

# St Dunstan's Review

**Military Bikers'  
Enduring Help  
for St Dunstan's**



**How old is this  
bonny baby?**



**Back to school for Steve!**

Army St Dunstaner returns to his old classroom!

Go to page 36.



Billy Baxter sets off a weekend of military motorcycle mayhem for St Dunstan's and Childline.

St Dunstan's Archery Club celebrate 30 years of ground-breaking sport

## Arrows faster than sight!



Frozen in time! St Dunstaner Norman Perry lets his arrow fly. He is using a tactile-sight and Phil Varden's spotting skills to determine the correct shot.

Photography: Simon Rogers



**July 2007**

**St Dunstan's**

An independent future for blind  
ex-Service men and women



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



IT IS HARD to believe we are already half way through the year. The St Dunstan's calendar has been as relentless as ever and there is always some new event – after all, we don't celebrate a 111th birthday that often! Training, sports, recreation, reunions, special event weeks at Ovingdean, clubs, activities and much more, proceed apace.

I am delighted that the Church Stretton weekend was such a success and now seems established as the number one reunion. Sir Michael Walker spoke with feeling. "Coming home" would be a suitable description after a great local welcome. Many of you recounted how you thought the combination of advancing years and poor sight meant life had come to a halt, but as always the inspiration and example of others has given so many fresh impetus. That is what St Dunstan's is all about.

*Michael Gordon-Lennox*

**Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN**

## St Dunstan's Review

**June 2007 No 970**

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### JULY

1st NoSmokingatOvingdean  
5th-8th Writers Forum Weekend  
13th Outdoor Bowling  
15th-21st Ladies' Reunion  
16th Indoor Bowling  
18th Band of the Royal Marines  
21st Sailability  
27th-4th Aug HMS Sultan  
28th-29th Golf

### AUGUST

2nd Outdoor Bowling  
4th Sailability  
4th Writers Forum  
5th-11th Race Week  
13th Outdoor Bowling  
15th VJ Day  
18th-19th Golf  
24th- 2 Sept Archery (III)  
28th Outdoor Bowling

### SEPTEMBER

1st Writers Forum  
1st Sailability  
2nd-8th Activities Week

# Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

## REGULAR DAILY VISITORS TO ST DUNSTAN'S OVINGDEAN

THIS NOTICE ONLY APPLIES TO THOSE WITHIN EASY REACH OF OVINGDEAN:

By Dick Lake, Ovingdean Manager

As many of you know, the number of people passing through St Dunstan's Ovingdean is increasing at a significant rate. The lounge is often packed and buzzing, there is a waiting list for the Craft Workshop and, on some days, the dining room is overflowing (with people and food). Although Ovingdean is home for those St Dunstaners who live here permanently, we will continue to do our best to maintain our unique mix of permanency, respite care and holidays, rehabilitation and training, and day visitors.

In order to be fair to everybody and to allow as many people as possible to benefit from the excellent facilities, we have had to consider the way in which the building is used by local St Dunstaners on a daily basis (dailies). Accordingly, a Dailies Admissions Panel has been set up, chaired by myself, to consider all applications for people who are eligible to attend as a daily.

Welfare Officers are responsible for completing an application for the panel and they will:

- Discuss an individual's needs with them and the reasons for wanting to come into Ovingdean which include attending the craft workshop and the gym or swimming pool.

- Discuss with relevant members of staff to see if there is space available and what day might be possible.

The request, if supportable, will go to the panel who will decide if it is appropriate. If a place as a daily is agreed, a letter confirming arrangements will be sent outlining:

- the start date
- the day or days and facilities offered
- Any other issues including the time frame for reviewing the place, as some activities will be time limited.

In broad terms, eligibility as a daily has to be limited to those who are self-sufficient and independent (that is, requiring no or very little support from staff, so can navigate around the building unaided, need no assistance for meals and refreshment, etc) or those whose use of the building is facilitated by a spouse or primary carer (but not a support worker or friend). Self-sufficiency includes the individual's ability to make his or her own way to and from Ovingdean without the use of St Dunstan's transport





though limited transport may be provided to a maximum radius of 10 miles on the basis of a demonstrable and agreed need. Current dailies will also be referred to the panel for consideration and all dailies will be reviewed every six months.

The panel process outlined above applies only to those who use the building on a regular basis. There is no change to the existing rules for locals going on trips.

Occasional Day Visitors should note although there is no transport charge, day trip places are only allocated after those in-house (permanent residents and visitors) have been offered places. Charges are levied for certain outings that involve entrance fees and where food is an integral part of the activity though the expectation is that locals will provide for their own meals and refreshments on most outings.

Similarly, local St Dunstaners are most welcome to attend one-off in-house events like dances or the Royal Marine Band Concert on 18 July. However, increasingly, we will have to operate a ticket system to balance supply and demand.

### **CURSE OF THE JUNE REVIEW**

OUR APOLOGIES FOR LATE DELIVERY: We would like to apologise to all readers of **St Dunstan's Review** for the disruption experienced last month. Production problems delayed the release of the large print edition, while many tape readers reported they had received a second cassette from another organisation. We trust that normal service is restored for this issue.

### **SMOKING NO LONGER ALLOWED**

NOW IS THE TIME TO STUB OUT THOSE FAGS: On 1 July 2007 the new government legislation on smoking in public places came into force. Smoking is not allowed in all enclosed or substantially enclosed public places and work places. This includes St Dunstan's buildings. St Dunstan's has a duty to take reasonable care to protect the health of its employees. The Charity is required by the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 to ensure that employees and others are not put at risk.

At Ovingdean (including Port Hall and Beacon Hill) and Sheffield smoking is not permitted inside the buildings by anybody whether staff, permanent residents or visitors. St Dunstaners and other visitors may smoke in the inner garden or on the 2nd floor balcony at Ovingdean. Those needing assistance to get to the smoking areas will receive such support from the care staff subject to their availability, noting that the care staff are often very busy and that supporting smokers will not be the top priority. 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.

In addition the Charity needs to do everything possible to provide a smoke-free environment when its staff visit St Dunstaners in their own home. Please consider their needs and provide them with a smoke-free environment, ideally not smoking in that room for an hour before the visit commences. If a smoke-free environment cannot be provided, the Charity will support staff to leave if they consider it to be unacceptable to them.

The full smoking policy is available on request from the Human Resources department at Headquarters and Ovingdean.

### **JUDGEMENT FROM OUTER SPACE**

STORY CONTEST WINNERS ARE REVEALED: St Dunstan's budding authors were challenged to write a science fiction story for the **Review's** annual writing competition. Our judge, Charles Chilton, MBE introduced many to the concept of space travel with the BBC radio serial *Journey into Space*.

Having originally joined the BBC as a messenger, he went on to form the BBC Boys' Jazz Band and present *Swing Time* and *Radio Rhythm Club*. Serving five years with the Royal Air Force, he ran the forces radio station with David Jacobs in Sri Lanka and then returned to the BBC to produce shows for Roy Plomley, Michael Bentine, Stéphane Grappelli and the Goons. He created the Western adventure series *Riders of the Range* and then charted the exploits of Jet Morgan and his crew in *Journey into Space* (currently on BBC7, Saturday 18:00). He also wrote *Oh! What a Lovely War* and is renowned for his knowledge of London's history.

"I thought on the whole, that this was a good collection of stories, though not everybody stuck to the remit of 'science fiction,'" he said of our submitted tales. "But their efforts were a good read none the less."

His verdict placed *Perchance to Dream* by Mellor – Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service St Dunstaner Bessie Parkin of Swansea, West Galmorgan – as third, winning £20. Second, was *It came upon a Midnight Clear* by Sarah Fimm, winning Joan Beevers of Castleford, West Yorkshire £30.

Their stories will appear in the August

and September issues of **St Dunstan's Review**, but in first place, was *The Outcome* by Ewan Mee – Royal Army Ordnance Corps St Dunstaner Martin Goodman of Camborne, Cornwall. He wins £50 and his story is featured on page 22.

### **DETTORI'S DELIGHT IS SHARED BY OUR SWEEPSTAKE WINNER**

REVIEW DERBY SWEEPSTAKE RESULTS: When Frankie Dettori achieved his win at the Epsom Derby on 2 June it was also good news for St Dunstaner Kenneth Goulding of New Moston, Manchester. He had drawn Dettori's horse Authorized in the **Review's** Derby Sweepstake and as a consequence won the £315.45 first prize.

Second prize, £126.18, was won by St Dunstan's widow Dorothy Jacobs of Wallasey, Wirral who drew Eagle Mountain, and third prize, £63.09, was claimed by St Dunstaner Jim Knowles of Darfield, Barnsley, South Yorkshire who drew Aqualeem.

There were 14 other horses that ran, so the Starters' Prize of £126.18 was shared amongst David Blagg of Stafford, Staffordshire, Benjamin Bent of Felixstowe, Suffolk, Christopher Humphrey of Thorpe End, Norwich, Catherine Androlia of Great Barr, Birmingham, John Workman of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, Robert Cotton of Brighton, Archie Clarke of Gillingham, Dorset, Gladys Jubb of Bromley, Kent, Mary Quinn of Rippon, North Yorkshire, Margaret Brooke of Wirral, Merseyside, Bill Kennedy of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, William Parry of Porthmadog, Gwynedd, and Agnes Coston of Elm, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.





### STEP INTO THE SWIM

**EASY ACCESS TO THE POOL:** Thanks to the inspired suggestion of one St Dunstaner, the Sports & Recreation department at Ovingdean has now taken delivery of an 'Aqua Trek Step'. These portable steps are specifically designed to allow users safe, gradual access to the swimming pool. For those who find the regular steps difficult, but would prefer not to use the hoist, then these steps are an excellent alternative. For further details please contact the Sports department on 01273 391463.

### ST PAUL'S CRYPT MEMORIAL ACCESS

**FREE VISITS FOR FALKLANDS VETERANS TO MEMORIAL IN ST PAUL'S CRYPT:** To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Falklands Campaign, St Paul's Cathedral have offered free access to pay homage at the Memorial in St Paul's Crypt to Veterans of the conflict or family members of those who lost their lives during the conflict. Veterans or family members should present themselves to the steward inside the North entrance to the Crypt. Identification, such as blazer, badge or medal, will be accepted for entry.

### RADAR TOILET KEY AVAILABLE FROM ST DUNSTAN'S

**NATIONAL KEY SCHEME COVERS 7,000 LOCKED PUBLIC TOILETS:** This offers independent access for disabled people to around 7,000 locked public toilets across the country. RADAR would like all providers of accessible toilets to keep their toilets unlocked if possible, but introduced the scheme where the provider concerned has to keep the toilets locked to stop vandalism and misuse. Keys should be available through your local authority.

St Dunstan's currently holds a supply of keys issued under RADAR's National Key Scheme (NKS) at a cost of £3.50. The key for accessible toilets can only be ordered for their domestic and personal use only. To apply for a RADAR NKS toilet key, please send a cheque for £3.50 made payable to "St Dunstan's" to Barbara Sweeney at St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. Please note that the toilets are the property of the providers concerned, and as such, any queries or problems concerning a toilet should be directed to that provider, rather than to RADAR or St Dunstan's.

### STAFF CHANGES

Mandy Marwick recently joined St Dunstan's as Ovingdean Service Administrator from the Commission for Social Care Inspection where she was a Business Services Manager. She will cover projects at Ovingdean and Sheffield and has coordinating responsibility for Port Hall and Beacon Hill. She has been learning to windsurf and went to school with Heather McCartney and her sisters.



# 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.

## Encouraging time at St Dunstan's

I have just returned from a week at St Dunstan's on computer training. I felt I must write to say how much I enjoyed the experience. It was my second visit and I was again bowled over by the kindness and helpfulness of the staff. It was marvellous in particular to have my computer put to rights after a month of

frustration before I went. I met some most interesting people including Dorothy, a resident, who encouraged me to take up painting again as I had given up after my classes for the visually impaired closed down last year. The reminiscences evening was memorable for someone was there who, when aged 15, had, with a

friend of the same age, sailed from Shoreham to Dunkirk and rescued four men.

I am now looking forward to trying out my new found skills on the computer including spell check which I have used already in this letter to check reminiscences!

**Mary Colville,  
Bromley, Kent**

## Sparky's humility was poignant

May I congratulate the whole team for the production of the June **St Dunstan's Review**. It simply had everything in it.

The Falkland section was fascinating. The pen-pictures painted by the St Dunstaners were most moving and dramatic. I take my hat off to all of them, but I think the most poignant moment was when Sparky spoke to the young 16-year-old Argentine

lad who was dying, showing great humility in victory.

From the courage of those contributors from 25 years ago to that of Matthew Rhodes and his London Marathon achievement. After completing 16 "Londons", I know just how tough it can be, and to be out there for that length of time shows great strength of character and determination, you get a big

thumbs up from me. Great stuff St Dunstaners all round.

A big thank you to Valerie and David the readers of the **Review** who bring it to life. David was most kind to me when I first became a St Dunstaner in 1972 and it is just great to hear his voice every month steady and reassuring. As they say, Keep up the good work!

**Gerry Jones,  
St Agnes, Cornwall**



# Paper candidate is back in the seat

Some years ago as I felt closer to the aims of UKIP than any other political party, I decided to become a member. The meaning of the word 'Independence' in the party's name is the goal that Britain should withdraw from the European Union. UKIP is not a single policy pressure group, but with a view to governance has a full set of policies. At present it has a good number of MEPs and is keen on obtaining greater Parliamentary, regional and local representation.

As it happens, I am now living in the town where I was born, Tiverton in Devon. In the early Nineties, I became a town councillor, standing as an 'independent', one who presumably serves without an overt attachment to a political party. In 2003, I did not stand for re-election and during my four year's absence the Liberal Democrats had the controlling majority of this Council – a control which they have now lost!

The Town Council has 24 councillors in all, 14 of which stood down at the

last election. I did not have definite plans to stand last May but a UKIP colleague, already a councillor, persuaded me to become a 'paper candidate'. This meant that although my name would be on the polling forms I would do no canvassing and therefore the likelihood was that I would not be elected, but at the same time it would be good for UKIP to give voters another option and to give us an indication of UKIP support in this area of the town. This at least was the initial idea.

Then my wife considered that the information contained on a UKIP leaflet was well-worth reading by voters in my area. So we set about it, my wife, sister-in-law and I. I would carry the bag and my wife or sister-in-law, whoever was available to come with me would come to deliver the leaflets.

What about the dogs? Yes, you have to look out for them! Not so much the ones that bark when you are outside or moving towards the door but the silent ones whose craft has gone beyond the barking stage.

When the fingers holding the leaflet protrude through the flap, a scurry a crash, pain, blood in that order if the silent snapper connects with its prey. Yes, they may be few and far between but they are not to be overlooked.

One man talking to another outside his house enquired "Is this worth reading?" "Definitely," I said with a smile.

Of course, delivery takes much longer in the outer district. Dwellings here include farms, some with very long lanes. If we decided that a track was not suitable for a car, we sometimes bagged a leaflet and attached it at the head of the lane.

These days few farms look in good repair. I feel sorry for the farmers who at the present day have to face the possibility of livestock or machinery theft, property damage and grossly over due payments via the EU.

A widow, living in the 'outer' in what may be described as a rather stately house, said burglars had viewed it as a likely repository for treasurers. She had suffered

a number of break-ins and all her silver had gone. What was left she said was not worth much. She remarked that she thought the police presence could be improved. I made a note to visit again and if there was any way I could help.

By the end of our distribution, we had visited in the region of 2,250 properties.

Then it was Election Day. The Council seats in my

ward were contested and I was voted in. After the election, two seats were still vacant, these were then put up for co-option for which ten applied. We the existing councillors completed the several rounds of voting required until two were left. As might be expected, I was as pleased as punch that one of the two was a UKIP advocate. "Things are looking up," I thought. During the 03-07 Council session, two councillors had been UKIP

and now the total is five. So I'm a councillor again, and having been voted in on a contested seat I felt I better rise to the occasion.

One resident we met on our distribution round was particularly interested in UKIP and wanted a car sticker. The one which we found for him read "Only UKIP says, it's time we governed ourselves."

**Randall Williams,  
Tiverton, Devon**

## Balancing the Books

Ted Bunting finds a surprise treat comes from Agatha Christie

### Death comes as the end

Author: Agatha Christie.

Reader: Eric Gillet.

Catalogue Number 19

Duration: 8 hours

Agatha Christie was never my favourite writer! I have no love for Miss Marple, I actually dislike Hercule Poirot, the world's only famous Belgian though he might be, and the end of *The Mousetrap* may remain a mystery forever as far as I am concerned.

So when *Death comes as the end* arrived, I might easily

have sent it back untried and missed a rare treat! The story is set in ancient Egypt by the banks of the Nile and begins with the homecoming of a young woman. She is returning to the house she left as a child bride, but now she is a widow. Shortly afterwards her father returned home too. He has been supervising his estates in the north and he is accompanied by a young scribe and a beautiful concubine, who is younger still but highly skilled at influencing her master. Not surprisingly the concubine

brings disharmony and resentment; jealousy and fear disrupt the whole household. It is the old grandmother who points out that a dead concubine has no power, but when the death occurs it is but the first of several.

So who-dun-it? In the best tradition of the genre, the one you suspect most becomes the next victim and the one you suspect least is the murderer. Oh yes, it's all jolly good stuff, and I'm so pleased I didn't miss it.



## Ten questions on

The subject of the United States of America

A star-spangled test from Harry Beevers

- 1) Which monarch was on the British throne at the time of the American Civil War?
- 2) Which city in New Jersey, famous for gambling, was the basis for the first edition of the board game Monopoly?
- 3) Who was appointed as Director of the CIA in 1976 and subsequently became President of the United States?
- 4) Which street in the financial district of New York was originally built as a Dutch fortification against attack?
- 5) In culinary terms the Americans call it frosting, what do we in this country call it?
- 6) Which city of Texas is known as "The big D"?
- 7) The famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir is based in Salt Lake City, the capital of which state?
- 8) Which city in Nevada, named after a Virginian general killed in the Civil War, became at the beginning of the 20th century the venue for quick marriages and divorces?
- 9) In the 1870's and 1880's, which Apache leader led offensives against the American military in the state of Arizona?
- 10) The state of Utah is landlocked, what surprisingly is its state bird?

Answers can be found on page 25.

## Mobile Phones for Visually Impaired Users

by Bryan Kilburn, ROVI

THERE ARE A few options now available to make phones more accessible for people with a sight loss. Larger contrasted buttons, simple memory facilities and free directory enquiries are all making phones easier to use. The free BT 195 service will dial numbers for you and allows access to the phone listings by talking to a real person. This service can be set up by a Rehabilitation Officer for the Visually Impaired.

There are more specialised items now being released which can dial numbers for you via a voice prompt. There are phones that will work in conjunction with hearing aids on an induction loop system and cordless phones for all of us to lose easily. There are easy to use phones that will store emergency numbers and let you know the number, and if programmed, the name of the person calling you before you even answer it.

There are many options out there that can help use the phone. If you feel that you are having difficulty, tell your Welfare Officer or contact the ROVI on Duty on 01273 391447. The St Dunstan's ROVI team will be able to give you advice on the most appropriate item for your situation.

## Steve returns to school

ST DUNSTANER Stephen Pendleton had a feeling of déjà vu when he spoke of life without sight to children at a Wiltshire primary school on 25 May. The Holy Trinity Church of England School in Townsend, Great Cheverell, Devizes is where he attended primary school as a youngster.



Steve explains about different kinds of visual impairment.

"I have really enjoyed all the Schools, that I have worked in with the Schools Project," said Steve. "But there is something really special about going back to your old School. I was amazed at how well behaved the children were, I'm sorry to say, that they were a lot better behaved than I was, when I went there. The other thing that struck me, was how small everything seemed to me!"

"It was a real privilege to go back and I found the whole day extremely rewarding. And I could quite clearly picture myself as the little boy I once had been, running through the corridors all those years ago, quite spooky actually!"

Steve ran three sessions with

children of mixed ages. Part of St Dunstan's interactive education programme, his talks introduced the pupils to the nature of blindness through role-play, conversation and problem solving. Many of the children enquired whether he could still drive car, Steve replying that while he had driven in the Army, it was no longer a safe option for him to do so.

One pupil worked out why a colour scanner declared Steve to be "Bright Orange" - it was picking up blood vessels beneath his skin. Another asked how he went to the cinema. There was general uncertainty about the culinary delights of Barney pasta during a demonstration of talking tin lids.

"I believe it's important to raise awareness and understanding of disability within schools and my presentation teaches children about visual impairment by giving them practical experience and skills. I demonstrate how I cope with everyday activities, and helping them experience the world of blindness by using special simulation spectacles."

Headmistress Mercedes Henning added, "We feel very privileged to have Steve come to our school again - his presentations are inspirational and he is an example of the courage and cheerfulness we want our children to show in the face of adversity."



# Duxford's signs of the skies

By Terry Gleadall

**D**EAF BLIND Royal Air Force St Dunstaner Michael Ryan visited The Imperial War Museum at Duxford last month. This was not his first visit! In fact, I must have taken him there about seven times since I first met him in 1991 but he always seems to enjoy refreshing his memories of the very large collection of planes and his knowledge and memory still astounds me today.



Michael Ryan, with Paul and Yvonne, under the polished aluminium wings of an American B-24 Liberator.

The museum has recently opened a very large new hanger with an exhibition called *AirSpace*, telling the story of British Aviation, past, present and future, so it was a must to go and inspect it!

With the help of Yvonne Loake who also assisted me when Michael last went to Duxford, we set off from Ovingdean. We were also accompanied by a volunteer worker, Paul who wanted to see how Michael reacted to others outside of his room at St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

He had only met Michael once and needed a bit

of practice in learning to communicate with him.

I threw Paul in at the deep end by asking him to try to relay to Michael, the different roads and stages of the journey from Brighton to Duxford in Cambridgeshire.

Michael had a very good day out and with Yvonne's help, we were able to re-awaken his mind to the past with a hands-on tour of as many of the aircraft as we could amidst the noise of dozens of children on their half-term.

We also encouraged Paul to attempt to read a few of the aircraft descriptions to Michael. I think Paul enjoyed the challenge but was slightly daunted by the fact that he had an audience, which often happens when people see you communicating with Michael on his hand.

We had a very good day and I would like to take this opportunity on Michael's behalf, to thank Yvonne for her help and St Dunstan's staff for helping set up this visit.

# Fancy meeting you here!

FOUR ST DUNSTANERS have had unexpected reunions at St Dunstan's Ovingdean in recent months.

Joe McNamara and George King (pictured right) met up again after 66 years whilst on holiday. They discovered that they had both been on the same ship, HMS *Crispin* in 1941. They reminisced about being torpedoed on 4 February 1941, about 400 miles off the coast of Ireland, with 27 lives lost. Although both now live in Lancashire, and attended the same St Dunstan's Reunion, they did not realise they were shipmates until their chance meeting in May.



Stan Grimsey and Fred Yates (below) were both prisoners of war on Burma-Thailand "Death Railway" in the Wan-Po camps. The railway

was some 263 miles long and had 688 bridges. Stan was serving in the Suffolk Regiment and Fred in the Royal Artillery when taken prisoner. They met recently at Ovingdean, over 60 years later and shared their memories of those times, including the aftermath of the privations that still effect them today.



Fred's strong recall of the events formed part of the subsequent successful War Crimes prosecutions in Tokyo after the War. Stan has a copy of a sketch of life on the Wan-Po viaduct made at the time by another prisoner, Will Wilder.



**Billy Baxter** says thank you to the military motorcyclists who supported St Dunstan's and Childline in Exercise Enduring Help

# Motorcycle mayhem!



The first wave of riders get ready. St Dunstaner Billy and Childline's Marguerite will give the signal to start at noon.

IT IS A BRIGHT sunny day! The time is one minute to twelve and the location is Longmoore training area near Liss in Hampshire. I have the feeling of being watched, as 90 helmeted figures are eagerly waiting for the flag to drop to set them on their way around 4.8km of rugged countryside.

The flag drops on the stroke of twelve and the first wave of 15 bikes are hurtling into the distance. They are embarking on a monster 24-hour motorcycle endurance race, testing both rider and machine to the very limits. The noise is deafening as each time the flag is dropped, another wave sets off with a sound like thunder.

Exercise Enduring Help is underway, the result of dedication and hard work

by the main organisers, Marco and Helen who keep this unique event going year after year.

The purpose of Exercise Enduring Help is to provide a challenging sporting event, and to raise funds for worthy charities and good causes. For the second year running St Dunstan's and Childline have been chosen.

Each military unit that enters has to be sponsored. The teams comprise of four

riders and one military motorcycle, usually a general purpose Harley Davidson, 350cc bike, which is the British Army's two wheeled work horse. The rules are quite simple, each team rides their machine for 24-hours around a challenging off-road course, over terrain such as open heath, wooded tracks hiding tree roots, steep rises and dips, sand, and anything mother nature can throw at you! If this is not hard enough, the bikes are ridden through the night, the only illumination is the motorcycle's headlight. The bumps encountered riding cross-country make it very challenging indeed, as tracks, ruts, rocks and roots are all potential danger to the unwary rider. The teams comprised of servicemen and women from military units from Europe mostly from Germany, Holland, and bases, garrisons and outposts all over the UK.

Every profession in the military were represented, commandos, cooks, postal workers, medics, military

police, both territorial army and regular soldiers, all with the same goal and love of motorcycling. The riders range from complete novices who have just passed their tests, to fully-fledged instructors, with year's of experience both on-and-off road. Everyone helps out each other, and giving encouragement and advice, even down to lending parts and helping out with downed riders and broken bikes, a real family togetherness.

There are hundreds of troops at this event, and the training area is transformed into a small tented city, over 90 tents lining the pit lane, each supporting a team, where they cook, maintain the bike and try and relax before they take their turn riding. To add to this, there are support tents for the marshals and race control, cookhouse, toilets, fuel areas, and medical staff, the sponsors' tents, such as Red Bull and Jam Sport, a local motorcycle dealership, providing spares and protective clothing.

This year St Dunstan's fund raising and awareness team comprised of Natalie Garden, Graham Footer and myself, a new marquee standing out in bright red canvas. During the event, Natalie, Graham and myself visited every single tent and team giving them our support and encouragement, talking

about what you guys at St Dunstan's are up to, and catching up with people we met last year. We were made to feel welcome, just being around was great and we made more pals and made some good contacts.

We learnt that most of the teams were on their way to Iraq or Afghanistan or have just returned. The pressure on our servicemen and women is immense.

Due to the shorter course and good weather this year, the lap times were much quicker, around about ten minutes average. The faster riders were going round in just over six minutes. There were the normal injuries keeping Frimly Park hospital busy. There were no critical injuries, a testament to a well run event. The bikes had the normal problems, punctures, broken forks, timing belts and chains to mention but a few little niggles.

After 24-hours we were starting to feel jaded and tired, so I cannot imagine how the teams competing felt. It was made so much better this year due to the weather. Last year it rained constantly! What a difference in weather can make, all teams were in good spirits.

Soon it was over and both man and machine had been tested to the limits, all the

teams were assembled in front of the stage area for the prize giving, in blazing sunshine, bringing their walking wounded. One of the prizes is called *The Spirit of the Event*, this is presented by St Dunstan's to the team showing the best spirit of the event, by going the extra mile by helping others, much like the spirit of St Dunstan's that makes us what we are.

After a long time deliberating, Natalie, Graham and myself came up with a winner - 24 Postal Courier and Movement Squadron from Germany. They learnt that 7 Transport Squadron had no transport and could not attend the event, so they reloaded their own kit, leaving luxuries to make room for 7 Squadron's bikes and kit, a selfless and commendable act, showing the true meaning of the event. As the saying goes: "It is not the winning that counts, but the taking part!"

The highlights for me were meeting up with old pals, meeting a blind chap from Jam Sport called Ian Allaway, another blind biker competing in national trials. How mad is that? Two blind bikers at the same event!

Many thanks to Marco and Helen and all the admin team, without whom this event would not take place.



# Versatile world of MP3CD

A digest guide to MP3CD players and Daisy machines available

MAKING CD PLAYERS that are MP3 compatible opens a new world of material for many listeners. MP3 stands for MPEG, audio layer 3, and describes audio compression software that reduces file size by a factor ten while still retaining the quality of the sound – in effect, you can put a quart into a pint pot. This creates the opportunity to place lengthy recordings, five hours or more, on a single compact disc.

With the tape cassette version of **St Dunstan's Review** due to be discontinued after the December issue, we take a quick over view of just some of the players available. Many brands of MP3 compatible CD player are available on the high street from everyday shops such

as John Lewis, Woolworths, Argos, Comet and Currys stock such devices. Internet retailers such as Amazon.com and empiredirect.com also have a wide variety of devices. Manufacturers such as Sony, Philips, Alba, Goodmans, Matsui, Panasonic and Roberts all produce MP3 compatible



Goodmans MP3CD player, £25 from John Lewis stores.

CD devices, often combining radios. We are waiting to hear of a wind-up version.

Prices usually start from around £15. White-goods and electrical store Comet stock the Proline DM2145MP3, not much bigger than a CD itself, that opens like an oyster. Priced £14.99 it comes with in-ear headphones and charger.

Hagger Electronics currently stock the Sony D-NE240 Portable MP3 CD Player which offers 23 hours playback, CD-RW/MP3 playback, repeat and shuffle functions. The device has a diameter of 11.4cm and a



Argos stock an easy combined radio and MP3CD player with built-in speakers and remote control from Panasonic.

depth of 3.7cm. Pack one includes headphones and delivery for £38.99 inc VAT (Their ref: HCAL0000P1)

Pack two adds speakers £45.99 (Their ref: HCAL0000P2) while Pack three adds a mains cable £59.99 (Their ref: HCAL0000P3).

The Philips eXp2460 is a similar device which Hagger sell for £49.90 including delivery. It can be purchased with a mains adapter for £71.16. It also has a resume play feature along with search and shuffle. (Their ref: HDWCAL)

They also stock a Sony Radio and MP3CD player for £139.99 including delivery. (Their ref: HSOCAL). This device has built in speakers, a handle and includes a bookmark feature. The radio has 40 presets.



Proline MP3CD player, £14.99 from Comet stores.



Plextalk PTN1 Daisy player from RNIB Customer Services.

The Hagger Electronics sales line is 0845 8820505. Their website is www.hagger.co.uk. While their prices include VAT and delivery, you may find these products are available on the high street at more competitive prices.

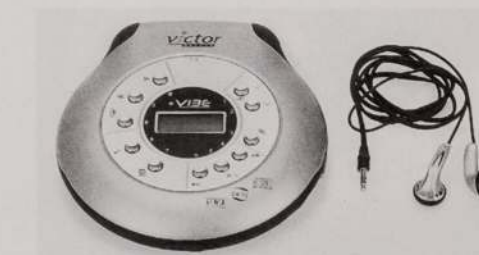
RNIB Customer Services carry more specialised players such as the Plextalk PTN1 Daisy player. It plays Daisy talking books, music CDs, MP3 CD. It has a built in English voice guide and large function buttons. Excluding VAT, it costs £250.

The Victor Reader Vibe Daisy player is more like the oyster shell-configuration of the portable CD players. It has embossed tactile markings,

bookmark functions and page navigation. However, RNIB warn that it may have problems with large Daisy publications such as TV listings. Excluding VAT it costs £195.

The Plextalk PTR2 Daisy player and recorder is recommended for professional use, though at £575.50 excluding VAT, it is the Rolls-Royce of Daisy machines.

RNIB Customer Services are on 0845 702 3153.



The Victor Vibe Player is available from the RNIB.





Photograph: Simon Rogers

After long contemplation, this is the moment that St Dunstaner David Poyner chose to let his arrow fly!



A blind Belgian prepares for the contest against St Dunstan's.

# Arrows flying without sight for 30 years



An RAF archer takes aim at Ovingdean.



Sharp shooting St Dunstaner Patrick Sidnell won the Curly Wagstaff Trophy.



Eileen Thompson fires her arrow.

**Peter Hammond** reports on the Archery Club's Summer competitions with teams from Belgium, Norfolk and the Services

**S**ATURDAY 26 MAY couldn't come soon enough. At long last, we were shooting outside in the nice weather – only it did not work out that way, it was overcast, drizzling and a bit windy! It was time to greet old friends and new (for most had not met since January) and we welcomed new female archer Eileen Thompson from

Doncaster. Most of Saturday was taken up with equipment checks to make sure that everything was going to work and ensure that we would have a safe week.

Sunday, the first day of competition, started in pouring rain, with cold winds. Today was an invitation open shoot. Most



of St Dunstan's Archery Club attending along with BBS members Melissa Budd from Kent and Roger Reece-Evans from Wales. Also attending was Jan Beernaert and his merry band of men from Belgium, four in total. It was a long day's shoot and a few archers dropped out because of the weather, but we got there in the end. We all went up to the Blue Room for a welcome cup of tea whilst we waited for the results. At last the results were ready, in a very close run competition the GB team had won. The team were Clive Jones, Peter Hammond, Steve Moseley and Roger Reece-Evans.

Monday was yet another wet and windy day and it



Alfie Hewitt was part of the Thorpe Hamlet Juniors team who won their contest against St Dunstan's Archery Club.

was decided to hold the day's competition in the Sports Hall. The round was a FITA 25 against Hellingly. Because of the amount of competitors we had to have the competition in two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. After working out the scores for both sessions it was found that yet again St Dunstan's had won again by a narrow margin. The following were the winning team for St Dunstan's. Keith Lanchester-Harding, Terry Ottewell, Patrick Sidnell and Clive Jones.

Tuesday was a lot better, it was slightly overcast with sunny periods, so back outdoors for the Tri-Services shoot. Along with the



RAF winners at Ovingdean.

St Dunstan's Archery Club, we had representatives from the Navy, Army and RAF (over 30 archers in all). The round shot was a Junior Western. The RAF won, St Dunstan's came second, Royal Navy third and the Army fourth. The St Dunstan's team were Ron Jones, Pat Sidnell, Clive Jones and Peter Hammond.

Thursday, what a change in the weather, it was wall-to-wall sunshine. The competition was for the RUC Pairs and the round was a double frostbite (we should have shot that on Sunday, what with the bad weather). The shield was won by Leslie George and Steve Mosley.

Friday was another glorious day (we could not believe it). Today we were shooting for the Curly Wagstaff Trophy and the round was a Bristol 4. Pat Sidnell shot

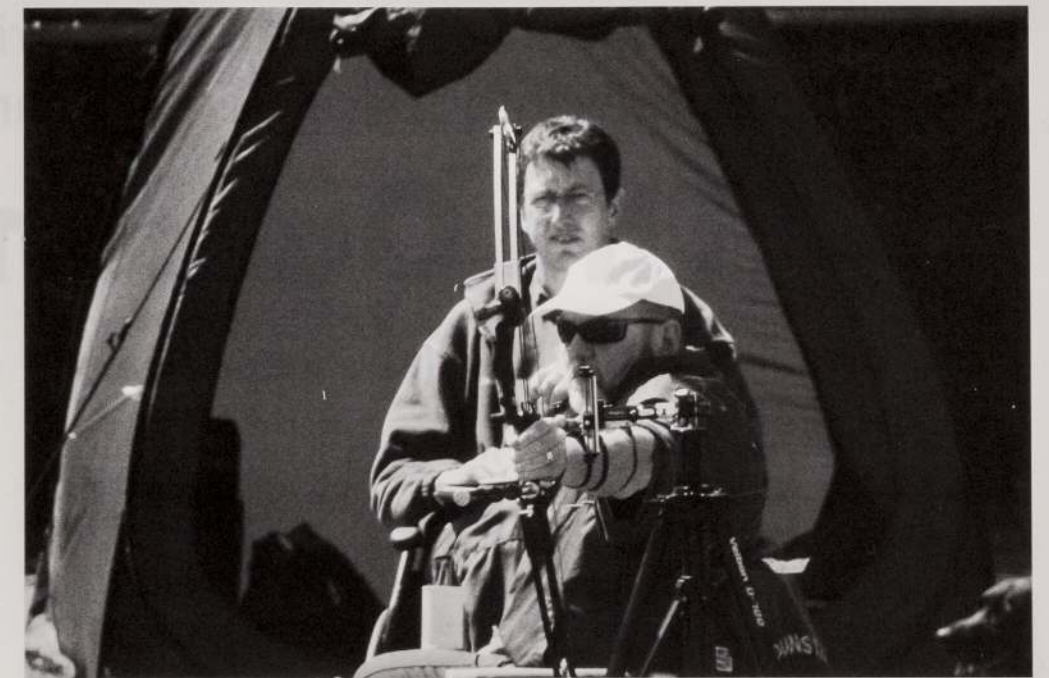
his first ever 6 gold end and it would cost him a round of drinks at the bar later. Peter Hammond shot his first Robin Hood much to the disgust of Ron Jones who's arrow Peter had destroyed. The trophy was won by Patrick Sidnell.

Saturday and it was another glorious day at costa del Ovingdean! This time we were shooting against a local team, Ditchling and the round shot was a Junior Western. Peter Hammond shot his first 6 gold end (and we are still waiting for that drink!). St Dunstan's won the match and the winning team was Doug Rogers, Clive Jones, Leslie George and Pat Sidnell.

That evening the Club had its 30th Anniversary Dinner in the Winter Garden at Ovingdean.

Many archers past and present and from visiting clubs were there. There were also distinguished guests from Headquarters, the Royal Company of Fletchers, the Grand National Archery Society and British Blind Sport.

The evening began with Grace being given by Nigel Whiteley, this was followed



Peter Hammond takes his shot, as the arrow flies to the left.

by an exceptional silver served four course meal presented to us by PBK Staff.

There were a few presentations for competitions, plus a new fun trophy, the "Silly Ass" award. This is given to the person who has made the funniest or silliest contribution to the year. This went to our Loyal and Dedicated Spotter and Driver Brian Muggridge.

The remainder of the night was taken up by catching up with old friends, and a raffle with some fantastic prizes.

The Committee would like to thank all members of the Club for their commitment, PBK and all friends and guests, with the hope that we shall see them again

before the next milestone of the Archery Club.

On Sunday, Taverham and Thorpe Hamlet Juniors travelled from Norwich to shoot against us. Fortunately for them, it paid off, with St Dunstan's coming second. The team were Norman Perry, Marjorie Scott, Peter Hammond and Leslie George.

All archers thought that it was a great week and all would like to thank the organizers, coaches spotters, PBK and all helpers without who's commitment this event could not have taken place. All of them give there help freely and some of them have to use some of there annual leave to help us, so once again thank you one and all for your help.



The first prize winner in **Review's** Story Writing Competition as judged by Journey into Space creator Charles Chilton, MBE.

# The Outcome?

By Ewan Mee  
(Martin Goodman)

**H**E ARRIVED AT the gates rather breathlessly and rang the bell. The gates opened automatically. He went straight to reception and asked for Peter. A few moments later a benign looking man approached the desk.

"Is the Governor in? I would like to see him, it is very urgent."

"Who shall I say is calling?" asked Peter.

"A.I.C.S.S. Gabriel."

"Oh yes. I remember you now. You haven't been up here for aeons. Wait here, I'll go and find out." He came back a few moments later. "Yes you can go straight up. Would you do me a favour?" He did not wait for an answer. "We have just joined the Universal Wide Web and the Interstellanet." He wrote something on a piece of parchment, rolled it up into a tube and tied it

with blue ribbon. "It's our e-mail address. Give it to the Governor for me."

The Governor was looking out of the window. Stretching away to the distant celestial shoreline were humpy, tussocks of grass growing out of the undulating sand. Why should the Devil have all the best Dunes? He smiled with satisfaction at the thought.

His secretary entered. "A visitor to see you sir, A.I.C.S.S. Gabriel. He says it's urgent." "Send him in." "Archangel in Chief Solar System Gabriel reporting, Guv." "Good to see you again Archie! Have you had a good trip?"

"It was hard going Guv. I had a solar head wind all the way from Pluto."

"Take the weight off your wings Archie. Pull up a cloud and sit down. Would you like a drink and an Ambrosia sandwich? They say that the 3875BC Nectar is very good.

Frankly, I don't think its all its cracked up to be."

"I would love a sandwich Guv, but I'd rather have a glass of eternal spring water with ice. I never drink and fly Guv. Peter asked me to give you this," he said, as he handed over the rolled up parchment.

"Archie, what is all this gobbledegook?" he said as he looked at peter@pearlygates.org.koh. "It's all lower case, there are no spaces between the words and the full stop at the end is missing. Then there is the funny character between Peter and Pearly Gates."

"Let me explain Guv. It reads like this. Peter at Pearly Gates dot org dot K O H. That's how the computer likes it."

"I think I understand, but what does K O H stand for?"

"That's easy Guv. 'Kingdom of Heaven'."

"Okay Archie. What is on your mind?"

"I've got problems in the Solar System Guv."

"Don't tell me about it," groaned the Governor. "Orion wants a new belt. We are having difficulty locating enough hides for a replacement. The Pole star satellite tracking system is on the blink. Pegasus and his winged colleagues are fed up with pulling the Plough. They want it mechanised. And Cassiopeia, the 'Big W' constellation, is cornering the market in Black Holes. God knows what they see in them? There I go again. I must get out of the habit of saying that."

"Well, what do they see in them Guv?"

"Just a figure of speech Archie. I'm no wiser than you. Now tell me about your problems."

"Well Guv. It's like this. Jupiter is developing another red spot, but we don't think it is contagious. Saturn's rings are in a sorry state. The chrome plating has peeled off. Mercury is complaining about the heat again. They say they should never have been put that close to the

Sun in the first place. They want to be relocated in the suburbs. Just the other side of Uranus would suit them fine they say.

"However, the most pressing problem is on planet Earth. The Earthlings have been fighting and squabbling these last 40 millennia and now without as much as a by your leave, they have gone and got themselves industrialised. They call it progress Guv. There are holes in the ozone layer and they are burning off the fossil fuels at an alarming rate and causing global warming. All the weather patterns we put in place are going haywire. El Ninio and the North Atlantic Oscillation just can't cope any longer.

"The Martians did the self-same thing on Mars, Guv. They lost their atmosphere. All the water evaporated and now the place is as dry as a bone and there is no sign of life anywhere on the planet."

"Okay Archie, we'll put the frighteners on them. We've got a big asteroid parked behind Neptune, out of sight from Earth. We placed it there for just such an emergency as this. Even their Hubble Space

Telescope can't see it. We'll get our boffins to calculate the co-ordinates of the asteroid's trajectory so that it just misses earth.

"The Earthlings will try to blow it up with Nuclear Warhead rockets," said Gabriel.

"Those puny things will have no effect on this baby. It is big Archie. About the same size as their moon and it's virtually indestructible. Our chaps found it near to the entrance of a Black Hole. They think it came out of there. It is made of some material unknown to us. When it passes within a few hundred thousand miles of Earth it will cause the most gigantic tidal waves and the most violent thunderstorms. That should bring them to the senses. Perhaps they'll stop warring with one another and learn to rub along together without regard to colour, class or creed.

"If not, we'll re-stock with Greylings from Alpha Centauri. We've done it before and we'll do it again if that is what it takes. The Greylings know the score. They are very content with the simple life. Toleration is their motto and progress is a dirty word.



"Now then Archie, what shall we do about Mercury? To my mind that is the more burning issue!"

"Well Guv as it happens I have an idea. Shall I tell you all about it?"

"By all means Archie."

Three months later Gabriel was sitting again in the Guv's office.

"That's a fine tan you've got Archie. The Mercurian climate seems to suit you. Did you have any success with them?"

"Yes, Guv, I told them how lucky they were to have Christmas every 88 earth days, less than three Earth months. You see they love their Christmas trees, decorations, carols, crackers and presents, above all, their Christmas presents. When I told them if they relocated to an orbit the other side of Uranus they would only orbit the Sun every 84 Earth years or 336 of their own years their blood ran cold and that's a difficult thing to do on Mercury.

"We cannot have that, we'll never see another Christmas again," they said.

So they've decided to stay put. I suggested they spend a little less on Christmas presents and a little more on air conditioning. They didn't like it but I think they took it aboard."

"Good work, well done Gabriel," said the Guv with a look of relief on his face. "Do you know my very eager mother just served up nine pizzas?"

"Guv, I didn't know you had a mother, but what is she doing working as a waitress?" asked Gabriel.

"I haven't got a Mother. People in my position don't have Mothers. No silly it's just a mnemonic for remembering the distance of the planets from the Sun.

"Now that Mercury is staying put I won't have to think up another one. Listen to that, Archie, it's the celestial Choir rehearsing *Spem in Alium*, a 40 part Motet by Thomas Tallis. Isn't it lovely?"

"Yes and no, Guv. Yes it is lovely and no it is not the Celestial Choir It's the ring tone on my mobile phone. Do you mind if I answer it Guv?"

"No, go ahead," said the Guv.

A few minutes later Gabriel switched his mobile phone off. "Some interesting developments, Guv. Mercury are having second thoughts."

"You mean they want to move out Neptune way?" asked the Guv.

"No Guv. They are suggesting swapping places with Mars. They say that seeing Mars is to all intents and purposes a dead planet then it being closer to the Sun won't signify. It appears they have been doing their homework. They checked out the Martian orbit. It goes round the Sun every 687 Earth days, so they would get a Christmas every other Earth year. That would give them more time to save up for bigger and better Christmas presents and they like the idea of a White Christmas. One other thing, Guv. The good news is that you wouldn't have to change your mnemonic what do you say?"

"I daresay we could do it."

"Thanks Guv. Could I beg a favour. Can we move them when they are both out of sight from Earth? I want to see the look on the face of my friend Patrick Moore when he realises what has happened."

## POET'S CORNER

### UNCHAINED WORDS

by Tom Pinion Jones

This beginning hails the end of this story  
Which started over three decades before,  
With the abolition of trading in humanity on the  
Auction blocks of Britain:-

Standing tall she lifts her boy child up high  
Over sad crowds on a Washington street,  
Abe Lincoln's cortege rumbles by.  
"Sonny" she says "look, this man died for you."

In Liverpool, Bristol and London Town  
A brand new product was brought to their marts,  
Eight million people, Africans dark,  
Scared to be alive, - all with broken hearts.

Ship's captains from, Merrie England  
Now beckoned by the beauty of the buck,  
Did fill the darkest holds of cargo ships,  
And westward sailed, rejoicing in their luck.

Ships sailing West where white cotton trees bloomed  
Contrasting sharply with black sweaty skins,  
Disease, stale water, neglect and abuse,  
Fewer were landed than loaded. What Sins!

Now William Wilberforce, a man of God,  
Knew it was wrong to auction fellow man.  
He asked the Government to pass a law  
That on such trade would place a total ban.

Wilberforce then became a Christian Force  
In practising exactly what he preached.  
He preached of justice, freedom, love of God  
And thus in time his goals were proudly reached.

His message soon was heard across the land,  
In Parliament, in churches and in-homes,  
Where once a fist, now, reached an open hand  
And unchained blocks were soon devoid of groans.

This ending hails the beginning of these bitter sweet tales  
- the tears have still not completely dried!

## It strikes me

With Gog and Magog

Gog cannot let the appearance of two stalwart archers go unnoticed. Clive Jones introduced guests at the Archers' Dinner to the concept of a Welsh Tartan, a 5,000 year old tradition. Colin, meanwhile, went for a dashing James Bond-look with black tie. But did 007 ever wear a pin-stripe tuxedo?



## Ten Answers

Answers to quiz on page 10.

- 1) Queen Victoria;
- 2) Atlantic City;
- 3) George Bush Senior;
- 4) Wall Street; 5) Icing sugar;
- 6) Dallas; 7) Utah; 8) Reno;
- 9) Geronimo; and 10) Seagull.



# Welcome to St Dunstan's

**Eric Andrews** of Wrexham, Clwyd served as Corporal in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1943 to 1947.

**Bruce Avis** of Brighton served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1947.

**Sidney Banks** of Barwick-in-Elmet, Leeds, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1946.

**James Blair** of Belfast, County Antrim served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Philip Broomhead** of Morecambe, Lancashire served in the West Yorkshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Own), The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment), and the York and Lancaster Regiment between 1939 and 1946.

**Joseph Bruce** of Crawley, West Sussex was in the Polish Underground before joining the Polska Armoured Brigade, 8th Army in 1946. He then served in the Polish Resettlement Corps until 1948.

**Ralph Carr** of Sherburn, Durham, County Durham served in the Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1946.

**Maurice Carter** of Swindon, Wiltshire served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1956 to 1965.

**Stanley Cooper** of Horley, Surrey served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1942 to 1946.

**Albert Critchley** of Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

**Eric Davies** of Welshpool, Powys served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1957.

**Elsie Fixter** of Garforth, Leeds, West Yorkshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

**Albert Gaywood** of Littlehampton, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

**Brian Gibson** of Ferryhill, County Durham served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1958 to 1964.

**Verney Gilbert** of Neath, West Glamorgan served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1945 and then the

Royal Army Service Corps until 1946

**Eric Gouge** of Gravesend, Kent served in the General Service Corps and then The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) between 1946 and 1952.

**Peter Gould** of Westdene, Brighton served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1941 to 1946.

**Ronald Green** of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire served in the Border Regiment and Army Air Corps between 1943 and 1947.

**Vincent Gryba** of Skelmersdale, West Lancashire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1948 to 1964.

**Donald Hart** of Seaford, East Sussex served in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and the Royal Electrical Engineers between 1942 and 1947.

**Arthur Hatfield** of Brockworth, Gloucester, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

**Kenneth Horton** of Rhyl, Denbighshire served as Gunner in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

**Herbert Jenkins** of Newhaven, East Sussex served in the Royal Ulster Rifles from 1939 to 1947.

**John Lancaster** of Sherborne, Dorset served in the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1959.

**Grace Lydon** of Kettlebrook, Tamworth, Staffordshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1947.

**Isabel Misra** of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Services from 1941 to 1946.

**Norman Moor** of Bideford, Devon served in the Royal Engineers, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Indian Army between 1936 and 1955.

**James O'Neill** of Hounslow, Middlesex served in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers from 1947 to 1968 and then the Royal Irish Rangers until 1970.

**James Oxley** of Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex served in the

Royal Artillery, Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, Lovat Scouts and Royal Artillery (TA) between 1935 and 1954.

**Ronald Phillips** of Chorley, Lancashire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1943 to 1947.

**Alan Rae** of Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex served in the Royal Army Medical Corps and then the Royal Army Service Corps between 1948 and 1950.

**Samuel Sandler** of Mill Hill, London served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 to 1945.

**Ronald Simpson** of Durham, County Durham served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps between 1946 to 1949.

**Eric Soanes** of Heacham, King's Lynn, Norfolk served in the General Service Corps, Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's), Durham Light Infantry and Royal Engineers between 1943 and 1947.

**Robert Stanton** of Bedford, Bedfordshire served in the Royal Navy from 1939 to 1958.

**Frank Stimpson** of Reading, Berkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1945 and then the East Surrey Regiment until 1946.

**Joseph Taylor** of Chichester, West Sussex served in the Royal Artillery and then transferred to the East Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of York's Own) between 1942 and 1945.

**Alexander Wallis** of Blackpool, Lancashire served in the Durham Light Infantry, Parachute Regiment, Army Air Corps and Army Physical Training Corps between 1940 and 1947.

**Geoffrey Wade** of Hove, East Sussex served as Flight Lieutenant in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1962.

**John Watts** of Peacehaven, East Sussex served as Sergeant in the Royal Air Force from 1938 to 1948.

**Beryl Wilson** of Storrington, Pulborough, West Sussex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1945 to 1948.

**Arthur Windscheffel** of Norwich, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.



## REUNION ROUND-UP Reports on the most recent area reunions

THERE WERE 33 St Dunstaners and eight widows attending the Burley Reunion at Burley Manor Hotel, Burley on 23 May. Major General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE was the Member of Council presiding and St Dunstaner Don Planner gave the reply on behalf of those present.

The Scotland Reunion in the Pentland Suite at Marriott Hotel, Edinburgh on 30 May brought

together 20 St Dunstaners and two widows. Guests included Jum Munro and Les Meikle from the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded. Piper Robert Ross welcomed those attending. St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan presided and St Dunstaner Maurice Aldridge responded, paying tribute to Syd Scroggie who passed away last year.

Major General Andrew Keeling was presiding once

again at the Chichester Reunion at Crouchers Country Hotel, Chichester on 6 June. There were 38 St Dunstaners, seven widows attending and St Dunstaner Gerry Jackson gave the reply.

There were 33 St Dunstaners and 11 widows at the Exeter Reunion at Southgate Hotel, Southernhay East on 13 June. Ray Hazan presided, Eric Powell replied in kind, and Rev Douglas Rix, son of St Dunstaner David Rix, said Grace.

## BEER OF THE MONTH

by Colin Williamson

### Exmoor Beast

On a recent trip to Devon, I was fortunate enough to pick up a bottle of Exmoor Beast, a dark, porter style ale with a delightful roast malt flavour. It has a beautiful 'chocolaty' taste to it but isn't too sweet. ABV is 6.6 per cent, so great care has to be taken not to indulge too much as it is dangerously drinkable. Not perhaps a session beer but a 'one-for-the-road' ale.

This is a previous winner of the Tesco Beer Challenge and was given Champion Beer status at the 1996 Newton Abbot Maltings Beer Festival. Made by Exmoor Ales in Wiveliscombe, Somerset who regard it as their Winter Warmer, the label sports a leaping panther, the legendary big cat that inspires its name.

## Family News

### BIRTHS

#### Congratulations on the birth of:

Pearl Heather Fredericks on 27 March. She is the great-granddaughter of Mavis Ward of Leeds, West Yorkshire and the late St Dunstaner Herbert Ward.

Skye Hannah on 14 April. She is the sixth-great-grandchild of Lilian Bradley of Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, widow of St Dunstaner Alfred Bradley.

### SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

William and Margaret Lang of Crosby, Liverpool on 19 June.

### RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

Colin and Ruth Margetson of Dereham, Norfolk on 10 June.

Ronald and Joan Jefferies of Trowbridge, Wiltshire on 15 June.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

Geoffrey and Stella George of Brierfield, Nelson, Lancashire on 1 June.

Sylvia and Richard Giles of St Peters, Worcester, Worcestershire on 1 June.

Ernest and Edna Parker of Bromley, Kent on 1 June.

Kenneth and Joyce Fowler of Plymouth, Devon on 8 June.

### DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

Stanley and Muriel Taverner of Westgate-on-Sea, Kent on 5 June.

Edward and Kathleen Thatcher of Nutfield, Redhill, Surrey on 7 June.

Joyce and Don Holland of Worthing, West Sussex on 14 June.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

John and Marjorie Janes of Brighton who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 20 May.

John and Winnifred Tibble of Basildon, Essex who celebrated 67 years of marriage on 20 May.

Percy and Dilys Saywell of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 25 May.

Nancy and Frank Chadwick of Oldham, Lancashire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 26 May.

Edward and Lillian Chew of Chorley, who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 1 June.

Patrick and Ivy Cox of Hullbridge, Hockley, Essex who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 1 June.

Benjamin and Betty Dyer of Angmering, Littlehampton, West Sussex who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 1 June.

John and Muriel Gray of Bournemouth, Dorset who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 1 June.

Eric and Catherine Andrew of Wymondham, Norfolk who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 2 June.

Kenneth and Anne Clare of Wendover, Aylesbury who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 2 June.

John and Win Brown of Old Coulsden, Croydon, Surrey who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 3 June.

Ronald and Ella Barker of Faversham, Kent who celebrated 64 years of marriage on 6 June.

Leonard and Peggy Hobbs of Waterlooville, Hampshire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 6 June.

Leonard and Miriam Simpson of Whickham, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 7 June.

Samuel and Kathleen Bartholomew of Middlesbrough, Cleveland who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 9 June.



George and Frances Mander of Birmingham, West Midlands who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 9 June.

George and Elsie Roberts of Llandaff, Cardiff, South Glamorgan who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 16 June.

William and Daisy Higgins of Eastbourne, East Sussex who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 14 June.

Hugh and Jane Rance of Rottingdean, Brighton who celebrated 68 years of marriage on 17 June.

William and Mary Waistell of Slapton, Kingsbridge, Devon who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 17 June.

Kenneth and Eileen Richardson of Benfleet, Essex who celebrated 64 years of marriage on 19 June.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Congratulations to :**

Stephen Ward on being appointed Professor of Education at Bath Spa University. He is the son of Mavis Ward of Leeds, West Yorkshire and the late Herbert Ward.

## **DEATHS**

### **We regret to announce the death of:**

Molly Brown on 10 May. She was the wife of Derek Brown of Torpoint, Cornwall.

Lillian Stevens on 29 May. She was the wife of Ronald Stevens of Ashford, Middlesex.

Gladys Cornish on 6 June. She was the wife of Joseph Cornish of Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

Marjorie Barton of Ambleside, Cumbria on 15 May. She was the widow of Edmund Barton.

Marcia Crerar of Kingsgrove, New South Wales, Australia on 19 May. She was the widow of the late Ken Crerar.

Joan Ransom of Bookham Surrey on 23 May. She was the widow of Dennis Ransom.

Edith Barton of Hersham, Surrey on 28 May. She was the widow of Harold Barton.

Jackie Sullivan, aged 46, on 6 May. She was the daughter of John and Kathleen Sullivan of Whittlesey, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

**We extend our condolences to their family and friends.**

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# **In Memory**

**It is with deep regret that we have to record the deaths of the following St Dunstaners and we offer our heartfelt condolences to their widows, family and friends.**

### **Patrick Mahoney Merchant Navy**

Patrick Mahoney of Singlewell, Gravesend, Kent died on 11 May, age 85. He joined the Merchant Navy as a boy and served on several ships as a fireman. He was promoted to 2nd Engineer and survived being torpedoed twice. He later joined the Port of London Authority before becoming an engineer on seagoing tugs. His interests included bowls. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Fay and all members of the family.

### **Frederick Mould Royal Artillery**

Frederick Charles Mould of Dorking, Surrey died on 13 May, aged 82. He was a trainee butcher and also worked in the building trade before joining the Royal Artillery in 1942. He went into France through Sword Beach, deploying through Holland and Belgium to Germany. Discharged in 1947, he became a lorry driver and later joined the local authority as a Building Services Officer. His interests included walking and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his daughters Linda and Susan and all other members of the family.

### **Morris Wooding Royal Army Service Corps**

Morris Wooding of Cemaes Bay, Anglesey died on 15 May, aged 94. He worked as a clerk on the railways before joining the Royal Army Service Corps in 1930. He survived the sinking of HMT Lancastria in 1940. The Cunard liner was evacuating 6,000 men women and children when it was bombed by German planes. Only around 2,500 survived. Commissioned in 1941, he was discharged in 1945 and became a Marine Surveyor. He also took to renovating yachts. Our sympathy goes to his widow Eleanor and all members of the family.

### **Joseph Smith Royal Artillery**

Joseph Smith of Woodsetton, Dudley, West Midlands died on 18 May, aged 74. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1954 and trained in Wales. He was posted to Colchester to work with a 25-pounder unit. Discharged in 1956, he resumed work in a foundry, later moving into the building trade. His interest included bowling, darts

and live sports. Our sympathy goes to his widow Winifred, daughter Karen, and all other members of the family.

### **John Reed Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

John Reed of Mapplewell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire died on 19 May, aged 92. He was a bus driver for Yorkshire Traction before joining the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1939. Deployed to France, he was evacuated from Dunkirk. Posted to Ireland, he transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1941. He landed in Normandy on D+1 and fought through to Hamburg and then Dusseldorf. Demobbed in 1946, he resumed bus driving, until 1960 when he joined a steel works. His interests included travel and bingo. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Leslie and all other members of the family.

### **Maurice Searchfield Royal Corps of Signals**

Maurice William Searchfield of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire died on 19 May, aged 88. He joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1937 and was posted to the Far East. Taken prisoner by Japanese forces when Singapore fell in 1942, he suffered gunshot wounds to the legs. He then endured several years of privation in camps at Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and working on the Burma-Siam Railway. Discharged in 1946, he worked as a warehouseman and also as a drummer. After training at St Dunstan's he became a capstan lathe operator and machine tool operator. His interests included amateur and CB radio. Our sympathy goes to all other members of the family.



**Herbert Nicol**  
**Royal Air Force**

Herbert Nicol of Uxbridge, Middlesex died on 21 May, aged 79. He was apprenticed at the Lagonda Motor Company in Staines before joining the Royal Air Force in 1951. After training at RAF Innsworth, Gloucestershire, he was posted to West Drayton and then on to Egypt. He further served in Kenya, Singapore and Aden. Discharged in 1971, he became an air traffic controller until 1986. His interests included snooker, swimming and dancing and he was a member of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffalos. He had six sons, though one predeceased him, three daughters and 26 grandchildren.

**Eric Mortland**  
**Grenadier Guards**

Eric Thomas George Mortland of Selsey, West Sussex died on 23 May, aged 86. He worked on a farm in Cambridge and then a greengrocers and hardware shop. In 1938, he joined the Grenadier Guards and was posted to France when war broke out. Evacuated from Dunkirk, he was then posted to North Africa, fighting through to Italy and up towards Austria. Discharged in 1946, he worked as an aircraft handler and driver at Heathrow. He was a member of the Royal British Legion. Our sympathy goes to his widow Lilian and all of the family.

**Rowland Peel**  
**Royal Navy**

Rowland Peel of Trowse, Norwich, Norfolk died on 23 May, aged 96. He was an apprentice joiner, working on looms in a wool factory, before joining the Royal Navy in 1943. He was posted to the Western Isles and made targets for training naval gunners

before joining a salvage craft. Discharged in 1946, he continued to work as a joiner. He played the piano and enjoyed big band music such as Billy Cotton. Our sympathy goes to his granddaughter Emma and all members of the family.

**George Cowley**  
**King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry**

George William Cowley of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire died on 24 May, aged 101. He started working life as a door opener at a millinery shop in Liverpool. He went on to work as a commercial traveller and then in retail with three shops, known as George Halls, selling ladies and children's wear. In 1925, he joined the Territorial Army, developing a lifelong love of horses. He was embodied into the regular army in 1939 and deployed to Palestine with the Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoons. He served in Syria and El Alamein. After reforming as the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, his unit took part in the Anzio landings where he was taken prisoner by the Germans. He was liberated by American forces in 1945 and discharged as WOII the following year. He returned to work at George Halls and later became president of the Huddersfield Chamber of Trade. He was also master of Cambodunum Masonic Lodge. Our sympathy goes to his sons Gerald and David, niece Judith and all of the family.

**Alan Wright**  
**Royal Air Force**

Alan Wright of Leeds, West Yorkshire died on 24 May, aged 76. He trained as a draughtsman, but was called up for National service with the Royal Air Force in 1949. He became a wireless mechanic, but lost his right eye in a cookhouse accident when

he slipped and fell on a fork. Discharged in 1951, he resumed work as a contract draughtsman and joined ICI. However, he developed macular degeneration in his remaining eye and retired early. His interests include photography, football, DIY and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his daughters and all members of the family.

**Les Gwynn**  
**2nd/3rd Mechanical**  
**Equipment Workshops**

Lesley Thomas Gwynn of Werribee East (Hoppers Crossing), Victoria, Australia died on 26 May, aged 89. He was a textile mechanic before joining the Australian Army in 1941. Serving with the Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' 2nd/3rd Mechanical Workshop, he suffered a coral infection. Discharged in 1945, he was a member of the Victorian Blinded Soldiers Association. Our sympathy goes to his widow Phyllis and all members of the family.

**Stuart Maynard**  
**Royal Army Ordnance Corps**

"Ken" Stuart Herbert Alfred Maynard of Ovingdean, Brighton, died on 30 May, aged 91. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps as a boy soldier in 1932. In 1936, he was posted to Palestine as an Armourer and from there he was sent to Egypt. He was seconded to the Buffs for the duration of the North African campaign and was mentioned in dispatches during an attack on the Kufra Oasis with the Sudan defence Force and the Long Range Desert Group. After returning to the UK in 1943 and seconded to 47 Commando, Royal Marines. He was with 47 Commando through the Normandy landings and on to Germany. Discharged in 1946, he became a surveyor for Norwich Union. His interests included bowls and music. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Bertram Bedford**  
**Royal Artillery**

Bertram Leslie Bedford of Birmingham, West Midlands died on 31 May, aged 94. He worked as an errand boy before joining the Royal Artillery in 1930. After training at Woolwich, he joined 16th Field Regiment, using 25-pounder guns in France, India and Burma. Discharged in 1946, he worked for a chain manufacturer as an electroplater. He continued this trade after moving to Cape Town for 23 years. His interests included ballroom dancing and masonics. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Marion and all members of the family.

**George Prior**  
**Royal Engineers**

George Alfred Prior of Arborfield, Reading, Berkshire died on 31 May, aged 82. He joined the Royal Engineers as an apprentice in 1939, training at Chatham with the Bengal Sappers and Miners. He was posted to India with 45 Indian Beach Group for the Burma Campaign. Returning to the UK, he was posted to the Port Control Company at Hull and then onto Germany. He was discharged as WOII in 1949, and became a school caretaker. He was involved with Learning Through Landscapes, a charity that campaigns for better school grounds. His interests included making model bungalows. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Philip Roche**  
**Royal Artillery**

Philip Roche of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire died recently, aged 86. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940, initially with a Heavy Ack-Ack Regiment in Dover. He transferred to a Light Ack-Ack unit and served in India,



North Africa, Sicily and Italy. He was in charge of German prisoners of war before being discharged in 1946. In civilian life, he resumed his carpentry apprenticeship and became a Foreman in the building trade. He was blinded at work when a bag of lime exploded. After retraining, he worked in a spring clips factory. Actively involved with the Workers Education Association, he spoke to community groups on coping with blindness and local history. His interests included geology, astronomy, and meteorology. He regularly journeyed to a London church where he had built the altar.

### **Derrick McIntosh**

#### **Royal Air Force**

Derrick John McIntosh of Gloucester, Gloucestershire died on 2 June, aged 80. He worked for the gas board and then joined Gloucester Constabulary. In 1944, he joined the Royal Air Force and was posted to Woodhall Spa where Guy Gibson and Leonard Cheshire were stationed. After serving at a variety of locations, he was discharged from RAF St Athan in 1946. Initially, he resumed life as a police constable, but later joined Hoover and then became Service Manager for Robbs of Gloucestershire. Our sympathy goes to his widow Barbara, son David, daughter Susan and all members of the family.

### **Bob Davies**

#### **Royal Air Force**

'Bob' Bevis Denton Davies of Bayswater, London died on 3 June, aged 86. He joined the TA in 1938 and was called up on the outbreak of war. After serving with a searchlight unit in Sheerness, he joined the Royal Air Force in 1941. Training in the USA as a pilot, he became an instructor

and returned to the UK to join Bomber Command. He flew Halifax Bombers and later Flying Fortresses. In 1946, he joined Transport Command, flying in the Far East and Europe during the Berlin Airlift. He was awarded the Efficiency Medal (Territorial) in 1948. He was also awarded the Air Force Cross in 1954, shortly before being promoted to Squadron Leader. He left the service in 1963 and became a chauffeur. His interests included photography and aviation. He was a member of RAFA, the Aircrew Association and Bomber Command Association. Our sympathy goes to his widow, Eunice and all of the family.

### **Arnold Metcalfe**

#### **Royal Navy**

Arnold Matthew Metcalfe of Upperby, Carlisle, Cumbria died on 6 June, aged 92. He started working life as a 13-year-old messenger for a general provisions shop in Gretna and became it's manager before joining the Royal Navy in 1936. He was posted to Gibraltar where he joined the destroyer HMS *Grafton*. He was injured in Chatham while serving on HMS *Neptune*. Discharged in 1942, he worked as a salesman in an electrical goods shop. Later he worked at the Ordnance depot at Langton and then for Babcock and Wilcox construction at Chapel Cross Atomic Energy Establishment. His interests included darts, snooker, football and bowling. Our sympathy goes to his widow Agnes, son Brian, daughter Anne and all of the family

### **Thomas Renshaw**

#### **London Irish Rifles**

Thomas Albert Renshaw of Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire died on 7 June, aged 90. He joined the Royal Irish Fusiliers

(Princess Victoria's) in 1940. After being promoted to Sergeant, he transferred to the London Irish Rifles in 1943. While stationed in Algeria, he was inspecting some grenades that had detonated. There was a further explosion and he lost his left eye amongst other injuries. After recuperating at St Dunstan's Church Stretton, he resumed civilian life as a pipe wrapper for John Player and Son. His interests included bowls, gardening and picture framing. Our sympathy goes to his widow Grace, son Anthony, daughter Madeline, and all members of the family.

### **Isaac Jones**

#### **Royal Artillery**

Isaac Jones of Denbigh, Denbighshire died on 8 June, aged 89. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940, serving on the South Coast of England and at Scapa Flow. Discharged in 1943, he worked in the building trade and as a gardener. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Maureen and all of the family.

### **Iris Wells**

#### **Women's Royal Naval Service**

Iris Eileen Mary Wells nee Eade of Rottingdean, Brighton died on 8 June, aged 84. She joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1943 and was posted to HMS Dolphin at Gosport. She worked in the supplies department. Discharged in 1945, she raised a family and was member of the Women's Institute. She also did voluntary work for Age Concern and as clerk at a local hospital. Our sympathy goes to her sons Ian and Michael and all members of the family.

### **Noel Tilling**

#### **Army Catering Corps**

Noel Edward James Tilling of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire died on 12 June, aged 76.

He first worked for the Church Army Bakery as a tin greaser, as a van boy for a catering supply firm, and then for Crawfords Biscuits before being called up in 1949. He joined the Army Catering Corps and was posted to the Rhine and then on to Singapore. He went on to serve in Malaya and Hong Kong. He was taken prisoner in Korea and was injured during an attack by American Forces. He went onto serve in Aden, British Guyana, Jamaica, Cyprus, South Arabia and Germany. He was discharged as Sergeant in 1971. In civilian life, he worked for Doughty Fuel Systems. He was an active member of the British Korean Veterans Association and Royal British Legion. He was awarded the Gloucestershire Medal for Courage in 2005. Our sympathy goes to his widow Sheila, sons Andrew and Nicholas, daughter Sandra and all members of the family.

### **Tom Gardner**

#### **Royal Air Force**

Thomas William Gardner of Ovingdean, Brighton died on 13 June, aged 89. Originally a long distance lorry driver, he joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 and was posted to Singapore with 266 Wing. They were diverted to Sumatra and converted to rifle infantry because their crated aircraft had been sunk in convoy. He was taken prisoner in Java and moved to Changi Gaol and then onto Japan. He was forced to labour in the Nagasaki shipyards but was then moved to a steel foundry at Yawata. During this time, he suffered from malnutrition, amoebic dysentery, malaria, beri-beri and retro bulbula neuritis. He was repatriated and discharged in 1946. He worked as a mechanic and later in shops. Our sympathy goes to his son Peter, daughter Joan and all of the family.



# Henry's 111th birthday!



Photograph: Alex Cave

Henry, his grandchildren and well wishers outside HMS Victory.

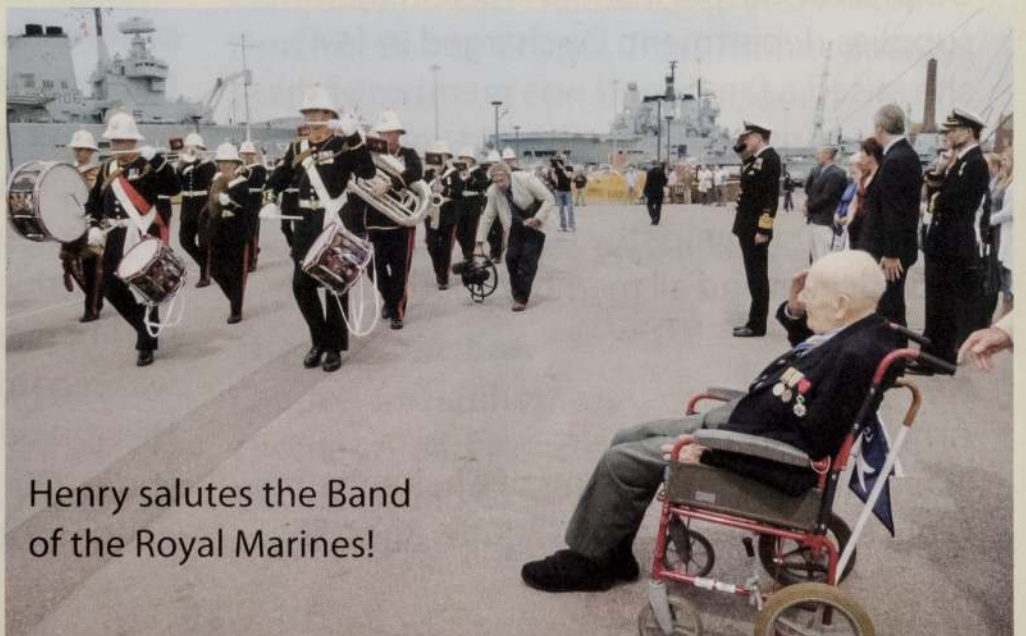
## Henry Allingham celebrates unique day on HMS Victory

ST DUNSTANER Henry Allingham - pictured as a baby on the front page - celebrated his 111th birthday on HMS *Victory* on 6 June. The oldest Royal Navy and RAF veteran was joined by his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and guests such as Veterans Minister Derek Twigg, the Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Adrian Johns, and Air Vice Marshal Peter Dye.

At HMS *Victory*, Henry was serenaded by a Royal Marines Band before witnessing a flypast by a Sea Fury fighter of the Royal Navy's Historic Flight and four RAF Tornado

fighters - appropriately from No111 Squadron. He took great pleasure in talking to the musicians and a group of schoolchildren visiting the historic dockyard. They greeted him with a spontaneous rendition of "Happy Birthday to You!"

Young Henry, more than a century ago!



Henry salutes the Band of the Royal Marines!