

St Dunstan's Review

Photo: Martin Cleaver/PA/EMPICS



April 2007



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

www.st-dunstans.org.uk



FALKLANDS 25

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



The first of the 31 area reunions took place in Brighton on 7 March. It was a very pleasant and comradely occasion. I am grateful to all those who are involved in the organising and hosting of these events; Welfare Officers, Trustees, Headquarters, Ovingdean and Sheffield staff.

St Dunstan's considers these gatherings are an important opportunity for St Dunstaners and widows to meet up with each other, to foster and maintain the feeling of 'family'.

On 2 April, 25 years ago, the Falkland Islands were invaded. Articles marking that event and its impact on those serving will be appearing in the Review. We continue to think of those involved and those who still represent the UK in the many areas of conflict which go on today.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

APRIL

- 4th Indoor Bowling
- 4th-11th Widows' Week (I)
- 7th Writers Forum
- 9th-13th Fishing Club (II)
- 13th-16th Ex-POW Reunion
- 14th-15th Golf
- 16th Indoor Bowling
- 19th ABF Big Curry Day
- 21st Sailability
- 22nd London Marathon
- 25th ANZAC Day
- 27-30th Masonic Weekend

MAY

- 5th Writers Forum
- 6th-12th Gardening Week
- 7th Outdoor Bowling
- 8th VE Day
- 9th-15th Handless Reunion
- 12th-13th Golf
- 19th Feast of St Dunstan
- 19th Sailability
- 25th-3rd June Archery

Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

SMOKING AT O VingDEAN

NEW LAW APPLIES FROM 1 JULY:
Many readers will be aware that, as of 1 July, smoking will not be possible in enclosed places. The law (Health Act 2006) will apply to St Dunstan's Ovingdean and smoking will no longer be allowed by any visitors anywhere in the house or at our off-site premises (where it is already banned). Smoking will still be permitted outside including in the Inner Garden. It is appreciated that this ban will be particularly hard for some people but we must comply or face prosecution and, therefore, we must and will enforce it seriously.

**Dick Lake,
Ovingdean Manager**

LARGE PRINT DIARIES FROM UPSO PUBLISHERS

UNFULFILLED ORDERS: Last year, some St Dunstaners ordered 2007 large print diaries from Upso publishers using an order form in the 2006 edition. This order was and has still not been fulfilled, despite money having been sent with the order. If you are one of those unfortunate people would you please let us know and whether, even at this late stage, you would like a free replacement. Please contact Barbara Sweeney on 020 7616 7922.

MOORFIELDS EYE HOSPITAL SEEK NEW MEMBERS

HAVE A SAY IN HOW MOORFIELDS IS RUN:
Moorfields Eye Hospital is an NHS Foundation Trust. This means they have been granted certain financial and managerial freedoms from central government. Being an NHS Foundation Trust also means that patients, and people living in the Greater London, Essex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire communities, can get more involved with the Trust through their membership scheme. Members are also eligible to stand for election to our Membership Council, which advises senior management and the Board of Directors on future planning. For further information, please contact Moorfields' membership team on 020 7566 2496 (this is a voicemail service), or e-mail foundation@moorfields.nhs.uk.

BRITISH ARMY FIRST WORLD WAR RECORDS ARE NOW ONLINE

LARGE DATABASE: National Archives and Ancestry.co.uk are placing online the Service and Pension records of soldiers who served 1914 to 1920. They expect to have 2.5 million names listed by 2008. Searching the name index will be free and pages from the original files available for viewing by subscribed members or with Pay per View.

St Dunstan's Review

April 2007 No 967

Cover Story: Armourers of 800 Naval Air Squadron (Sea Harriers) prepare 1,000lb bombs for use, on the flight deck of HMS Hermes, in April 1982 during the Falklands conflict.

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AGENT ORANGE HEALTH RISK TO BRITISH TROOPS

AGENT ORANGE AT CFB GAGETOWN, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA: During the period 1952 to 2005, the herbicide Agent Orange (the name comes from the orange stripe on the container drum) and its derivatives were used experimentally and then generally as herbicides at the CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada, training area. The period of highest risk was during 1966 to 1967, when Agent Orange itself was in use. The risk from the herbicide derivatives is considered by the Canadian authorities to be negligible. It is now generally known that the constituents used in the production of Agent Orange, one of which is dioxin, can be hazardous to human health. The fact came to note particularly in connection with the use by the US Armed Forces during the War in Vietnam, where Agent Orange was used freely as a defoliant in support of military operations.

From 1966 until 1986 (and perhaps later) a number of British units used the training area and were possibly exposed to either Agent Orange or the herbicide derivatives and could therefore, perhaps, be at risk of suffering from a number of medical conditions as a result. From documents received from Canada it would appear that the UK units involved during the whole period are recorded as follows:

Queen's Own Buffs
24 Field Squadron Royal Engineers
49 Field Squadron Royal Engineers
1 South Wales Borderers
50 Field Squadron (Construction)
41 Commando Royal Marines

53 Field Squadron, 39 Regiment RE
9 Parachute Squadron Royal Engineers
Royal Hampshires
39 Regiment Royal Engineers
69 Independent Gurkha Squadron RE
1 DERR

The following units were present during periods of greatest risk when Agent Orange itself was being used:

2 Scots Guards (July 1966)
32 Field Squadron RE (1964 and 1967)
48 Field Squadron Royal Engineers (1966)
Royal Engineers (1966)
1 Green Howards (1967)

The list is from Canadian sources but might not be definitive.

Further information has been received from the Canadian authorities giving a list of medical conditions which could result from exposure to Agent Orange and the list appears below. This list has been accepted by the Canadian authorities as Related to Agent Orange exposure at CFB Gagetown and therefore compensation in the form of pensions is being paid to their military personnel who suffer from one of these conditions; providing that the claimant can establish that they served at CFB Gagetown during the relevant periods. However, the list of conditions has not been considered by the UK Veterans Agency and neither is it known whether any UK Service personnel or Veterans have been affected by such exposure.

The list of medical conditions recognised by the Canadian authorities as being associated with exposure to Agent Orange is:

- Soft tissue sarcoma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL)
- Hodgkin's disease
- Choloracne
- Respiratory cancers
- Prostate cancer
- Multiple myeloma
- Type 2 diabetes
- Porphyria cutanea tarda (PCT)
- Acute and sub-acute transient peripheral neuropathy
- In addition the US authorities recognise certain birth defects in the children of female veterans.

However, this list should be viewed with caution in UK terms and used as a guide only because different legislation applies in the UK and it does not necessarily follow that awards can be made under the UK War Disablement Pension scheme, merely because these conditions are recognised by the US and Canada, as being attributable to Agent Orange. The burden of proof will rest with the claimant to establish the exposure and the outcome but clearly, the experience in the USA and Canada could be taken into account by the UK Veterans Agency, when assessing War Disablement Pension claims. It is not clear at present whether UK Service personnel will be eligible to claim under the Canadian disability pension scheme but it is felt that this would be unlikely, if a Status of Forces Agreement was in place at the time.

There might also be the possibility for individuals to make a legal claim for damages in respect of any illness sustained resulting from exposure to Agent Orange but if so, the likelihood is that this action will need to be taken in the Canadian

jurisdiction under Canadian law but this has not been confirmed at present. In addition, is important to bear in mind that any such legal claim would have to be funded by the individuals making the claim.

Anyone seeking general advice or making a claim for a War Disablement Pension or wishing to obtain further information should please contact: Pensions and Disability Services Department, The Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JY. Telephone: 020 7973 7236 or 7235 or 7331 or e-mail claims@britishlegion.org.uk.

BRITISH GAS LAUNCH NEW TARIFF FOR VULNERABLE CUSTOMERS

FUEL COSTS CUT FOR SOME HOMES: British Gas have introduced a new low dual fuel social tariff. Called the Essentials tariff it aims to provide additional help for vulnerable customers, particularly those on prepayment meters. It will also be offered to customers who were eligible for their Winter Rebate Scheme. Eligibility criteria for Essentials embraces people who receive Disability Living Allowance; Pension Credit; Housing Benefit; Attendance Allowance; War Disablement Pension, which includes either a mobility supplement or constant attendance allowance; Disablement Pension which includes constant attendance allowance; Child tax credit where the relevant income is £14,600 or less; Working tax credit where the relevant income is £14,600 or less; Council Tax Benefit; Income Support or the Income-based Job Seekers Allowance. The scheme is only open to existing British Gas customers and will be reviewed in March 2009.

NEW RECEPTION GIVES BETTER ACCESS AT SHEFFIELD CENTRE

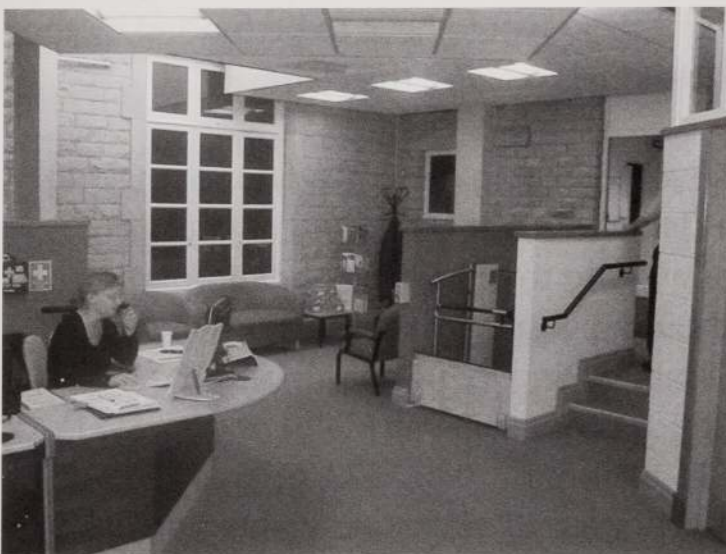


Photo: Matthew Green

MORE SPACE AND EXTRA SEATING:

Trainees arriving at St Dunstan's Sheffield are now being greeted in an improved and spacious reception area. The new zone allows St Dunstaners to access staff more easily and the Manager is located nearby.

Extra seating has been installed and there is a wheelchair lift to higher levels.

NEW PEN NOW ON SALE



ST DUNSTAN'S BALLPOINT:

A new silver ballpoint pen with click top and handy clip is available for £1. It carries St Dunstan's new logo in corporate red and writes in black ink. The tube swells slightly near the point for any easy grip. The pen is on sale at St Dunstan's Headquarters, Ovingdean and Sheffield. There are ten brownie points for anyone who knows the significance of the ballpoint pen in St Dunstan's lore?

WHAT THE BEST DRESSED ST DUNSTANER IS WEARING

ST DUNSTAN'S MERCHANDISE AT HEADQUARTERS: Polo shirts, sweatshirts and other merchandise is available from St Dunstan's Headquarters.

St Dunstan's polo shirt

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

St Dunstan's sweatshirt

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

St Dunstaner's tie

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

St Dunstan's Baseball Cap

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

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

FALKLANDS CONFLICT EXHIBITION AT IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

EVENTS IN LONDON AND NORTH:

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War, Imperial War Museum London opens *The Falklands* on May 16, a new special exhibition that explores the people behind the most recent invasion of a British territory since the Second World War. Featuring material on public display for the first time, the exhibition tells the story of the war through the unique first-hand accounts and personal memorabilia of those involved. The exhibition will run until 6 January next year.

The exhibition explores the remarkable stories of British and Argentinean service personnel through personal items and memorabilia. Among the previously unseen items on display are the joystick of the helicopter flown by Lieutenant Richard Nunn and Sergeant Bill Belcher. As part of the two-man crew of a Scout helicopter supporting 2 Para in the battle to capture Goose Green, Nunn and Belcher were shot down on their way to pick up Lieutenant Colonel 'H' Jones, the mortally wounded Paras' commanding officer who was later awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

The exhibition will also display the diary and medals of Royal Navy Surgeon Commander Rick Jolly who established and ran the British field hospital at Ajax Bay which became known as the 'Red and Green Life Machine'. Wounded from both sides were treated by Jolly's medical teams and he was honoured by Britain and Argentina for his humanitarian work - a unique distinction in modern conflict.

From Argentina, and on public display in the United Kingdom for the first time, is the crucifix belonging to Capitan de Fragata (Commander) Nestor Cenci. Cenci was on board the cruiser *General Belgrano* when she was torpedoed and sunk by HM Submarine *Conqueror* on 2 May 1982 in the most controversial act of the war.

The exhibition will also explore how the war affected the lives of civilians both at home and on the Falkland Islands. A piece of shrapnel that narrowly missed Falkland Islander Tim Miller will be displayed with an essay written by Lisa Pole-Evans who, aged nine, describes what it was like to be visited by four men of the Special Boat Service. A letter written by Lieutenant Colonel 'H' Jones to his wife Sara and the handwritten news despatch from Goose Green belonging to BBC Correspondent Robert Fox reveal how news of the war reached those at home. Artistic responses to the war will be illustrated by a selection of sketches made by Official War Artist Linda Kitson and original drawings by Raymond Briggs for his book *The Tin-Pot Foreign General and the Old Iron Woman*.

Falklands veteran and military historian, Major General Julian Thompson CB OBE, who commanded 3 Commando Brigade during the land fighting, has acted as a historical adviser to the exhibition.

A Long Way From Home: The Falklands, 25 years on is a small exhibition of 30 of the best photographs from the Museum's archive including powerful images taken by both British and Argentine servicemen. They will be displayed by the Imperial War Museum North until 1 July 2007.

STAFF CHANGES

PAM WAIT

Pam Wait is retiring from her post as Welfare Officer for Kent and South East London at the end of April. Although Pam will continue to do some work for St Dunstan's to help the Welfare Service with some short term staffing difficulties, she officially retires on 30 April.

Pam has been a key member of the Welfare Team since 1996 and is well known to many St Dunstaners and their families in the South East as during the past 11 years she has worked in a number of different areas.

Pam is woman of many parts! She joined St Dunstan's from a role as a Senior Welfare Counsellor with WH Smiths having previously been a Welfare Visitor for the Friends of Clergy Corporation and a Medical Social Worker at King's College Hospital amongst several other social work posts. Previous to her entry into social work, Pam had qualified and practiced as an Occupational Therapist.

Whilst working full time, bringing up a family and providing support to her husband Alan who retired as a Canon with the Church of England, Pam has somehow found time to be a Relate Counsellor, an official Prison Visitor, a guide at Canterbury Cathedral, a keen birdwatcher and an active member of several choirs. Pam is an avid opera and classical music fan and along with her other interests she intends to continue with these once she has a little more time on her hands!



The Welfare Service and all St Dunstaners will miss Pam's infectious good humour, her organisational ability and most of all her warmth and down to earth approach. We all wish her well in what will clearly be the most active of retirements.

**Barry Porter,
Welfare Manager**

LINDA HUNTER
Linda Hunter has been with St Dunstan's for almost five years, this was her second time with the

Housekeeping department. Once again Linda is returning to Scotland to look after her Mum. Linda worked mainly in the laundry. She is popular for her knitting; she can make an adult jumper in one week or babies clothing in one day and received many orders from colleagues. As well as missing Linda, everyone in the Housekeeping department will miss eating the homemade cakes which she baked for them almost every week.



Photo: Linda Starr



CHRIS CHAMBERS
Chris Chambers left St Dunstan's in February after 18 months as Manager of the Sheffield Training Centre. He previously worked with the South Yorkshire Police Force. "The success at Sheffield has been about teamwork. I see the Centre only going from strength to strength," he said.

TERRY HEATON
Terry Heaton joined St Dunstan's in March as Manager of St Dunstan's Sheffield. He was previously Facilities Manager for the Sheffield Theatres Trust, Crucible Theatre in Sheffield City Centre.



Photo: Matthew Green



GRAHAM FOOTER
Graham Footer, a former Sergeant with the Royal Artillery, has been promoted to Head of Awareness. Working as part of the Fundraising & Communications department, Graham will be responsible for the strategic development of the Schools Project, Cadet Challenge and Speakers teams. He is pictured above with members of Gloucestershire ACF during the 2006 St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge.

HILARY BROWN
Welfare Officer Hilary Brown wishes to thank St Dunstaners, Widows, Widowers and everyone who sent cards or letters wishing her a speedy recovery. She adds that she is looking forward to catching up with everyone when she gets back on the road in the near future.

STARTER'S ORDERS ON THE REVIEW DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

REVIEW DERBY SWEEPSTAKE NOW OPEN: The **Review** has opened its annual Derby 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. The Derby is scheduled to run on 2 June.

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.

I had my answer quick to the chop

This time, I didn't need to refer to Page 33 of the March **Review** to find the answer to Question 5 of Harry Beever's Yorkshire Quiz. I not only answered it correctly but I have photographic evidence to prove it.



And if this chop looks a bit slim, it is because I cheated a little; I got mine served "off the bone".

I am a member of an Association for which one of the highlights of its social calendar is the Barnsley Chop Night, held every October at the Brooklands

Hotel. A most popular event, and always over-subscribed, it draws visitors from all over Northern England, from places as far apart as Wigan and Hartlepool. A familiar face usually seen there is another St. Dunstaner, Sam Wrest of Barnsley.

Partaking of a Barnsley Chop is highly recommended, but there is one essential requirement; it is necessary to starve oneself for three days – before and after the meal!

John Lappin,
Wakefield, West Yorkshire

Scratch and sniff online this April

ST DUNSTAN'S WEBSITE starts this month with some pungent progress. New technology allows it to add some aroma to the atmosphere. Surfers visiting the site will be invited to scratch the screen and experience a new dimension

of smell. This is possible using new software Floral Poi version 1:4 which creates an electric discharge that stimulates the nerve endings associated with the human sense of smell. Alternative therapist St Dunstaners, versed in aromatherapy,

recommended a relaxing selection of floral scents. However, the organisation adopted aromas associated with the armed forces. Visitors to the website will be able to experience cordite, bromide and Sparky's Trench.

Balancing the Books

Ted Bunting finds this Yorkshire favourite keeps its flavour

James Herriot's Yorkshire stories

Author: James Herriot
Reader: Daniel Philpott
Catalogue No: 11502
Duration: 3 hours, 3 minutes

Yes, it's yet another collection or tales from the prolific pen of the famous Yorkshire Dales' vet. But notice I don't say "just" or "only" another collection, because if you were faced

by a fortune in jewels you wouldn't say "just a bucket of diamonds" would you? I remember, years ago a friend of mine (also a veterinary surgeon) saying, "We could all write stories like that." But I doubt it. I don't doubt that they all meet people with exotic or unusual pets, tight-fisted farmers reluctant to pay their bills, and encounter strange and difficult cases,

but Herriot had a rare talent as a raconteur and I know my friend didn't have that. Herriot's stories are invariably interesting; they can make you laugh or make you sad and he could bring his characters to life. He is dead now, unfortunately, so there will be no more of his wonderful tales, so very human despite involving animals. He is sorely missed by millions.

REUNION ROUND-UP

THE 2007 REUNION season started on 7 March in the Winter Garden at St Dunstan's Ovingdean for the first of the Brighton gatherings. There we 28 St Dunstaners and four widows present with friends and guests. Major General Andrew Keeling was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding and St Dunstaner Bob Osborne raised a vote of thanks in reply on behalf of everyone assembled.

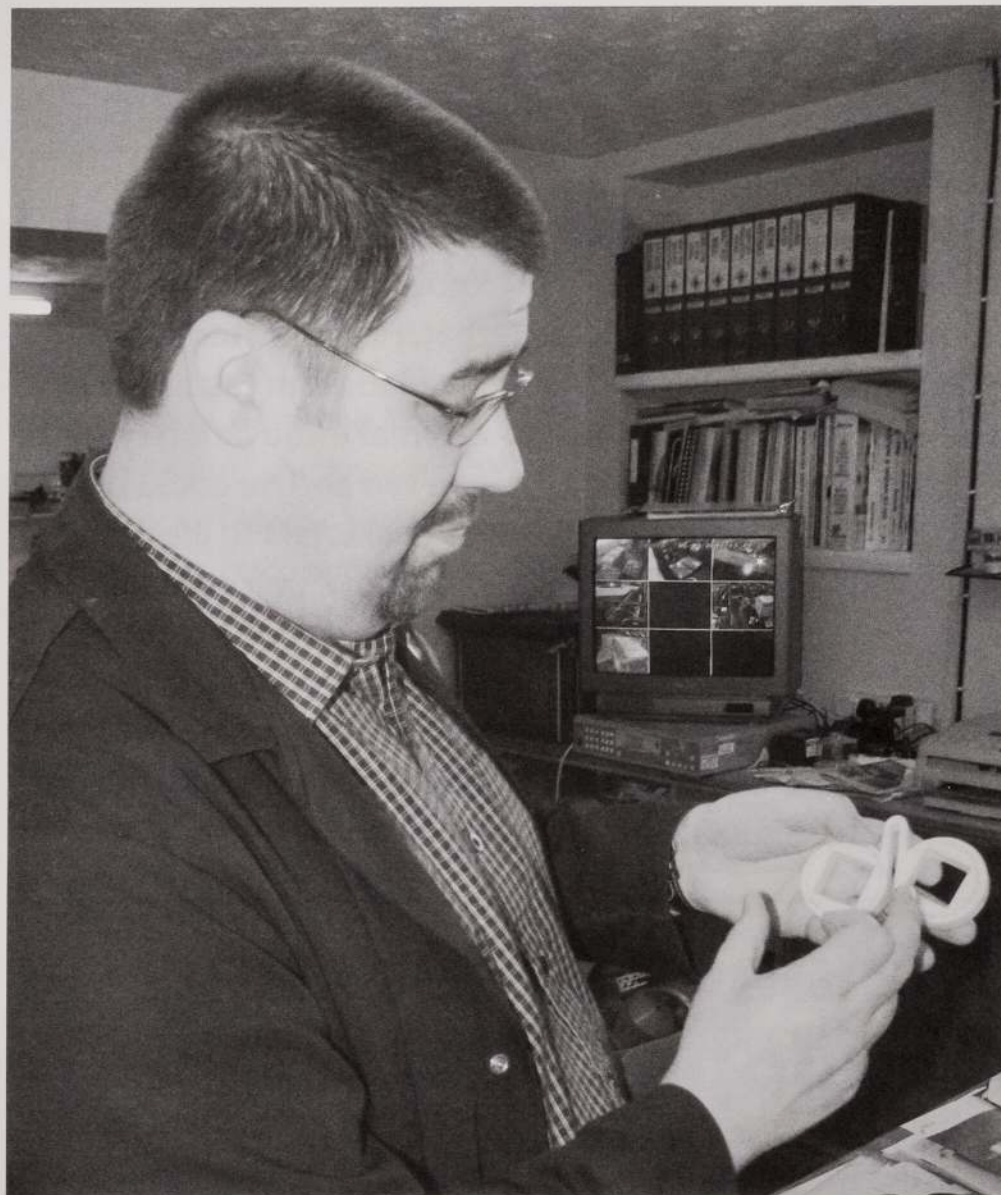
Shaking on the slopes

ST DUNSTANER Kevin Alderton is being sponsored in his Paralympic ambitions by milk shake firm Mars Drinks. "To be associated with a household name is a fantastic opportunity for me," said Kevin. "With my great record breaking result last year, I'm hoping to better that and my achievements in the other alpine events even further in 2007, none of which would be possible without the help of my sponsors."

Meeting Tom Mix

RECENTLY UNCOVERED newspaper cuttings have revealed that a late Royal Army Medical Corps St Dunstaner had a journalistic career of no mean achievement. Kenneth Teale from Leeds wrote a newspaper column called "Inkspots by The Scribe". The cuttings included interviews with Tom Mix and Sandy Powell, reports from Leeds Lions Speedway and observations on the maiden voyage of the Queen Mary.

Device can help train safety



Alan holds a double bolt variation of the Checksafe device.

AST DUNSTANER IS manufacturing a device which could make safety checks on railway lines much easier to carry out. It's a simple invention, but its significance came home to Alan Holderness when he gave a talk on production methods at an inventors' convention.

Alan, from Mill Hill in Blackburn, Lancashire, is Managing Director of Verifyne Plastic Products which uses plastic moulding to create an endless range of items including mop handles, surgical tools and containers. "I went to the convention to talk to the inventors there about production methods," he

said. "But I had no idea of how relevant it would be."

Alan had taken a small device called Checksafe, which he makes for a firm called Business Lines in Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria. The bright yellow item, like a triangular pointer, fits over a nut or bolt and responds to any movement, creating an easy visual check that a bolt has moved and is in need of tightening. The device is already being used by London Underground. "The Checksafe is produced specifically for the railways because we mould the plastic for a square nut rather than the hexagonal nut used on vehicles."

Alan gave his talk and headed home, unaware that there had been a train crash near Kendal in Cumbria that claimed the life of a Glaswegian woman. It is believed that a set of points to the south of the crash was missing.

Alan served in the Royal Marines but joined his father and other family members at Verifyne Plastic Products when he left the Services.

Ten questions on the subject of Drama

Harry Beevers treads the boards and stages some tough questions this month



Where are you Cedric? Helen Mirren as Cleopatra meets Alan Rickman's Anthony. She also appeared in *The Madness of King George* alongside Nigel Hawthorne who portrayed the tormented monarch.

- 5) The 1994 film *The Madness of King George* was based on a stage play, but changed its name to avoid confusing an international audience. To which king did the film and play refer?
- 6) William Gibson's play *The Miracle Worker* won the Pulitzer Prize in 1960. It was based on the childhood life and education of which deaf and blind American authoress?
- 7) The copyright of which play was donated by its author J.M. Barrie to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children?
- 8) In 1998, Cedric went missing shortly before his debut at the Royal National Theatre in Shakespeare's *Anthony and Cleopatra* starring Alan Rickman and Helen Mirren. What role was Cedric scheduled to play?
- 9) What role was played by actress Fiona Shaw in Shakespeare's *Richard II* at London's National Theatre in 1995 and 1996 and on television in 1997?
- 10) Jack Spratt appeared at the Mermaid Theatre in London with Sir Bernard Miles and Sir Donald Wolfit in dramatic productions of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. What role did he play?

The curtain will come up on the answers when you turn to page 34.

- 1) The 30 minute radio play *Three Blind Mice* commissioned by the BBC for the 80th birthday of Queen Mary in 1947 changed its name to what when it went on the stage?
- 2) Which English playwright is famous for his *Talking Heads*?
- 3) Alan Bleasdale's play *Are You Lonesome Tonight?* was about which entertainer?
- 4) *The Indian Emperor* was the first play for which 17th century actress?

Memorable performance is a vision of confidence

St Dunstaner **Billy Baxter** gives his impression on a drama workshop held in Sheffield in February

HELLO THERE readers, let me set the scene for you! The audience are led into a semi-darkened room and sit in a circle, they are asked to be silent and then blindfolded, a moment's pause and the performance begins.

I will now explain what this is all about. Last year Jenny Hammond, my long suffering Welfare Officer, arranged a taster drama workshop with a lady called Mary Carr which was held in Sheffield at the St Dunstan's training centre. Following this taster workshop, Jenny saw the possibility of opening this workshop to other St Dunstaners. So Jenny contacted her fellow Welfare Officers and asked if they knew any St Dunstaners who would be good guinea pigs. As a result of this, a date was set for early February for a workshop to be held in Sheffield.

On 8 February, the group assembled at the Rutland

hotel in Sheffield. There were five of us: Chris Bennett, Gary Lomas, Clive Jones, Bryan Alexander and myself.

I can hear you laughing at this motley line up of budding actors. Have management finally lost the plot in allowing a nice god-fearing actress teach these unruly gaggle? If you think that is bad you cannot imagine what was going on in our minds, or what lay in wait for us. We all were nervous, anxious and worried.

I must describe the Rutland Hotel, a fine building with a high standard of clientele residing there, so as to what the staff thought as we trooped in, heaven only knows. We were greeted warmly by John the hotel manager, and led in to a conference room to where the course was to be held.

There stood Mary, our teacher, who greeted us warmly. We were ushered

to our chairs, for the course briefing, we sat in a semi-circle and Mary allowed us individually to feel her face and she described her features to us. Mary informed us that by the end of the course we were to perform a showcase performance to a live audience. We were to learn very quickly that Mary would not allow less than one hundred per cent concentration by each and every one of us.

Mary started the ball rolling by making us move around the room allowing us to find our surroundings and getting an idea of what the room looked like in detail. Mary's description of the room and surrounding area was brilliant and graphic, painting a picture verbally. The next part was verbal word games, word association such as thinking of random words and working in pairs responding with a word immediately

after a word has been spoken by the other person, such as chair, table, floor, carpet. Sounds easy, but it is quite difficult when doing this in fast repetition. I can tell you, the old grey matter was getting a gruelling workout.

Then out came the props. We were split into two groups and given a hat, each of us had to describe what sort of person would wear our particular hat. There were five different hats, a top hat a bowler a flat cap, a pork pie hat, and a policeman's helmet. Each of us described in turn what sort of person would wear that type of hat. Mary then asked us to think of a character who would wear this hat, where he lived, what he did for a profession, how old he was. Each of us gave this some thought. Mary then asked us to think of how our characters could meet and make up a five minute sketch. We had about five minutes to do this, then act it out, great fun, our imaginations were tested to the limit. It would be cruel for me not to tell you what characters we performed. Chris was a policeman, and I worked with him as a game keeper, as I had a

flat cap in country tweed. Clive had a bowler and was a solicitor, Gary had the top hat and was an undertaker, and Bryan became a town planner. Here ended the first day, back to St Dunstan's for an evening meal, and to be questioned by trainees and staff alike as to what we were doing all afternoon.

Each session started with a workout, controlling our breathing, relaxing our shoulders and necks, before talking through what we were to do in that session.

As we got more use to Mary's teaching methods and were settling down, the group became more relaxed during the sessions. We were talking about our past experiences in childhood and early days before we were blind, little did we know that these memories were to be used in our showcase. Mary then produced a tape of *Under Milk Wood*, by the writer Dylan Thomas. We listened to how the actors spoke on the story, this was to be the method in which we were to perform. Mary was hatching a plan, and we were all contributing to the final product without knowing. For example, Gary

mentioned about how an old mate reacted to him first joining the Army and I recalled the day when I was allowed to go fishing alone for the first time by my parents. These sessions conjured up all sorts of memories to all of us. It was very thought provoking, and emotional to us. Little did we know that we had already the script in our heads, for the show.

Mary was keen not to let this show be anything other than serious with no laughter from the audience, a straight piece of acting. We then began the work of structuring the play, memorising short sentences, as we were going to speak rapidly after each in turn, the reason for this will become apparent shortly.

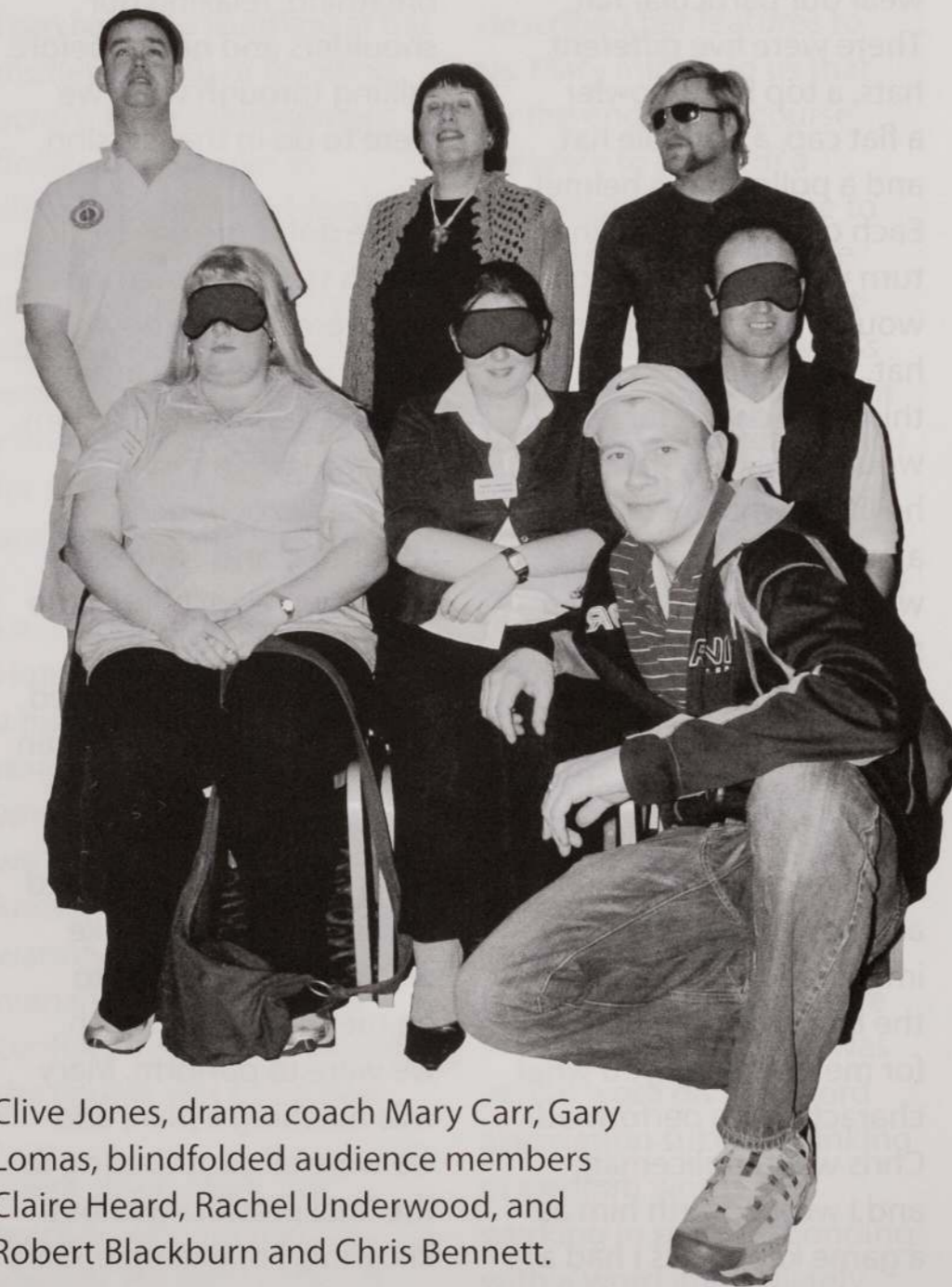
We now had the basic material to work on, now we needed a plan of delivering our play. Mary had a plan already in her head and ran ideas for us to discuss. We all put ideas over to Mary. The plan was this, Mary told us that she wanted the audience to be dis-empowered and this performance could be performed only by blind actors. So this is what we

came up with, the room was to be in semi darkness, the centre of the room would have a circle of chairs in which the audience would sit. The audience would be ushered in by Mary, then they would be blindfolded to heighten their other senses, and make them feel vulnerable and dis-empowered. Mary would explain to the audience to be perfectly still and silent, to heighten the atmosphere in the room. We the performers would then silently walk into the room and position ourselves equally around the chairs. The two guys with limited sight led Bryan, Clive and myself to our places. Mary then did a warm up with us and the mood was set, we were then in control.

I will now do my best to explain how the performance works. Imagine you are in total darkness. This to a St Dunstaner is not too hard, and only a blind person knows what this like. Now imagine all is silent, around you is a presence then all you hear from about you are whispering voices, barley audible saying "I am here," "I am there," "we are here". Each phrase from different voices in quick

succession then silence. Then a voice in a normal pitch rings out breaking the silence and in short bursts from the other actors all around the room. Gary and Chris during one scene move into the centre of the circle of chairs in front of the audience and act out a short encounter. The audience are bombarded with sound and voices from all directions, not knowing where the next

voice is coming from. Then, as it started, the voices trail off in a whisper and we the actors repeat the show. It is only about three minutes in length, but three minutes is a long time when you are feeling vulnerable and dis-empowered. As the last scene is done we silently leave the room. Only an audience member can explain what the feeling was like. In nine sessions



Clive Jones, drama coach Mary Carr, Gary Lomas, blindfolded audience members Claire Heard, Rachel Underwood, and Robert Blackburn and Chris Bennett.

Mary had taught five blind ex-Service men how to perform a powerful piece of drama, not only this but other benefits such as confidence building and a sense of achievement, team work and empowerment. We had a great few days and it was sad to say goodbye at the end of the course. All of us learnt a lot about ourselves and other people.

Mary is an amazing lady and has a gift for working with all people. If anyone asks me if it is worthwhile, I will say this, the benefits both in confidence building and a sense of achievement are but only a few reasons to give something like this a go. You do not have to want to become an actor, but you will learn so much from this experience.

I would like to thank all the group for having such a great time, both in lessons and outside. My thanks also go to the staff at the Rutland hotel, and last but not least the staff at St Dunstan's Sheffield who are wonderful people, and put up with hopefully not too many tantrums. And no, there was not a codpiece or pair of tights in sight for those of you who were wondering!

If you lead ...

CARE ASSISTANTS at St Dunstan's Ovingdean have been improving their dancing skills with some help from tutor Margaret Banks. Which is good news for toe-tapping St Dunstaners such as Stan Grimsey who like to take a twirl on the dancefloor.



ST DUNSTANER Maria Pikulski and Lyn Garside cut a birthday cake marking 140 years of Galloway's Society for the Blind in Lancashire. But why are they out in the wilds of Cumbria? All will be revealed next issue.

BEER OF THE MONTH

by Colin Williamson

Paulaner Salvator. 7.9 per cent ABV.

A DARK, TASTY German lager beer which has a delightful toffeeish flavour and possesses a beautiful malty aroma. A lovely amber colour and a creamy head combine to make this one of the nicest beers in the whole of Germany. This style of beer is known as a Double Bock. Paulaner Salvator was first made 350 years ago by Paulener monks who found it made their period of fasting easier to survive.

VISTA is not on the horizon yet for blind computer users

By Ray Hazan

WE WERE PLEASED to welcome 12 attendees to the Computer Club on 28 February-1 March for what appeared to be a thin programme on paper. However, there was hardly time to draw breath over the two days that followed as questions and demonstrations came thick and fast!

St Dunstan's is very lucky to have both Brad Crawshaw amongst its consultants and Michael Crawford amongst its employees. Both possess a wide knowledge of technological matters and, above all, understand it from the blind perspective.

They were able to field all that was thrown at them. Many questions concerned the new Microsoft operating system, called VISTA, that, one day, will replace XP. But both recommended holding off a while until the programme has been more fully tested.

One major fact learnt was that the installation of a router, the link between the telephone socket and your computer, rendered the computer invisible to anyone with less than innocent intentions on the web. Routers cost around £50 to £60 and are relatively easy to install. It has a built-in firewall to inhibit hackers. A less important fact was the meaning of the abbreviation MTBF – mean time before failure! Why can't they say "life expectancy"?

On day two, we were grateful to Harry Beevers and the IT team who showed us to be lacking in many computer related facts in a general knowledge quiz!

We were grateful to Roger Williams and Eric Powell who demonstrated their GPS systems. These are small devices, carried on your person or in the car, to tell you where you are! The two devices have spoken instructions telling you which way to turn, etc, once they have been

programmed, but this needs sight. They are very accurate to within a short distance and have many other facilities. They cost between £200 and £400. The models destined specifically for visually handicapped people inevitably cost more!

As always, a highlight of the gathering is the buffet supper; the enjoyment of the food goes without saying, thanks to PBK. It is the company, the chatter, jokes and comradeship which make the evening.

The next meeting takes place at Ovingdean on 10-11 October and we trust there will be no latecomers this time!

Those interested in second-hand items, such as audio books, IT equipment and much more, should look at the 'recycle-it' mailing list. To join, send an email to recycle-it-request@freelists.org and write the word "subscribe" (without the quotation marks) in the subject line.

Does absence make the heart grow fonder?

By Ray Hazan (G0PQQ)

UNFORTUNATELY, FEWER people were able to respond to the 'all stations' call for 2-9 March due to illness. We send warmest best wishes to Beryl John, Thelma Tetley, Jane Taylor and Claire Peart. It was the first meeting of St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society in 30 years that our Secretary, Ted John (G3SEJ) was unable to attend.

The Chairman of the St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society, Bill Shea (G4AUJ) held an informal meeting on the Saturday morning. The other main news was that the re-location of the radio shack onto the 4th floor was in abeyance for the time being whilst refurbishment plans at Ovingdean were being costed and considered.

A very pleasant lunch was held in the Winter Garden later that same morning and the few members of the Society present were able to thank our constant helpers, Freeman, Hardy and Willis

(alias Freeman, Hoolahan and Wilson). A sad break in tradition was Ted's lack of his 'bum-bum flies' story, which has become a bi-annual event! But never fear, Ted, others stepped in!

We were determined to keep the station on air and this could not have been done without Ted's valuable assistance via the telephone – so he and Beryl were very much there in spirit and voice, if not in body!

Nor could we have managed without the 'woman of the week', Edna McGoff! She played the roles of log-keeper,

key fetcher, tea and coffee organiser and switch operator! We are so grateful to her.

The absence of proper aerials, due to refurbishment work, which included drilling on the shack wall blotting out any sounds at all, meant that Bill, Ray, Darwin and Tom were limited in the number of entries achieved in the log. However, the station, G3STD, was heard!

So please get well everyone, and we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting from 12-19 October, during which time, the postponed AGM will be held.

Award for Mike

GOLFING St Dunstaner Mike Mayo holds an impressive glass trophy awarded to him as Runner-Up Men's Sports Personality of the Year 2006. The award was made by Clydesdale Sports Council on 17 February. "I just hope I have another cracking golf season this year," said Mike in South Lanarkshire.



WELCOME TO ILAS MALVINAS!

In the first of a three-part feature, **Simon Rogers** talks to St Dunstaners who fought a war for freedom on the otherside of the world in 1982



Photograph courtesy of MOD

Argentine troops of the streets of Port Stanley in 1982.

TWENTY-FIVE years ago, a diplomatic row which had rumbled on for some decades escalated into a situation that demanded Britain respond in a fashion unseen since the days of Suez or the Second World War. It resulted in some 30,000 Service men and women deploying on the other side of the world.

The Falklands Conflict remains a controversial time, many issues remain unresolved, but for nine weeks, British forces

demonstrated that they could do the impossible, far removed from the securities of home. James Callaghan would later say that politicians "had taken their eye off the ball". The Armed Forces had to pick it back up! Inevitably, a select group of St Dunstaners were amongst those charged with reclaiming the islands.

The Falkland Islands comprise two main islands, 300 smaller ones, in the churning South Atlantic. Some 400 miles east of

South America, it is home to a population of almost 3,000 people. Some chart the discovery of the Islands from the 1500s, occasionally crediting Ferdinand Magellan with the first sighting. Recent archaeological finds suggest native South Americans visited the islands periodically. Over a century, explorers named them Davis Land, Hawkins' Maidenland, Sebaldes and Malouines. When Captain John Strong became the first Englishman to chart the islands in 1690, he named the after then First Admiral of the Fleet, Viscount Falkland. In 1713, the Treaty of Utrecht confirmed Spain's control of South American territories, including the Islands. However, both Britain and France maintained colonies in the area over the next 100 years despite conflict with Spain.

In 1810, Argentina began to break free of Spanish control and appointed a governor in control of the Islands. In 1829, the US Navy forcibly ejected the Argentineans

declaring the Islands "free of all governments." Four years later, the UK claimed the Islands once more using two warships to round up convicts left behind by the Argentineans.

The strategic value of the Falkland Islands came to light during the First World War. It was the theatre for the second major naval engagement of that time. Admiral Graf von Spee intended to destroy a Royal Navy radio station and coaling depot. Instead he encountered two battle cruisers sent to hunt his squadron down.



The invasion force at large in Port Stanley.



FALKLANDS 25

The Islands remained a British dependency. However, this did not sit well in Argentina and, in 1965, the United Nations General Assembly began to debate the issue of sovereignty and the future of the Islands. Following a brief incursion by Peronist commandos in 1966, Labour Foreign Secretary George Brown started talks with Argentina, stating that Britain was prepared to surrender sovereignty if the islanders way of life and rights were guaranteed.

This wasn't a position that sat well with the Islanders themselves. Lord Chalfont failed to convince them of any advantage to agreement with Argentina. Prime Minister Edward Heath withdrew the question of sovereignty from negotiation. Indeed, the Argentinean government broach the subject as a negotiated settlement. However, the return of a Peronist government in 1973 returned the question of sovereignty to the fore.

An Argentine landing on Morrell and naval manoeuvres prompted Prime Minister James Callaghan to send two



frigates and a submarine to the area in 1977. Again tensions settled. Come 1980, Nicholas Ridley suggested a 'lease back' agreement to the Islanders, an option which failed to appease their concerns. The following year it was confirmed that HMS *Endurance* would be withdrawn and the British Antarctic Survey announced the closure of Grytviken base on South Georgia.

Six months after, General Leopoldo Galtieri took the office of President of Argentina in a coup. Within a fortnight, an Argentine scrap metal merchant Constantino Davidoff had landed at South Georgia. The British Ambassador to Argentina

lodged a formal complaint on 9 January 1982, though by the 24th, Argentine newspapers were openly discussing plans to retake the Falkland Islands.

February opened with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher writing in a private letter that she regarded the Royal Marine presence in Port Stanley as sufficient to prevent an invasion. Protests about the unauthorised landing were renewed, while in the background, Deputy Foreign Minister Richard Luce began discussions with his Argentine counterpart in New York. On 1 March, they issued a joint statement on the "cordial and positive spirit" of the meetings. However, the next day, the

Argentine Foreign Minister dismisses this statement adding that they reserve the right to "employ other means" if Britain refuses to cede sovereignty.

The scrap metal merchants began to dismantle the Leith whaling station at South Georgia without asking permission to land from the British Antarctic Survey. Having landed they raised an Argentine flag. Royal Marines from Stanley set out to remove them but their orders were rescinded. In the northern hemisphere, Terry Bullingham was a Chief Petty Officer serving on the flight deck of HMS *Antrim*. The ship had been taking part in Exercise Spring Train which concluded that March. "We'd come into Gibraltar and I remember we went on HMS *Sheffield* Flight Deck to drag their lot out and entertain them ashore. I remember HMS *Coventry* was there," said Terry. "Then we all went to sea again and we had Admiral Woodward with us. There was this talk about the scrap metal men on South Georgia and we hadn't noticed when we were in Gibraltar that HMS *Spartan*, a nuclear submarine had left port before all the other ships put

to sea. Obviously she had already gone down there sneaky beaky."

With economic turmoil and civil unrest in Argentina, the ruling Junta brought forward plans to invade the Islands on 2 April. Diplomatic options receded, despite intervention from US Secretary of State Alexander Haig. The Argentine fleet was at sea and heading towards the Islands.

The Ministry of Defence had advised against a military response to the situation. However, Chief of Navy Staff and future Chairman of St Dunstan's Admiral Sir Henry Leach advised Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that Britain should mount a task force to retake the islands if they were invaded.

At a seminar some years later, he said: "The atmosphere in the Prime Minister's room was pretty laden. There was an extremity of uncertainty, of doubt and what the hell are we going to do and how do we do it and so forth. I was absolutely clear what I wanted to get done, and that was I wanted authority to assemble – not yet to sail, but to assemble – a taskforce, because it takes time.

"The question of deterrence came up. I said that on the basis of the intelligence summary I had just seen, it did look as if there was nothing we could do in time and certainly the garrison in the Falklands, with or without the backing of *Endurance* would not be sufficient to stave off an invasion. Therefore the Falklands would be invaded and they would be captured, and therefore if we were to do anything about it at all we would be faced with the prospect of recapturing them at, inevitably, some later date."

Asked how long it would take to assemble a taskforce, Sir Henry said 48 hours. "She followed with a really remarkable questions: she said, 'And how long will it take them to get down there?' And I said 'Three weeks'. And she said, 'Three weeks? You mean three days!' I said, 'No, it is 8,000 miles' and I don't think she had any appreciation of how far off it was and hence how far away from any form of base, and this was a matter of some significance."

The Prime Minister was not alone in that perception. Sean Allman,



Sean Allman as he is today.

-serving as an engineer on HMS *Hermes*, met the news with bemusement. "The Falklands? That's in Scotland isn't? What are the Argentineans doing up Scotland?," he said. "We didn't know where the Falklands were." That was soon to change!

Come 1 April, invasion seemed inevitable. Sir Henry gave orders for ships in the Mediterranean to prepare to sail south. Terry Bullingham on the *Antrim* found the pace stepping up. "We paired up with HMS *Ariadne* and we stripped all the war stores out of her, the live torpedoes, the live rounds, it was becoming serious because you don't normally deal with live stuff. "Half the ship's go back to the UK and we carried on south."



Terry Bullingham was onboard HMS *Antrim*.



Marine Steve Sparkes passed out as a King's Badgeman

As midnight struck, the Argentineans launched Operation Rosario, bringing ships into position of the Islands. Governor Rex Hunt declared a state of emergency and within two hours, Royal Marines engaged the invading force in battle. Surrender was given by 9:15 am, though Marines on South Georgia launched a further attack in the afternoon before surrendering at 14:30pm.

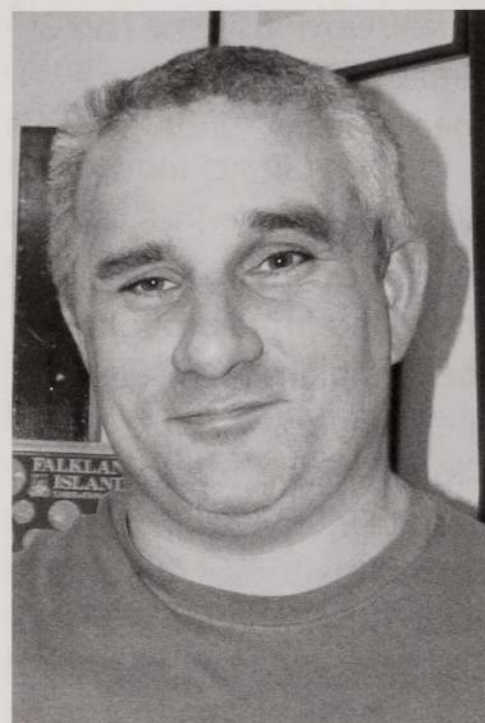
In Britain, Argentine diplomats were ordered out of the country and the Bank of England froze Argentinean assets held in the country. Members of Parliament were recalled for the first Saturday sitting

of the House of Commons since the Suez Crisis.

Recall also loomed for Steve Sparkes, a King's Badgeman in the Royal Marines. Not long a Lance Corporal, he was on leave when his Mother mused that he would be recalled. "I was doing a job for a friend, on top of a ladder, painting, and a military land rover turned up and this MP walked round asking if I was Steve Sparkes. With that he asked me to accompany him but he wouldn't tell me nothing. I got carted off to Bickleigh 42 Commando and when we got in the van he said we'd have to recall the unit. Because I was Lance Corporal and the closest one to the camp, about 16 miles, I had to go and put into place a recall system.

"I spent the next 24 hours calling police stations and allsorts, getting all the lads back. Basically we got everyone back in 48 hours."

Royal Marine Alan 'Reg' Perrin, then 17 years old, initially thought it was an elaborate joke when a police woman told him he had been recalled. "Of course, your first reaction is 'Yeah sure, the boy's have worked



Reg Perrin as he is today.

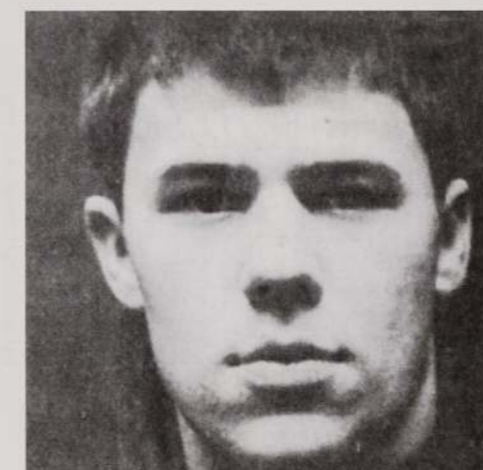
hard on this one, she even looks convincing' but within 20 minutes I was packed and gone," he said. "I packed my suitcase and was on my little motorbike on the way to the station. When we got to the unit it was so rushed, it was 'you get that kit, you get that kit and so on'.

Another 17-year-old, Alan Holderness had joined the Marines straight from school and was serving with 40 Commando. "We had been at Alucard doing an exercise, live firing, that weekend it all started with the scrap metal guys on South Georgia. I had another mate who lived in Darwen and because we lived so close, we'd managed to get ourselves a

long weekend. So instead of going back with transport, we'd arranged with the Colour Sergeant off the record to stay in our house. So my mum came over with dad and picked us up and dropped us off.

"Friday night I'd had a few beers and I got up and had a shower and the phone goes. My mum said 'It's Colour Sergeant McDonald on the phone for you.' According to her I was on the phone stood to attention with a pair of slippers and a towel wrapped round my waist, dripping with water. She said, 'All you was saying was 'Yes Colours, Yes Colours, Yes Colours.' When I put the phone down it were, you've been recalled, you've got to make your way back, you have got to get down there.

"They told us to get to a police station where they could issue a travel warrant and get to the rail station. And we got a police car down to the station at Preston to get us back. Then it was usual military – hurry up and wait – nothing happened when we got back. Kit was pretty much ready because we had just been on exercise so we were waiting for the order to go."



Alan Holderness shortly before leaving for the Falklands on the Canberra.

An air of uncertainty was also apparent to Catherine Higgins, widow of St Dunstaner Tom Higgins who was serving with the Royal Marines on board the frigate HMS *Minerva*.

"When he came home he told me he didn't think he'd be back long because something big was coming off," said Catherine. "It was scary because we just didn't know what was going to happen. I just felt sort of numb, it's the unknown isn't it.

"Tom would have liked to have gone out with the lads on the *Canberra*. I know he would have loved that, but he had been serving on the HMS *Minerva* and the Captain wanted a detachment of Marines that he knew. He didn't want anyone new."

While the Marines were on standby, preparations were afoot in other quarters. Sean Allman on HMS *Hermes* was working round the clock with fellow crewmen. Scaffolding mounted for a refit was dismantled almost as quickly as it had gone up.

"I remember we were getting ready to go off to Australia on some big exercise. I was looking forward to going to Australia, but everyone was called back. It was a good time, there was a good spirit. The ship was empty, we had to get provisions on board and the dock workers came back. Everyone was helping and it reminded you of what a good place Britain could be," said Sean. "It was great, everyone worked 24-hours none-stop getting the ship ready for sea again. Everyone rushing off every five minutes to say goodbye to mum and dad or whoever."

Hermes and *Invincible*, which included late St Dunstaners Chief Petty Officer Stephen "Jimmy" Riddall and Jonathan Rhea amongst the crew, sailed from Portsmouth on 5 April. On the political front, the United Nations condemned the invasion while Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington

resigned, replaced by Francis Pym. Canberra arrived in Southampton and after a quick refit embarked with 40 and 42 Commando RM and 3 Para onboard.

Further south, Terry Bullingham recalls that Admiral Woodward transferred to HMS *Glamorgan* as his flagship. "So we lose the Admiral but we go with HMS *Plymouth* and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary types and we are the first ones at Ascension." The Antrim group arrived on 10 April. "It's all very nice and tropical, you look into the water and it is like looking into a fish tank. It's clear and you can see the sand and it's this big volcanic rock. Then the SBS and SAS come from somewhere in Africa."

Meanwhile, in the engine rooms of the *Hermes*, Sean Allman was celebrating his 18th birthday. "I was able to drink legally for the first time!" he exclaimed. This was 12 April, the same day that Britain declared a 200-mile exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands.

Terry and his mates were on the move again, leaving Ascension on 14 April. "We had stocked up with

stuff and we get rid of our land rover and carry on down with HMS *Plymouth* escorting us. And there's this business about South Georgia which has got to be retaken. So we gather together with HMS *Brilliant* and the *Engadine* which is already down there and we send across potatoes and eggs and things because they had no proper food - and beer - and we all get ready to go and sort this South Georgia out.

"But there's this submarine - they were cheating! They've got this submarine, the *Santa Fe*, an ex-US navy guppy, about 1940. The fact that they've got these submarines kept us all pinned down."

Hermes and *Invincible* arrived at Ascension on 18 April, followed two days later by *Canberra*, carrying Steve Sparkes, Reg Perrin and Alan Holderness amongst the Marines onboard. On the same day, the Prime Minister gave orders for South Georgia to be retaken in what was dubbed "Operation Paraquet".

The Antrim Group had reached South Georgia. "It's breathtaking," said Terry. "It's like the Alps rising out of the

see, even from 20-30 miles away. There's snow, little icebergs dropping in, just as you might imagine it.

"The SAS were going to be put down on the Fortuna Glacier and they were going to march down into Grytvik where the Argie Marines were and retake it," added Terry. "We put them ashore with our helicopter. We had our anti-submarine Wessex 3 and two Wessex 5's. Two hours later we get a weak signal saying 'Get us out of here' because they were pinned down in white out conditions. They didn't get to march down to Grytvik. So in go the two Wessex 5's to get them out - and they crash! Can't see, got no radar, and they crash into the snow.

"So the only thing to get them out is our Wessex 3, and I will never forget this, it had radar, it had sophisticated navigation and it's flight control was this anti-submarine one. The boss took it in and picked up 17 wounded and came straight back to the ship. It was snowing and he came straight in sideways onto the deck. No piddling around, straight down. It was like one of those shots for the

original minis where they are all getting out. So there are 17 of these SAS getting out and some of these guys had already crashed twice."

The SBS were similarly scuppered by the failure of outboard motors. By chance, the boats caught on a pebble shoal. "It drifted, if it hadn't, it would have been 3,000 miles to Cape Town," commented Terry.

On 22 April, British civilians were advised to leave Argentina, the same day Galtieri visited the Falkland Islands. The next day, the British Government warned Argentina that any military or civilian ship that posed a threat to the task force would be destroyed.

The assault on South Georgia finally came on 24 April. "We went in on a Sunday morning," said Terry. "Our Wessex helicopter, known as *Humphrey*, the oldest aircraft in the Falklands Conflict, 1962, was loaded up with depth charges. It was getting serious. It was about half past eight and one sweep of the radar and our observer has spotted the submarine so he depth charges it. But of course, since the



Photograph courtesy of BBC

the White Ensign flies with the Union Jack in Grytvik.

submarine commander had been trained by the Royal Navy he realises that if he stays on the surface he can't be depth charged."

It still had an effect. *Humphrey* and a *Lynx* from the *Brilliant* followed through with machine gun fire crippling the submarine, which was the *Santa Fe*. Terry recalled seeing one submariner who had lost a leg when the torpedoes had fallen on him. "It was getting serious now because people were getting hurt now. He came back to our doctor."

Taking the Islands proved a quick affair. "The Argie Marines were camped out on the beach, so we just put the helicopters behind them," said Terry. "The chap there, Captain Astiz, a particularly nice character - one of the things he had on his CV was torturing French

Nuns - came to us. We had to put him in our doctor's cabin with an armed Royal Marine on the door. He was a horrible piece of work.

"It was five o'clock when the signal went up from our Captain, Brian Young, 'Be pleased to inform Her Majesty that the White Ensign flies alongside the Union Jack in Grytvik, South Georgia.'"

Terry recalled 200 Argentinean Marines being placed on RFA *Tidespring* to be taken back to Ascension. "They looked just like us. We went ashore at Grytvik, which was Shackleton's place. There's a whaling station and all these horrible harpoon heads have been piled up. We left it in 1962, but what they were going for was a small dockyard."

Antrim left South Georgia on 28 April, leaving HMS *Endurance* on patrol. Back in Ascension, HM Hospital Ship *Uganda* prepared to depart with the QANNS's *Edith Curson* onboard.

As April closed, Britain declared a total exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands.

Continued next month.

Where are you Joseph Poole?

Harry Beevers stepped up to bat for his brother

ENGLAND'S EARLY exit from the last Cricket World Cup competition and the latest 5-0 whitewash in the recent Ashes series has reminded me of an incident which took place over fifty years ago, an incident which with a really hefty stretch of the imagination might conceivably be connected with St Dunstan's in 2000.

It started one tea-time when my younger brother aged 12 came home from school with what my mother called "A face as long as a fiddle". Our mother was no poet but the simile was a good one and fully and accurately described the look of woe, distress, misery, disappointment and unhappiness on his face. This was unusual as he was a very bright boy, enjoyed school and was rather good both academically and on the sporting front. A few searching questions explained what he believed his predicament to be, it was all about his homework. Being inclined towards the science subjects rather

than the Arts, his English project for the evening was worrying him. "We have to compose a poem", he said, "it's for the School Magazine and I haven't a clue where to start". I was fifteen years older than my brother (and for that matter I still am) and being unemployed at the time having become severely ocularly challenged, for the want of something to do I offered to help. I know that for many people the question of helping their children or younger siblings with school homework causes them some misgivings but I have always held the view that a little help in that direction does far more good than harm. "I will try to write a poem" I said and though he looked somewhat doubtful regarding my poetic ability he half-grudgingly and half-eagerly accepted my offer. Not that he really expected much however, he explained that his English Master was a bit of a Tartar and it was unlikely that anything short of a Shakespearian sonnet would be acceptable. Let me make it quite clear at this

point that even as I accepted the challenge I had no real pretensions of becoming a second Shelly or Keats. What I felt I could do would be to string together some interesting rhymes and tell a humorous little tale. To cut a long story short, I wrote the poem (or more correctly the doggerel verse), my brother submitted it the following morning and by the end of the week received the news that not only had he been told to read out "his" effort to the rest of his class but also that it would definitely be included in the School Magazine. It was, and underneath the article it read, "By C.E. Beevers, Form 2 Alpha. I cannot remember my very embarrassed brother's exact words when the whole episode was over but it was something like, "Thanks brother, I owe you one".

It was in the year 2000 that my brother, by now a Professor of Mathematics at the Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh did me rather a good turn. It was during one of our weekly telephone

conversations that he informed me that as I was blind and had served in the army I was eligible to apply for membership of St Dunstan's. Now that was a really good turn.

I give below my effort with two comments. First of all it proves beyond any doubt that I was neither a Shelley nor a Keats. Secondly it means that there is still a glimmer of hope for English cricket. Somewhere out there is Joseph Poole. If we can find him and get him match-fit, Shane Warne's bowling records could still be eclipsed.

England's Hope

The brightest boy at Highfield School was small and puny Joseph Poole,

He studied Maths from morn till night and always got his mental right.

He'd spend vacations up at Lytham solving graph and logarithm

If twelve men dug two deep canals he'd work it out with decimals

And though no good at French or Art at Algebra was very smart.

He'd add, divide and multiply to find the square of x plus y,

And when it came to holidays he really loved his take-aways.

He'd spend six hours on long equation sharpening his education..

At 12 he'd done the syllabus, a proper little genius.

The time then came for Joseph Poole to choose a job on leaving school,

Hard it was for him to pick it and then he said, "I'll take up cricket".

All his friends in consternation thought it waste of education

But Joe ignoring cries of "Shame" set out to learn his chosen game,

And working to a rigid plan soon made the grade as sixteenth man.

But little chance there seemed to be of playing for the M.C.C.

Then one July his dream came true, the bowlers all struck down with 'flu

"Young Joseph Poole", the paper reads, "will play in Yorkshire's match at Leeds".

For Joe it was a happy day, his chance to bowl at Peter May.

The captain said "Now come

on Joe, take off your cap and have a go".

So using his Arithmetic Joe gave the ball a mighty flick

That sent the ball to deep square leg then broke and hit the middle peg.

The next one aimed at cover point put all the wickets out of joint.

A hat-trick now was Joseph's plan as in came Surrey's finest man.

The crowd looked on with bated breath the batsman watched half scared to death

As Joseph did a calculation then bowled 'mid cries of acclamation.

The ball swerved left and then to right towards the bails in winged flight

Then from the crowd a fearful shout, the England skipper May was out.

Shock after shock for after this just hear young Joe's analysis,

He took ten wickets for one run, the match was over, Yorkshire won.

Then came Joseph's great decision he'd join the U.S. lunar mission

No longer one of Yorkshire's stars, he aims to be the first to Mars.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

Andrew Adamson of Blyth, Northumberland served in Royal Army Service Corps between 1946 and 1948.

John Andrews of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk served in the Royal Navy in the Far East from 1943 to 1946.

Reginald Argyle of Whyteleafe, Surrey served in the Royal Hampshire Regiment from 1938 to 1958, then the Queen's Royal Regiment from 1962 to 1965.

Joyce Burtenshaw of Portslade, East Sussex served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1942.

William Butcher of Croydon, Surrey who served in the Royal Horse Artillery from 1932 to 1946.

Ernest Cooper of Hackney, London served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

Dorothy Cottell of Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley, Lancashire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Francis Cross of Barton, Preston, Lancashire served

in the Merchant Navy from 1942 to 1950.

Kenneth Davenport of Birmingham, West Midlands served in the Middlesex Regiment from 1954 to 1957.

Alex Donnelly of Talybont, Gwynedd served in the Royal Naval Reserve from 2004 to 2006.

Francis Eddy of Penzance, Cornwall served as Corporal in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1949.

Edwin Elliott of Romford, Essex served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Christopher Gallagher of West Derby, Liverpool served in the Royal Corps of Transport from 1979 to 1987.

Geoffrey George of Brierfield, Nelson, Lancashire served as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers from 1951 to 1956.

Trevor Giles of Bassett, Southampton, Hampshire served in the Royal artillery from 1941 to 1947.

Eric Gilmore of Doncaster,

South Yorkshire served as Chief Technician in the Royal Air Force from 1961 to 1985.

Alan Gresswell of Cirencester, Gloucestershire served in France and India in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1942 to 1947.

Arthur Harman of Brighton served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

Herbert Hayes of Longridge, Preston, Lancashire served in Europe with the Royal Artillery from 1934 to 1946.

Arthur Head of Orpington, Kent served in the General Service Corps and then the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1942 to 1947.

Eric Heath of Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Graham Henley of Hayes, Middlesex served in the Royal Welch Fusiliers from 1972 to 1978.

William Heron of Yateley, Hampshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1950.

Ronald Hill of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire served in the General Service Corps and Royal Armoured Corps between 1944 and 1948.

Howard Hollingworth of Storrington, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Eileen Hose of Cleethorpes, South Humberside served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1943.

Thomas Hurley of Loughton, Essex served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

Robert Illingworth of Eaton, Norwich, Norfolk served as Flight Sergeant in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1948.

Gerald Kaye of Littlehampton, West Sussex served in France in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1940.

Robert King of Littleover, Derby, Derbyshire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1961 and 1970.

Sydney King of Felixstowe, Suffolk served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1945 to 1948.

Tudor Lewis of Halesowen, West Midlands served in the Royal Navy in 1941.

Peter Lillywhite of Ipswich, Suffolk served in the Royal Engineers from 1952 to 1954.

John Long of West Ham, Pevensey, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Doreen Lowery of Adwick-le-Street, Doncaster, South Yorkshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1946 to 1947.

Cecily Lulham of Rustington, Littlehampton, West Sussex served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

Norman McKean of Seaford, East Sussex served in the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment from 1939 to 1940.

David Meek of Sarn, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1952 to 1954 and then transferred to the Royal Artillery from 1954 until 1958.

James Moody of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1948.

Dennis Moore of King's Heath Birmingham served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

Edgar Moss of Southport, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Dennis Murphy of Orpington, Kent served in the Royal Engineers from 1949 to 1954.

Raymond Neale of Downham Market, Norfolk served in the Royal Artillery from 1952 to 1958.

Edward Newman of Thrapston, Northamptonshire served in the Lancashire Fusiliers and the South Lancashire Regiment between 1937 and 1948.

Leslie Northfield of Norwich, Norfolk served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1945.

Derek Oakley of Bognor Regis, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force, General Service Corps, Royal Fusiliers and Royal Army Educational Corps between 1945 and 1948.

Ronald Palmer of Market Harborough, Leicestershire served in the Royal Marines from 1942 to 1947.

Geoffrey Parsons of North Bradley, Trowbridge, Wiltshire served in the Royal Corps of Signals from 1937 to 1948, leaving as Major.

Ronald Proctor of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex served as Private in the Suffolk Regiment from 1941 to 1946.

Irene Quested of Leicester, Leicestershire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Kenneth Reeves of Sandgate, nr Folkestone, Kent served in the Royal Artillery from 1948 to 1951.

Philip Rogers of Westbury, Wiltshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

Ernest Severn of Doncaster, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1939 to 1946.

Alan Sharp of Matson, Gloucester, Gloucestershire served in the Gloucestershire Regiment from 1976 to 1977.

Kenneth Sills of Winterringham, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1937 to 1949 and then with the Royal Artillery from 1952 to 1958.

William Stephen of Stourbridge, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946 and was a prisoner of war.

Fred Stevenson of Moreton, Wirral, Cheshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Alan Summerbell of Bexleyheath, Kent served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Edward Taylor of Ipswich Suffolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1960 to 1965.

Norman Taylor of Billingshurst, West Sussex served in the Rifle Brigade and Reconnaissance Corps between in 1940 and 1946. He was a prisoner of war.

Jessie Tearle of Rushden, Northamptonshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

Frederick Thomas of Swindon, Wiltshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1932 to 1946 and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1952 to 1956.

William Tomson of Crawley, West Sussex served in the Hampshire Regiment from 1936 to 1946.

Stanley Towner of Purley, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

George Turner of Mold, Flintshire, served in the General Service Corps and King's Regiment (Liverpool) between 1946 and 1947.

William Waistell of Slapton, Kingsbridge, Devon served in the Durham Light Infantry from 1937, leaving as Major in 1958.

Zena Wegh of Southport, Lancashire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

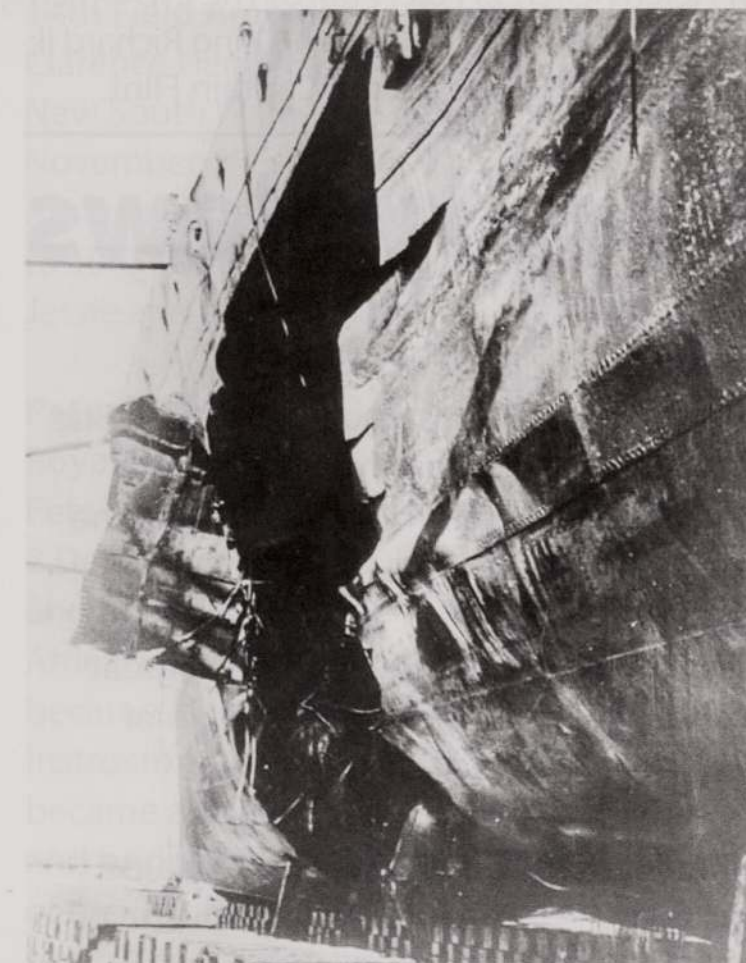
Terence Williamson of Hertford, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1954.

Wartime miracle of wounded convoy ship that did not sink



THE EXPERIENCE of a St Dunstaner underlines how tragedy and triumph often go hand-in-hand for Service men and women during wartime. Bernard Delph, who passed away recently, served on a ship that suffered a fatal strike but defied the odds.

Royal Marine Bandsman Bernard was serving on HMS *Arethusa*, a light cruiser of 5,220 tons with added armament. In November 1942 it set sail from Alexandria as part of Operation Stoneage, escorting a convoy of merchant ships to Malta. On 18 November, some 450 miles from port, it was attacked by three low-flying aircraft. The second aircraft launched a torpedo which hit the ship as it turned to starboard. The explosion blew a hole 53 ft long by 35 ft high in the side (pictured above, at sea and in dry-dock). It also blasted through four decks with fuel spraying over the outside of the ship and inside up through the bridge structure. Severe fires started immediately. The blazes raged for around ten hours before they could be brought under control in



the early hours of the morning. The attack claimed 156 lives amongst the 500 strong crew. Of 14 Bandsmen on board, only Bernard and two others survived. Moving back to Alexandria at 12 knots, the structure started to buckle and the engine began to overheat. The *Arethusa* was taken under tow as further air attacks were attempted but driven off.

However, despite expectations that the ship would sink, the surviving crew got the ship back to port. Their objective to get the merchant ships into Malta was achieved, ending a siege of around two years.

Bernard Delph is remembered on page 36

POETS' CORNER

MORNING MIST

by Ned Larkin

When you need me I shall be there,
For I am the sunrise that glistens on the morning dew,
I am the blackbird's song awakening the day anew,
I am the wind that rustles the autumn leaves,
For I am in all that your heart foresees.
I am the stars that shine in the evening sky,
I am the call of the swifts flying high,
I am the cobweb mist that clings to the face,
I am the spider's web of gossamer lace,
I am the quiet drone of the honey bees,
For I am in all that your heart foresees.
As you travel along life's bright stream
I shall always be there, not part of a dream.

Ten Answers

Answers to quiz on page 13.

1) The Mousetrap; 2) Alan Bennett; 3) Elvis Presley; 4) Nell Gwynne; 5) George III; 6) Helen Keller; 7) *Peter Pan*; 8) The asp which bites and poisons Cleopatra; 9) King Richard II; and finally, 10) The parrot, Captain Flint.

Family News

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Holly Shannon Carnson on 19 January. She is the great-granddaughter of Marjorie Humphrey of Eyreton Lea, Crosby and the late Joe Humphrey.

Lilia on 10 February. She is the fifth great-grandchild of Eric and Doreen Lewis of Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

Albert Barnaby on 13 March in Adelaide, Australia. He is the first great-grandson of John and Audrey Perfect of Devon.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Dr Giles Hazan who married Gemma Lawson on 17 February at St George's Church, Kempton, Brighton. Giles is the son of Raymond Hazan of London.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Paul and Phyllis Walker of Lewes, East Sussex on 24 February.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Colin and Shirley Frampton of Winchester, Hampshire on 2 March.

Terry and Patricia Walker of Lovedean, Portsmouth, Hampshire on 9 March.

Milly and Ernie Birks of Toftwood, Dereham, Norfolk on 16 March.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

John and Marjorie Vincent of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 16 February.

Charles and Peggy Blockley of Sileby, Leicestershire who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 19 February.

Robert and Dee Chandler of Seaford, East Sussex who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 26 February.

Robert and Bertha Webb of Saltdean, Brighton who celebrated 69 years of marriage on 26 February.

Samuel and Kitty Wrest of Barnsley, South Yorkshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 28 February.

John and Millie Boagey of Durham, County Durham who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 2 March.

Henry and Sybil Gerard of Woodbridge, Suffolk who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 2 March.

Kenneth and Eileen Seaman of Winton, Eccles, Manchester who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 3 March.

Max and Joan Ash of Sidmouth, Devon who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 4 March.

Jim and Valerie Lile of Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot, Devon who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 7 March.

Joseph and Lilian Pecket of Gorton, Greater Manchester who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 14 March.

Cyril and Betty Edwards of Nuneaton, Warwickshire who celebrated 64 years of marriage on 15 March.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Barrister Andrew Perfect who was called to the bar at London's Inner Temple on 8 March. He is the grandson of John and Audrey Perfect of Devon.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Joan Holmes on 3 March. She was the wife of Edwin Holmes of Dereham, Norfolk.

Lillian Pearson of Barry Island South Wales on 9 February. She was the widow of Royal Navy St Dunstaner Robert Pearson.

Beti Chappell of Saltdean, Brighton. She was the widow of Jack Chappell.

Susan Milne of Beeston, Nottingham on 15 February. She was the widow of Alan Milne.

Mary Redwood of Nottage, Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan on 2 March. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Arthur Redwood.

Iris Miller of Southam, Warwickshire on 4 March. She was the widow of handless St Dunstaner Ted Miller.

Claire Bowyer of Bolton, Lancashire on 12 March. She was the widow of Richard Bowyer.

In Memory

Clarence Fewings

14th Field Ambulance, Australian Army

Clarence Henry Fewings of Orange, New South Wales, Australia died on 23 November. He served in the 14th Field Ambulance, Australian Army from 1941 to 1945. Our sympathy goes to his widow Jessie and all members of the family.

Peter Deavin

Royal Engineers

Peter Deavin of Norwich, Norfolk died on 2 December, aged 89. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1939 and was posted to North Africa. He was commissioned in 1940 and became a junior staff officer and OCTU Instructor. Discharged as Major in 1946, he became a civil engineer, building bypasses and bridges. He was later elected President of the Institute of Highway Engineers. Our sympathy goes to his widow Phyllis and all members of the family.

Terrence Holloway

Australian Imperial Force

Terrence Austin Holloway of Launceston, Tasmania, Australia died on 24 December, aged 83. He was a carpenter before joining the 2/43rd Infantry Battalion, Australian Imperial Force in 1941. As part of the 9th Division he fought at Tobruk, Palestine, Syria and El Alamein. They returned to Australia in 1943 for jungle training before moving out to Lae, Nadzac, Finchaven, Morotai and Labuan. During a protracted battle on the west coast of Borneo in June 1945 he was wounded in both eyes by a sniper's bullet. His interests included gardening, and he

won prizes at the Launceston Show for his pottery, doormats and sea-grass stools. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Ronald Solomons

2/3 Port Operating Company

Ronald Mervyn Solomons of New South Wales, Australia died on 1 February, aged 91. He was a wool classer, overseeing shearing operations, before joining 2/3 Port Operating Company in 1942. He was discharged in 1946 and was a member of the New South Wales Blind Soldiers Association. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Kay and all of the family.

Ernest Goodwin

Royal Air Force

Ernest William Goodwin of Alverstoke, Gosport, Hampshire died on 10 February, aged 96. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1943 and was posted overseas. He joined a mobile repair unit supporting the 8th Army and as a specialist carpenter worked on aircraft and gliders. Discharged in 1946, he returned to his job as a butcher, working for Dewhurst in Ealing for 25 years. He stayed with the company when he moved to Fareham and continued to work for them until he was 80. His interests included dancing and gardening and he was an active member of the Royal British Legion. Our sympathy goes to his niece Fay and all other members of the family.

William Bone

King's Royal Rifle Corps

William Joseph Bone of Bethnal Green, London died on 13 February, aged 88. He was an apprentice plumber before joining the Rifle Brigade in 1942. Training at their Winchester Depot, he transferred to the

King's Royal Rifle Corps and fought with 8th Armoured Brigade. On D-Day, he landed on Gold Beach and fought through France. However, at Arnhem he was wounded by shrapnel near Hanover. Proud that his company commander was Lord Deedes, he was released to the reserve in 1946. In civilian life, he resumed work as a plumber. Our sympathy goes to his son Terrance and all members of the family.

Alfred Chadwell

Fleet Air Arm

Alfred Chadwell of Blackburn, Lancashire died on 13 February, aged 93. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and, after training, deployed to North Africa as a radar mechanic installing and maintaining systems on the Fleet Air Arm's Swordfish and Walrus aircraft. After two-and-a-half years he returned to the UK as an instructor and met his three-year-old daughter for the first time. He left the service as Petty Officer in 1945 and became a radio mechanic, setting up his own workshop at home. He was also a member of the Leyland Society of Model Engineers for nearly 30 years. The group operates miniature railway trains at Worden Park. Our sympathy goes to his son Roger and all members of the family.

Bernard Delph

Royal Marines

Bernard Danvers Delph of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria died on 15 February, aged 83. He joined the Royal Marines Band Service straight from school in 1937. He played flute, piccolo and saxophone. After training at RM Deal, he joined HMS *Arethusa*, serving in the Atlantic. The ship was part of a convoy escorting merchant ships to Malta in November 1942 when it was torpedoed

by a low-flying aircraft some 450 miles from port. The explosion and fire claimed 156 lives but the surviving crew got the ship back to Alexandria. The arrival of the merchant ships marked the end of the siege of Malta. He later served at HMS *Daedalus*, *Assegai* and onboard HMS *Mauritius* during the Battle of Anzio. After WWII, he served on aircraft carrier HMS *Theseus* and on HMS *Belfast* during the Korean War. Discharged in 1953, he worked in his father's ironmonger's shop, and later took over the business. He enjoyed golf and stamp collecting. Our sympathy goes to his widow Maureen, son Simon, daughter Lindsey and all the family.

Ted Atkins

Royal Army Medical Corps

Edward Arthur Atkins of Hove, East Sussex died on 19 February, aged 91. He joined the Territorial Army in 1938 and was mobilised as part of the Royal Army Medical Corps the following year. Posted to France, he became a medical orderly in the forward casualty clearing station. In April 1940, the clearing station was attacked from the air and the bomb blast damaged his hearing. He was taken prisoner along with 300 patients and transferred to a camp in Germany. He continued to work as a medical orderly in the camp hospital until being freed in 1943. Discharged in 1945, his ambitions to continue as a male nurse were thwarted by his loss of hearing. Instead, he set up a florist shop with his sister. Our sympathy goes to his niece Alison and all of the family.

John Hunter

Royal Navy

John Kerr Hunter of Hucclecote, Gloucester, Gloucestershire died on 21 February, aged 83. He had completed an apprenticeship

as a joiner before enlisting with the Royal Navy in 1942. Training at HMS *Raleigh*, he was posted to HMS *Pembroke* in Bombay and later Calcutta. He also served on HMS *Cyclops*, which acted as a depot ship for a quartet of submarines in the Mediterranean, and then HMS *Lanka* in Ceylon. He was discharged in 1946 and resumed work as a carpenter, but was recalled in 1952. This time he served on HMS *Merlin* and RNAS Donibristle in Scotland. He was discharged in 1954, initially remaining a carpenter but later joining the Prison Service. Our sympathy goes to his widow Helen, son Ian, daughter Julie and all of the family.

Geoffrey Lutman

Royal Artillery

Geoffrey Lutman of Tottenham, London died on 21 February, aged 91. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 and trained in radar before being posted to an ack-ack unit. He later deployed to India and then Burma in support of the Chindits. He was discharged in 1946 and resumed work as a printer producing colour magazines. He enjoyed sport broadcasts, particularly football and snooker. Our sympathy goes to his son Graham and all members of the family.

Charles McConaghy, QPM

Royal Ulster Constabulary

Charles McConaghy, QPM of Belfast, County Antrim died on 24 February, aged 79. He joined the Royal Ulster Constabulary in 1950 and spent 25 years as a Constable policing a divided community, often receiving threats to his own life. On 7 November 1974, he accompanied soldiers from the Royal Hussars and RAOC to an electricity substation at Stewartstown, County Tyrone where there had been an explosion the

previous day. The site had been booby-trapped and he was blinded when the device detonated. He also suffered injuries to his hand and damage to his hearing. This second explosion also killed Staff Sergeants Charles Simpson and Vernon Rose. He was awarded the Queen's Police Medal shortly before leaving the RUC in 1975. While training at St Dunstan's, he studied Braille and audio typing and took up archery. His interests also included gardening, radio, handicrafts and caravanning. He took an active role in the Disabled Police Officers' Association and served as their Chairman for several years. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Barbara and all of the family.

Russell Gibson

Royal Artillery

Russell Charles Gibson of Norwich, Norfolk died on 25 February, aged 90. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 and served as Gunner with an anti-aircraft unit. He served in Egypt, Libya, Bardia and at Tobruk. Discharged in 1946, he worked in the catering trade and stores with the Air Ministry in Norfolk. Later he and his wife took over the running of a Labour Club. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Josephine and all of the family.

Bernard Mason

Royal Hampshire Regiment

Bernard Arthur Mason of Romsey, Hampshire died on 26 February, aged 71. He trained as a nurseryman on leaving school but joined the Royal Hampshire Regiment in 1953. He was posted to the 1st Battalion in Germany and continued heavy weapons training. He became No 1 on a Vickers machine gun. His company were deployed to Malaya during the Communist Insurgency and took their turn

on jungle patrols. During one patrol, they came under fire and he received wounds to his legs. He was pinned down in the swamp for some time before it was possible to cassevac him back to base. He was eventually discharged in 1956 as a result of these wounds. In civilian life, he joined Royal Ordnance Factory as an electrician and became foreman. However, this was cut short as his sight deteriorated and multiple sclerosis developed. He practised polishing ornamental stones and other gem work and developed an interest in toy making and picture framing. He was also a keen fisherman and regularly joined St Dunstan's Fishing Club trips. Our sympathy goes to his widow Vera and all members of the family.

Jan Uitlander

136 Cape Corps Company

Jan Uitlander of Cape Town, South Africa died on 27 February, aged 88. He was blinded in 1944 while serving in 136 Cape Corps Company, RMT, QSC. He trained in basket making. Our sympathy goes to his daughters Annie and Edith and all the family.

Raymond Mason

Royal Air Force

Raymond Mason of Trimdon Village, County Durham died on 1 March, aged 86. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and qualified as an airframe fitter. He worked on Wellington Bombers, moving airfield to airfield. Discharged as Corporal in 1946, he resumed work as a mining surveyor and later became an overseer. After being made redundant, he became a line mechanic in a factory. A keen gardener, he was also a member of the Royal British Legion. Our sympathy goes to his sons, daughter and all members of the family.

John Ridley

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

John Edmund Ridley of St Austell, Cornwall died on 1 March, aged 84. He joined the Royal Signals in 1938. He served in South Africa, Egypt, Palestine, Italy and Austria. He took part in the battle of El Alamein. He was released to the reserve in 1946 and transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1951 before final discharge in 1959. In civilian life, he worked as an engineer for Hayton & Co, Qualcast and FNF. He also worked for the English China Clay Company. His interests included golf, fishing, shooting and bowling. Our sympathy goes to his son Keith, daughter Ann and all members of the family.

Annie Storey

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Annie Mavis Storey of Consett, County Durham died on 2 March, aged 86. She worked in a cake shop, as a nanny and had started training as nurse before joining the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1941. She served as an administrator at RAF Bridlington, Uxbridge, Kirkham, Unsworth, Bridgenorth and Llandudno. Discharged in 1945, she returned to civilian life as a wife and mother. Our sympathy goes to her sons David and Barry, daughter Catherine and all other members of the family.

Dave Humphrey

Royal Artillery

Walter David Alfred Humphrey of North Woodingdean, Brighton died on 2 March, aged 75. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1949 and was initially stationed in Dover with 47 Coastal Regiment. He was later posted to 35 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment in Leicester. A keen footballer, he played

for the Royal Artillery and was invited to join Leicester FC but declined for financial reasons. Discharged in 1951, he returned to his milk round in Brighton. After 30 years, he joined a local engineering firm. His interests included carpentry, brickwork and gardening. He expanded his craftwork skills in a variety of media and won first prize in an arts competition in the 2003 Brighton Festival. The contest was themed around elephants and he was presented with a painting produced by a Thai elephant. He also enjoyed shooting and was a member of St Dunstan's Golf Club. He was an active member of St Dunstan's Bowling Club, on a national and local level, and had recently been made Captain. Our sympathy goes to his sons Paul and Tony, and all other members of the family.

Anne Hodges

Auxiliary Territorial Service/ Expeditionary Forces Institute

Elizabeth Anne Hodges of Hereford, Hertfordshire died on 6 March, aged 93. She had been a St Dunstaner since 1947. She was a children's nurse before joining the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1943. Blind in her left eye from birth, she was serving with the Expeditionary Forces Institute in Egypt when she suffered detachment of the retina in her right eye. Discharged in 1947, she trained in Braille and typewriting at St Dunstan's and later turned to weaving and making string bags and mats. While her brother kept cows and poultry, she sold milk, bread, and apples to Bulmers for cider making. Her interests included knitting and she attended St Dunstan's Ladies' Reunion and the Tape Recording Weekends. Our sympathy goes to her niece Rosemary and all other members of the family.

RNIB Chief Exec at St Dunstan's



Lesley-Anne and Ralph Vernon.



Stan showed Lesley-Anne a prized paper weight.

THE CHIEF Executive of the Royal National Institute of the Blind, Lesley-Anne Alexander visited St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 27 February. She toured the centre with St Dunstan's

Chief Executive Robert Leader and Ovingdean Manager Dick Lake. On her way round, she also met St Dunstaner Ralph Vernon who explained that he worked in the despatch

centre for Talking Books before retiring. He added that the new Daisy Players were a great advantage for blind readers. She also met other St Dunstaners such as resident Stan Grimsey.

Colin and Moira say thank you

ST DUNSTAN'S CONGRATULATED the cadets of H Company, 2nd NI Battalion on 21 February. They completed a 13 mile uphill walk as part of St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge. They also raised an impressive £1,042 to support blind ex-Service men and women. Andrew Lupton was named Outstanding Individual amongst his challenge group. St Dunstaners Colin Williamson and Moira McGrath presented him with a silver trophy. The entire group were presented with certificates of merit.

