

St Dunstan's Review



We shall remember them!

St Dunstaners and other ex-service men took part in a Drumhead Service of Remembrance marking the 25 years since the conclusion of the Falklands Conflict at the finale of Portrush International Airshow.

Photograph: Joan Beevers



Logistic Corps sort it out!

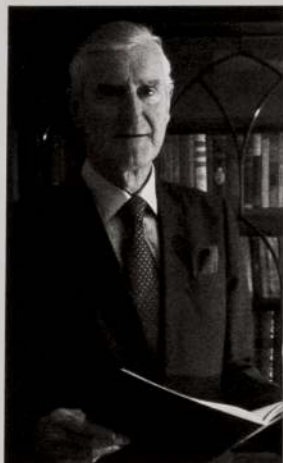


Smiles from Medway!



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

From **the Chairman**



I welcome our new Assistant Director of Fundraising and Communications, Andrew Jones, and I would like to thank Sally Cornish who held the department together so admirably during the inter-regnum, as well as giving much excellent advice for the future. Andrew comes to us from the Royal British Legion and is well versed in our needs.

Currently Legacies are our biggest source of revenue, but it is not a reliable form of income. Explaining to the public why we need their donations and what we do with the money is vitally important, and thankfully our donors have never let us down, be they grant giving Trusts, or pensioners who share some of their limited income with us, or just ordinary

people who admire what we are doing and are more than generous.

In a previous **Review**, we read about the garden room recently opened at the Sheffield Training Centre, funds for which were generously donated by two parents who wished it to be a memorial to their son. We also read about a lady member of the Transport Police who donated money raised from a sponsored motorcycle trip from Ovingdean to Edinburgh and back. A lady patient of a St Dunstan's physiotherapist has recently cycled from Camden to Kathmandu and is presenting proceeds to St Dunstan's.

A huge thank-you to all donors and those who encourage, or are involved in raising money and spreading the word about the work of St Dunstan's.

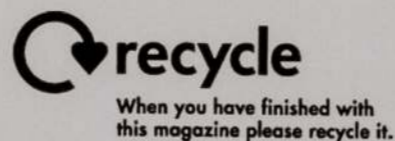
St Dunstan's Review

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Noticeboard

St Dunstan's Calendar

ST DUNSTAN'S DAY

IN MEMORY OF SIR ARTHUR: St Dunstan's Day on 9 December will mark 86 years since the death of our founder Sir Cyril Arthur Pearson, Bart. It was his determination and inspiration that laid the foundation for the organisation that continues to help visually impaired ex-Servicemen and women achieve independent lives. After losing his sight, he defied the conventions of the day and encouraged other blind men and women to reclaim productive roles in society.

NOVEMBER

Up to 10th Bowling (II)
3rd Writers' Forum
11th Remembrance Sunday
11th-17th DancingWeek(II)
24th-25th Golf

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

Up to 5th New Year 'Week'
18th-27th Archery (I)

FEBRUARY

2nd Writers' Forum
10th-16th Dancing(I)
20th-21st Computer Club(I)
22nd-March1st Amateur Radio

MARCH

1st Writers' Forum

EX-POWS REMINDED TO BOOK IN

REUNION IN APRIL: St Dunstaners who were prisoners of war are reminded that they will need to book accommodation at St Dunstan's Ovingdean for the Ex-Prisoners of War Reunion due to be held 4-7 April next year. Attendees should contact Bookings Coordinator Jackie Castle by telephone on 01273 391422 or via e-mail on jackie.castle@st-dunstans.org.uk.

RNIB BOOK IN FOR RIGHT TO READ WEEK

CAMPAIGN 5-11 NOVEMBER: The Royal National Institute of Blind People and other members of the Right to Read Alliance will be highlighting the fact 96 percent of books published in the UK are never made available in an accessible format, such as braille, larger print, electronic or audio. To learn more about the campaign or share personal experience, visit their website on www.rnib.org.uk/righttoread.

INSIGHT RADIO TAKES TO THE SKY

VIP DEDICATED RADIO STATION NOW ON SATELLITE TV: Insight Radio, Europe's first radio service for blind and partially sighted people is now available on Sky Channel 0188. The launch on digital satellite makes the station more accessible across the UK, whilst still broadcasting live on the internet and on 101FM in the Glasgow area.

The station, currently broadcasts from 07:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday, offering blind and partially sighted listeners a varied programme ranging from newspaper and magazine reviews through music request shows to interactive phone-ins and lifestyle and feature programmes - all presented with the blind or partially sighted listener in mind! Edited highlights are broadcast at other times of the day and weekend.

The station was launched as VIP On Air. "The radio station of the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) has, so far, had a brilliant year," said Insight Radio Manager Ross Macfadyen. "We re-launched as Insight Radio, won a Sony Award and opened our FM transmitter in Glasgow. Now the move onto the Sky Digital platform makes this unique radio service more available and more accessible to a much wider audience across the country. We're looking forward to a great working relationship with the team at Sky."

Insight Radio's presenters are all either blind or partially sighted. They are assisted

live on air by sighted volunteers who read the newspaper articles and interact with the presenter or guests who can either call in (local rate phone number) to be interviewed live in the studio or from various studio locations around the UK.

Insight Radio also provides training and employment opportunities for blind and partially sighted people. The training allows people who would not otherwise get the opportunity to experience working in radio production, presentation, research or other areas of the broadcasting industry.

Insight Radio is funded by RNIB with support from other organisations including Glasgow City Council, East Renfrewshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council and British Wireless for the Blind. Earlier this year, Insight Radio won Silver in the Sony Radio Academy Awards, the radio 'Oscars'. The station won the award in the Internet Programme category.

Monday to Friday, the schedule is:

07:00 Early Edition with Steven Scott
Steven Scott and the team review the main pages of the day's newspapers, and discuss issues which directly affect the lives of blind and partially sighted people.

10:00 Morning Mix with Simon Pauley
Simon Pauley invites listeners to a morning of chat and music, and relax with the daily Radio Play. Call the studio on 0845 602 0025 or e-mail info@insightradio.co.uk.

BFBS RADIO NOW ON SKY

BRITISH FORCES RADIO ON DIGITAL SATELLITE: Apart from broadcasting to British Armed Forces in Iraq, Germany and other areas BFBS is now available to the public on Sky 0211.

This gives a potential eight million households the opportunity to listen to BFBS Radio and to send messages to friends and family wherever they may be in the Forces world, even to Royal Navy ships at sea. BFBS Radio is also available online at www.ssvc.com/bfbs/radio.

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

ANTHOLOGY OF LETTERS ON SALE: A new book explores wartime Christmas experiences from the English Civil War (when Christmas was banned by a Puritan Parliament) to the present day conflict in Iraq. Jeremy Archer uses extracts from letters, diaries, cards, poems, autobiographies and other sources in *Home for Christmas: A Wartime Anthology* which is being sold in support of the Army Benevolent Fund. The volume is illustrated by Matilda Hunt.

The 240 page book will be available from mid-November, priced £10 (plus £2.50 post and packaging, £6 overseas). Orders can be placed by telephone on 01372 844670, Monday to Friday, 09:00-17:00. Online orders will also be possible via www.armybenfund.org.

12:00 The Daily Lunch with Jill Daley
Jill Daley and team host a magazine-style programme ranging from hard-hitting human interest stories, to more light-hearted lifestyle issues. They also take to the streets to find out what the public have to say.

14:00 Talking Books
Each day from 2pm, Robert Kirkwood presents interviews, discussion and news about the world of audio books, along with the current book of the week.

15:00 Afternoon Edition with Allan Russell
Allan Russell and the team review the evening editions of the day's newspapers, and focus on the main stories of the day affecting blind people.

From 18:00 to the next morning, the station broadcasts edited highlights of the week's shows. Apart from Sky 0188 and 101FM in Glasgow, the station is available online at www.insightradio-net.com.

TORCH TRUST BRING IN SIGHT TO PREMIER RADIO ON SATURDAYS

BLIND GOSPEL SINGER PRESENTS SHOW: Marilyn Baker, a blind gospel singer, presents IN SIGHT, on Premier Radio at 21:00 on Saturdays. Premier broadcasts in Greater London on 1305, 1332, 1413 MW or DAB, on Sky 0123, Virgin 698 and Freeview 725. The 15-minute programme is produced by the Torch Trust which provides Christian literature for visually impaired people.

MOBILE SIGHT LOSS INFORMATION SERVICE

IMPARTIAL ADVICE: Action for Blind People's three mobile information units will be visiting venues across the UK in November.

The units offer a wide selection of daily living aids to try, including talking clocks and watches and assistive technology, as well as free and impartial information about local and national services.

November stops include:

Lancaster - Thursday 1 November
Mobile situated at the car park outside Medical Unit One, Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Ashton Road, Lancaster LA1 4RP.

Surrey - week commencing 5 November
SAVI, Surrey Association for Visually Impaired, date and venue to be confirmed.

Accrington - Tuesday 6 November
Outside The Market Hall, Blackburn Road, Accrington, Lancashire.

Burnley - Wednesday 7 November
Thompson Centre Car Park, off Red Lion Street, Burnley, Lancashire.

Warrington - Thursday 22 November
Venue to be confirmed.

Preston - Wednesday 28 November 2007
Galloways Society for the Blind, Howick House, Howick Park Avenue, Penwortham, Preston PR1 0LS.

Anyone wishing to visit the mobile information unit can obtain location details shortly via Action for Blind People's national helpline number 0800 915 4666 or by visiting their website www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk.

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.

BEVIN BOYS BADGE AVAILABLE

BADGE FOR CONSCRIPTED MINERS: Men who were conscripted directly into the mines, (ballotees) those who opted for mine work in preference to joining the Armed forces or those who opted for mine work or those who were in the Armed Forces and volunteered to become miners during the period 1943-1948 can now apply for the Bevin Boys Badge. The widows of men who died on or after 20 June 2007 and fall into the stated category will also be eligible.

The Bevin Boys scheme was introduced in 1943 by the then Minister for Labour and National Service, Ernest Bevin. The scheme ran between 1943 and 1948 and involved recruiting men to work in coal mines during and immediately following World War two. Some 48,000 men were either selected or volunteered under the scheme.

The application form for the badge can be obtained by calling the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency Helpline on 0800 169 2277 or on their website at www.veterans-uk.info/bevin_boys. Forms are returned to the SPVA at Norcross.

The UK Armed Forces Veterans Lapel Badge has now been extended to include those who served up to 31 December 1994. St Dunstaners can apply for the badge via Barbara Sweeney at St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD or by telephoning her on 020 7616 7922.

STARTING WITH A SCREAM...

DUSTDOWN THOSE KEYBOARDS: We are asking budding authors to pick up their quills for the latest **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** story writing competition. The subject and title are yours to decide. However, the story should start with the opening line: "He screamed silently as the pain began to take hold..."

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

Please follow these steps when submitting entries for the competition:

- 1) Entries should be typewritten and should not exceed 1,500 words.
- 2) Please submit your entry under a nom-de-plume.
- 3) Please write your nom-de-plume and your real name on a sheet of paper and seal them up in an envelope, which should accompany your entry.
- 4) Only one submission per person. Multiple entries will be disqualified.
- 5) Entries must be received by the Editor, **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD by 5 January 2008.

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

TRY ST DUNSTAN'S CHRISTMAS CARD RANGE FOR SIZE

INCORRECT INCHES LISTED LAST MONTH: October's feature introducing the latest range of St Dunstan's Christmas Cards featured incorrect imperial measurements (metric details were correct). We hope this did not cause any undue confusion.

The correct measurements are:

Christmas Fruits Ref: DUN001X: 5.39 inches square. Pack of ten £3.75.

Festive Sparkle Ref: DUN002X: 4.76 inches square. Pack of ten £3.25.

Dove Ref: DUN003X: 4.76 inches x 6.73 inches. Pack of ten £4.00.

Welcome Home Ref: DUN004X: 3.86 inches x 5.12 inches. Pack of ten £3.00.

Choir Boys Procession Ref: DUN005X: 4.76 inches x 6.73 inches. Pack of ten £3.75.

Manger Ref: DUN006X: 3.39 inches x 8.98 inches. Pack of ten £4.00.

The Virgin and the Angels Ref: DUN007X: 4.76 inches x 6.73 inches. Pack of ten £3.75.

Our Little Tree Ref: DUN008X: 4.76 inches x 6.73 inches. Pack of ten £3.50.

Christmas Eve Ref: DUN009X: 4.76 inches x 6.73 inches. Pack of ten £3.50.

St Dunstan's Craft Christmas Card twin pack Ref: DUN011X: 4.76 inches x 6.73 inches. Two designs, pack contains five of each, £3.50.

St Dunstan's Craft Autumn Leaves Notecard twin pack Ref: DUN012X: 4.76 inches square. Two designs, pack contains five of each, £3.25.

St Dunstan's 2008 Diary Ref: DUN013X: We can now add that the diary features a week on two pages, and is 6.69 inches by 3.54 inches (170mm x 90mm). Price £5.00.

Wrapping Paper Ref: DUN014X. We can now add that the six assorted sheets are 19.69 inches by 27.56 inches when flat. (500mm x 700mm) Price £3.50.

All items were described individually last issue. VAT is inclusive at 17.5 per cent.

Postage and packaging on any order is:

Up to £15: £2.50;
£15.01 to £30; £3.95;
Over £30: FREE.

In the event that one or more choice is sold out St Dunstan's will substitute an alternative design. Orders will be despatched within 21 days.

Telephone orders can be placed on 0845 450 8446, by post to St Dunstan's Christmas Cards, PO Box 220, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 6ZQ or online at www.st-dunstans.org.uk/christmas.

HAVE YOU GOT A STORY TO TELL?

HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR ST DUNSTAN'S: If you would like to help us raise vital funds for St Dunstan's and you have got an interesting story to tell about your life, our Fundraising Team would love to hear from you. We are particularly keen to know how St Dunstan's has helped you and the practical difference it has made to you. We are also looking for compelling memories of your time in the Services.

Our supporters always enjoy reading about St Dunstaners in newsletters and appeals, and they are often inspired to make donations because of what they read. So you really could be helping future generations of St Dunstaners to benefit from the charity's services. Whether you were blinded in conflict or lost your sight later in life, we would greatly appreciate your help.

Simply send us a letter with details of your military service and the help St Dunstan's has given you, to James Allport, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. Alternatively, you can e-mail james.allport@st-dunstans.org.uk or call James Allport on 0207 616 8362. Thank you.

CAN WE CALL YOU A CAB?

IS THERE A TAXI?: Find out if a railway or tram, metro or underground station is covered by a taxi service before you travel at www.traintaxi.co.uk.

DO YOU RECALL THE DAY ...?

CAN YOU HELP?: Hamma & Glemma Productions are currently working on a Television Series for ITV. 'Those Were The Days' is a social history series for ITV. Each of the five, one-hour, episodes will paint a nostalgic picture of Britain on significant days in recent history. In this unique series we will meet people from around the country and view rare archive footage to illustrate the more unusual and interesting events which occurred on these memorable dates.

The dates that I am currently looking into are: 30 July 1966 when England won the World Cup; 20 July 1969 Man on the Moon; 3 July 1976 which was the hottest day of the hottest summer; 29 July 1981 Charles and Diana's wedding; and 9 November 1989, the Fall of the Berlin Wall.

I am really keen to hear any stories of these days and would love to see if any St Dunstaners remember anything particular occurring on these dates. It doesn't have to be huge and it doesn't have to be even related to the incident mentioned - I'm just keen to hear what people remember.

To give you an example of the kind of story we are looking at we have a couple who got married on the day of the Royal Wedding and a gentlemen who was attempting a World Record the day England won the World Cup. Please telephone Emma Wilkinson on 020 7199 0021 as soon as possible. Thank you.

Letters

Letters to The Editor are always welcome. Write to St Dunstan's Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. E-mail ray.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Statistics of St Dunstan's

Suffering from a severe case of "statisticitis", I used my memory to divide England into a series of horizontal stripes of roughly equal population, but briefly excluded Sussex, then added Wales and Scotland to the list, filling in a chart of new St Dunstaners listed in the August and September Review. To be fair, it was (as usual) my idea, but my dear wife who did all the work. I summarise as follows:	Northamptonshire, & Cambridgeshire Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex Wiltshire, Berkshire, Surrey, & Kent Hampshire, Dorset, Somerset, Isle of Wight Avon, Devon, Cornwall London, Middlesex Wales Sussex	3 6 9 14 7 2 5 10 18
Scotland Cheshire, Lancashire, & North West Yorkshire, North East Shropshire, Warwickshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, & Lincolnshire Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire,	4 16 18 8	Would it be possible for some of St Dunstan's Recruiting Sergeants to be issued with a hike-tent, a sleeping bag, and emergency rations so that they could enter the comparatively wild and unexplored north-Midlands?
		Aubrey Jones, Dunstable, Bedfordshire

Regarding E. Parker's letter in the October **Review**, I wonder if Mr Parker has ever taken advantage of St Dunstan's unique training and independent living skills as his letter is so full of gloom and self pity and blaming the Government and National Health Service for his problems. Of course, there are anomalies in the

Health Service as there is in life generally but let us look beyond that and hope it is less so for the children and younger folk. I am also 84 years old and the 'good old days' he refers to were the 1920s and 30s which I don't remember as being particularly good, but let us not dwell in the past and look ahead to the future. Mr Parker had the same

letter in a local Bromley newspaper, so perhaps he is looking for Brownie points from the local supermarket or at least a goody bag. I think he would do better to remember St Dunstan's motto 'Victory Over Blindness' and not to bother with victory over the NHS.

**Vic Claridge,
Orpington, Kent**

Balancing the Books

Ted Bunting finds voice on poultry biography is bad cluck!

The Egg and I

Author: Betty MacDonald
Reader: Phyllis Boothroyd
Catalogue No: 52
Duration: 9 hours, 15 minutes.

I cannot pretend to be bursting with affection for readers who try to "act out" the text of a book; and anyone sampling this recording may quickly understand why. It is not as if the reader here has some sort of awful vocal affliction, oh no, at times she employs a very pleasant voice, so why, I ask myself, does she make every female character shriek like a soul in torment? She makes no distinction either social or racial; be it her grandma, an Indian squaw, or Ma Kettle from the farm

next door. The moment they are called upon to speak she has them yelling and screeching in exactly the same shrill and unpleasant way. All of which is a great pity, because this story of a young couple who go to the mountains of Washington state to become chicken farmers is otherwise interesting, informative and entertaining. It is also, to those of us with a few miles on the clock, a reminder of life without all today's home comforts. Of course, being America the poultry farm has to be a "ranch", the bears in their woods are the most ferocious in the world, and when a cougar is shot, it is the biggest one that ever existed. But because I'm not one to complain, I make allowance for that sort of thing.

RNIB Talk and Support win lottery award

RNIB Talk & Support, a telephone befriending service, has been voted the UK's favourite Lottery-funded Charity and Voluntary project.

Model Tess Daly presented members of the RNIB Talk and Support Team with the winner's trophy during a live show on BBC1's *The National Lottery: Big 7* on 15 September.

Two weeks earlier, viewers would have seen Women's Royal Army Corps St Dunstaner Joyce Charlton of Hangleton, East Sussex and other users of Talk & Support explain how the service had made a difference to their lives following sight loss. "It puts you in touch with other people experiencing the same thing. It meant such a

lot knowing that you weren't alone," said Joyce.

RNIB Talk and Support received an overwhelming response from the public who selected it from amongst 640 projects. Over 150,000 votes were cast. The award was sponsored by the *Sunday Mirror* and other awards were given for arts, health, sport and education.

Ten questions on...

The subject of the First World War

Harry Beevers tests your knowledge once more

- 1) What was the name of the German defence line known to the Allies as the Hindenburg Line?
- 2) On 1 August 1914, Kaiser Wilhelm declared war on which country ruled by his cousin?
- 3) Who held the post First Lord of the Admiralty at the outbreak of war in 1914 and again in September 1939?
- 4) Which French general and later marshal became a national hero in World War I as a result of his victory at Verdun?
- 5) In which Belgian town is the Menin Gate, a memorial to the 55,000 British soldiers with no known graves?
- 6) In World War I who were known as "The Ladies from Hell"?
- 7) What other name has been given to the third Battle of Ypres?
- 8) E.E. Cummings, Ernest Hemmingway, Somerset Maugham and Walt Disney all drove what in World War I?
- 9) What was the common name for the German 42 centimetre howitzer which bombarded Liege in 1914?
- 10) Which Hollywood favourite, a survivor of the German trenches in World War I, died in the arms of actress Jean Harlow in 1932 after earning more than \$5 million for his film roles?

Answers can be found on page 34.

Kevin's work looks best on Mars display

THE ACHIEVEMENTS of skiing St Dunstaner Kevin Alderton will be highlighted in a supermarket near you. Fresh chocolate milk drink, Mars Family Refuel, is to get a packaging refresh to highlight the brand's support to aspiring and extraordinary people. The eye-catching packaging will feature comments and images from individuals including two of Great Britain's 2010 Winter Paralympics hopefuls: Double Blind Speed Skiing world record holder, Kevin Alderton and paraplegic skier Tim Farr.

The drinks range is also supporting amateur cyclist, Rob Hughes, who is hoping to raise £1million for the cancer charity, Anna's Hope, a charity that he set up in memory of his young daughter.

Kevin and the other athletes will feature on litre cartons of the chocolate milk drink which sells for around £1.59 and are stored in chiller cabinets. Mars say the drink is a rich source of calcium, vitamin B2 and vitamin B12.

St Dunstan's Archery Club Win Gold at British Blind National Championships

by Patrick Sidnell

ST DUNSTAN'S ARCHERS attended the BBS National Championships at Lilleshall, National Sports Centre, Shropshire on the 8-9 September. The weather on was a little damp and dull to start, but this did not stop the Club from achieving great success in winning five Gold, two Silver and two Bronze medals. Peter Hammond set a new National Record.

On the second day, two Tournaments took place Burntwood Frostbite with black out and without black outs on. In the black out section, Peter Hammond came second with a score of 174.

The first winner of the Blinkie's Handicap Trophy for those without a black out was David Poyner.

St Dunstan's Archery Club thank all our coaches, spotters and driver who worked hard on our behalf to ensure the weekend was a great success.



Photograph: Jax Whiteley

Peter Hammond on a winning streak. He was presented with the Derek Hagger Memorial Trophy by Lady Paramount Katy Barrett during the August Archery Week.

Results BBS National Championships 2007

Archer	Category	Score	Position in Category
Steve Moseley	VI Open Compound	1243	1st
Tom Roddy	VI Open Recurve	976	1st
David Poyner	B2/3 Compound	690	1st
Peter Hammond	B1 Compound	654	1st
- National Record			
Patrick Sidnell	B2/3 Recurve	566	1st
Terry Ottewell	B2/3 Compound	603	2nd
Clive Jones	B1 Recurve	426	2nd
Harry Docherty	B1 Recurve	424	3rd
Marjorie Scott	B2/3 Recurve	144	3rd

Millions tune in as Henry is named Pride of Britain

Photographs: James Vellacott, courtesy of the Daily Mirror



Henry Allingham is joined on stage by his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grand-daughter who had flown in from America.

FIRST WORLD WAR St Dunstaner Henry Allingham was one of 17 people dubbed the Pride of Britain on 9 October. Over 100 celebrities applauded the nation's unsung heroes at the *Daily Mirror Pride of Britain Awards* during a gala celebration hosted by Carol Vorderman at television studios in London's West End.

Henry, aged 111, is well known as the last survivor of the Battle of Jutland. He also lived through battles at the Somme and Ypres, servicing aircraft on the Western Front. The last founder member of the RAF and the oldest man in Europe, he has lived through the reigns of six monarchs. He was feted for telling children about his

experiences in the Great War and intervening years. He regularly visits schools answering questions about his life and how the world has changed over the years.

A short film reprised Henry's life with comments from some of the pupils at schools he has visited. It drew gasps when it finished with Henry

repeating his mantra that his longevity is due to "whiskey and wild women."

The special recognition award was presented by two of his favourite musical performers, Dames Vera Lynn and Shirley Bassey. Henry was in feisty mood when he took the microphone from Carol Vorderman and was unequivocal about the debt of honour due to those who fought during the First World War. "I owe my life to the men who died in the First World War and you owe your lives as well," he said.

Nearly 7 million people tuned into ITV to watch the awards being presented.

But there was a surprise waiting for Henry off screen. His grandchildren, his great-granddaughter and great-great-granddaughter, had flown in from America.

Other winners included Staff Sergeant Michelle Cunningham, who serves with 721 Squadron 11 EOD Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps. She is the first female Senior Non Commissioned Officer to pass the High Threat Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Disposal course. Currently stationed in Iraq, she was recently awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal for her actions during a fire at an explosives factory in Middle Wallop, Hampshire last year.



Dame Vera Lynn and Dame Shirley Bassey present Henry with his Pride of Britain Special Recognition award.

Joan has a happy 100th birthday

ST DUNSTANER Joan Trench has her own theories about longevity as she celebrated her 100th birthday on 16 October. "It's just luck, there's no secret," she said. "I served five years in the Wrens and had some near misses. I was at the Royal Naval College in Greenwich and then went to Birmingham of all places. I was at HMS *Duke of Malvern*. My husband was overseas, so when he returned I had a normal married life. That was very satisfying, but I am just an ordinary person."

That "ordinary" life was celebrated when Joan was joined by family and friends for a meal at Cotswald mansion Deer Park Hall in Pershore, Worcestershire. She has also enjoyed birthday parties with fellow Wrens and Pathfinders blind club. "Everyone seems to know it's my 100th birthday," said Joan. Everyone, including St Dunstan's Patron Her Majesty The Queen, as a message of congratulation came from Buckingham Palace.

Joe has a great north run

ST DUNSTANER Joe Elsander clocked up his fastest time since losing his sight in the Great North Run on 30 September. "Sixty-eight years old and there is actually something I am doing better as I get older," he said. He was one of around 50,000 people who tackle the half-marathon event which starts at Spital Tongues in Newcastle.

"I was running for two charities, St Dunstan's and Durham Society for the Blind. I had some problems

because two people who were going to run with me had to drop out. However, Angie Watson stepped in and she was absolutely brilliant. She is a personal trainer and usually runs it in one hour-twenty, but she agreed to run with me.

"It was a bit cold when we first got there, but the sun came out and it soon warmed up so it was ideal for running. Mind you it was a bit warm at the finish.

"The atmosphere is brilliant,

all the way along you get people cheering."

The route takes runners over the Tyne Bridge and down past the Gateshead Stadium. Through Felling and Heworth, they turn towards Whiteleas and up towards Marsden. The final three miles head up to South Shields.

Joe, who qualified as a Sports Coach earlier in the year, completed the run in two hours, 18 minutes and 34 seconds. "That's a minute faster than last year," he said.

Our Maria gets roped in!

ST DUNSTANER Maria Pikulski abseiled 110ft from the top of the Peel Tower on Holcombe Hill, Ramsbottom on 22 September. "It was a doddle, brilliant, I was jumping down," she said.

The tower is a memorial to one time Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel who founded the modern Police Force. Maria was one of several people abseiling for Galloway's Society for the Blind in Lancashire.



Medway and Swale visit St Dunstan's

HAVING BEEN impressed by the efforts of Strood Army Cadet Force during their St Dunstan's Challenge, The Mayor of Medway, Cllr Val Goulden and the Mayor of Swale, Cllr John Morris visited St Dunstan's National Centre in Ovingdean, Brighton on 18 September. They toured the facility, meeting with St Dunstaners such as Norman Perry, who was re-gaining a chair in the Craft Workshop.

Terry Walker and Marjorie Scott also spoke of their lives in the Services and of living with sight loss. The Mayors also got to debate the merits of braille and



Mayor John Morris and Mayor Val Goulden ask Norman Perry how he goes about recaning a dining room chair.

adaptive technologies with Stephen Pendleton and Head of Rehabilitation and Training Katy Barrett. Mayor of Medway Val Goulden presented an encribed

glass which was accepted by FEPOW St Dunstaner Stan Grimsey (pictured on cover). The visit was rounded off on the green by an archery lesson from Colin Dickinson.

Jeanie Allison

Jeanie Macaully Allison of Ongar, Essex died on 18 September. She was recruited by Matron Payne to join St Dunstan's VADs at Church Stretton. She left St Dunstan's after the war, but later made enquiries about rejoining the staff at Ovingdean. The Matron of the day heeded advice from colleagues and rehired her without interview and without regret. Described as a very caring person, much loved and well liked by everybody, she subsequently became Assistant Matron at Ovingdean. Her association with the charity crossed several decades before and after her retirement. Our sympathy goes to her niece.

Gay Turner

Gay Turner, or Nurse Birkin as some St Dunstaners will remember her, died on 17 August, aged 91. She served with the Red Cross from the outset of WWII, joining fellow VADs at St Dunstan's in 1944. She often spoke of her time at St Dunstan's citing the lighting of a VE Day bonfire with the Welsh Guards near Church Stretton, taking the Boys out for "off ration" ham and eggs and taking US Forces St Dunstaner Robbie Robinson to her parents house when on leave. She remained friends with Robbie and other VADs and attended several reunions with her late husband Major Bill Turner, RE. Our sympathy goes to her sons Paul and Richard.

Tribute of the sky and sea

A TEAM OF St Dunstaners represented the charity at the International Airshow, Portrush, Northern Ireland held over 8-9 September.

Northern Ireland St Dunstaner and speaker Moira McGrath and her friend Helen Bradley were well placed for the event and others were supported by Sandra and Campbell Blair who made them more welcome than long lost relatives. They had kindly offered to transport and were clearly looking forward to working with St Dunstan's. Sandra, Secretary of Group 10, Royal British Legion, is the principal driving force who, working together with Coleraine Borough Council, organised one of the best air shows ever witnessed.

The air show itself was simply first class, a wide variety of planes and helicopters, with wingwalkers and seaplanes, and, of course, the Red Arrows.

The Area 10 Royal British Legion made us welcome on their stall, happily moving



Mayor of Coleraine Borough Council, Maurice Bradley with St Dunstaners Moira McGrath and Nigel Whiteley.

stuff around to display St Dunstan's literature, raising awareness of St Dunstan's, and also organizing lunches for everyone. The team were surprised by the number of people who said they had heard about our organisation and how pleased they were that we had been able to attend the show. One lady had a relative who had been a St Dunstan's Welfare Officer for Sussex, Ettie Stuart.

Sandra introduced the St Dunstaners to Thomas

McCallum, Chairman of RLB Northern Ireland and also the Mayor of Coleraine Borough Council, Maurice Bradley. RBL Portrush Branch invited the team to join them at their club that evening where there was Country and Western music and dancing. Warm thanks are due to Alan, Roy (who trains standard bearers and has offered Moira this training), William and Billy.

Contact was also made with several cadet forces,

(most of whom had heard about St Dunstan's, but not about the Cadet Challenge) and Moira had some very promising discussions with the Harley-Davidson Ladies and Formula One group, over possible fundraising events in Northern Ireland.

The finale of the show was a Drumhead Service of Remembrance, which commemorated the 25th Anniversary of the Falklands Conflict (pictured on the cover). This was held on the beach. St Dunstaner Nigel Whiteley was proud to be able to march with the St Dunstan's standard through the town, and down on to the sandy beach. The marchers were joined



Photograph: Joan Beevers

Moira and her escort, David.



Moira presents Sandra Blair with a St Dunstan's plaque in recognition of her support during the air show.

at the seafront by a larger contingent of veterans who joined the 37 standards and the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment, performing at their last engagement before being disbanded.

The entire parade lined up with the sea as a backdrop, in front of the Mayor of Coleraine, members of Clergy and Royal British Legion. Prior to the commencement of the service, Moira and Harry Beevers were both interviewed live on air, by the local radio station, Downtown Radio.

The service itself was extremely moving, culminating in a two minute silence, broken only by the sound of the Antonov AN2,

flying overhead to drop two million poppy petals, which the wind carried to all parts of the large crowd as well as the parade and dipped standards.

Thanks are due to the cadets who kindly escorted our St Dunstaners for the parade, Harry who requested (and got) an attractive blonde, Hannah, Moira who requested (and got) a strapping young soldier, David, from The Royal Irish Regiment and Nigel who requested (and got) a Royal Marine Cadet, also called David.

It was an amazing weekend, which left the team exhausted but happy. The welcome was wonderful.

Photograph: Jax Whiteley



Corporal Audrey MacLennan, Lance Corporal Nana Afoakwa, Private Delebert Mason, and Lance Corporal Benjamin Amenya get to work on one of the walls in Beacon Hill.

Dalton Barracks team give new shine to Beacon Hill

A SQUAD FROM the Royal Logistic Corps threw themselves wholeheartedly into some decorating work at a St Dunstan's property over four days in September. The troops from Dalton Barracks, Abingdon, Oxfordshire set up about clearing an overgrown garden, stripping wallpaper and flaked paint before cleaning paving and repainting walls and woodwork.

The soldiers also had the chance to drop into St Dunstan's Ovingdean and gain some first hand experience of what it might be like to live with out sight.

This included some fun sessions with the acoustic rifle and some sight guiding training. However, dinner under blindfold was an opportunity for a few hi-jinks with items being added or subtracted from plates or salt being added to drinking water.

There was a formal end to their stay when St Dunstaner Alf Lockhart presented Major Karl Frankland, Commander of the Regiment, with a St Dunstan's plaque (pictured on cover). The squad reciprocated and their CO Captain Ben Preece presented Alf with a double crested plaque which will be mounted in the lounge.



During a mobility lesson, the Royal Logistic Corps' Private David Nyirongo wondered if he could still play the piano blindfold. He could, but he found himself slightly off key.



The soldiers took it in turns to work on parts of the house. As one stepped down, another took his place.



Privates Katy Morton and Sara Whitham painting.



Corporal MacLennan gets competitive with acoustic rifle.



Spray cleaning the path.



Don't spill a drop.



Captain Ben Preece presents Alf with a double plaque.

Reflections on a November Morning

With Armistice Day looming, **Dave Simmonds** recalls the atmosphere in Whitehall during last year's Remembrance Day



Photograph: Simon Rogers

Dave Simmonds and fellow St Dunstaners on parade.

REGISTERED BLIND some years ago, but still retaining very limited vision, I was privileged as a recently enrolled St Dunstaner, to take part in last November's Remembrance Day Service and parade at London's Cenotaph.

This was to prove one of my most moving and memorable experiences, starting on

our arrival, along with other contingents, at Horse Guards Parade at 09:00hrs. The weather was perfect seeming to put a smile and a blessing on the event, and whilst waiting to be lined up ready to march into Whitehall, I experienced at first hand the atmosphere and spirit that this ceremony evokes.

Last year, for the first time, there were no Great War

veterans marching, although St Dunstan's can boast the country's oldest veteran in Henry Allingham, now one hundred and eleven. After the delays inevitable in marshalling so many representative groups, during which I chatted with my fellow marchers and did my best to locate with my surroundings; we formed up in columns of six and moved off across Horse Guards.

I felt my escort (over 20 years in the RA) grip my right elbow; "Can you hear the applause from the other side of that arch? When we pass through we shall be in Whitehall, and the public, who will be close packed at every vantage point, will see us and only us for the first time; then the clapping will intensify as they realize and acknowledge that although they can see you, you cannot see them."

So it was; and the watching crowds seemed to bear us forward on an endless wave of gratitude and understanding, past Downing Street and onwards up Whitehall, until we halted some hundred yards from the Cenotaph.

Here we relaxed for a while and my escort described to me what was happening at the Cenotaph via a nearby CCTV. As he described the details of the coming march past and return route, I could feel the sunlight on my face, and knew that this would be shining directly on to the nation's symbol of Remembrance.

The strains of Elgar's *Nimrod* drifted towards me, and I sensed that the translucent Autumn leaves on the nearby lime trees

would be similarly drifting earthwards on the calm sunlit morning, so pregnant with evocative memories.

At 11:00 hrs the strokes of Big Ben and the blast from a single cannon marked the start of the two minutes silence, in which our private thoughts were fused into a collective one of pride in our Country and all that it has achieved and stands for. This was followed by the *Last Post*, and the laying of wreaths, and a short service concluded by the singing of the National Anthem.

Soon the band struck up again and again my escort touched my arm. "It will soon be our turn to march past, first past the Cenotaph, and then past the Royal saluting dais on our return to Horse Guards. March to the drumbeat, be proud and savour these moments, for you will remember them for the rest of your life."

So we marched, proudly, and to the drumbeat, and the acclaim of the thousands watching. Up to and past that famous memorial to the fallen and onwards up Whitehall. I walked tall that morning, for the years had melted away in the sunlight, suddenly I was young again,

and I felt as if I could have marched forever.

Returning to our hotel, contrasting images filled my thoughts: Of our wait in Horse Guards when the Chelsea Pensioners passed within touching distance; and of my chat with a 20-year-old-fellow St Dunstaner who had lost the sight of one eye in childhood, and his remaining eye and left hand serving Queen and Country. He lived alone and coped with life as best he could - "When you have to, you have to!" There was no hint of bitterness or regret at having chosen such a dangerous career path: I felt very humbled.

There is much room for improvement in this land of ours, but in the afterglow of that November morning I realised, what I had never really doubted, that there is so very much more that is decent, brave and honourable, amongst our citizens whatever their age or colour, and though our spirit of nationhood may sometimes appear to slumber it is always there, ready to answer the call when it is just and true. The tree may lose its leaves in Autumn, but it lives still, tall and strong, awaiting the call of Spring...

Flight of the Flamingo

By Gerry Jones

WHAT WERE you doing on August Bank Holiday Monday? Twenty-one young Sea Cadets from *TS Flamingo*, based in Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, spent their day competing in the St Dunstan's 'Go the Distance' Cadet Challenge, rowing up the River Tyne from the mouth of the river to its highest navigable point.

The Tyne is a mighty river, huge cranes, docks and bridges. The Cadets led by their CO Lt Cmdr Derek Brown and their senior staff had organised themselves well. They were to row in the standard sea cadet boat, the ASC. It is 16ft long, 5ft wide and of shallow draught but sits quite high out of the water. The Cox controls

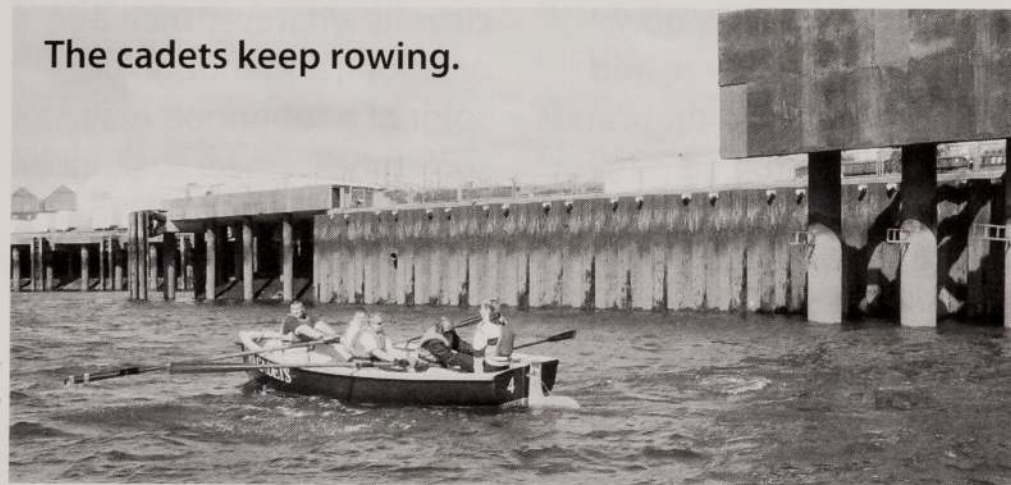


Gerry and Maureen Jackson, John and Nora Patterson and Gerry Jones join the crew of *TS Flamingo* on the Tyne.

the boat using a tiller and the crew of four sit in the centre of the boat, one behind the other. The oars are 12 ft long with a narrow blade. This mean machine is designed with safety in mind and for training cadets in seamanship. It is not built for speed. Our armada included the Cadet dingy, two safety boats, both with an internal two stroke engines much used in cement mixers

which carried two crew and the cadets waiting their turn to row. Everyone in these craft all wore life-jackets. The last boat was a rather lavish Norwegian designed Fjord with two engines with double props each. This latter craft was captained by Lt Comdr Alfie Simpson and wife Gwynne. This was the boat to be on; powerful, comfortable, sleeping six with plenty of soft seats. This is where the St Dunstan's party were based. They comprised Gerry and Maureen Jackson, John and Nora Patterson who lived locally, Jennifer Shannon of the Fundraising department and finally, Gerry Jones. The latter had come with the definite aim of rowing as

The cadets keep rowing.



Photograph: Jennifer Shannon

much as possible as he has had ten years experience of rowing Cornish Pilot gigs.

We set off just before 09:00 from Royal Quay at the Eastern end of the Tyne. Such a tiny armada in such a massive back drop. The breeze was quite strong directly against the bow which whipped up the water as it was against the tide. There was no doubt that this was going to be a real slog. The cadets rowed and expertly changed over crews twice before Gerry Jones was put in the boat nearest to the Cox.

Transferring from our luxury cruiser to the support boat and then into the Cadet rower was not without incident but the whole movement was done professionally by the crew and with safety in mind. Let's be fair, the seniors had no

idea what they were going to get from this blind group. My position was a little cramped. I marked my oar with a 4 inch of triangular 5mm thick piece of wood and taped it on to the up river side of the loom, this gave me the exact position of the oar in the water and I controlled that by feeling the edge of the strip with my thumbs. Initially I over pulled, but then realised that many of the cadets were small in stature, so I just modified my stroke and went along gently. This little boat was hard to move against the wind and chop.

The Cox tried to keep us out of the wind by hugging the North side but this was not always possible. The six miles into Newcastle centre was one long hard pull and the safety boats changed the crews over many times. Due to the rush of water through

the bridge piers we were towed under the main rail road bridge which everyone recognises, the Millennium Bridge, known locally as the Blinking Eye, plus a few more rail bridges and then we were set free once more with five miles to go.

John joined me in the boat and we moved along quite steadily making progress. After another hour, I was hauled off and John stayed on for a further hour to see the job done. The last five miles I rowed, Elsa had been the Cox and a jolly fine time we had. She planned to join the RN and was going before the Admiralty Officers Board early in October. I am sure that all of us wish her the very best of fortune with her chosen career.

The Challenge ended under the Scotswood Road Bridge and then the crew had to row back half a mile to their berth, but this time with the wind and a tide just on the change. What a difference that made, they were flying along, which just showed how tough the Challenge had been. Lots of whooping and clapping and then a tired group of people made their way back to their base in Gateshead.



Our St Dunstaners say well done to the *Flamingo* Sea Cadets.

By night and day!

By Gerry Jackson

ON 1 SEPTEMBER, Cadets and Staff of 8 Troop, Y Company, Fair Oak ACF, near Eastleigh, Hampshire, carried out a St Dunstan's "Go the Distance" Cadet Challenge. The challenge formed part of a two day (with an overnight camp out), three-part cross country orienteering exercise.

Part one was a 15km day leg from Base to a camp area in the village of Meonstoke. Part two was a 10km circular night leg. Part three was a 15km day leg back to base.

At the invitation of CO Chris Mallard, the cadets were joined on the first leg by St Dunstaner Gerry Jackson and his wife Maureen. The cadets were organised into three groups, each with an adult member, supported by unit staff. They had staggered start times and slightly different routes, but all with the same check points. Gerry and Maureen joined Group 1 which comprised seven cadets, Sgt Dom Rowland, Cadets Taura Mason, Tom

Sharp, and Aiden Young, Recruits Jess Parlour and Laurie Venters and Lance Corporal Hadley Booth-Millard, along with one adult cadet, CSM Chris Horrobin.

It was an ideal day for walking, reasonably warm and dry, and by 15:00 the first leg was completed by Group 1, with the other two groups following by 16:00. Tented camp was set up in a field behind Hill Brow Cottage, Meonstoke, with permission of the owner Robert Medway. This field is on a steep slope and the view from the site at the top took in the Meon Valley along with Old Winchester Hill and Beacon

Hill. These two hills would be on the route of the night leg.

A BBQ site was also set up and soon delicious aromas drifted around the camp site, even Mr Medway was attracted. Following this excellent repast the groups set out on the night leg. They were all back in camp by 21:30. Gerry and Maureen left the Cadets around 22:00 who, courtesy of modern technology, had settled down to watch a movie, *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Many thanks to the cadets and adult instructors for their hospitality, it was a marvellous day.

Congratulations to County Coach Colin



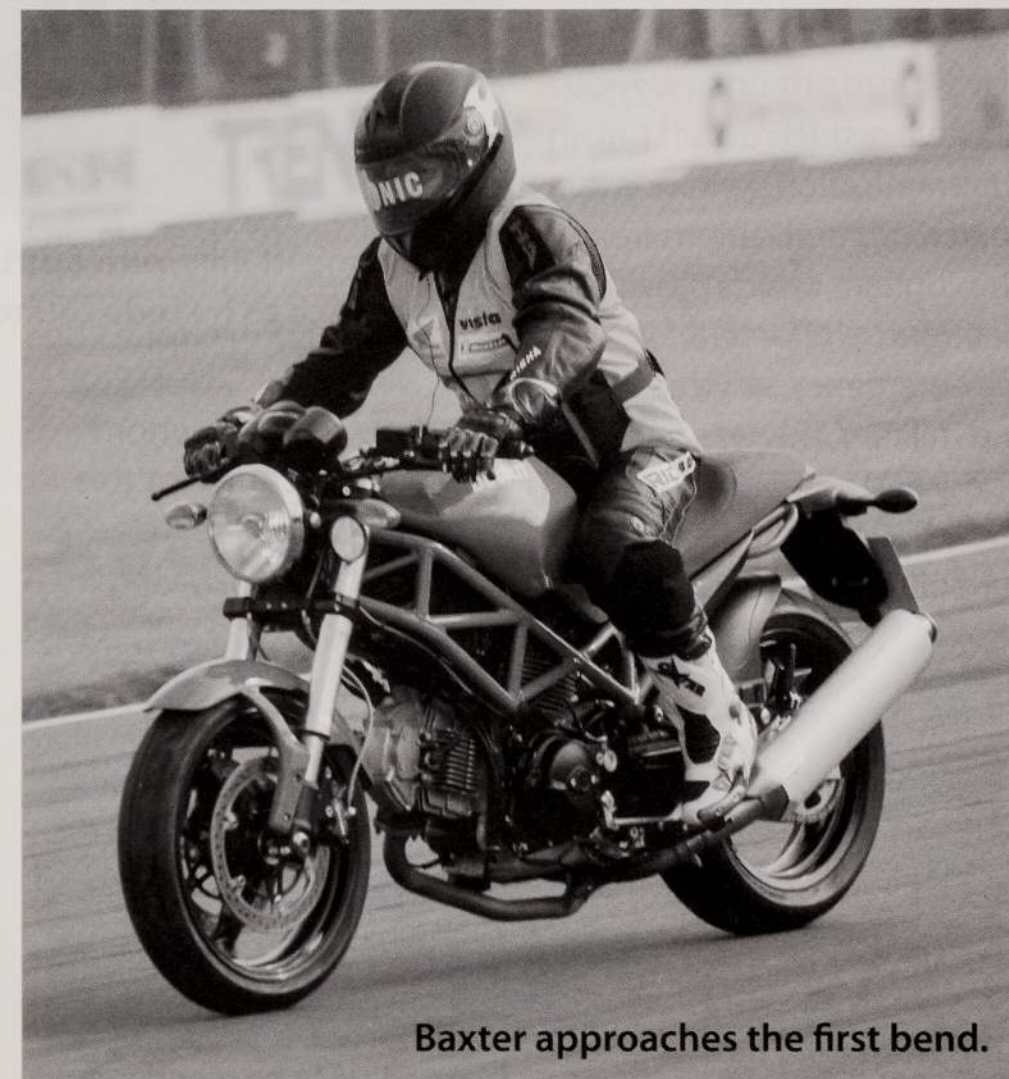
Congratulations are due to Colin Dickinson who recently qualified as a GNAS County Coach. Colin, pictured with Mayor of Swale John Morris, has long helped St Dunstaners hone their skills with bow and arrow.

Back in the saddle

Billy Baxter revs up and opens new vistas for a blind solo lap on the twists and turns of the Grand Prix circuit at Donington

ON 23 SEPTEMBER during the Bennetts British Superbike Championships held at Donington Park I rode my Little Red Monster around the Grand Prix circuit in front of a packed crowd on race day to achieve a first in motorcycle racing. Nearly two years ago I was approached by a charity called Vista, who help local blind and partially sighted people of all ages and backgrounds in the Leicester and Rutland areas; they wanted to know if I would be willing to ride a motorcycle around a well known racetrack. At the mere mention of motorcycle and racetrack I was sitting up and listening. We had a venue and a plan, all we had to do was build a team to help us achieve our goal.

The motorcycle I was to use was provided by an old friend, Alan Jones of Ducati UK. He loaned me a pair of 695cc Ducati Monster motorcycles. Oil cooled, these bikes are 73



Baxter approaches the first bend.

brake horsepower, a good mid-range performance motorcycle, highly manoeuvrable, which is useful for riding around the turns of a technical racetrack. The motorcycle is red in colour, hence the name Little Red Monster, the bike has no race faring and is a sporty style bike.

The next problem was selecting outriders who I could trust to instruct and guide me safely around the track. No small task as total trust is needed. The person on the chase bike would have a lot of responsibility and nerves to concentrate on the task of guiding a radio controlled rider.

Enter Tom Dunn and Steve Morris from Shires Motorcycle Training in Leicester. These two guys were to become my guardian angels. Tom was to be my eyes, and would be the one to talk me round Donington Park.

Now we needed a communication system; cue Sonic Communications from Birmingham, which provides electronic equipment for the emergency services and military. This was to be a godsend as Donington racetrack is under the flight path of the East Midlands Airport. With the noise of aircraft, crowd, motorcycle engine, and wind, the communications had to be the best. Using Sonic's Genesis system with moulded ear plugs blocking out outside noise was a winner.

Training took the form of riding the bikes around disused army barracks, and building up a system between Tom and myself, Steve giving technical advice. We made the commands simple to save confusion, and this helped when we had our track days booked at Donington. We had full support from the race officials, stewards and



We've done it! Billy with outriders Tom and Steve who kept him on track as he rode round Donington Park.

marshals, without whom we could not attempt this challenge. They treated us as any race team, giving us allocated times to put our test laps in. The lap times slowly were coming down as we gained more confidence with each other, and the sessions were physically and mentally exhausting. The support from other racers was humbling and they all wanted us to succeed.

Before we knew it, the big day was upon us. It dawned on us that a lot of eyes would be watching as high numbers of race fans were encamped around the track for a highly charged session in the British motorcycle calendar. And here we were going to ride around this track! The nerves started

to creep in! I was lucky as I could not see what was going on. Poor Tom and Steve, they did not let on the true extent of the pressure that was on us. Our goal was to prove that we could ride around the circuit safely and under control, negotiating the corners twists and turns, gradients and descents, of this track which is the home of British motorcycle racing.

Like the other riders we had to register at race control. Whilst signing on to race, there was a lot of laughter when I was instructed by officials to obey marshals, flags and lights. When the doctor asked me if there was any reason I knew that would impair me riding a motorcycle people just laughed when I informed

them I had pretty bad vision, but not to worry as I had good hearing.

Before I rode the circuit I had a sighting lap with Tom, riding on the back of his bike. During our training sessions I learnt the course by using a tactile map of the circuit, learning the names of the corners, and sharpness and degrees of the turns.

As I went round the circuit I was aware of the noise of excited people cheering me on. During training, we found that between 30 and 40 mph would be the right speed. It doesn't sound fast but the margin of error is greatly increased as you go faster, so to enable us to navigate the demanding turns we kept at this speed, one wrong move and I would end up off the track onto the grass, gravel traps, or much harder barriers. Care had to be taken. Soon I was nearing the end of my lap, and I could hear the excitement in Tom's voice, over the line, we had done it! We managed seven-and-a-half minutes, a snail's pace to the average lap speed of sighted racers clocking around one minute and forty seconds, or less, but we had done it, and

achieved a racing first, singularly a most amazing experience in my enjoyment of riding a motorcycle and a memory that will live with me forever.

Seven years ago I was a broken man helped by St Dunstan's, and with the help and support I am able to do these amazing things and move on in my life and be able to help other people and charities, doing the things I love.

This was achieved with the help of a lot of people, forming a well oiled team, whom without things like this would not happen. To everyone involved I thank from the bottom of my heart, the girls at Vista, and my outriders from Shires, our sponsors and the motorcycle racing fraternity, the officials at trackside Donington, the many friends that came to support me, and you guys at St Dunstan's who gave me the will to live.

REUNION ROUND-UP



Photograph: Anne Campbell

THE AYLESBURY REUNION, covering the Dunstable and Aylesbury area was held at The Holiday Inn, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire on 19 September. It brought together 37 St Dunstaners and four widows. Lord Low of Dalston, chairman of RNIB, who arrived from London by train alone, was the member of St Dunstan's Council presiding. He spoke passionately about his work in Parliament, which is primarily securing a spotlight on issues for the Disabled. St Dunstaner Aubrey Jones responded on behalf of those present. With a lively roast beef lunch, there were plenty of happy faces including John and Sheila Ager (above) who were toasted for their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

POETS' CORNER

St Dunstaner Roy Ramsey won £10 at Harrow
Writer's Circle with this Lovecraftian ode.

Unrequited Love - The Ghostly Ballad Of Blind Sue

by Roy Ramsay

One day when Sue fell in the street, how tenderly he kissed her,
It was easy to infer, how much in love the couple were.
The 'wife,' bless her, had never seen, she was blind from birth,
Alone I knew, for 'lover' read 'brother,' for her time on earth.

Where she would stray, along life's way, he led her hand in hand,
Their mother had made him swear to care, upon her wedding band.

Sue had never needed a guide dog, nor ever used a stick,
Her 'eyes,' folks called her 'husband,' her giant brother, Mick!

A lamp shone out upon their landing, all the winter through,
Throughout their lives, a winter's light softened a gloomy view.
A comfort to me upon my beat, their lamps lit up the night,
Filling the lane with gentle warmth, a mellow, friendly light.

One freezing, moonless evening, as I passed by their dell,
Strange to see no lamp aglow, the neighbours said, "They're well."
Their whole house was in darkness, the lane foggy and pitch black,
Dark when I ventured on my beat, and when I wandered back.

This sudden lack of lighting wouldn't pass me by,
It was a month before I met them, to ask the reason, why?
I saw them at the crossroads, they turned into the lane,
He gently showed her up the kerbs, all seemed just the same.

"Good evening both, how are you?" I presently enquired.

"We're well! Thank you for asking! And yourself, PC. Maguire?"

"Well, thank you," I answered - my question on my lips,

"I couldn't help but notice," - I pointed fingertips.

"How do you manage in the dark, at night without a light?
For weeks you've been in darkness, every single night."

"My last remaining brother died, no lamp can light my view."

"Sorry to hear that, Sue," says I. "How many brothers had you?"

Growled Mick, "I was the last of six, if you must enquire,
You won't report this to anyone! You get my drift, Maguire?
Through darkest hours, supernatural powers, unaided, let me see."
Affeared, I looked into his eyes, they clearly threatened me.

Three years later Mick called the doctor, then Sue sadly died,
In the ingle-nook the doctor spied him, sat, quite mummified.
I got the call that I was dreading, on the day she went,
There stared Michael's dusty corpse, dried by the chimney vent.

To lay the ghost we buried them, side by side, together.
There they lie, in perfect peace, hand in hand, forever.

Rollercoaster

by Penny Hall

Life can take away your sight
And you can mourn its' loss
Every day and you can say
I can't do this

Life can break your heart
And you can start to think that
You're apart and that
You can't do this

Life can take away your dreams
And it seems you've nowhere to go
And you think you know
I can't do this.

Life can take away your love
And leave you numb and on the run
And you think you can't do this.

Losing sight can give you insight
And you can fight with all your might
And it means you can do this

So you think you've lost your lover,
But all that means it's past gloom
Leaves you room for another
You can do this

So your dreams have gone
But all you have to do is
Move along and change your dreams
You can do this.

Life will turn you
Inside out upside down and roundabout
Until you think you're numb
But, hey, rollercoasters are fun

You can do this.

A day to remember

by Arthur Morley

A day to remember, a day to forget,
A day to work out how your plans can be met,
A day just to focus, a day full of sorrow,
To ponder and plan for another tomorrow.

A day to look back to a time in your life,
When all you could see were just days full of
strife,
A day full of longing, a day full of care, A day
for excitement, to discard despair.

A day full of laughter, a day for good deeds,
A day full of happiness, planting new seeds,
A day to recall all you wanted to say,
Before all the minutes and hours flow away.

A day made for sharing, no time here for strife,
A red-letter day in the book of your life,
A day to look forward, not back, or gainsay,
The best day of all is, quite clearly, - today.

BEER OF THE MONTH

by Colin Williamson

Black Sheep Brewery Riggwelter Strong Yorkshire Ale

This is a classic, a true champion! It's an excellent "can't stand up" beer. Riggwelter is an Old Norse word for a sheep that's fallen on its back and can't get up, so handle this beer with care! A full bodied, smooth, malty ale with strong hints of hazelnuts and walnuts, with delicate undertones of fruit, grape, banana and apple. You can also detect liquorice, toffee, perhaps a hint of chocolate and spices. A truly marvellous beer that has to be treated with respect, ABV is 5.7 per cent.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

Andrew Adie of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

Terence Ahern of Esher, Surrey served in the Royal Signals and then the Royal Artillery between 1936 and 1946 and was mentioned by the King for gallantry while stationed in Burma.

Clifford Amps of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire served in the Royal Corps of Signals from 1940 to 1946.

Matthew Atkinson from Peterlee, County Durham served in the General Service Corps, Durham Light Infantry, Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding), The Queen's Own Royal West Kent, and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1942 and 1946.

Kenneth Beresford of Birmingham, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1948.

Frank Birks of Newcastle, Staffordshire served in the

Royal Army Dental Corps from 1940 to 1944.

Victor Brown of Bromsdrove, Worcestershire served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and the Royal Sussex Regiment between 1941 and 1946.

William Burrell of King's Lynn, Norfolk served in the Royal Norfolk Regiment from 1939 to 1946.

Anthony Carr of Birmingham, West Midlands served in the Fleet Air Arms from 1953 to 1961.

Leonard Cash of Wroxham, Norwich, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1953.

Leonard Collins of Norwich, Norfolk served in the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1942.

Alison Crump of South Hampstead, London served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1947.

Lewis Dale of Hunstanton, Norfolk served in the Bedfordshire and

Hertfordshire Regiment from 1940 to 1946.

Roy Davis of Wallasey, Merseyside served as a radio mechanic in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Robert Dawson of Trimdon Station, Durham served in 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers during 1958 and then the 10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) until 1960.

John Deas of Gosport, Hampshire served as Petty Officer in the Royal Navy from 1967 to 1990.

Eric Dickinson of Burton Joyce, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire served as an Airman in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1948.

Vivian Edwards of Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan served in the Welsh Guards from 1945 to 1946.

Richard Finnegan of Clevedon, Avon served in the Royal Artillery from 1936 and then the Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's) from 1943 to 1946.

Alfred Frisby of Wolverhampton, West Midlands served in the General Service Corps and then The South Staffordshire Regiment between 1945 and 1953.

Robert Freeman of Ilkestone, Nottingham served in the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1946.

Norman Gerrish of Hanham, Bristol, Avon served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Herbert Goodwin of Wyesham, Monmouth, Gwent served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1948.

William Grant of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

Richard Graves of Orpington, Kent served in the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1946.

James Gray of Polegate, East Sussex served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1950 to 1952.

Derrick Gregson of Warminster, Wiltshire served in the Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment)

and then the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1948 and 1953

Laurence Hardy of Haywards Heath, West Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1958.

Reginald Harvey of Chelsea, London served in the Royal Air Force from 1935 to 1945.

Alfred Hill of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire served in the Merchant Navy from 1944 to 1947.

John Hodgson of Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

Ernest Holford of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire served in the General Service Corps, the Royal Irish Rifles, the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, The North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's), and the Worcestershire Regiment between 1943 and 1945.

Kathleen Hope of Manchester served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1944 to 1946.

Lawrence Johnson of Romford, Essex served in

the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) from 1939 to 1944.

Adolf Kolodziej of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the Polish Resettlement Corps from 1947 to 1949.

Zygmunt Kulbacki of Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire served in the Polish Army Armoured Division from 1942 to 1947.

Jean Lacock of Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

Frederick Landles of Blackburn, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1949.

John Lomas of Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1947 to 1949.

Reginald Miller of Accrington, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1949.

Norman Morris of Wednesbury, West Midlands served in the Mercian Brigade and South Staffordshire Regiment between 1957 and 1963.

John Myers of Altrincham, Cheshire served in the Royal Navy from 1938 to 1947.

Annie Norris of Bottesford, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

James O'Brien of Neath, West Glamorgan served in the General Service Corps and then the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) between 1946 and 1952.

Francis Pitt of Poulton, Cirencester, Gloucestershire served as Private in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1942 to 1947.

Colin Pogmore of Downham Market, Norfolk served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1944 to 1947.

Roy Pollard of Padiham, Burnley, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps and Royal Army Ordnance Corps between 1944 and 1947.

Gladys Randall of Ashford, Kent served in the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1946.

Douglas Robertson of Ipswich, Suffolk served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 to 1946.

James Robertson of Sidcup, Kent served as Corporal in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1952.

Thomas Rush of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire served in the Irish Guards from 1944 to 1946.

Carole Sharpe of Epsom, Surrey served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1965 to 1967.

George Simpson of Doncaster, South Yorkshire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers between 1942 and 1947.

Norman Spencer of Morecambe, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Elsie Stanbridge of Dunstable, Bedfordshire served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1942 to 1945.

James Thrower of Jevington, Polegate, East Sussex served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1949 to 1954.

Alan Warren of Felixstowe, Suffolk served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1956, specifically with the 12th

Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) until 1959

Colin West of Brighton served in the Royal Artillery from 1952 to 1954.

George Williams of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire served in the Army Catering Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps between 1949 and 1950.

Iris Williams of Gillingham, Kent served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1958 to 1959.

Rosa Wilson of Droitwich, Worcestershire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

Ten Answers

Answers to quiz on page 12.

- 1) Siegfried Line;
- 2) Russia, his cousin was Tsar Nicholas II.
- 3) Winston Churchill;
- 4) Marshal Petain;
- 5) Ypres;
- 6) Kilted Scottish soldiers such as the Highlanders and Black Watch;
- 7) Passchendaele;
- 8) Ambulances;
- 9) Big Bertha;
- and 10) Rin Tin Tin.

Family News

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Darrah Lewis and Blake Hamilton Haskey on 3 August. The twins are great-grandsons of Rose Haskey of Pinner, Middlesex, widow of St Dunstaner Henry Haskey.

Oswald Kemble who weighed in at nine-and-a-quarter pounds on 24 September. He is the great-grandson of Cecil Wilson of Coventry, West Midlands.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Anthony and Susan Gibbins of Barton-on-Sea, Hampshire on 7 October.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Peter and Mary Conlin of Stanley, County Durham on 28 September.

Peter and Holly Spencer of Eastbourne, East Sussex on 28 September.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

John and Ruby Dyer of Corby Northamptonshire on 25 June.

John and Sheila Ager of Luton, Bedfordshire on 20 September.

Ken and Win Williams of Stroud, Gloucestershire on 20 September.

John and Florrie Glynn of Plymstock, Plymouth on 26 September.

Bill and Hildegard Carthy of Gloucester, Gloucestershire on 11 October.

Bernard and Iris Sleath of Marton, Blackpool, Lancashire on 11 October.

Queenie and Eddie Headington of Rochester, Kent on 11 October.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Reginald and Joan Newton of Wallingford, Oxfordshire who celebrated 65 years of marriage on 20 September.

Charles and Margaret Broad of West Hampstead, London who celebrated 65 years of marriage on 21 September.

John and Kathleen Cast of Seaford, East Sussex who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 21 September.

Rita and George Copeman of Pulborough, West Sussex who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 23 September.

Leonard and Joyce Hassam of Warminster, Wiltshire who celebrated 65 years of marriage on 26 September.

Jack and Ivy Watson of Tooting, London who celebrated 67 years of marriage on 2 October.

Wallace and Jean Burnet-Smith of Brighton who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 3 October.

Margaret and George Bailey of Southwick, Brighton who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 6 October.

James and Freda Conway of Broadgreen, Liverpool, Merseyside who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 7 October.

Den and Beth Parrish of Woking, Surrey who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 7 October.

John and Gladys Lane of South Shields, Tyne and Wear who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 8 October.

Jack and Kitty Blane of Stewartby, Bedfordshire who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 10 October.

Leonard and Peggy Spendlove of Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands who celebrated 64 years of marriage on 16 October.

Ron and Kathleen Whittaker of Poynton, Cheshire who celebrated 64 years of marriage on 16 October.

Charles and Anthea Booth-Jones of Hentsridge, Templecombe, Somerset who celebrated 65 years of marriage on 17 October.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mary Workman on 25 June. She was the wife of George Workman of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

Elizabeth Lauder on 11 August. She was the wife of John Lauder of Hulme Walfield, Congleton, Cheshire.

Joyce Groves of Bocking, Braintree, Essex on 19 September. She was the widow of Donald Groves.

Dilys Owen of Maids Moreton, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire on 19 September. She was the widow of James Owen.

Eileen Winson of Stalham, Norwich, Norfolk on 6 October. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Donald Winson.

In Memory

Harry Mullane Royal Engineers

Harry Mullane of Bexleyheath, Kent died on 15 September, aged 90. He was a trainee carpenter before joining the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps in 1940. He then transferred to the Royal Engineers and trained in bomb disposal. He landed on Sword Beach on D+2 and moved through France, Belgium, Holland and finally Germany. Demobbed in 1946, he resumed work as a carpenter but then joined the Ministry of Supply repairing pontoons and bridges. He later worked for the War Office and eventually set up his own business selling groceries and later fishing tackle. His interests included driving, fishing and snooker. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Sheila and all members of the family.

Ted Pretty Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Edward Thomas Pretty of Hove, East Sussex died on 16 September, aged 81. He joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1943 and trained at HMS *Dolphin*. He was promoted to Sub Lieutenant in 1944 and transferred to a Landing Craft Obstacle Clearing Unit. At the end of the war, he was posted to Mombassa as a Transport Officer organising shipping to repatriate Italian prisoners of war. Demobbed in 1947, he studied economics and politics before joining the sales department of a textile company as a salesman. He later became a sales manager for Unilever and then became part of a management consultancy group. Our sympathy goes to his daughters and son and all of the family.

Joe Cornish Royal Engineers

Joseph Herbert Thomas Cornish of Gosmore, Hertfordshire died on 19 September, aged 90. He was a warehouse man before joining the Royal Artillery in 1940. Shortly, he transferred to the Royal Engineers. Discharged in 1942, he joined the gas supply industry as a pipe fitter and eventually became a training instructor. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Ivan Pitchford Royal Signals

Ivan Pitchford of Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire died on 19 September, aged 74. He joined the Royal Signals in 1956 and was posted to Cyprus with No 2 Wireless Regiment. After being discharged in 1959, he returned to work as a miner in the Sutton pit until 1986. He then became a tutor at a further education college. He walked, as a blind man, twice from John O'Groats to Land's End and also the length of Hadrian's Wall. He also paddled the English Channel in a dragon boat, participated in the London and New York Marathons and the Three-Peaks Challenge, climbing Snowden, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis in a weekend. It was reckoned that he raised in excess of £100,000 for charities such as Guide Dogs for the Blind, The Princess Anne Save the Children Fund, Disabled Athletes, Rainbow Children's Hospice and other charities. He had embarked on a 700-mile tandem ride around Ireland to raise funds for the Nottinghamshire Royal Society for the Blind. He was feted for his community work. He also served as Chairman of the Blind and Partially Sighted Alliance and was involved with RAID (Raising Awareness In Disability). Our sympathy goes to his widow Betty and all members of the family.

Terence Brooks Royal Marines

Terence Charles Frederick Brooks of Sidcup, Kent died on 24 September, aged 89. He was briefly articled to a Torquay solicitor before joining the Royal Marines in 1935. He trained at Lymestone and was posted to HMS *Royal Sovereign*. Later, he joined HMS *Orion* in the West Indies and visited North and South America. With the outbreak of war, he served on North Atlantic, Russian and Mediterranean convoys on HMS *Bonadventure*. Having made Sergeant, he was posted to HMS *Prince of Wales* and took part in the pursuit of the Bismark. During the battle he saw a salvo strike the HMS *Hood*, followed by an explosion that tore the ship apart. A few months later, he became responsible for the safety of Prime Minister Winston Churchill while he was on ship in August 1941. Churchill was sailing to Newfoundland to meet with President Roosevelt. The Prince of Wales then deployed on the Malta convoy, repelling Italian planes. However, it was then deployed to the Far East and in December 1941 came under attack from Japanese aircraft. As the *Prince of Wales* sunk, Sergeant Brooks evacuated his men and then dived in to the water himself. They were picked-up by a destroyer and taken to Singapore which in its turn fell to the Japanese. Taken captive, he was initially held in Changi Gaol but then taken to Thailand. He was then moved on to labour on the construction of an airstrip in Malaya. Liberated in 1945, he remained in the Corps until 1948, leaving as Colour Sergeant, then joined the Civil Service. He worked in the Ministry of Aviation and also the Treasury. Our sympathy goes to his daughters and all other members of the family.

Margaret Jones**Royal Ordnance Factory**

Margaret Jones of Maesteg, nr Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan died on 24 September, aged 85. She joined the Royal Ordnance Factory as a munitions worker in 1940. She worked on a machine filling naval detonators with lead azide. In September 1942, she was injured when a detonator exploded. Her right eye had to be removed and the left was injured. In 1948, she established a fish and chip shop, which she ran for 11 years. Our sympathy goes to her daughter Anita and all members of the family.

Frederick Crowe**Royal Air Force**

Frederick "Jack" Crowe of Brighton died on 25 September, aged 85. Leaving school at 14, he worked for Odhams Press in Covent Garden, moving into the Daily Herald's telegraph room. He later joined Thomas Nelson & Sons, a book publisher in St Paul's. Called up to the RAF in 1941, he trained as a flight mechanic at RAF Halton and worked on Beaufighters. He served in India, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Demobbed in 1946, he rejoined Thomas Nelson and became trade manager. Later, he became group stock controller for Hodder & Stoughton. His interests included drawing and travelling. Our sympathy goes to his widow Iris and all of the family.

Eric Todd**Royal Army Service Corps**

Eric Todd of Huyton, Liverpool, Merseyside died on 25 September, aged 74. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps as a Driver in 1951 and was posted to Egypt. During the turmoil that followed King Farouk's abdication in 1952, he suffered a gunshot wound to the head. Discharged in 1953, he

became a steward and later a lift attendant at the Department of Employment. He was awarded the Imperial Service Medal when he retired in 1984. After developing diabetes, he had both legs amputated beneath the knee. He learnt to walk again using artificial legs, but found himself in a wheelchair permanently following a fall. His interests included history, archaeology, and gardening and he also studied cookery and Braille. Our sympathy goes to his brother Jimmy, sister Kathleen and all the family.

Bernard Barton**Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Bernard Barton of Rottingdean, Brighton died on 27 September, aged 87. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1940, but transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1942. He served in the UK, Sierra Leone and Germany before being demobbed in 1946. In civilian life, he was an electrical engineer working for AEI and Thorn. He played bowls and was a member of PROBUS. Our sympathy goes to his widow Jeanne and all of the family.

Eric Foster**Royal Engineers**

Eric Hubert Foster of Barnsley, South Yorkshire died on 27 September, aged 87. He was an aircraft factory worker with Phillips and Powis, working on planes such as the Falcon, Nighthawk, Mentor and Miles Hawk or 'Ruddy Duck', before joining the Royal Engineers in 1939. After training, he was posted to 7th Field Squadron rising to Lance Sergeant. He was deployed to North Africa and fought at El Alamein with the 1st Armoured Division. Wounded in Tunisia in 1943, he was brought back to the UK and joined St Dunstan's at Church

Stretton. Before the war, he had harboured ambitions to work in technical drawing but now he turned to physiotherapy as a career. Establishing a private practice, he also worked for the health authority. He became Area Superintendent for Barnsley and District Hospital, heading a staff of 25 and also attending to Barnsley FC. He continued his private practice until 2001. His interests included music, woodwork, gardening, walking, astronomy, science and current affairs. Our sympathy goes to his widow Peggy, sons John and Andrew, daughters Jane and Hilary and all of the family.

Albert Chattin, MBE**Royal Corps of Signals**

Albert Henry Chattin, MBE of Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire died on 29 September, aged 90. He was a lens-maker before joining the Royal Corps of Signals in 1940. He trained at Prestatyn and served around the UK before being discharged in 1942. In 1946, he started Premier Glass making lenses, but later branching into conservatories and double-glazing. He stood as a Conservative in local elections and after rural and urban authorities combined in 1974, he served as Chairman of Bromsgrove District Council for 1975-76 and then as Leader of the Council from 1977 to 1987. He was awarded the MBE for public service in the 1982 birthday honours. Our sympathy goes to his partner June and all members of the family.

Jack Fulling**Royal Regiment of Artillery**

Jack Joseph Edwin Fulling of Castleton, Lochgilphead, Argyll died on 3 October, aged 80. He was a Precision Machinist working on capstan lathe and other tools before joining the Army in 1944, serving in

the UK and overseas. He was selected for officer training and commissioned into The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) in 1946. He was promoted to Lieutenant later that year and subsequently transferred to the Royal Regiment of Artillery and was attached to the SAS. While serving in Singapore, he was blinded in March 1951 while demonstrating the use of explosives to a squad. Having thrown three hand grenades, one fell short and he was blinded by shrapnel from the explosion. He was discharged with the honorary rank of Captain. He trained as a physiotherapist and set up in private practice in Harrogate, continuing until 2001. His interests included music, gardening, and computers, though an interest in karate subsided with two black eyes and a broken toe. He was a keen angler and a mainstay of the St Dunstan's Fishing Club. Our sympathy goes to his widow Pat and all members of the family.

Geoffrey Hagger**Royal Engineers**

Geoffrey Edward Hagger of Ovingdean, Brighton died on 8 October, aged 86. He was an electrician's mate with the North Metropolitan Power Company in Royston, Hertfordshire before joining the Royal Engineers in 1939. He served in the UK and Europe. In August 1944, he was wounded while clearing a mine field in Normandy, losing an eye and suffering damage to his hearing. He spent part of his recuperation at St Dunstan's in Church Stretton and then rejoined the power company as a meter reader. In 1965, he became a telephonist with Barclays Bank staying with them until he took early retirement in 1980. Our sympathy goes to his son Graham, daughter Marion and all members of the family.

Giddy-up horsey!



ARMY CADETS from Rossington Detachment, Doncaster pulled out the stops to support the blind ex-Service men and women of St Dunstan's at the racetrack on 3 October. They staged their own version of the races with homemade hobby horses though the pretend clip-cloper quickly reverted to a hell-for-leather dash for glory as they ran towards the finish post at Doncaster Race Course. Some might suspect a fix as the cadets went in to slow motion allowing St Dunstaner Colin Williamson to overtake them. The cadets had musical support from the local Corps of Drums and were inspected pre-race by the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's Deputy Mayor Cllr Anne Russell.



Deputy Mayor Anne Russell is impressed by Cadet Hogg's Bulldog hobby horse. Colin rode Craft Workshop pedigree Nod.



We are the champions! But does Colin only weigh half-a-stone?