

St Dunstan's Review

Pedalling with a purpose!

Susan and Andy join the team cycling London to Brighton!



Going back down the wire!

Photograph: John Corfield



St Dunstaners and friends at Ludlow Castle during a return visit to Church Stretton in Shropshire!



Where's that pigeon gone?

Craig takes aim at the annual Bisley shoot!



Veterans Day!

Nigel stands proud as our Standard Bearer at Greenwich!

Blackpool cadets tower above the rest!

The latest of our youthful challengers keep St Dunstaners Colin and Ron on their toes in the famous seaside resort!



August 2007

St Dunstan's

An independent future for blind ex-Service men and women

From the Chairman



I RECENTLY ATTENDED the "VISION 2020" UK Conference. Vision 2020 has a wide ranging membership of people with very broad interests in all aspects of blindness and is an umbrella body bringing together

Anne Alexander, CEO of RNIB), "Vision" for Children and the increasing prevalence of sight loss as people live longer – which we at St Dunstan's know all about!

The word is undoubtedly spreading; this year there were almost 150 participants, and over 30 had to be turned away, which shows a steadily gathering interest in the work and influence of Vision 2020.

The most important point I brought from the conference was the very low take-up of regular eye checks, designed to flag-up early defects which cause preventable blindness. Most people have regular dental checks but do not have them for sight. These are particularly important for young children, enabling early diagnosis and treatment.

A good note on which to close is, once again, to congratulate St Dunstaner David Stuttard, whose ground breaking scheme to provide clean water in Ghana, has helped to eradicate Trachoma blindness in those young village children.

the many and varied organisations working in this field. It is chaired by the energetic Stephen Remington (CEO of Action for Blind People) who is sighted, and the Chief Executive is Mike Brace, OBE, who is also Chairman of the British Paralympic Association and was blinded by a firework in a bottle at ten years old.

The conference attracts a wide gathering of people who are either blind themselves, supporting and helping blind people, or involved in eye health care.

This year's agenda started with a keynote speech by Peter White, the BBC Disability Correspondent, blind since birth. Other items included the political action needed to improve services for visually impaired people, progress with the UK vision strategy (led by the very able Lesley-

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Noticeboard

St Dunstan's Calendar

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
- 20th Outdoor Bowling
- 28th-Oct 1st PhysioWeekend
- 30th-Oct 6th Widows'Week

OCTOBER

- 1st Indoor Bowling
- 6th Writers Forum
- 8th Indoor Bowling
- 10th-11th ComputerClub(II)
- 11th World Sight Day

GO SKIING IN ITALY IN 2008

ST DUNSTAN'S BACK ON THE SLOPES IN JANUARY: Once again, the St Dunstan's ski party will be visiting Canazei in the Italian Dolomites. The trip will be from 19-26 January 2008. Guides are provided and have been skiing with St Dunstaners for many years and are unbeatable!

The trip will cost around £400 to include travel, accommodation (including breakfast and evening meal), ski and boot hire. Lift passes are free thanks to the generosity of the Italian lift company.

It is a great week; comradeship, laughs, and above all, a chance to push barriers of achievement beyond what you thought was possible. Anyone interested should please contact the organiser by e-mail at gerryjones@btinternet.com or telephone Ray Hazan at St Dunstan's Headquarters on 020 7616 7930.

insight newsletter

Also included with this issue, is the latest edition of St Dunstan's **insight** newsletter which is sent out to thousands of individuals all over the country who support the work of the charity.



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ACCOMMODATION AT OIVINGDEAN OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

BOOKING ROOM AT THE INN: As in previous years, there is likely to be insufficient accommodation at Ovingdean to meet everybody's requirements. Usually holiday (non care-needs) bookings can be booked provisionally six months in advance directly with Jackie Castle, the Bookings Coordinator (01273 391422) and confirmed at three months. However, for the Christmas and New Year period bookings can only be accepted via Welfare Officers, (that is in the same way as Respite Care bookings) and need to be with Welfare Officers for processing by 28 September. Because of the degree of uncertainty associated with the period, particularly issues about appropriate care packages available in local communities, accommodation will not be confirmed until the end of November though provisional bookings will be announced by 19 October.

Because of the likely demand, it is necessary to split the period into Christmas (16 or 17 to 27 or 28 December) and New Year (28 or 29 December to 5 or 6 January) and to limit most bookings to one or the other. For a very limited number of people, a stay over the whole Christmas and New Year period may be possible. The actual dates will depend upon factors like transport schedules for those wishing to use Ovingdean vehicles. It will be possible to be placed on a waiting list for the other periods but there can be no guarantee that space

will become available. As in previous years, a surcharge will be applied to those who come into Ovingdean over the Christmas and New Year period which reflects the significant cost of the extra food, drink and activities which are put on. The surcharge per head will be in the region of: Christmas period (£35), New Year (£25).

In order to make the most of the accommodation available, some principles and priorities need to be applied. Firstly, we need to make full use of our fully ensuite, off-site premises at Port Hall. It is accepted that there are limitations associated with this property which is within walking distance but it must be utilised especially by those who are fit and able to do so. The accommodation charge is less than for staying in-house. A care-need that requires staff support is the factor that determines who must be in Ovingdean itself as opposed to being offered accommodation at Port Hall. There will be a presumption that people taking care of themselves in the community can, in most circumstances, use Port Hall though some may need to be downstairs if their own home is configured that way. The final arbiter for a care-need will be Jackie Greer as Head of Care in discussion with the relevant Welfare Officer, backed, if necessary, by a doctor's written opinion. In addition, there will be occasions when sharing a room either in-house or at Port Hall would create extra space and this will be considered as an option, with those sharing in these circumstances receiving a reduction in the room charge.

LEGAL CHANGES TO ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY

NEW LEGISLATION EFFECTIVE FROM 1 OCTOBER: Previously it was possible to complete a Power of Attorney form but this was revoked by the incapacity of the donor and was replaced by Enduring Powers of Attorney (EPA) in 1985.

An EPA can be used at any time without the need to register it with the Court of Protection. Should the donor become mentally incapable of managing their own affairs the attorney(s) will then have to apply to the Court of Protection for registration of this power. It will no longer be possible to complete an EPA from the end of September this year.

EPA is being replaced by "Lasting Powers of Attorney" (LPA) which will come into force on 1 October 2007. It is believed that LPA's will be divided into two distinct documents; the first dealing with the property and affairs of the donor and the second with their personal welfare. Should an attorney wish to act on this power immediately then it has to be registered with the Court of Protection before it can be used.

Unfortunately St Dunstan's or members of staff can not and do not act as Attorney.

If you do not have a solicitor or wish to discuss the matter (in total confidence) please write to or telephone Mrs Eileen Mobsby, Wills & Trusts Coordinator at Ovingdean on Brighton (01273) 307811 ext: 1445 who will be pleased to assist you.

In determining the overall priority for those staying at Ovingdean over the Christmas and New Year period, the first call goes to those with a genuine care-need, particularly as a result of insufficient care in the community over the holiday period. This includes Respite Care requirements. Second priority will be the spouses of those living permanently at Ovingdean and who do not live locally. Thereafter, the priority is other holiday makers as determined by their declared and authenticated care-needs and their requests, with those living independently in the Ovingdean area only being considered after those who cannot participate on daily-visitor basis. When accommodation has been allocated on the above basis, a waiting list will be established. Ideally, applications for accommodation should be made on the basis of the above principles, particularly by offering to accept Port Hall or agreeing to share. We will do our best to give people what they desire but, in the final analysis, the offer of accommodation may have to be based on an assessment of need and upon balancing the requirements of all concerned. Due to the size of the main dining room, we will almost certainly also have to restrict the numbers who come in for the day over the Christmas and New Year peaks, and for whom a surcharge will also apply. Application for a day visitor place should be made to the Lounge Desk at Ovingdean by Friday 7 December and, as with those staying in-house over the period, the relevant Welfare Officers will be consulted if we have to prioritise the places available.

STAFF CHANGES

BELINDA BELAIRE

The confident and caring voice of the Harcourt Street Estate Office has decided to retire. To many of you living in St Dunstan's Houses, Belinda Belaire has been your first contact. If she did not know the answer to any question you posed she knew a man or woman who did and would always ensure that you received a prompt and helpful response. Woe betide any of us in the team who failed to take action quickly!

In her professional role, dealing with tenancies and rents, she helped you to ensure that you were awarded the maximum eligible amount of housing related benefits from local Councils and allowances from St Dunstan's and that you were well served as a tenant. To many Belinda has been much more than that, she has been the friend on the end of the telephone who would listen and give wise counsel from her knowledge of the charity and from her very wide experience of life.

In her retirement she will have time to enjoy with an artist's eye, accompanied by her dog of course, the wonders of the countryside and the historic built environment with which we are so richly endowed and also have time to write.

I am sure that all who have had contact with Belinda wish her well after 12 years of service to us.

**Michael Reinhold,
Deputy Head of Estates**

TOM WILLIAMS

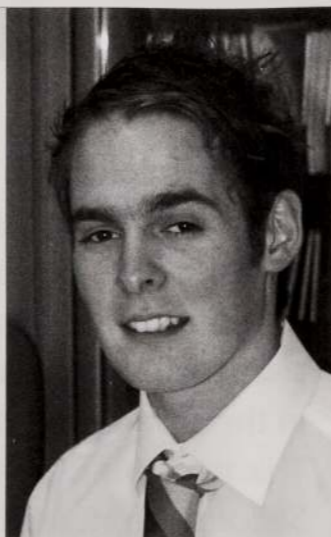
Joining the Estates team at St Dunstan's Headquarters, Tom Williams has now taken over many of the roles Belinda Belaire has carried out for the past 12 years as Housing Services and Benefits Administrator.

Perhaps "poacher turned gamekeeper" Tom previously worked in a Benefits Office in Norwich and brings his expertise in that field to give continuity to our services to Beneficiaries.

A Business and Technology graduate, his skills will be invaluable in continuing to improve the efficiency of the wide ranging and sometimes complex recording and management systems which enable us to serve you as efficiently as possible.

**NOTIFY WELFARE AND GRANTS
DEPT OF ADDRESS CHANGES**

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



NEW MAN AT THE LEGION

NEW DIRECTOR IS NAMED: The Royal British Legion has appointed Chris Simpkins as Director General. Chris is expected to take up his new role in October 2007.

Chris Simpkins has a UK and international public sector background that spans more than 35 years. For the last four years he has been Chief Executive of the Falkland Islands Government and Head of the Falkland Islands Civil Service. He has led a modernisation and improvement programme for the civil service in the Falkland Islands, one of the most dynamic of the UK's Overseas Territories, working with members to improve governance, management and business planning processes. A major focus of his activities during this time has been the maintenance of close working relations with senior military personnel based at the Tri Service Garrison based on the Falkland Islands; particularly with regard to disaster planning, the joint use of assets and ceremonial activities.

Prior to this, for 14 years, he was Chief Executive of South Holland District Council in Lincolnshire. He led the introduction of the national Rural Action Zone concept which saw South Holland achieve Beacon Council status.

Frances Done will continue as Interim Director General until Chris Simpkins takes up his new role.

ACCOUNTS OF JAVA

NEW BOOK: The deprivation and brutality experienced as FEPOWs by St Dunstaners Bill Griffiths and Jim Fraser are amongst those recorded in Prisoners in Java, a 336 page book. Priced £18.99 (p&p £4.95) it can be ordered from Lesley Clark, 5 Barrons Close, Ongar, Essex CM5 9BJ. Tel: 01277 362313. E-mail lesleyclarkuk@yahoo.co.uk. Cheques should be made payable to The Java Club.

PRELIMINARY DATES FOR 2008

A TASTE OF ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT YEAR: The following activities and club events are scheduled to be held at St Dunstan's Ovingdean next year. A fuller calendar will appear in the December Review.

Archery Club (I)	18-27 January
Writers Forum	2 February
Dancing Week (I)	10-16 February
Computer Club (I)	20-21 February
Amateur Radio (I)	22 Feb-1 March
Writers Forum	1 March
Bowling club (I)	2-15 March
Music Week	20-26 March
Ex-POW Reunion	4-7 April
Writers Forum	5 April
Widows' Week (I)	13-19 April
Masonic Weekend	25-28 April
Writers Forum	3 May
Blind Handless Reunion	7-13 May
Archery Club (II)	24 May-1 June
Gardening Week	1-7 June
Writers Forum	7 June

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.

Are CDs good, bad or indifferent?

I have been asking everybody to try and source a CD player with a book mark button for listening to books. This has taken on a more urgent task as my local library is not ordering any more tapes, all new titles are on CD. My problem is I don't have a CD player with a book mark. This is my suggestion for the **Review**, why not do product reviews.

I had the last **Review** report on Daisy players, what ever

they are? I was left with so many questions after having it read to me. What size are the players? What is the sound quality like? Are the speakers detachable? Is the sound stereo? Can you turn up the bass? How easy are they to use for the blind?

I could go on, but I think you will get the idea that what I want is a proper review. I don't want to spend a lot of money without some kind

of information input so I buy once but get it right. This could be taken further with a comments page with input from St Dunstaners saying if a product is good, bad or indifferent. Books could also be included. It's only a suggestion but from my point of view it would be a way of sharing information which can be hard to come by.

**Colin Best,
County Down**

• The Sony Radio and MP3CD player (Ref: HSOCAL) from Hagger Electronics features a bookmark facility, as do Daisy devices such as the Victor Reader Vibe or Plectalk player available from the RNIB. Further product reviews will appear in future issues. After reading July's edition, a few St Dunstaners rang to say that they use a computer to transfer the MP3 files from the CD to an MP3 player, a variety of which can be found on amazon.com for around £10.

Fascinating Fraser's book made high calibre reading

I expect most of your readers have their favourite sources for taped books, but there is one book I have just finished which I found extraordinarily interesting. This is *Whereas I was blind*. This was sent by Calibre although I do not think I had ordered it. It was written around 1943 by Sir Ian Fraser, the second Chairman of St Dunstan's. I

think most St Dunstaners, particularly those with no sight, would find fascinating. Its Calibre number is 7077.

Calibre gives a free service to all visually impaired people and their address is Calibre, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP22 5XQ.

**Eric Barwell,
Toft, Cambridge**

Maybe I'm getting old and cynical

Things have happened recently that provoke some useful thought. Last Saturday, 2 June, I was in conversation with a local resident of long standing and he was telling me of his experiences on the Arctic Convoys during the war. This led me to say to him had he received his Russian medals which I knew were being issued to seamen. He said yes, but in effect his proudest medal of all was the one given to him by the town council of Westbury on the occasion of Trafalgar Day 2005. I also received one of these medals that were presented that day. It is inscribed 'This is presented to Clifford Gower in recognition of services to his country in the Second World War 1939-1945.' I also am very proud of this medal.

On Tuesday 5 June, I received in the post a further medal from the Greek Embassy. My Greek medal is a six-pointed star on a blue, red and green ribbon. It is inscribed on the reverse. With the medal came a very nice scroll written in Greek but the citation says that the medal was awarded

to Clifford Louie Gower for his services in the Greek Theatre of war 1939-1945. There is accompanying this a translation of the citation and a letter from the embassy saying how pleased they were to forward this to me.

This led me to thinking, most of my service with British forces was five years, 1942 to 1947. The medals awarded

to me by the War Office came in scruffy cardboard box with no explanation whatsoever to tell me what they were for. I think this tells its own story when you think of how the other two occasions mentioned have been presented in such a different tone. Maybe we're getting old and cynical.

**Clifford Gower,
Westbury, Wiltshire**

Graphite is lighter, but is it more sensitive?

I thank Ian Hebborn for his reply regarding my incident with a long cane and would like to point out the following.

I am more than happy with the modern graphite cane. However, I would dispute that it is more sensitive. The advantage is that it is a great deal lighter than the older canes.

As to new types of tips for canes and new methods for using long canes it would be a great advantage to

be made aware of these practices. Perhaps we could have refresher courses by the Rehabilitation department in new techniques, etc.

When I was involved with Health and Safety training refresher courses were offered at three year intervals.

**David Poyner,
Sale, Manchester**

A feature on various cane tips and best practise when using a long cane will appear in a future issue of **St Dunstan's Review**.

Balancing the Books

St Dunstaner **Ted Bunting** on a first rate adventure filled with espionage, skulduggery and romance

The Labyrinth Makers

Author: Anthony Price
Reader: George Hagan
Duration: 8 hours, 26 minutes
Catalogue No 7791

When the wreckage is found of an old Dakota transport that crashed in 1945, a Whitehall boffin is assigned to tidy up the matter and attend the burial of the pilot's bones. It doesn't sound a very promising beginning for an adventure story I admit, but amazingly, it's the prelude to a really first rate tale. It's a story in fact that's pretty well "got it all" as they say, because there's murder, robbery, espionage and mystery galore. Yes, and there's romance too for the boffin, bless him, turns out to be a bit of a lad with the ladies. He's a competent detective too for not only does he discover what the aircrew were smuggling all those years ago, but he also manages to track it down to its presence hiding place. So all in all, the novel is excellent entertainment all round. True, there are aspects that rather stretch credibility but, as regular readers will know, it's not in my nature to be overly critical.

Ten questions on

The subject of *Relatives*

Harry Beevers keeps it in the family

- 1) Which stage actress and singer who created the role of Maria in the *Sound of Music* was the mother of actor Larry Hagman who played J.R. Ewing in the TV series *Dallas*?
- 2) What relation is the Queen to the person fifth in line to the British throne?
- 3) What was the christian name of the sister of the poet William Wordsworth?
- 4) What was the name of the son of A.A. Milne who appears in the author's literary works?
- 5) The broadcaster and former Liberal MP Sir Clement Freud is what relation to the Austrian psycho-analyst Sigmund Freud?
- 6) Maureen O'Sullivan, mother of the actress Mia Farrow played which literary character in a series of films set in Africa?
- 7) In World War II, which national leader was known as "Uncle Joe"?
- 8) What relation was the wicked queen to Snow White in children's literature?
- 9) Zebedee and Salome were the parents of which Biblical brothers?
- 10) According to Red Indian tradition, which member of his family must a Navajo brave not look at directly or speak to?

Answers can be found on page 30.

Date at the Palace for Henry

TWO FIRST WORLD War veterans were granted a private audience with Her Majesty The Queen on 10 July. St Dunstaner Henry Allingham, aged 111, and fellow veteran Bill Stone, aged 106, met with The Queen in advance of her visit to Belgium to mark the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele. The Queen also met two great-great grandsons of men who died during the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917.

"There will be a bond between William and I for as long as we both live," said St Dunstaner Henry. "I'm here today not for myself, but in memory of all those who didn't make it home."

Henry served in the Royal Naval Air Service and then transferred to the Royal Air Force. Bill Stone served in the Royal Navy in both First and Second World Wars.

Originally, they were to have been joined at the Palace by a third WWI veteran, Harry Patch, aged 109. The "Last Tommy", he is the only remaining survivor of the Battle of Passchendaele which



Photograph: Stefan Rousseau, PA Photos

Henry meets Her Majesty The Queen at the Palace.

is also known as the Third Battle of Ypres. Patch served in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and was a fireman during the Second World War.

Henry and Bill met with The Queen once more that day as they attended the first Buckingham Palace garden party of this year.

The First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sir Jonathan Band, greeted the two veterans at a reception inside the

Ministry of Defence before their appointment at the Palace. The reception was also attended by Veterans Minister Derek Twigg, Chief of the Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup, Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Richard Dannatt, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Glen Torpy.

Mr Twigg said: "I'm thrilled the MOD was able to host our First World War veterans prior to their engagement with Her Majesty The Queen.

"These two men have both lived extraordinary lives and have witnessed an almost unimaginable amount of change in that time. Like many veterans, they have contributed a great deal to the lives of countless people and to their communities. They truly are an inspiration to us all."

Three other WWI UK veterans, Navy, Army and Royal Flying Corps, two aged 106, one aged 107, now reside in Australia. Meanwhile, Gladys Powers, aged 108, who lives in Canada, is arguably the last surviving veteran of the original WRAF.

Falklands fallen remembered

VETERANS WHO served in The Falkland Conflict gathered in The Mall for a national service of Remembrance on July 12. Amongst them were St Dunstaners Alan Holderness and Terry Bullingham. There was a live link-up screened from the Falklands, where Prince Edward and 1982 government minister Lord Parkinson laid wreaths at San Carlos cemetery. The veterans marched down the Mall, followed by members of the public and finally there was a fly past in which the Red Arrows left red, white and blue trails in the sky.



Photograph: Tim Graham, PA Photos

Prince Charles, Prince of Wales accompanied by Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, Baroness Margaret Thatcher and Prime Minister Tony Blair, at the Falklands Veterans Parade in The Mall to commemorate 25 years since the end of the Falklands War. St Dunstan's Vice President Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach stands just behind the Duchess of Cornwall.

Inspiration for sports college

PUPILS at a Kent school learnt that disability is no barrier to sporting achievement with the help of St Dunstaner Kevin Alderton and Paralympian champion Dame Tammi Gray-Thompson on 22 June.

Swan Valley Community School in Swanscombe, Kent launched itself as a specialist sports college. St Dunstaner Kevin described how he was blinded in a street attack but

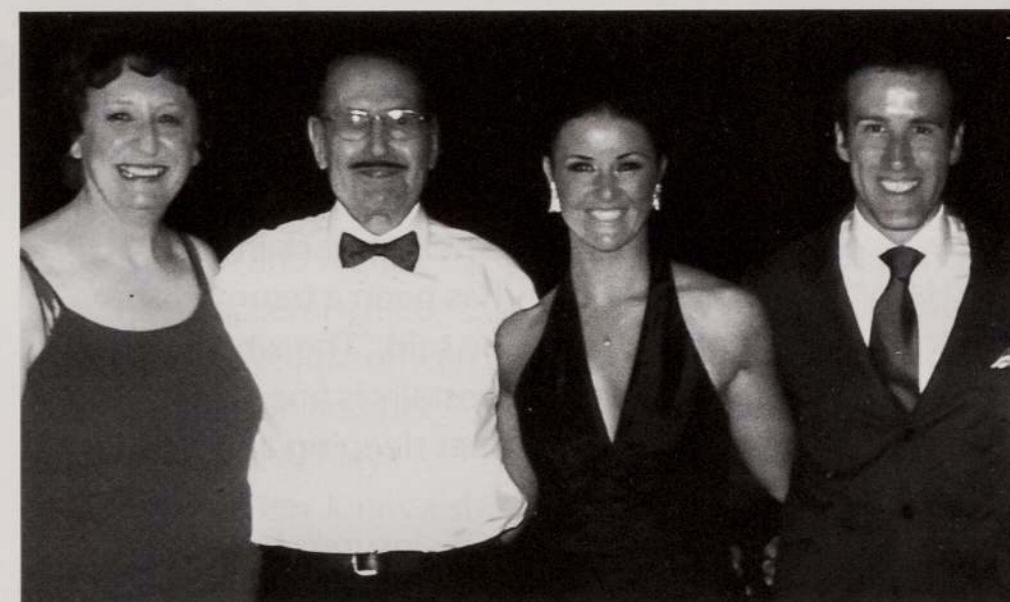
later set a world ski speed record for a blind person. In turn, Dame Tammi told pupils how she overcame spina bifida to win 11 Paralympic gold medals and six London marathon victories. They were joined by Emma Kent, 21, a Paralympic dressage rider born with Holt Oram syndrome who aims to represent Great Britain at the Beijing Paralympics and then in the London event planned for 2012.

"We wanted an internationally recognised speaker who has faced many challenges in their own right," said Headmaster Nigel Jones. "Sport is not just for sport's sake, we see it as a way of lifting standards across the entire school."

"Dame Tammi spent 15 years training for less than 20 minutes on the track to win her gold medals. You can draw a similar parallel with homework and exams."

David and Glenys dance to finals

DANCING DERBYSHIRE St Dunstaner David Schofield and his partner Glenys have wowed the professionals with their fleet footed moves. Whilst on holiday at Potters Leisure Resort in Hopton-on-Sea, Suffolk they noticed a 'Strictly Ballroom Dancing Competition' was to be held the following weekend.



Glenys and David with dancers Erin Boag and Anton Du Beke.

Bouyed from the success of the Dancing Week held at Ovingdean in March, they decided to enter. They did well enough to finish in the semi-final of the cha-cha and the final of the rhumba.

The judging panel included

world class competitive ballroom dancers Anton Du Beke and Erin Boag. The couple have been instructors to the celebrities on the recent BBC TV *Strictly Come Dancing* series.

Chatting to Anton after the competition, Glenys revealed that David was blind. Anton was astonished at this revelation and retorted: "But there's nothing wrong with his hearing, is there!"

Malaysia thanks Servicemen

TWO ST DUNSTANERS were amongst those feted for their role in defending Malaysia. Gerry Jackson of Worthing, West Sussex and Brian Beniston of Clitheroe, Lancashire were presented with the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal on 9 June at the 42 Commando Royal Marines Reunion. The presenting Officer was Colonel Md Tajri Alwi, Defence Adviser,



of the Malaysian High Commission. The citation outlined how British troops and soldiers from the

Commonwealth countries safeguard the sovereignty of Malaysia and assisted during the confrontation with Indonesia. The medals applauded all those who distinguished themselves in chivalry, gallantry and loyalty while performing their services. The medal takes the form of an award titled "Pingat Jasa Malaysia" (Service to Malaysia Award).

Harry remains philosophical after the floods have receded

"IT COULD HAVE been worse," says St Dunstaner Jim "Harry" Plater of Hull, East Yorkshire after the area was hit by a series of floods last month. "I say that in all humility because while I have been talking about inches there are other people round here who are talking about feet."

As it is, the five to six inches of water that broke through into the ground floor of Harry's house has caused extensive damage, contaminating furniture and carpets. "It was just awash with water. Apart from my

blindness, my wife suffered a heart attack in April, so it has been a traumatic time," he said. "The whole of the upstairs is fine, so we have that sleeping and bathing.

"Our insurers have been quite kind and courteous. I only hope they will do what they said they will." Harry added that he and wife Edna recently celebrated their 63rd anniversary on 1 July. "We still have each other and that's the most important thing."

Other St Dunstaners and their families reported that they had narrow escapes,

with water coming within inches of their door. "It has effected so many people in so many different ways," said Rita Turner. "We have been very fortunate. There was only one day when we couldn't get out."

Some have found family celebrations disrupted because local hotels have been filled up with displaced residents and contractors.

St Dunstan's Sheffield suffered minor disruption though some trainees returned home early at the height of the flooding.

Academy has nice lesson for Billy



There was a welcome lesson for St Dunstaner Billy Baxter at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom last month. Academy Sergeant Major WOI (AcSM) Stuart Simpson, (SCOTS) and SSgt Simon Hindle, REME presented St Dunstan's with a cheque for £170 raised through a games evening. Billy was re-acquainted with an Abbot Tank and got to feel some of the military hardware used to train officers.

177 ATC go the Golden Mile

Colin Williamson finds these cadets go a whole lot further

ON 24 JUNE, 177 (Blackpool Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps placed their claim on this year's St Dunstan's 'Go the Distance' Cadet Challenge.

At 09:30am, 29 cadets and nine adult instructors, accompanied by St Dunstaners Ron Jones and Cadet Challenge Project Officer Colin Williamson and his wife Brenda, set off from their base to walk the required 13.1 mile distance along Blackpool's seafront, the famous Golden Mile, to raise awareness of St Dunstan's. The unit were decked out in new maroon t-shirts with the unit logo embroidered on the front. They certainly attracted attention from holidaymakers along the famous promenade.

Arriving at the Cenotaph at 13:00, the cadets took part in a service to celebrate the unveiling of recent restoration work. There followed a short service and act of Remembrance where the Mayor of Blackpool, Councillor Robert Wynne,

laid a wreath. The cadets were joined by St Dunstaners Peter Burdon and Frank Dickenson, accompanied by their area welfare officer Carol Henderson and her secretary Carol Ashley. St Dunstaner Ron Jones also took part in the ceremony. They all looked resplendent in their blazers, proudly sporting their medals.

Following a short parade where the cadets gave an 'eyes right' to the various dignitaries, they continued on their mission. The unrelenting pace and sun began to take its toll. Blisters, sunburn and exhaustion were the main contributors. Cadets Adam Philips, Daniel Elliot and Ricky Wilcock were determined to finish.

Encouraged by Squadron Leader Dave Irving and Flight Lieutenant Andrew Nickson the squadron pushed on. Sergeant Sue Windridge ensured that the cadets stopped off at regular intervals for drinks and to top up on suntan lotion as the temperature soared.

At the half way point at Cleveleys, they popped into the Royal British Legion club for a water stop and a bag of chips from the local takeaway. Cadet Flight Sergeant Kieran Bedford then rallied the troops and all too soon we were back on the road for the return leg.

Spurred on by Cadet Warrant Officer John Sutcliffe and instructor Samantha Alliston, the cadets dug deep and pushed on. Cadets Porche Williams and Alicia Humphries summed up the unit's determination. When, offered the chance to ride in the support vehicle, they refused to do so and bravely carried on.

At last the end was in sight and at 20:00 hours, ten-and-a-half hours since we left, the cadets marched smartly into their HQ and were roundly applauded by parents and friends alike.

This was a fantastic feat regarding the conditions and when the distance was totalled up we had walked an incredible 16.7 miles!

Cracking time at Bisley



Photographs: Simon Rogers

Craig Lundberg is talked through the trajectory of oncoming clay-pigeons. Inset: St Dunstaner Colin "Woody" Oakes takes aim.

CRAIG LUNDBERG is intrigued by the mechanism of the double-barrelled shot gun in his hands. He is familiar with fire-arms, but not of this type and not being able to see the gun he wants to know how it switches from one barrel

to another. He has realised that when pulling the trigger only one cartridge is fired. The gentleman talking him through the trajectory of a shot knows an eager pupil and happily explains that it is the recoil of the first shot that makes the switch. He

continues discussing the mechanics of the gun with 22-year-old St Dunstaner Craig.

They are both taking part in the annual contest at Bisley Shooting Ground in Hampshire. Eighteen teams entered, including a group of St Dunstaners attempting to hit their moving clays through a combination of sound, anticipation and muscle memory. Actors Bernard Cribbins and James Cosmo joined competitors. A record £2,040 was raised in a post-shoot auction and a further £400 from the Flush and Pool Shoot. Top Gun was Tim Chandler and Top Team were The Olds.



St Dunstaner Dave Powell was deemed Best Blind Gun, collecting his trophy from fellow Para Bernard Cribbins.

Gerry labels the challenge for us



WHEN THE NEXT group of cadets take on the St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge everyone will know what they are doing. St Dunstaner Gerry Jackson, who has been out talking and walking with prospective challengers made up a banner to be carried on every occasion. He presented the banner which sports St Dunstan's new-style grecian torch badge to Head of Awareness Graham Footer and Cadet Challenge Project Coordinator Colin Williamson. The banner is light enough to be carried and can be easily attached to any support vehicle trailing cadets on their 13.1 mile challenge.

REUNION ROUND-UP

Reports on the most recent area reunions

The Surrey Reunion held at the Effingham Golf Club, Effingham, Surrey brought together 27 St Dunstaners and five widows on 19 June. The Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding was Major General David Jolliffe, CB, FRCP and St Dunstaner John Kidd replied for those present.

There were 22 St Dunstaners and five widows united at the North London Reunion held at The Homestead, Ruislip, Middlesex on 28 June. Timothy Bacon was the Member of Council presiding and St Dunstaner Bob Bewswick, MBE made the reply for those present.

Air Vice Marshal Richard Kyle, CBE made his debut as a presiding Member of Council at the second Eastbourne Reunion. There were 35 St Dunstaners and nine widows at the Hydro Hotel, Eastbourne. St Dunstaner Lionel James made the reply.

BEER OF THE MONTH

by Colin Williamson



Chalky's Bite

Chalky's Bite. is a bold attempt to produce an English ale in the Belgian wheat-beer style. This beer came about as a result of a challenge set down to Sharp's head brewer Stuart Howe by restaurateur Rick Stein to create a beer specifically designed to be enjoyed with seafood or as an aperitif. It contains wild Cornish fennel, Cornish malted barley and a delicate balance of three different hops. The name is taken from Rick Stein's vivacious terrier Chalky, who passed away earlier this year and has a picture of Chalky on the label. A fine beer that is superb as an aperitif or with good old fish and chips. ABV is 6.8 per cent and it is made by Sharp's Brewery in Rock, Cornwall.

Taking a tandem to the top!

Photographs: Simon Rogers



John Taylor reports on how he and other St Dunstaners fared in the British Heart Foundation London to Brighton Bike Ride

St Dunstaner Susan Eyles and Andy Alliston keep the recumbant tandem on the go, followed by four other members of the St Dunstan's team and countless other cyclists



Harry Beevers and Mark Brownlow at Clapham Common. They finished in four hours, 50 minutes.

FOUR ST DUNSTANERS took part in The British Heart Foundation London to Brighton bike ride on 12 June. As I was due an early morning call, I thought an early night was in order, but the phone rang and the voice on the other end said "Hello granddad, it's Kelly to wish you good luck for the bike ride tomorrow." That was my granddaughter ringing me from New Zealand. That was such a nice thing for her to do, and gave me the perfect start to the week end.

I am now going to try and get some sleep, but you know when you have to get up early its hard to drop off for fear of not waking up in time for the day ahead.

I must have dropped off as at 4 o'clock the alarm went off and it was all systems go, a quick wash, cycle shorts on, top on, soft socks, yes all was correct and I was ready for the off. It was 20-to-five and the taxi was out side waiting to whisk me off to St Dunstan's. At that time in the morning the roads were clear and we got there at 5:20 to meet up with all the

other members of the group. The activity was rife, bikes were being loaded on to the bus, food and drinks were being packed in the right place, last minute checks made and all the passengers were on board, strapped up ready for the journey to Clapham Common.

With four St Dunstaners, myself, Harry Beevers, Douglas Hobbs, Susan Eyles all the gym staff, plus some helpers, a total of 13 were in the party. So tongues were wagging, the excitement was high and noise deafening, but we were all looking forward to this day when we would test our skills and bond with new friends.

The journey to London took us through a heavy rain storm but that dyed out and by the time we made our last stop for the loos and a cup of coffee the rain was behind us and the sun was shining, we arrived at Clapham Common at 7.30 the atmosphere was buzzing the excitement joy and anticipation of the day ahead was all around us.

We all assembled on the common for a group photograph and then it was time to make our way to the



St Dunstaner Douglas Hobbs with Adam Firth, his dad and a well-wisher having crossed the finishing line in Brighton.



St Dunstaner John Taylor and co-rider Ian Pattenden keep their tandem on the move through Nutfield.

start line and have our cards stamped, this done it was off on the return trip back to Brighton where we had just come from, what mad fools we all must be.

With 27,000 riders taking part in this event, the journey out of London was stow and steady, just right for the start of day and to get us going.

Some early morning strollers were out and I heard a little girl's voice say "Daddy look at that funny bike there! Two men riding it!" and he said "That's a tandem bicycle." People were cheering us on and wishing us well. What a lovely way to start the day.

By the time we arrived at the first watering hole the coffee had taken its toll and I was ready for a loo stop. By now the riders had thinned out and we were able to go at our own pace, the sun was shining a nice warm breeze was blowing and the day was perfect. The route took us through the country lanes and villages where the smells of the trees, flowers and grasses filled the air. With the birds singing in the trees, what more could I ask for?

Church bells rang in the distance calling the people



to church. The village children were out on the road side with their water pistols ready to give us a cold spray as we went through.

The next village was filled with riders taking a lunch time drink at the pub, and the jazz band playing on the green. The whole day was full of fun and a great party atmosphere pursued all day long.

We met up with the other members of our party throughout the day, it was impossible for us all to stay together all day. We made Ardingly our main stop of the day, by now we were dying for a lovely cup of tea.

This done we were now ready to face the last run in to Brighton, but before that we had the dreaded Ditchling Beacon to get through, with sheer drive and determination from Ian, my front co-rider, we made the top of the Beacon without walking, we were greeted by

some of the organisers who clapped everyone as they reached the top.

From this point on it was all down hill to Brighton and the finishing line, as we made the run along the sea front there was a big cheer from my wife and friends, I had made it in seven hours.

Harry and Mark had already finished, clocking up four hours and 50 minutes of riding time. Harry said it was a real team effort and apparently they burnt up 3,600 calories on the ride.

Douglas Hobbs was close behind Ian and myself and Susan Eyles and Andy were hot on their heels.

We all made the finish line, we had sore body parts, but most of all we had a wonderful day thank to St Dunstan's all the gym staff and there helpers. Will we be back next year? You must be joking, but watch this space!

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

It came upon a midnight clear

By Sarah Fimm

(Joan Beevers)

NEAR THE CENTRE of the universe a star shines on the planets orbiting it. The third of its planets, named Haven, is a most beautiful world teeming with life in many forms. The highly intelligent species which inhabits the planet lives in plenty with perfect peace, harmony and happiness. The supreme being known as "The Boss" is in charge of this world, all the known universe and beyond. He is never seen but it is his pleasure to ensure the continued happiness of all his people. He is very fond of music and sponsors huge orchestras and choirs for the amusement of the inhabitants of Haven and sometimes for other favoured planets.

His intention is that intelligent life-forms, wherever they are found,

should be enabled to enjoy their lives as much as all those on his home planet. To this end he sends out his people to other worlds in order to encourage them in ways to achieve this. Their longevity aids them as they cruise amongst the myriads of stars looking for life and watching it develop over long periods of time. These star-ships are manned by The Boss's Corps of Interplanetary Exploration and Monitoring. Whenever they find a planet supporting life (usually the third one from the sun), they report back to The Boss who instigates a programme to monitor the progress of the precious, new life form. No matter how long it takes every advance is noted from a distance so that development can take place unhindered and uninfluenced by outside

forces until a certain degree of maturity has been reached. Only then will The Boss decide whether or not to intervene.

One such planet had been under surveillance for several millennia and The Boss had decided that the next stage of his nurturing programme should begin. He gave instructions to his First Contact and Education Service, a highly trained band of men and women well-practised in fostering promising species and steering them towards a good and worthwhile life-style.

One of the chief executives in this Service went by the name of Gabriel. He lived with his wife Rachel, and son Gabriel junior, close to the Boss's headquarters and all the best amenities Haven had to offer. Gabriel

was a mature man of great experience and one of the Boss's most trusted emissaries. He was sent to investigate only the most promising of Haven's discoveries. Rachel was a high-ranking musician, a highly regarded profession. She was a teacher of choral music and Director of the Haven Junior Choir where youngsters were trained to join the hallowed realms of the Senior Choir. Gabriel junior (Gabe to his family and friends) was in his last year at the School of Music. His chosen instruments were voice, harp and trumpet and he had to pass examinations in all three in order to qualify for the Senior Choir, as he hoped to do the following year.

One of the most interesting of the Boss's discoveries was the third planet (of course) from a small sun towards the edge of the galaxy known as the Milky Way. The progress of the intelligent species of this planet had far outpaced any others they had known. Some time back (not all that long to Gabriel who had already lived several millennia) he had been called to engineer the first contact with the natives. They were still

a simple, nomadic race so subtle measures were needed if they were not to be irreparably frightened.

"I don't know how you do it," Rachel remarked to Gabriel, "it must be a very tricky thing to manage."

"It always needs delicate handling," Gabriel replied. "In this case I used dreams. For instance, when one of the tribal elders was in a drowsy state I let him see the crew members climbing in and out of the landing craft by the retractable stairway. The nomad took it to be a dream of holy creatures ascending and descending a ladder, and remembered it as a dream. It has become part of the folklore of the tribes."

However, the planet had reached a turning point where it could become either good or evil and The Boss decided that drastic measures were now required. They needed to introduce someone of their own species to tip the balance the right way and genetic engineering seemed to be the solution.

Surveillance had selected a healthy female to incubate the foetus which would

be human in physique but with the mind-set of Haven inhabitants. He would be the instigator of a new way of life which, it was hoped, would spread around the planet.

"I have to go on a very important job," Gabriel told his wife. "This one is in another galaxy of course, but with the new space-and-time hopping system in our star-ships I shouldn't be away very long".

"Is it an interesting job?" young Gabe wanted to know.

"All my jobs are interesting, Gabe", said his father. "But this one is especially so. It is the first time The Boss has tried this particular way of doing things, and I don't want anything to go wrong."

"I'm sure you'll do it well," his wife said encouragingly. "When you get back Gabe should be in the middle of his final exams, so we have important things to do here also."

True to his word Gabriel was not away very long. His wife and son met him after his debriefing session at the space-port and asked "How did it go, what happened?"

"It went very well indeed," replied Gabriel. "She never even questioned it when I told her that she had been chosen to mother a very important boy. I had to use an operating light and sterile white gown to perform the implanting of the foetus and I wondered what she would make of them. In her sedated state she didn't really know what was happening. She just thought that I always wore shining white robes. I expect that will also go into their folklore."

"What happens next?" asked Rachel.

"Well we have to go back in less than one of their years for the birth which can still be a risky event on that planet. The Boss wants to make a celebration of it, something to let the planet know that an extremely important event has occurred."

"Sounds exciting" said Gabe. "I wish I could be there."

"You will be going nowhere unless you pass your exams," said his mother. "We'd better get you home to your harp practice."

On the far planet when the

pregnancy was confirmed there were some social concerns to start with, but they soon settled down. The Boss took a personal interest in planning the rest of this unique project, like a father looking after his son.

Gabe passed all his final exams with honours. He joined the Senior Choir and found it harder work than he expected, but he enjoyed touring with the choir especially when it took him off planet. Returning from a short tour Gabe found both of his parents at home and looking pleased about something.

"What's going on?" he asked.

"For once we are all going to be working together," said Gabriel senior, "I am going to announce the birth as soon as it happens to those who live nearby. Then, just to emphasise how special this baby is, a small choir will sing songs of rejoicing to make it a real occasion."

"I'm going as conductor," interjected Rachel. "And you will go as a chorister, Gabe."

The star-ship was in position in good time, but out of sight from

the ground - or so it was thought. The baby was born without problems and Gabriel gave a sigh of relief. He immediately set off in the landing craft with the musicians and lighting engineers.

"It's no good performing if we can't be seen," Rachel had said previously. "It will be much more impressive with lights."

So it proved. In the darkness of the planet's night Gabriel appeared in a single spotlight. The simple people were afraid, never having seen light so bright at night, but Gabriel was able to allay their fears before telling them about the baby. Then all the lights were snapped on to reveal the choir who burst into their specially composed songs of praise. The lights faded as they all re-boarded the landing craft and departed.

Unknown to Gabriel, the star-ship which he thought was hidden, was seen by three learned men who mistook it for a star. Their holy books said the star would appear when a king was born, so they journeyed to see him and took him gifts.

It's just like coming home

Young **Ray Hazan** reports on the 50-Year-Badge Holders Reunion held at Church Stretton, Shropshire from 1-4 June

THE WARTIME SHROPSHIRE town is quiet. No vehicles move or are rarely seen. No aircraft assault the ear. No lights shine at night. By day, apart from a few townsfolk, men with white walking sticks follow trailing wires between huts or up the hill to the Longmynd Hotel, temporarily taken over by St Dunstan's. Ladies with three or four St Dunstaners on either arm chat gaily as they make their way down the centre of the street. A sign exhorts you to 'Beware Blind Men!' This is my image of St Dunstan's from 1940 to 1946. Today is a very different picture!

The town is busy with people and cars. Shops are full of milling crowds. Vapour trails line the sky and the young men who were seen tapping their way around with white sticks are now white haired, portly and point excitedly to the scenes of their former 'crimes' as they tour the town! It is another St Dunstan's Church Stretton reunion.



Photograph: Bill Lyth

Gwen Obern and Bob Osborne share a joke.

From as far as Scotland, the Isle of Man, Devon and Sussex 17 St Dunstaners, 24 widows and 29 wives and escorts gathered at the Longmynd Hotel for what has now become a regular feature on the St Dunstan's calendar. Those who have been with the organisation for over 50 years are invited. No one could have put it better, as you will read later, how much Church Stretton means to those who trained there. One widow said that even though she had not been to Church Stretton, to know that was where her husband had trained, meant so much to her.

The emphasis on the programme was to give plenty of time for reminiscing. After a long road journey for many people, the emphasis on the first evening was relaxation and catching up on the past 12 months.

There were a few gasps when breakfast was announced as starting at 07:30 on Saturday morning. But it was to allow time for a visit to Ludlow Castle before lunch. The remains date back to the 11th century and a surprising number of rooms were still discernable.

Others were attracted to the flea market and shops just outside. The afternoon saw trips down into town or to Shrewsbury, some 15 miles away. Unfortunately, and inevitably, much has changed and it was difficult for St Dunstaners to recognise their 'old haunts'.

In the evening, the party was pleased to be joined by several guests for dinner. Representing the Chairman was a St Dunstan's Trustee, Major General David Jolliffe, CB, FRCP and his wife Hilary. The Mayor of Church Stretton, Councillor Mrs Beryl Smith and her husband Councillor Anthony Smith, accompanied by the Town Clerk Mrs Christine Harvey and her husband Philip. We were very pleased to see a very dear friend of St Dunstan's, Mrs Mary Marsden and her son Nigel. The guest of honour and our after dinner speaker was The Lord Walker of Aldringham, GCB, CMG, CBE accompanied by his wife and St Dunstan's Trustee, The Lady Walker.

Before introducing Lord Walker, David Jolliffe wished Joan Ash a happy birthday on behalf of everyone. He described how Lord Walker

was commissioned into the Royal Anglian Regiment in 1966 and finished as Chief of Defence Staff. Amongst many other appointments, he was Colonel of his Regiment, Colonel Commandant of the Army Air Corps, Admiral of the Army Sailing and President of the Army Skiing and Lawn Tennis Associations. He took up the appointment of Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea in October last year.

Lord Walker acknowledged his role as Head of the Armed Forces. As the tenure is only for three years, he can only effectively continue his predecessor's policy,

amending and adjusting. He is there to provide advice to the politicians on military matters. He listed the challenges the armed forces have faced during the 42 years Lord Walker had served; from the plains of Northern Germany, via Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan, to putting out fires, slaughtering animals infected by foot and mouth, to clearing rubbish.

He went on to describe the greater media attention to which the armed forces were being submitted. Public support had diminished. The Falklands Fund had raised £25 million. The Iraq Fund held less than £300,000 due



Photograph: John Corfield

From left to right: Jeremy Hinton, Ray Hazan, Lord and Lady Walker, Robert Leader, The Mayor, Cllr Beryl Smith, Major General David and Hillary Jolliffe, Cllr Anthony Smith, Philip Harvey and Town Clerk Christine Harvey.



Lord Walker covered a wide range of topics in his speech.



St Dunstaner Norman Hopkins gave a vote of thanks.

to many factors such as the public's immunisation to the horrors of war, resentment of being involved in Iraq, to allegations of war crimes.

He went on to describe his dealings with various personalities. Amongst them, the Prime Minister – someone who listened and took advice and for whom he had respect.

The audience showed much interest as Lord Walker talked about the Royal Hospital, its criteria, modernisation, comradeship and companionship. Lord Walker concluded by answering questions and responding to a challenge by Joan Osborne to get the two organisation's Bowling Clubs together.

St Dunstaner Norman Hopkins rose to give the vote of thanks. "My pleasure tonight is to applaud and thank St Dunstan's and Church Stretton. We have been blessed with these two places – what a combination when you think of it – St Dunstan's and Church Stretton! We keep coming back here all the time. What is it about the place? When you think about it, this is the place a lot of us started the

beginning of our fight back into society."

Norman gave a short history of St Dunstan's move to Shropshire and how and what training was carried out.

"Now, this weekend, I am delighted to have with me Cyril, who is my old army friend. We both served in the Tank Regiment. In fact, we were both in the same tank and we were both injured when I lost my sight. We have been in close touch ever since. And, as you may know, a bond formed at such a time is something to be cherished. In the same way, we perhaps look at the bond between St Dunstan's and Church Stretton; very close and very dear to our hearts.

"This reunion this weekend, organised so very well by St Dunstan's, for the 50-Year-Badge holders, has been a great success. We have been able to meet old friends again and remember 'the old days' as we like to call them. Looking back, I think we could say we have had the best years from St Dunstan's. But we would say that, wouldn't we! Nevertheless, it is fair to say that the Church Stretton experience is a highlight in St Dunstan's

story and history. We shall always remember it and cherish it.

"For just a few things of personal tribute to St Dunstan's about myself. You all have your own stories and they pretty much have the same ending. I began with an injury in 1945. I was hospitalised for six months in Stoke Mandeville. It was there St Dunstan's stepped in. I remember the watch and from that time, they never left me. St Dunstan's was always there. That is where the story started in those days at Church Stretton. This wonderful little place that provided us with such comfort and strength. What I am really trying to say, is that despite all the horrible injuries that one suffers in wartime, by the grace of God, and with the help and support of St Dunstan's, we can win through and have a fulfilled and happy life. I would ask you all to charge your glasses and toast St Dunstan's, coupled with Church Stretton."

The weather shone down benignly on the gathering throughout the weekend and it was very pleasant to sit on the benches



Ted Higgs and his brother.

outside listening to the reminiscences or to walk through the grounds of the hotel which were interspersed with birds and other animals sculpted from tree trunks. Others took the opportunity to visit friends or relatives in the area.

Several people came to visit the party. Notably Mrs Joyce Beddoes, nee Biggs, who started work at St Dunstan's canteen in Sandford Avenue, Church Stretton at the age of 16 in May 1944 until August 1946. In mid 1947 she went to St Dunstan's Ovingdean where she worked as a Domestic for two years. Joyce brought several photographs of some very young looking St Dunstaners! We thank her son, Terry who drove all the way from Liverpool via Stratford-upon-Avon.

On Sunday afternoon, a service was held in the Parish Church of St Laurence taken

by the Rev John Hughes. We especially remember Harry Preedy, one of the first St Dunstaners to train in Church Stretton, who passed away in April this year. This was followed by tea in the village hall where we were joined again by many who had known St Dunstan's during the war years.

Our final re-encounter was with the Dorrington Players, an enthusiastic group of amateur dramatists. We were entertained with songs from musicals, extracts from ITMA and a monologue from Joyce Grenfell. It was an entertaining finale to the weekend.

After everyone had departed following breakfast on Monday morning, the hotel seemed so quiet and lifeless after the bustle, noise and laughter of the past few days. The hotel staff, several of whom had looked after us in 2005, had been so caring, cheerful and helpful. They had made our visit 'regal'! The St Dunstan's staff had given their weekend to assist and much benefited from the experience. So, more memories are added to the already high stack. But do leave room for more – next year from 5 to 8 June 2008!

Welcome to St Dunstan's

Frederick Allen of Durham, County Durham served in the Durham Light Infantry from 1942 to 1947.

George Attwood of Chatham, Kent served in Africa and India in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Robert Austin of Accrington, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

Dennis Barker of Derby, Derbyshire served in the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire in 1979.

Alfred Bennett of Yapton, nr Arundel, West Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1948 to 1955.

Owen Brook of Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the General Service Corps and the Middlesex Regiment between 1944 and 1948.

Robert Carr of Wadhurst, East Sussex served as Corporal in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

Anthony Constable of Kettering, Northamptonshire served in the General

Service Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps between 1943 and 1947.

William Cooban of Liverpool, Merseyside served in Egypt with the Royal Signals from 1945 to 1947.

David Cranson of Deaf Hill, County Durham served in the Royal Artillery from 1971 to 1975.

Leonard Donnelly of Ipswich, Suffolk served as Gunner in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

Raymond Draper of Cannock, Staffordshire served in the Royal Engineers from 1952 to 1957.

Graham Draycott of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1953 to 1958.

Thomas English of Wallasey, Cheshire served in the Merchant Navy from 1942 to 1968.

Rose Fisher of Bicester, Oxfordshire served in the Women's Royal Army Corps during 1953.

Gordon Gladwin of Rotherham, South Yorkshire served in the General Service Corps from 1944 to 1949.

John Hanson of Uxbridge, Middlesex served in the Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) from 1939 to 1936.

Edward Harrison of Sidcup, Kent served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1941 to 1946.

James Hartley of Nelson, Lancashire served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

Major Edward A Hill of Chichester, West Sussex served in the Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Tank Corps, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and 6 Gurkha Rifles between 1953 and 1969.

Charles Howes of Seaford, East Sussex served as Gunner in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

Bernard Hurrell of King's Lynn of Norfolk served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1941 to 1946.

John Jeans of Southport, Merseyside served as Leading

Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1948.

Geoffrey Kitson of Brecon, Powys served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1949 to 1956.

Douglas Lamond of Felixstowe, Suffolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1971.

Thomas Lavell of Dorking, Surrey served in the Army Air Corps, Royal Fusiliers and Gordon Highlanders between 1944 and 1952.

William Legg of Newtown, Powys served in the Royal Engineers from 1947 to 1949.

Peter Lindsay of Glasgow served in the Royal Marines from 1997 to 2004.

Lance Corporal Craig Lundberg of Liverpool, Merseyside is serving with the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border) having enlisted in 2002.

George Macmillan of Gillingham, Kent served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1956 to 1961.

Kenward Mason of Uckfield, East Sussex served

in the Royal Tank Regiment from 1939 to 1946.

Brian Mingay of Wroxham, Norwich, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1957 to 1962.

Kenneth Passman of Stokesley, Middlesbrough, Cleveland served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Lionel Pelly of Bourton-on-the-Water, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1949.

William Rees of Cardiff, South Glamorgan served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1939 to 1946.

Alistair Reid of Ventnor, Isle of Wight served in the Border Regiment from 1955 to 1961.

Charles Rew of Romford, Essex served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 to 1946.

George Robertson of South Shields, Tyne and Wear served in the Somerset Light Infantry from 1950 to 1952.

Nellie Robertson of Sidcup, Kent served as Leading Aircraftwoman in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1943.

Rodney Roebuck of Weymouth, Dorset served as Warrant Officer in the Royal Navy from 1952 to 1986.

Stanley Rolt from Luton, Bedfordshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1943 to 1947.

John Salisbury of Mold, Clwyd served in the Royal Artillery from 1948 to 1954.

Eric Saunders of Norwich, Norfolk served in the Royal Signals from 1939 to 1946.

Douglas Scadden of Maidstone, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

Frederick Scott of Lancing, West Sussex served in the General Service Corps, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and Royal Warwickshire Regiment between 1943 and 1945.

Irene Sherratt of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1946.

Alfred Smith of Hull, North Humberside served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

Walter Smith of Birmingham, West Midlands served in the Royal Signals from 1954 to 1956.

Philip Stone of Leominster, Herefordshire served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1947.

James Stroud of Cirencester, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1944, and then the General Service Corps and Royal Engineers between 1944 and 1946.

William Tate of Middlesbrough, Cleveland served in Africa in the Royal

Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1941 to 1946.

William Taylor of Ormskirk, Lancashire served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1955 to 1957.

Ronald Thorpe of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire served in the Royal Marines from 1942 to 1946.

John Toomey of Redcar, Cleveland served in the Royal

Navy from 1944 to 1947.

Daphne Topham of Surbiton, Surrey served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1941 to 1946.

Douglas Webb of Henley-on-Thames served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

David White of Attleborough, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1956.

Ten Answers

Answers to quiz on page 10.

- 1) Mary Martin;
- 2) Grandmother, of Princess Beatrice;
- 3) Dorothy; 4) Christopher Robin;
- 5) Grandson;
- 6) Jane in the Tarzan films;
- 7) Joseph Stalin;
- 8) Stepmother;
- 9) James and John, disciples of Jesus; and 10) His mother-in-law.

Family News

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

John and Lorna McHale of Kingshurst, West Midlands who married on 7 July.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Colin and Brenda Williamson of Hebburn, Tyne & Wear on 17 July.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Terence and Maureen Busby of Ruislip, Middlesex on 1 July.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Leslie and Elsie Bunce of Felixstowe, Suffolk on 21 June.

Charles and Nancy Smith of Elmbree, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland on 21 June.

Norman and Joan Jones of Luton, Bedfordshire on 28 June.

Robert and Lillian Bromley of Muswell Hill, London on 29 June.

Douglas and Ivy Gray of Watford, Hertfordshire on 12 July.

John and Doreen Guy of Derby, Derbyshire on 12 July.

Edward and Doris Ginn of East Sussex on 19 July.

Tommy and Mary Handley of Barming, Maidstone, Kent on 19 July.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Dennis and Marsella King of Kingston, Surrey who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 22 June.

Edwin and Joyce Willmott of North Cheam, Sutton, Surrey who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 22 June.

Arthur and Clare Dickison of Honiton, Devon who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 28 June.

Harry and Edna Plater of Hull, East Yorkshire who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 1 July.

James and Dorothy Sabourin of Peacehaven, East Sussex who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 1 July.

Bill and Audrey Figures of Olton, Solihull, West Midlands who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 6 July.

Charles and Dora Leat of Maidstone, Kent who celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on 6 July.

Ronald and Jo Smith of East Putney, London who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 7 July.

John and Barbara Weedon of Northchurch, Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire who celebrated 67 years of marriage on 7 July.

Edwin and Patricia Ashworth of Birkdale, Southport, Sefton who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 10 July.

William and Eileen Clarke of Thetford, Norfolk who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 11 July.

Margaret and Enoch Humphries of Cambuslang, Glasgow, Lanarkshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 13 July.

Harold and Elsie Ireland of Throckley, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne & Wear who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 13 July.

Charles and Rose Vincent of Loughton, Essex who celebrated 68 years of marriage on 16 July.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Daniel Peers who has joined EasyJet as a First Officer cabin crew. He is the grandson of Clifford Gowers of Westbury, Wiltshire.

Ben Baxter on graduating with a BA(Hons) Photography from the University College for Creative Arts, Rochester. He is the son of Andrew and Karen Baxter of Ely, Cambridgeshire. A selection of his work was recently included in the Lacuna Exhibition at the Old Truman Brewery, Brick Lane.

Helen Scott who recently attained a 2:1 degree in Contemporary History at York University. She is the granddaughter of Michael and Pearl James of Havant, Hampshire.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Pat Hart on 30 June. She was the wife of Donald Hart of Seaford, East Sussex.

Joyce Standeven on 3 July. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Edward Standeven of Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

Elsie Dickey of Poole, Dorset on 24 June. She was the widow of John Dickey.

Winifred Smith of Peacehaven on 11 July. She was the widow of Harold Smith.

Patricia Hobday on 1 July. She was the mother of St Dunstaner Jason Hobday of Bedford, Bedfordshire.

We send our condolences to their family and their friends.

In Memory

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

Ronald Newland Essex Regiment

Ronald Sydney Newland of Chester-le-Street, County Durham died on 29 November 2006, aged 84. He served in the Essex Regiment from 1937 to 1948. In civilian life, he worked in butchery, for British Oxygen and the Durham Fire Brigade. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Harry Bayes Lincolnshire Regiment

Harry Leonard Bayes of Bozeat, Northamptonshire died on 8 February, aged 89. He joined the Lincolnshire Regiment in 1940 and served in Iceland and North West Europe. He suffered gunshot wounds to his face and chest before being demobbed in 1945. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Dorothy and all members of the family.

Bob Davies

King's Royal Rifle Corps

Robert Geoffrey Davies of Broadwey, Weymouth died on 12 June, aged 88. He worked at Harrods, Knightsbridge after leaving school and joined the Queen Victoria Rifles (TA) in 1937. When war broke out, he became a regular in the King's Royal Rifles Corps and was posted to France with the British Expeditionary Force. He was taken prisoner in Calais during the Dunkirk evacuation. Transferred to a prisoner of war camp in Poland, he laboured on a farm. In the closing days of the war, with the Russians advancing, the Germans marched their prisoners over 800-miles west through freezing conditions in the Baltics. Demobbed in 1946, he became an electrician, working at Heathrow and retail outlets. His interests included history and medieval mysteries. Our sympathy goes to his widow Peggy and all of the family.

Douglas Maidment Royal Air Force

Douglas William Maidment of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey died on 13 June, aged 86. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and trained as a wireless operator. In 1944, he was deployed to Normandy, moving through to Germany with 2nd Tactical Air Force. Discharged in 1946, he worked in catering at Radley College and Royal London Hospitals. He did voluntary work at St Martin's-in-the-Field Church, visiting residents in local Peabody Estates.

Richard Crawford Royal Signals

Richard Edward Crawford of Shooters Hill, London died on 18 June, aged 61. He was a greengrocer's assistant and metal fabricator

before joining the Royal Signals in 1964. After training at Catterick, he was posted to Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and later to Germany. He was discharged in 1969. Our sympathy goes to his widow Maria and all the family.

Charles Birkitt Royal Artillery

Charles Henry Birkitt of Derby, Derbyshire died on 22 June, aged 84. Having worked in a foundry, he lied about his age to join the Royal Artillery in 1939. He served in North Africa and Italy. Discharged in 1946, he joined the TA where he met his wife. In civilian life, he drove steam rollers before joining the Post Office. He retired as an Inspector. Our sympathy goes to his widow Amy and all members of the family.

Phil Dobson Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (29th and 45th Foot)

Philip Kevin Dobson of Saltdean, East Sussex died on 22 June, aged 54. He joined the Sherwood Foresters as a Junior Leader in 1968. A week after he entered Man Service in 1970, the Sherwood Foresters merged with the Worcestershire Regiment. He ran cross-country and boxed for the regiment, turning down a trial to play football for Aston Villa, giving preference to an army career. He was then posted to Germany as part of the British Army of the Rhine. In 1972, following the wake of Bloody Sunday, the Battalion was drafted into Northern Ireland for an emergency tour. He was promoted to Acting Sergeant in charge of a platoon. On 19 May that year, he was leading a patrol when a terrorist device detonated under a car. The blast caused the loss of his left eye, fractured his skull and perforated his ear drums, peppering his

body with shrapnel. He was discharged in 1973 and worked as a warehouse manager for Remploy until his sight deteriorated. He studied accountancy and brick-laying. His interests included gardening, swimming and rock climbing. He was a regular competitor in St Dunstan's national and local bowls tournament and an active member of St Dunstan's Golf Club, including a term as the Club's Captain. He was named Player of the Year and won other trophies. In recent years, he became Chairman of St Dunstan's Fishing Club. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Morton Williams The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding)

Morton Howell Williams of Llanelli, Dyfed died on 22 June, aged 73. He joined The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) in 1952 and was deployed to Korea. Days were spent digging or repairing trenches, while nights were spent fighting in no man's land under constant fire. He was medically downgraded and assigned to garrison duties in Japan before being discharged in 1954. In civilian life, he was a process worker at a tin plate works and later became a shipping clerk with British Steel. He was Chairman of Llanelli Sea Angling Club and Registrar of the European Federation of Sea Fishing. He won the bronze medal at the 1985 European Tope Championships in Tenby. Sailing was a passion and he was a founder of his local Sailability group, organising courses at Plas Menai. He passed navigation and dinghy sailing courses and was a member of the Jubilee Trust. He also broke new ground in bowls, becoming Chairman of the West Glamorgan Bowls Club. He won the UK

singles Championship in Swansea in 1992 and went on to represent the UK in visually impaired bowls in Australia, Malaysia and other countries. He was declared Sports Personality of the Year 1992-1993 by the Welsh Sports and Recreation Association for the Visually Impaired. Our sympathy goes to his widow Anne and all of the family.

Robert Reece

Pioneer Corps

Robert Moyston Reece of Blackpool, Lancashire died on 24 June, aged 78. He joined the Pioneer Corps in 1940. Commissioned in 1941, he was then posted to East Africa for two years. He served in Ceylon and Burma during 1944 and 1945. Discharged as Captain in 1946, he taught languages, French, Italian and German, in Ramsgate and later at the Royal Air Force School in Singapore. Our sympathy goes to his widow Sylvia and all of the family.

Bobby Bole

Women's Royal Naval Service

Rosemary Pauline Bole, nee Pellman, of Kingsbridge, Devon died on 26 June, aged 82. She joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1943 and was posted to the Royal Naval Film unit in the cutting and editing department. Discharged in 1946, she worked as a catering manager. Her interests included arts and crafts. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Bill Holland

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

William Henry Holland of Wallingford, Oxfordshire died on 26 June, aged 86. Also known as 'Dutchy' and 'Blondie', he joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1940. He trained at Blackpool and then

joined 77 Squadron Bomber Command as a radio operator and rear gunner. He moved to an officer training unit during which time, he was involved in a serious crash. Commissioned in 1943, he then retrained as a radar specialist and joined 199 Squadron. He was promoted to Flight Lieutenant in 1945 and posted to Cocos Keeling in the Indian Ocean. Demobbed in 1946, he became a draughtsman developing flight simulators. He qualified as a Mechanical Engineer and joined the Atomic Energy station at Harwell. He was a member of St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society, with a keen interest in Morse Code, and an active Rotarian. Our sympathy goes to his daughters Lorna and Christine and all members of the family.

Samuel Bartholomew

Royal Navy

Samuel George Bartholomew of Middlesbrough, Cleveland died on 27 June, aged 89. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and served on HMS *Bridport*, a mine sweeper patrolling the UK coast. He was discharged as Stoker 1st class in 1946. In civilian life he was a foundry worker and later joined ICI at Redcar. His interests included sport and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his widow Kathleen, daughters Pamela and Gillian and all members of the family.

Michael Card

Royal Marines

Michael Hugh Card of Plymouth, Devon died on 30 June, aged 63. He worked for an engineering firm and then a builders' merchant before joining the Royal Marines in 1960. He trained at Deal and was then posted to Borneo. He later served in

Northern Ireland before being posted to Brigade HQ in Plymouth. He was discharged as Sergeant in 1984. In civilian life, he became a driving instructor but later worked on computer systems at Freedom Fields Hospital, Derriford Hospital and RNH Stonehouse. Our sympathy goes to his widow Irene, daughters Michelle and Nicola, and all members of the family.

John Cameron

Royal Air Force

John Cameron of Fleetwood, Lancashire died on 1 July, aged 85. He had worked as an errand boy for a gentleman's outfitters and then in a Perspex factory making aircraft covers before joining the Royal Air Force in 1940. He had to bail out of his aircraft after it was struck by lightning. He later served in Egypt, Iraq and Palestine. Discharged in 1946, he joined the Lancashire Constabulary and became Superintendent in Blackpool before retiring. His interests included gardening and fell walking. Our sympathy goes to his sons Iain, Graham and Neil and all of the family.

James Gault

Merchant Navy

James Jameson Lambie Gault of Epsom, Surrey died on 6 July, aged 80. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1943 as 16-year-old writer. He served on Atlantic convoys and later in the Mediterranean. After leaving the service in 1948, he followed various career options before becoming superintendent of an approved school. He continued in the field of education with Kent County Council until retiring in 1985. His interests included motoring, travelling and playing draughts. He was a keen Rotarian. Our sympathy goes to his son James and all of the family.

Douglas Heath

Royal Air Force

Douglas Eric Heath of Ovingdean, Brighton died on 7 July, aged 86. He was an apprentice engineer before joining the Royal Air Force in 1940. He served as a pilot in Canada, USA, Africa, Egypt and the Mediterranean. Demobbed as Warrant Officer in 1946, he resumed engineering, eventually retiring as manager of an engineering firm in Derby. His interests included football, cricket and repairing motor car engines.

Joseph Swinton

Royal Engineers (TA)

Joseph Arthur Swinton of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire died on 7 July, aged 90. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 and was deployed on air defence with a light ack-ack unit. In 1944, he deployed to Normandy and provided air cover through to Hamburg. He was discharged as Sergeant in 1946. In 1948, he joined the Royal Artillery (TA) and served as Warrant Officer until retiring in 1967. In civilian life, he was a mill foreman for Spillers. His interests included bowls, driving and supporting Sheffield Wednesday. Our sympathy goes to his sons Frank and Colin, daughters Susan and Jean and all the family.

Dennis Endacott

Royal Air Force

Dennis John Endacott of Gloucester, Gloucestershire died on 11 July, aged 85. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and served in India, Burma and North Africa. He was discharged in 1947, but rejoined the service in 1951. He became Warrant Officer, serving for nearly 20 years before being discharged in 1970. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Gillian, son Tony and all members of the family.

March of the Veterans

Veterans of all ages applauded on 27 June



Around 300 veterans marched up from the Thames.

Photographs: Simon Rogers



Photographs: Jax Whiteley

St Dunstaner Nigel Whiteley and Minister of Defence Des Browne on Veterans Day.

THE UNITED KINGDOM celebrated the ever lasting contribution of its Service Community on 27 June - Veterans Day. Events were held across the country. One group of veterans, including Army St Dunstaner George Glynn and his wife Ann, boarded a boat by London's Festival Hall to be carried to the Royal Naval College in Greenwich. Some disembarked and marched up through an honour guard of Standard bearers, including St Dunstaner Nigel Whiteley. He stood firmly to attention even when the heavens unleashed a deluge of rain. George attended a Not Forgotten Association dinner and concert in the Painted Hall with turns from Rolf Harris, Engelbert Humperdink and actor Robert Hardy.



George and Anne Glynn outside the Painted Hall.



Wills Bradley-Blackwell learns about St Dunstan's.



Nigel, Chelsea Pensioner Brian Wells and Colin Williamson.