Juniors from Norwich.

The round shot was a double Portsmouth, that's 10 dozen arrows at a 60m face at 20 yards. The archers were Clive Jones, David Poyner, Marjorie Scott, Peter Hammond, Keith Lanchester-Harding and Patrick Sidnell, they were

accompanied by Sue and David Habgood, Malcolm Higman and our driver, Brian Muggerridge.

There is a standing joke that when our chairman Dave Poyner held the trophy at the start of the shoot, it would be the last time he did. All archers from St Dunstan's shot to or over handicap, a few archers shot personal bests in the morning and afternoon, these were Dave, Patrick and Clive, and Peter shot a pb in the afternoon. It should also be noted that

two tactile archers, Dave and Peter, scored over 800 points and Patrick, was just under the 800 mark.

It goes without saying that St Dunstan's Archers won, the winning team were Dave Poyner, Clive Jones, Patrick Sidnell and Keith Lanchester-Harding.

Our thanks go to all the coaches and spotters, Graham Harris and Clickers Archery and all members of Taverham and Thorpe Hamlet for a great weekend.



# Welcome to St Dunstan's

**Brian Adams** of Broadstairs, Kent served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

**Joanna Ainsworth** of Knowle, Solihull, Warwickshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1945.

**Eric Andrew** of Wymondham, Norfolk served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1940 to 1964.

**Allan Atkinson** of Hull served as Private in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1951 to 1956.

**Daniel Barker** of South Kensington, London served as a Mechanic in the Royal Navy from 1946 to 1948.

**Henry Barnett** of Shoreditch, London served as Able Seaman in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

**Robert Bartlett** of Beaminster, Dorset served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

**Anthony Batson** of Whitham, Essex served in the Royal Artillery and Royal Military Police between 1948 and 1950.

**Kevin Beahan** of Lostock Hall, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Signals from 1950 to 1964.

**Stephen Bennett** of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1939 to 1946.

**Patricia Bohea** of Gosport, Hampshire served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1940 to 1948.

**Ronald Bratby** of Derby, Derbyshire served in the General Service Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1946 and 1949.

**George Breeden** of Braintree, Essex served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1945 to 1948.

**Bruce Briggs** of Astley, Shrewsbury served as Chief Engineer in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1970.

**Joseph Burgess** of Leyland, Lancashire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1942 to 1946.

**Leslie Cartlidge** of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire

served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1948 to 1956.

**Mary Clements** of Raynes Park, London served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1939 to 1943.

**James Conway** of Broadgreen, Liverpool, Merseyside served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1946.

**Dennis Cook** of Abbeydale, Sheffield served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1954 to 1956.

**Gerald Dibb** of Croydon, Surrey served in the General Service Corps, the Royal Scots Fusiliers, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), Black Watch, and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's) between 1943 and 1947.

**Anthony Elphick** of Brighton served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1958.

**Mary Evans** of New Hartley, Northumberland served as Private in the Royal Artillery from 1944 to 1947.

**Vera Florey** of Orpington, Kent served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1945.

**Andrew Forrest** of Kendal, Cumbria served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**Olive Gardiner** of Peterborough served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

**James Glew** of Hartlepool, Cleveland served in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1951.

**Ernest Green** of Pershore, Worcestershire served as Lance Corporal in the Royal Engineers from 1948 to 1949.

**William Green** of Norton, Stourbridge, West Midlands served in the General Service Corps and Royal Artillery between 1942 and 1947.

**William Guttridge** of Hartlepool, County Durham served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1945.

**John Guy** of Derby, Derbyshire served as Able Seaman in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Bertha Haley** of Oxted, Surrey served as Private in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1944.

**Thomas Hancock** of Worthing, West Sussex

served in the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1946 to 1948.

**Olive Harmes** of Brixham, Devon served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1945.

**Duncan Hartley** of Woodley, Reading, Berkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1947.

**Barbara Hendry** of Paignton, Devon served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1942 to 1946.

**George Heyhoe** of Swaffham, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Violet Hogbin** of Ouston, Chester-le-Street, County Durham served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1945.

**Alan Holderness** of Blackburn, Lancashire served in the Royal Marines from 1980 to 1986.

**Peter Homewood** of Peacehaven, East Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1947.

**Gerald Hooper** of Peacehaven, East Sussex served in the Royal Engineers

and the Royal Artillery between 1938 to 1946.

**Joseph Howard** of Kings Lynn, Norfolk served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Major Roy Hughes** of Bearstead, Maidstone, Kent served in the Royal Signals from 1949 to 1990.

**Geoffrey Jarman** of Sherborne, Dorset served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

**Steve Jarvis** of Chilmark, Sailisbury, Wiltshire served in as Private in the Royal Signals from 1979 to 1980.

**Henry Jones** of Porthcawl, Bridgend served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

**Isaac Jones** of Denbigh, Denbighshire served as Private in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1943.

**Laurence Jones** of Knowsley, Prescot, Lancashire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1945.

**Robert Kennedy** of Ashton, Preston, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps, Royal Army Service Corps, and Army Air Corps between 1943 and 1947.

**Robert Kinghorn** of Longridge, Preston, Lancashire served in the King's Own Royal Border Regiment during 1960.

**Jim Knowles** of Darfield, Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Reginald Lake** of Dunstable, Bedfordshire served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1949.

**Alice Lane** of Daventry, Northamptonshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1944.

**John Lauder** of Harlech, Gwynedd served in the Royal Fusiliers, Hampshire Battalion and Royal West Kent Regiment between 1942 and 1946.

**Christopher Lee** of Redcar, Cleveland served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1984 to 1994.

**Robert Lippett** of Shirehampton, Bristol, Avon served in the Royal Marines in 1945 to 1946.

**Robert Little** of Chester-le-Street, County Durham served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1952.

**George London** of Hartlepool, County Durham served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**George McGowan** of Ripon, North Yorkshire served in the Royal Engineers from 1961 to 1967.

**Delia Mckenzie** of St Pancras, London served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1942 to 1946.

**James Macmillan** of Gloucester, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Signals from 1962 to 1964.

**Douglas Maidment** of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Philip Marsh** of Bedford, Bedfordshire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Kenneth Marshall** of Newlands, Lancaster, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1950.

**Audrey Mathews** of Benllech, Isle of Anglesey served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

**Kenneth Miller** of Leyland, Preston served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1943 to 1945.

**Thomas Milne** of Bearsden, Glasgow, Dunbartonshire served in the Royal Marines from 1946 to 1948.

**Paul Moore** of Darowen, Machynlleth, Powys served as Supply Assistant in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1948.

**Simon Moore** of Burnley, Lancashire served in the Royal Engineers from 1989 to 1990.

**George Nailard** of Brighton served in the Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) and the Royal Army Service Corps between 1940 and 1946.

**John Norrie** of Selsey, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1953.

**Peter Palmer** of Paddington, London served in the Border Regiment and South Wales Borderers between 1944 and 1948.

**Roland Parkinson** of Haslingden, Lancashire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1974 to 1981.

**Stephen Parnell** of Farthinghoe, Brackley, Northamptonshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1986 to 1991.

**William Peck** of Diss, Norfolk served in the Royal Army Service Corps.

**William Pemberton** of Durrington, Salisbury, Wiltshire served in the Royal Army Pay Corps, Royal West Kent Regiment and Royal Artillery between 1950 and 1956.

**Albert Perioli** of Cirencester, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

**Alan Perry** of Loughborough, Leicestershire served in the Royal Navy from 1954 to 1961.

**Jean Pitts** of Nailsworth, Gloucestershire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1940 to 1946.

**Kenneth Price** of Aston, Bampton, Oxfordshire served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1943 to 1944 and the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

**Kenneth W. Price** of Llanfechain, Powys served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1943 and 1946.

**Anne Pugh** of Southport, Merseyside served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1947.

**Robert Quayle** of Aldwick, Bognor Regis served in the Royal Signals from 1940 to 1946.

**Frances Raine** of Newfield, Bishop Auckland, County Durham served in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service from 1944 to 1947.

**Thomas Revill** of Sheffield, Yorkshire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1952 to 1954 and then in the Royal Army Medical Corps (TA) until 1956.

**Eric Riby** of Coleford, Gloucestershire served as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1946.

**Frederick Rideout** of Broadstairs, Kent served as a coder in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Bernard Rigby** of Wigan, Lancashire served in the Army Catering Corps from 1948 to 1960.

**Andrew Robertson** of Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Corps of Royal Military Police between 1949 and 1951.

**Gilbert Robertson** of Gosport, Hampshire

served in the Royal Navy from 1951 to 1974.

**Rex Robinson** of Whitwell, Hertfordshire served as Flying Officer in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**Theresa Rowlands** of Eastham, Wirral, Merseyside served in the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1965 to 1966.

**Alfred Rudd** of Felixstowe, Suffolk served in the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1946.

**Thomas Salmon** of Helston, Cornwall served in the Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1947.

**Morris Shrier** of Bayswater, London served in the Rifle Brigade from 1941 to 1947.

**Dorothy Simpson** of St Ives, Cambridgeshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

**Aleksander Skiba** of Blackpool, Lancashire served as Able Seaman in the Polish Navy from 1944 to 1947.

**Leslie Smith** of Matley, Peterborough served as Sergeant in the Intelligence Corps from 1940 to 1946.

**Albert Southerden** of Gallewood, Chelmsford,

Essex served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1955.

**Alwyn Thomas** of Eaglescliffe, Cleveland served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Reginald Thurman** of Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

**Basil Tolputt** of Lewes, East Sussex served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1960.

**Gary Tomlinson** of Wetherby, West Yorkshire served in Royal Air Force from 1981 to 1985.

**James Torr** of Layton, Blackpool, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps, Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Royal West Kent Regiment between 1944 and 1948.

**David Trippett** of Hingham, Norfolk served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

**Cyril Turberfield** of Warndon, Worcester served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**John Walker** of Sevenoaks, Kent served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

**Norman Walker** of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

**Donald Cameron Watt** of St Pancreas, London served in the General Service Corps and Intelligence Corps between 1946 and 1949.

**Thomas Watterson** of Millisle, Newtownards, County Down served in the Ulster Defence Regiment from 1978 to 1980.

**Arthur West** of Hilderstone, Stone, Staffordshire served in the Royal Armoured Corps, 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars, and Royal Military Police between 1946 and 1971.

**Leonard Westley** of Market Harborough, Leicester served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1941 to 1947.

**Victor White** of Tetbury, Gloucestershire served in

the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1940 to 1946.

**Digby Wills** of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) between 1939 and 1968.

**Angela Woodcock** of Bulkington, Bedworth, Warwickshire served in Air Raid Precautions in Nuneaton during WWII.

**Sidney Woods** of Horfield, Bristol served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1945.

**Stanley Woster** of Bewdley, Worcestershire served as Corporal in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**Richard Zabrocki** of Wallsend, Tyne & Wear served in the Polish Army Armoured Division from 1945 to 1947.

## Ten Answers Answers to quiz on page 16.

- 1) L;
- 2) *Genesis*;
- 3) Tin;
- 4) Steve Davis;
- 5) "...lose your lover";
- 6) Alabama;
- 7) San Francisco;
- 8) 1997;
- 9) Sir Christopher Wren;
- 10) Live pigeon shooting!!  
And yes, Harry assures us that the deaths on this occasion were all pigeons!

# Family News

## BIRTHS

### Congratulations on the birth of:

Neil Mitchell on December 3rd. He is the grandson of Army St Dunstaner Alan Mitchell of Congleton, Cheshire.

Carys on December 18th. She is the great-granddaughter of Thomas and Annie Wood of Sheffield, their 12th great-grandchild.

## WEDDINGS

### Congratulations to:

Ralph and Eileen Pacitti of Weymouth, Dorset who married on January 13th at St Augustine of Canterbury Church, Weymouth.

## RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

### Congratulations to:

Gary and Lesley Largan of Gosport, Hampshire on December 10th.

Donald and Sharon Planner of Upper Parkstone, Poole, Dorset on December 17th.

Robert and Sylvia Reece of Blackpool, Lancashire on December 26th.

## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

### Congratulations to:

Jed and Christine Latus of Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire on December 15th.

Gordon and Pat Reynolds of Epsom, Surrey on December 22nd.

## DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

### Congratulations to:

Donald and Beryll Varley of Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire on November 30th.

Frank and Winnifred Lodge of Chester-le-Street, County Durham on December 4th.

John and Betty Harding of Marlow, Buckinghamshire on December 7th.

Henry and Ray Sheridan of Brighton on December 21st.

Alfred and Eva Stansfield of Northwich, Cheshire on December 28th.

## SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

### Congratulations to:

Albert and Marie Burns of Gillingham, Kent who celebrated 62 years of marriage on November 21st.

Kathleen and Russell Berwick of Norwich, Norfolk who celebrated 62 years of marriage on November 30th.

Eric and Margaret Cartlidge of Hartlepool, Cleveland who celebrated 64 years of marriage on December 5th.

Bill and Frances Routledge of Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex who celebrated 61 years of marriage on December 6th.

Thomas and Sheila Hall of Edwalton, Nottinghamshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on December 11th.

Thomas and Annie Wood of Sheffield who celebrated 65 years of marriage on December 13th.

Tony and Lily Boden-Hook of Dronfield, Derbyshire who celebrated 65 years of marriage on December 14th.

William and Constance Faulkner of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands who celebrated 62 years of marriage on December 16th.

Wally and Joni Winter of Whitburn, Tyne & Wear who celebrated 62 years of marriage on December 18th.

Ronald and Kathleen Spathaky of Chesterton, Cambridgeshire who celebrated 69 years of marriage on December 21st.

Robert and Di Stewart of Downham Market, Norfolk who celebrated 63 years of marriage on December 24th.

Cyril and Iris Burton of Gosport, Hampshire who celebrated 66 years of marriage on December 26th.

Norman and Barbara Pearce of West Mersea, Essex who celebrated 65 years of marriage on December 27th.

Kenneth and Anne Goulding of New Moston, Manchester who celebrated 66 years of marriage on December 28th.

Frederick and Dorothy Collingwood of Clayton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire who celebrated 63 years of marriage on January 1st.

Lionel and Audrey Broughton of Rugby, Warwickshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on January 2nd.

Arthur and Mary Rivers of Tunbridge Wells, Kent who celebrated 63 years of marriage on January 5th.

Tom and Irene Collins of Walters Ash, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire who celebrated 65 years of marriage on January 10th.

Henry and Joan Williams of Brighton who celebrated 65 years of marriage on January 10th.

William and Dorothy Smith of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands who celebrated 63 years of marriage on January 15th.

Veronica and Maurice Mathe of Bognor Regis, West Sussex celebrated 63 years of marriage on January 17th.

## DEATHS

### We regret to announce the death of:

Nora O'Donnell on November 25th. She was the wife of Joseph O'Donnell of Welling, Kent.

Linda Emery on November 5th. She was the daughter of the late Constantine and Ena Fettel of Farnham, Surrey.

Peter Sebastian of Hove, East Sussex on November 16th. He was the widower of Wren St Dunstaner Pegitha Sebastian.

Eileen Hunter of Ovingdean, Brighton on November 22nd. She was the widow of Royal Signals St Dunstaner Edgar Hunter.

Joan Cluley of Leicester, Leicestershire on November 23rd. She was the widow of Royal Artillery St Dunstaner Gerald Cluley.

Ellen Reagen of Harold Wood, Essex on November 24th. She was the widow of Army St Dunstaner Adam Reagen.

Ivy Carr of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire on November 30th. She was the widow of Army St Dunstaner William Carr.

Helen Miller of Clydebank, Scotland on December 12th. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Joseph Miller.

# In Memory

## Vincent Moore

### Royal Horse Artillery

Vincent Moore of Rawmarsh, Rotherham, South Yorkshire died on October 24th, aged 88. He joined the Royal Horse Artillery in 1939 and served as a driver at Dunkirk, El Alamein and Tunisia. Discharged in 1945, he was a butcher in civilian life. Our sympathy goes to his son John and all of the family.

## Patrick Barnett

### Royal Army Service Corps

Patrick Kenneth Barnett of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire died on October 27th, aged 89. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1940 and landed with the British Expeditionary Force at Le Harve before being evacuated from Dunkirk in a fishing boat. He was then stationed on Merseyside and the Isle of Man before being posted to North Africa. He suffered a skull injury following a direct hit on his vehicle. Discharged in 1946, he sold medical equipment in Blackpool. Our sympathy goes to his sons Charles and John and all members of the family.

## Cyril Stanley

### Royal Artillery

Cyril Stanley of Grimethorpe, Barnsley, South Yorkshire died on November 4th, aged 91. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939. He lost two knuckles in a motorcycle accident and then a kidney when a learner driver reversed into him. In 1942, he was posted to North Africa and fought through to Italy. Reaching Cassino, his vehicle was hit by shellfire and he was temporarily blinded.

Discharged in 1946, he joined the sales staff of a tyre manufacturer. His interests included antiques, golf and snooker. Our sympathy goes to his sons Roger and Peter, daughter Christine and all of the family.

## Henry Wright

### Royal Air Force

Henry James Wright of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire died on November 8th, aged 74. He was a page boy at the London Palladium before joining the Royal Air Force in 1954. After being discharged, he became a motorcycle despatch rider and then a mechanic. He also worked as a magician's assistant and appeared at the London Coliseum in *Annie Get Your Gun*. He also worked as a chef and for a pharmaceutical company in Dagenham. His interests included fishing and vintage motorcycles. Our sympathy goes to his widow Jean, son Gary, daughter Heather and all of the family.

## Richard Hooper

### Royal Artillery

Richard William Hooper of Heamoor, Penzance, Cornwall died on November 14th, aged 85. He joined the Royal Artillery as a 16 year old in 1937 and, after basic training, was posted to a Battery serving in Hong Kong. He was taken prisoner when Hong Kong fell to the Japanese in 1941. Initially he was tasked on repair details around Hong Kong, but then he and other prisoners were shipped to Japan to work in coal mines in Osaka. During this time he contracted tuberculosis and suffered malnutrition and other privation that would damage his eyesight. Liberated in 1945, he returned to the UK hoping to rejoin his Battery but failed a medical examination and was discharged in 1946. He was an active member of the Far East

Prisoner of War Association. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joan, daughter Stephanie and all members of the family.

**Walter Szymura**  
**Polish Resettlement Corps**

Walter Szymura of Ulverston, Cumbria died on November 24th, aged 80. He was born in Leszczyny, Rybnik, Śląsk, Poland, and as a 14-year-old was forced to work in a coal mine by the German Occupying force. He made his escape with four companions making his way on foot to Italy. Enlisting in the Polish Forces under British Command, he was posted to 17 Field Artillery Regiment with the Eighth Army. He transferred to the Polish Resettlement Corps in 1947. After his discharge in 1948, he joined Glaxo working on site construction. He joined the building trade, but later worked for an electrical accessories firm. Our sympathy goes to his widow Edna, son Richard, daughter Christine and all members of the family.

**Donald Robinson**  
**Home Guard**

Donald Hector Robinson of Birmingham, West Midlands died on November 24th, aged 79. He joined the 24th Battalion Warwickshire Home Guard in 1942 as a dispatch rider but later transferred to 71st Heavy Anti Aircraft Battalion. Posted to Cardiff and later Swansea, he manned 3.5 and 4.7 air defence guns as a loader. Discharged in 1944, he later operated a barrage balloon at a RAF site in a civilian capacity. In civilian life, he worked as a gun fitter for BSA, working on aircraft weapons systems and the FN rifle. He then joined Rover as a machine operator. His interests included gardening, fishing, bowls and snooker. Recently, he took up painting and

had some work exhibited in Worcester. Our sympathy goes to his widow Iris and all members of the family.

**William Rymer**  
**Royal Artillery**

William Rymer of Barnsley, South Yorkshire died on November 24th, aged 73. He had worked as a coal miner before joining the Royal Artillery in 1952. He served in Germany and in the UK with 44 HAA Regiment. Discharged in 1955, he worked in construction with oil tanks and for British Rail on track building. He eventually returned to mining at Mark Bretton, Grimethorpe and Woolley before the pits closed in 1985. Our sympathy goes to his sons Ian, Neil and Paul, daughter Yvonne and all members of the family.

**Alfred Viles, OAM**  
**AA Regiment**

Alfred Russell Viles, OAM of Warilla, New South Wales, Australia died on November 25th, aged 82. He joined the 2/2 Company AA Regiment in 1941 and served as a cook. Discharged in 1946, he was a baker in civilian life. In 1990, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his work with veterans. Our sympathy goes to his widow Norma and all other members of the family.

**Harry Leonard**  
**Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve**

Harry Leonard of Billingham on Tees, Cleveland died on December 3rd, aged 90. As a young man he worked in a fish and chip shop and then ICI before joining the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1941. He worked on propellers and airframes at RAF Tangmere, Chichester and Hendon.

After a 13 month tour of duty in Iceland, he was discharged in 1946 and rejoined ICI. His interests included football, cricket and music. Our sympathy goes to his widow Dorothy, son Brian, daughter Dorothy and all members of the family.

**John Blayney**  
**Royal Engineers**

John Edmund Blayney of Seaford, East Sussex died on December 6th, aged 79. He joined the General Service Corps in 1947 and shortly transferred to the Royal Engineers. He served in Egypt, Kenya and East Africa. Discharged as Sergeant in 1951, he became a civilian engineer working on projects in Ghana and Tanzania. His interests included swimming. Our sympathy goes to his widow Gladys and all of the family.

**Jack Simmons**  
**Royal Air Force**

Jack Simmons of Lytham St Annes, Lancashire died on December 6th, aged 87. Having earned a degree in Science and Engineering at university, he joined the Royal Air Force in 1941. Training as a Radio Observer and Pilot, he served at Uxbridge, Prestwick, Pembroke Dock, Chivenor, the Far East and India. Discharged as Squadron Leader in 1946, he joined the electricity supplier in the north of England.

**Albert Brenchley**  
**Royal Air Force**

Albert William Brenchley of Hailsham, East Sussex died on December 8th, aged 81. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1988. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1943 and served as Leading Aircraftman in the UK and West Africa. Demobbed in 1947, he was employed on clerical work dealing

with the costing of scaffolding. His interests included woodwork. He was a holder of the Diabetics Association gold medal, presented to those who have lived with diabetes for 50 years. Our sympathy goes to his widow Patricia, son Kenneth, daughter Lynn and all members of the family.

**Derrick Simon**  
**Intelligence Corps**

Derrick Simon of Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex died on December 9th, aged 92. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939 and then transferred to the Intelligence Corps after being commissioned in 1942. Having served in Northern Ireland, he was discharged as Captain in 1946. In civilian life he was as an accountant for his father's company The British Tailoring and Valetting Service and eventually took over the running of the business. His interests included golf, scuba diving and horse riding. Our sympathy goes to his widow Valerie, sons and daughters and all members of the family.

**Kenneth Cummins**  
**Merchant Navy**

Kenneth Alfred Hugo Cummins of Great Bedwyn, nr Marlborough, Wiltshire died on December 10th, aged 106. Born in Richmond, he was educated at the Merchant Taylors' School in Crosby. As a 15-year-old, he signed on with P&O and trained on HMS *Worcester*, an iron clad sailing ship. Called up to serve in the Royal Naval Reserve, he joined HMS *Morea*, an armed merchant vessel seconded to protect convoys in the Atlantic. After the war, Midshipman Cummins returned to the Merchant Navy with P&O, sailing on trade routes to the Far East. Qualifying as an officer in 1921, he served on mail, passenger and cargo vessels, trading to South Africa, China,

India, Japan and the West Indies. He became Chief Officer on the *Viceroy of India* and remained with her when 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. As Chief Officer on the *Ile de France*, he made a number of transatlantic crossings at high speed, carrying 10,000 American troops outside the convoy system. In 1946, his first command was on the *Maloja*, repatriating troops. He later captained ships sailing to the Far East and Australia. His last ship was the *Stratheden* before he retired in 1960. In retirement, he worked for the Home Office as a nautical assessor on the Wreck Commission. A Master Mariner, he was also admitted as a Younger Brother of Trinity House in 1947. From 1962 to 1974 he was Chairman of Marlborough Rural District Council's planning committee. Our sympathy goes to his widow Rosemary, their sons and daughters and all members of the family.

**John Bolton**  
**Royal Air Force**

John English Bolton of Allerton, Liverpool died on December 12th, aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1995. Having trained as a radio operator for the Merchant Navy, he joined the Royal Air Force in 1940. Posted to Renfrew Airfield in Glasgow as a telegraphist, he lost the sight in his right eye after a bombing raid in 1941. He subsequently transferred to a mobile RAF unit following the advance through North West Europe to Germany. Demobbed in 1946, he joined a firm of shipping agents in Liverpool and became their Chief Clerk. His interests included bowls. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doris and all of the family.

**John Endacott**  
**Royal Air Force**

John Kinsman Endacott of Wandsworth, London died on December 14th, aged 81. He was a motor mechanic before joining the Royal Air Force in 1943. Training as a Wireless Operator, he served in Malta, Singapore and Hong Kong. He was a Warrant Officer at the MOD when discharged in 1979. He was then an administrator with a shipping company. His interests included genealogy and charity work with the Catholic Church. Our sympathy goes to his sons, John, Charles and Paul, daughter Maria and all of the family.

**Bill Kirby, OBE**  
**Royal Army Education Corps**

William Stanley Kirby, OBE of Winchester, Hampshire died on December 15th, aged 79. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1945 and then transferred to the Royal Army Education Corps in 1946. Stationed in Halifax, he was discharged in 1948. In civilian life, he became an art college lecturer. His interest in arts and education came to the fore as his sight declined. He was involved in the foundation of the Living Paintings Trust and advised museums, galleries and heritage venues on materials, access and issues related to visually impaired patrons. He became President of the Museums and Galleries Disabilities Association and consulted galleries across the world. In 1998, he was made an OBE for his work with museums and galleries. A Governor of Redhill College, his interests included swimming and he was a member of St Dunstan's Writers Forum. Our sympathy goes to his daughters and all the family.

**Jack Bingham**  
**Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**  
'Jack' John William Bingham of High Green,

Sheffield died on December 17th, aged 89. He was a moulder in an ironworks before joining the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1940. He transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1941 and then the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1942. Serving in France and the Middle East, he was discharged as Corporal in 1946. In civilian life, he became a miner, looking after machinery and then as a shot firer. Our sympathy goes to his carer, Mrs Teagle, and all members of the family.

**Terrence Purcell, OAM**  
**Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Father Terrence Joseph Purcell of Broadway, New South Wales, Australia died on December 19th, aged 84. He was a clerk in the Department of Lands before joining the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1941. Serving in Bathurst and Darwin, he trained on costal guns and radar and became Staff Sergeant. Discharged in 1946, he returned to the Land Registry, but also studied theology and was ordained as a priest in 1954. He later became parish priest at St Benedict's Church, giving \$100,000 of his own money to restore its historic peal of bells. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2005.

**Constantine Fettel**  
**Royal Yugoslav Guards**

Constantine John Fettel, also known as Kosta Constantinovitch Fettel, of Farnham, Surrey died on December 20th, aged 82. The son of a Yugoslavian father and Italian mother, he was raised in Istanbul, Turkey where his parents ran an import-export business. In his teens, he felt duty bound to join the Royal Yugoslav Guards and became

part of their 1st Battalion in 1941. He was posted to Egypt and took great pride in captaining the regimental football team in a desert match played in front of King Peter of Yugoslavia. The political situation brought his battalion under British command as he served in Beirut, Syria and Palestine. By 1943, King Peter would be deposed by Tito's regime leaving the men of the RYG in a political void. Remaining with the Middle East Land Force, he was charged with guard duties at a refugee camp. In 1946, he was blinded and suffered burns when a mix of oil and caustic soda was thrown in his face by a jealous girlfriend. The next two years were spent in Military Hospitals in Cairo and Suez before he was sent to the UK with the expectation of having his sight restored by surgery. Never formally discharged, he became a naturalised British citizen. In civilian life, he became a capstan lathe operator but still held hope that his sight could be restored. He agreed to an experimental operation using a method known as Osteo-Odonto-Keratoprosthesis (OOKP) which uses part of a tooth root to form a prosthetic lens that replaces the cornea. The operation was a success but his sight failed after rejection problems. Funds for a repeat operation in Italy were raised when wife Ena completed a sponsored walk which inspired viewers of Thames Television's *Today* programme. One viewer donated £1,000. They travelled to Italy and he underwent a further series of operations which restored some vision for a further three years. He recounted his experiences as a blinded soldier and the following surgeries in *The Night Before Me*, co-written with Eric Tyson. Our sympathy goes to his widow Ena, sons Paul and Adrian and all members of the family.

**Peter Peile****2/1 Pioneers Battalion**

Peter Kenneth Peile of Caringbah, New South Wales, Australia died on December 20th, aged 85. He joined the Australian Army's 2/1 Pioneers Battalion, part of the 'Silent Seventh' in 1940. Serving in the Middle East and North Africa, he was wounded at Tobruk. Discharged in 1944, he became a warehouseman in civilian life. Our sympathy goes to his widow Erika and all members of the family.

**Ronald Cordin****2/31 Australian Infantry Battalion**

Ronald Terrence Cordin of Bulli, New South Wales, Australia died on December 22nd, aged 82. He joined the 2/31 Australian Infantry Battalion in 1942, serving as Private. He lost his sight after being wounded by shrapnel in 1945. In civilian life, he and his brother operated a carrying service. He learnt weaving and formed a cricket team with other blinded servicemen.

**James Snow****Royal Corps of Signals**

James Arthur Snow of Hassocks, West Sussex died on December 24th, aged 89. Originally a coppersmith, making petrol tanks for Flying Boats, he joined the Royal Hampshire Regiment (TA) in 1933. Two years later, he joined the Royal Signals and trained as a driver and wireless operator. Posted to India, he completed jungle training in Bengal and trained Indian soldiers in English and Morse Code. He later served with 21 Army Group in North Africa and Europe. He was released to the reserve in 1947. Initially, he was a bricklayer in civilian life but later joined the GPO and became a Supervisor at a telephone exchange. He was also involved

with Civil Defence as a local organiser. Our sympathy goes to his sons Roger and David and all members of the family.

**Evelyn Duggan****Women's Royal Naval Service**

Evelyn Mary Duggan of Grayshott, Hindhead, Surrey died on December 25th, aged 91. She trained as a nursery nurse and was involved with the care of children from naval families before joining the Women's Royal Naval Service at Chatham in 1941. She served at Greenwich, Westfield College and on HMS *Vectis* and HMS *Hornet*. Discharged as Petty Officer in 1946, she returned to childcare and later ran her own Nursery School and Kindergarten. Her interests included embroidery, knitting, gardening and jam-making. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Joseph Holt****Loyal Regiment**

Joseph Edward Holt of Horley, Surrey died on December 26th, aged 85. Originally a copper wire drawer with Glover's Cables, he volunteered for Army Service in 1940, joining the Welch Regiment at RAF Duxford for airfield defence. In 1942, he transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers and was serving with them in North Africa when taken prisoner. He was moved to Italy and on to Germany where he laboured in a lead mine. He was moved to Dresden by the Russians who released him to the Americans. In 1946, he transferred to the Loyal Regiment as was stationed at Knutsford prior to discharge at the end of the year. In civilian life, he worked on the buses, for the post office and later became Chief Inspector at a waterworks. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mary, son Brian, daughter Valerie and Pamela and all members of the family.

**Cyril Calvert****Royal Engineers**

Cyril David Calvert of Darlington, County Durham died on December 27th, aged 85. He had been a mechanic before joining the Royal Engineers in 1941. Posted to 13 Field Squadron, a bridge building unit, he went over to France on D+2, moving through Belgium, Holland, Germany and Denmark. Discharged in 1946, he rejoined motorcycle dealer White Brothers and continued his career as a mechanic and maintenance engineer. Our sympathy goes to his widow Valerie, daughter Christine and all the family.

**Ronald Boxell****Royal Air Force**

Ronald Boxell of Hassocks, West Sussex died on December 30th, aged 93. He had completed an electrician's apprenticeship before being called up for the Royal Air Force in 1941. He specialised as an electrical engineer, working with Bomber Command on Lancasters. Discharged in 1946, he set up an electronics business and specialised in household electrics. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Sally, son-in-law Roger, and all members of the family.

**James Byrne****Royal Air Force**

James Byrne of Sale, Cheshire died on December 30th, aged 82. Having learnt to fly with the Air Training Corps, he joined the Royal Air Force in 1943 and trained as a RAF nurse in Padgate and Sidmouth. Flying with 616 Squadron, he was posted to North Africa, moving on through Italy, Malta and Sardinia. Discharged in 1947, he studied engineering and later worked for Shell. Our sympathy goes to his nephew Stephen and all members of the family.

**Samuel Tombe****Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve**

Samuel Tombe of Lazenby, Middlesbrough, Cleveland died on January 2nd, aged 86. He was an apprentice marine engineer for Harland & Wolff, Belfast before he joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1941. He served on board HMS *Moltan*, HMS *Puerto Rico* and HMS *Edinburgh Castle* (which had been built in his old shipyard, though before his birth). He later joined HMS *Brigadier*, a landing craft, and then did Russian Convoy duty on aircraft carrier HMS *Trumpeter* and was involved in the attack on the *Tirpitz*. Discharged as Sub-Lieutenant in 1947, he worked in the petrochemical industry for firms such as the Anglo-Indian Oil Company, Glaxo and ICI. In 1969, he became the centre of an industrial dispute. His sacking from ICI's at Wilton and Smith's Dock in South Bank, Teeside prompted 1,000 Engineering and Foundry workers to walk off the site. He also served as a councillor on the local authorities. First elected to Langbaugh Council in 1973, he served on wards in Greater Eston and chaired planning and personnel committees. He lost the Labour Group Whip in 1976 because of the stance he took on concessionary fares for the elderly. Eighteen years later, as the last Mayor of Langbaugh, he did the job at his own expense since the mayoral budget had been axed. He attended official engagements either by taxi or using his bus pass. In 2001, he was honoured for being the longest serving member of the River Tees Port Health Authority. He was twice chairman of the authority. Retiring as a Redcar and Cleveland Councillor in 2003, he maintained an active involvement in community activities and had been campaigning for better bus services in

the weeks before he passed away. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Kathleen and all members of the family.

### **Frank Stubbs**

#### **Royal Corps of Signals**

Major (Quartermaster) Albert Frank Stubbs, MBE of Exmouth, Devon died on January 6th, aged 89. He joined the Royal Signals in 1935 and trained as a Linesman at Catterick. He was deployed to India during the War and joined 15 Field Regiment in Lahore before moving to the Persia and Iraq force for two years. Post war, he served in Germany and in the UK as an instructor at Sandhurst, France and as Regimental Sergeant Major in Singapore. He was commissioned as a Quartermaster in 1959 and served with the Gurkha Signals and TA in Germany. As Captain, he was awarded the MBE in 1964. He became the Camp Commandant in Brunei before retiring as Major in 1972. His interests included golf, DIY, and caravanning. Our sympathy goes to his widow, St Dunstaner Ruby, their son and daughter, and members of the family.

### **George Mortimer**

#### **Royal Tank Regiment**

Lieutenant George Arthur Ferris Mortimer of Hangleton, Hove, East Sussex died on January 8th, aged 87. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. He worked in insurance and banking before joining the 44th Royal Tank Regiment in 1939. He fought at El Alamein and in Europe. In 1944, he was wounded in action when hit by mortar shell fragments. He lost both eyes and suffered a head injury which also deafened him. After six months in Stoke Mandeville, he came to St Dunstan's at Church Stretton to study Braille and typewriting. After his discharge

in 1945, he was awarded the Croix de Guerre which was presented by the Commandante de Rougemont at the French Embassy in London. He took an interest in economics and the Young Conservatives, taking part in their Brains Trust. He later took up carpentry making, lamp stands, racks and household items. Our sympathy goes to his widow Pamela, son Christopher, daughter Jane and all members of the family.

### **George Wyles**

#### **Pioneer Corps**

George Fredwick Wyles of Bletchley, Buckinghamshire died on January 8th, aged 86. He joined the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps in 1940 and served in Italy, Sicily, France and North Africa. Wounded by shell fire, he was discharged in 1946. In civilian life, he was a cake maker and driver. His interests included dancing, reading and walking. Our sympathy goes to his widow Florence, sons Kenny and Ronnie and all of the family.

### **John Shouesmith**

#### **Royal Navy**

John Henry William Shouesmith of Roehampton, London died on January 10th, aged 76. He joined the Royal Navy as a 15-year-old and was initially posted to battleship HMS *Vanguard*. Drafted to HMS *Dolphin*, he qualified as a submariner, serving on HMS *Resolution* and *Sea Devil*. In 1958, he was serving on HMS *Tally Ho* when it snorkelled the Atlantic from Bermuda to Portsmouth. They made the 3,500 mile journey at periscope depth in three weeks. Retiring as Petty Officer in 1973, he worked at the Royal Thames Yacht Club and later as a postman and handyman. His interests included restoring antique furniture. Our sympathy goes to his son and all the family

### **Herbert Harrison**

#### **Rifle Brigade**

Herbert Sydney Harrison of Burgess Hill, West Sussex died on January 12th, aged 92. He joined the Rifle Brigade in 1933, training at Winchester. Having served in Algeria, Egypt, India, Italy, Malta, North Africa, and Tunisia, he was discharged as Sergeant in 1946. In civilian life he worked for the London County Council and GLC. Our sympathy goes to his widow Jean and all the family.

### **Cyril Evans**

#### **Royal Army Pay Corps**

Cyril John William Evans of Mannamead, Plymouth, Devon died on January 13th, aged 87. He joined the Royal Signals (TA) in 1937 but quickly joined the Gloucestershire Regiment as a regular. He was posted to Rangoon and fought the Japanese through India. He was discharged in 1946, but rejoined the Army in 1949, serving with the Royal Army Pay Corps in the UK, Nairobi, Bermuda, and the British Army of the Rhine. He retired as Staff Sergeant in 1963, and joined AEI in civilian life. Our sympathy goes to his widow Violet and all the family.

### **John Bennett**

#### **Fleet Air Arm**

John Chester Vaughn Bennett of Plymouth, Devon has died, aged 80. He joined the Royal Navy in 1941 and became an Artificer Apprentice at Seaford, Lee-on-Solent. Qualifying as an engineer, he specialised in airframes and engines. He served in the UK throughout the war and was then posted to Malta. After being promoted, he joined HMS *Unicorn* and sailed to the Far East. Transferring to HMS *Triumph*, he was deployed in the Korean theatre of operations. Discharged from the Fleet Arm

in 1956, he went to work for Marshall's in Cambridge and later joined the Civil Service at the MOD. His interests included swimming, and bridge.

### **Arthur Davis**

#### **Royal Army Service Corps**

Arthur Davis of Erdington, Birmingham died on January 12th, aged 80. As a 14-year-old, he worked in the canteen of the Royal Ordnance Factory at Chorley and then on a building site. He joined the General service Corps in 1944 and trained at Winston Barracks, posted to the Royal Army Service Corps, serving in the UK and Egypt. He left the Army in 1946 and returned to the building trade. He developed as an engineer but later became a security officer. His interests included fishing, motorbike scrambling and reading. Our sympathy goes to his son David and all other members of the family.

### **Bob Hulland**

#### **Royal Navy**

Robert Hulland of Stapleford, Nottinghamshire died on January 13th, aged 84. He worked at an iron works as an inspector of pipe joints, a reserved occupation. In 1941, he joined the Royal Navy, training at HMS *Ganges* and then as a Gunner at Chatham. He then served on HMS *Verulam* escorting Russian convoys and in support of the Normandy landings. Demobbed in 1946, he became a carpenter. After a spell as a professional singer, he managed a Co-op and was also a Special Constable. He served on the Parish Council and on Broxtowe Borough Council on both sides of the floor. He was Mayor of Broxtowe in 1981-82. Our sympathy goes to his widow Peggy and all the family.



# Dancing the Light away!

AFTER A WEEK of lessons and practice, St Dunstaners returned to the dance floor on 17 November to put their moves into action. The Band of the Light Division struck up a mix of favourite tunes for the evening. They were unable to indulge requests for the Pet Shop Boys or *Men of Harlech*, but did introduce a sizeable number of their audience to the delights of *Birdland*. Weather Report's energetic

tribute to jazz legend John Coltrane was, it seems, a new experience for many present. There were several kinds of waltz, tango and foxtrot to keep our dancers satisfied until the next Dance Week on 25-31 March.



Sheila Rodman and Gordon show their dance moves.

Cecil and Jenny take a spin.



Charles and Peggy Blockley step out on the floor.



The Band of the Light Division, conducted by Justin Matthews.

