

April 2008

St Dunstan's Review



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

Clash of the titans!

WAAF St Dunstaner Julia Waters with Chelsea Pensioner Norman
Tree as the Brighton Bowls Club play the Royal Hospital Chelsea

In this issue...



Who was that masqued ma'am?

St Dunstan's Dance Club stage a masquerade for Valentine's Day with musical accompaniment from The Band of the Adjutant General's Corps. Get in tune with them on page 18.

Power from the wind!

Green generators installed at Ovingdean. April advance unveiled on page 16.

Alan in the Atlantic!

Alan Lock crosses halfway point as he rows across the Atlantic. More on page 22.

A man and his donkey!

Ernie Phillips charts the fate of an ANZAC legend from South Shields on page 28.

Also available on MP3CD, in braille, via e-mail, and on floppy-disk.

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Chelsea v St Dunstan's!

Brighton Bowls Club in match with Chelsea Pensioners. Report on page 20.

Trying Apples for size!

St Dunstaners examine Windows rival computer. Report on page 26.

Visiting Ovingdean!

Your guide to booking accommodation and using facilities at St Dunstan's Ovingdean is enclosed with this issue.



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A few words from St Dunstan's Chairman, Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

From **the Chairman**



THE CADET CHALLENGE project is expanding fast and more units than ever are signing up from all over the country, from Belfast to Blackpool and from Jarrow to Jersey. The project has now got 80 units of various strengths (from single units to whole county ACF's) signed up for the challenge with over 1,000 cadets taking part. The cadets have raised over £18,000 through sponsorship for St Dunstan's since the project's inception in 2004. We already have units signed up for the 2008 challenge including four units from Germany.

The challenge is a half marathon, a distance of 13.1 miles. The idea is for units to complete the event in unusual and original ways. Previous challenges have included a unit pulling a train carriage and another completing the distance blindfolded.

I congratulate all those who organise and take part in these events, and above all thank you for raising such a huge amount of money which really makes a difference.

Michael Gordon-Lennox

St Dunstan's Calendar

APRIL

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| RAF 90th Anniversary | 1 |
| Wind Turbine Installation | 1 |
| Ex-POW Reunion | 4-7 |
| Writers Forum | 5 |
| Golf | 12-13 |
| Flora London Marathon | 13 |
| Widows' Week (I) | 13-19 |
| Indoor Bowling | 21 |
| Anzac Day | 25 |
| Masonic Weekend | 25-28 |

MAY

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Writers Forum | 3 |
| Blind & Handless Reunion | 7-13 |
| VE Day | 8 |
| Golf | 17-18 |
| Feast of St Dunstan | 19 |
| Archery Club (II) | 24-1 June |
| Bisley Shooting Contest | 28 |

JUNE

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Gardening Week | 1-7 |
| 50 Year Badge Holders | 5-8 |
| Writers Forum | 7 |
| London to Brighton Bike Ride | 15 |
| Ladies' Week | 22-28 |
| Veterans Day | 27 |
| Wildwood Golf Invitation Day | 29 |

JULY

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Writers Forum Weekend | 3-6 |
| History Week | 13-19 |
| Band of Royal Marines | 16 |
| Golf | 19-20 |
| HMS Sultan | 25-2 August |

Noticeboard

ST DUNSTAN'S GROWTH PROMPTS MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE

A STEP TO THE FUTURE: The development of Llandudno as our "Third Centre" has necessitated a review of the Organisation's management structure and titles. There are a number of inconsistencies that have grown up over the years and this review will present an opportunity to achieve some consistency across the Organisation.

As a first step The Senior Management Team has been reviewing the roles and accountabilities that are required to manage the increased growth and a new SMT post will be created to lead the management of the three centres. I have also decided to amend SMT titles to more accurately reflect the responsibility levels of these posts both internally and more particularly externally.

With immediate effect these will be:

Chief Executive Robert Leader

Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) Jeremy Hinton

Deputy Chief Executive (Finance and Resources) Yvonne Smithers

Director of Fundraising and Communications Andrew Jones

Director of Welfare and Grants Barry Porter

Director of Human Resources Di Blackman

Director of Care and Rehabilitation
To be recruited. (Dick Lake, until his retirement from St Dunstan's later this year.)

Accountabilities will remain as they are, to the two Deputy Chief Executives, with the exception of Human Resources where the Director of HR will become accountable to the Chief Executive. The purpose of this is so that HR is clearly seen to be a pan organisational function which will provide impartial support to all managers and staff.

I should also add that these changes in title are not related to any increase in remuneration.

The new post of Director of Care and Rehabilitation will be accountable to the Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) and will have management responsibility for all three Centres.

Further work is now taking place to agree the Operational Management Team structure and titles together with any changes in role or title required elsewhere in the Organisation to enable us to take on the additional management of Llandudno.

Robert Leader,
Chief Executive

THE NFA WANT TO SEND A ST DUNSTANER TO THE TOWER

LONDON TRIP AND VETERANS' CONCERT: The Not Forgotten Association organise various activities throughout the country for the disabled ex-service community. They have offered one St Dunstaner and escort a three-night stay at the Victory Services Club, London from Monday 16 June to Thursday 19 June. The full programme is yet to be finalised, but will include the opportunity to attend a veterans' concert at HM Tower of London.

Guests should be aware they will need to negotiate stairs and be able to walk a distance of 200 metres or so. Unfortunately this holiday is not suitable for those who use wheelchairs.

Accommodation at the Victory Services Club will be one twin en suite room.

The Not Forgotten Association do not provide transport, and therefore the St Dunstaner and escort must be able to make their own arrangements in this respect.

If you are interested in this trip, then please contact Barbara Sweeney at St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD as soon as possible. Telephone her on 020 7616 7922 or e-mail barbara.sweeney@st-dunstans.org.uk.

On 7 April names will be drawn from a hat and those selected will be informed.

RETURN OF THE FISHING CLUB

BLIND ANGLERS UNITE: St Dunstaner Peter Moore has kindly agreed to take on the responsibilities of Secretary of the St Dunstan's Fishing Club. He is keen to gather members and ideas about future activities. Would anyone interested in joining or participating in the Club please contact Peter on 01594 560241 or by e-mail at pmka@btinternet.com.

WILDWOOD GOLF ON 29 JUNE

WILDWOOD INVITATION DAY MOVES BACK A WEEK: The St Dunstan's Golf Club Invitation Day at Wildwood Golf Club, Alfold, Cranleigh, Surrey will now be held on 29 June. Contact Secretary Les Trout on 01989 763011 any evening after 19:00. Please leave a message with name and contact telephone number if there is no reply.

TNAUK EXPAND DOWNLOAD RANGE

MAGAZINES FOR ALL TASTES: National Talking Newspapers and Magazines are offering their subscribers a wider choice of titles via its audio download service. Currently 188 titles covering pets, wildlife, politics, health, sport, women, leisure and hobbies and other interests are available. An annual subscription of £59 allows unlimited access and samples and instructions can be found at www.tnauk.org.uk/Pages/audio_index.html.

X-PIL PROVIDES PATIENTS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT MEDICINES

INDEPENDENT ACCESS TO INFORMATION: X-PIL is a new system aiming to ensure that patient information leaflets (PILs) supplied with medicines are accessible to everyone, including those with sight problems.

Responding to the requirements of recent EU directives, X-PIL is a source of reliable and up-to-date information on UK medicines. The web site is managed by Datapharm Communications Limited. All the PILs on the web site are supplied and updated regularly by UK pharmaceutical companies.

Pharmacists are asked to phone on behalf of individuals to request the information leaflets on their behalf, using the product licence number. Plans are in hand for a system that will allow individuals to request their own leaflets direct.

X-PIL is working closely with The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) Medicines Information Line which can also provide PILs in Large print, Braille and Audio CD. The RNIB Medicines Information Line is free to use and available during normal office hours on 0800 198 5000.

X-PIL also has a website - www.x-pil.medicines.org.uk - which features an increasing range of the leaflets. These can be viewed in different sizes and are designed for screen readers.

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS 2008

SPECTACULAR FLOWERS DISPLAYS AT CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: One of England's greatest cathedrals will host a three-day Festival of Flowers with a theme of Celebration and Remembrance. The event runs 29-31 May with tickets priced £7.50. Visually impaired people will be able to attend for £5.50 (guides free of charge) between 16:30 and 19:00 on 30 May. Booking early is advisable and tickets can be purchased on 01243 812480 or 812481.

FLY HIGH AT BIGGIN HILL

AIR SHOW ON THE BUMP: The Biggin Hill International Air Fair 2008 will be held on 7-8 June. The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will take to the air on both days with Avro Lancaster, Supermarine Spitfire and Hawker Hurricane. The RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team are also confirmed. More details can be found on their website www.bigginhillairfair.co.uk.

TALKING AIR MAIL

RAFA NEWSLETTER IN AUDIO FORMAT: The RAF Association (RAFA) publication, *Air Mail* is available in audio format on tape cassettes and CDs. The recording is available either on two standard C90 tapes or CDs and plays for roughly three hours. Anyone wishing to receive the *Talking Air Mail* should contact Geoff Middleton, 5 Frizley Gardens, Frizinghall, Bradford BD9 4LZ or telephone him on 01274 778 102.

NUGGETS MAGAZINE

BRILLE AND AUDIO PUBLICATION: This magazine was originally introduced to enable St Dunstaners to practice their Braille. The publication contains articles on a wide variety of subjects, from inventions to people and archaeology to did you know that? *Nuggets*, published 11 times a year, comes in Braille - half the usual paper size and on audio CD, lasting some 45 minutes. Anyone interested in receiving *Nuggets* should please contact its editor, Roberta Hazan at Harcourt Street on 020 7723 5021 or by e-mail to roberta.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk.

SUDOKU PUZZLES IN BRILLE

FROM RNIB: Peter Sinden's *The Little Book of Sudoku* provides the grey cells with a little exercise with a collection of number puzzles for beginners, experts or those in between. In Grade 2 braille, priced £3.99, it can be obtained from RNIB Customer Services on 0845 702 3153, e-mail cservices@rnib.org.uk or visit www.rnib.org.uk/shop.

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

BOND AND FLEMING AT IWM: To celebrate the centenary of Ian Fleming's birth, Imperial War Museum London is producing the first major exhibition devoted to the life and work of the man who created the world's most famous secret agent, James Bond. The exhibition runs until March next year. To book call 020 7416 5439 or e-mail boxoffice@iwm.org.uk

ARE YOU READY FOR THE DERBY?

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 2008 MOVES UP TO THE GATE: Some 465 horses were entered into initial stage of the 2008 Epsom Vodafone Derby which will be held on 7 June. The field will be more refined on the day, but it serves as a cue for the Review to open its annual Sweepstake. The draw is open to all St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows and widowers.

Tickets remain 30p each and will be issued consecutively to a maximum of 25 (costing £7.50). Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered. We are unable to take orders by telephone. The closing date is 2 June and the draw will be made that day.

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

Prize money will be distributed amongst the winners with **50 per cent** going to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse; **20 per cent** to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse; **10 per cent** to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse; and **20 per cent** to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts the race. No prize won in the sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY

CHANGE OF RULES: Last year, we covered the changes of the rules which allow someone else to look after your financial affairs if you become mentally incapacitated and which came into effect from 1 October 2007.

There are two types of Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) – one for property and finances and one for personal welfare (this covers medication and care). You do not need to complete both.

An LPA must be registered with the courts at the time it is set up, that is to say, before it can be used, unlike the Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA), which it replaced. However, if you completed an EPA before 1 October 2007 these can still be used whether they are registered or not and you need do nothing further for now.

Generally those appointed as attorneys are a spouse, children, other relatives or friends and in whom you have total trust to deal with your financial affairs and/or welfare. You can give your attorneys (the persons you appoint - you can have more than one) general power to deal with all your property and finances or alternatively you can include some restrictions. This is also the case with the Welfare LPA.

You need to decide if the Attorneys must agree with each other on each and every decision they make on your behalf. You

may prefer to set up a "jointly and several" version, so that the attorneys can make decisions separately as well as together.

If you have more than one attorney acting "jointly and severally" then should one die before you then the power is still valid and can continue to be used. You can also put restrictions on what the attorneys can and cannot do.

It is always sensible to put your affairs in order in case you are unable to deal with matters yourself. It is an action which will make it easier for the family should the need arise at a later date and by then it might be too late.

The solicitor's costs for preparing an LPA will be considerably more expensive than the old EPA plus there is a fee of £150 to register each type of LPA with the Office of the Public Guardian, a government agency set up to safeguard those with mental incapacity. You can prepare an LPA on your own and the necessary forms and an application pack with full guidance notes can also be downloaded from their website www.publicguardian.gov.uk. Please ensure that signatures are in the right places when registering. The Office of the Public Guardian can be contacted on 0845 330 2900.

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 St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 307811 ext 1445 who will be pleased to assist you.

VETERANS WEEK IN BLACKPOOL

NATIONAL VETERANS DAY EVENT AT SEASIDE TOWN: An exciting range of activities appealing to veterans of all ages, their families, friends, members of the Armed Forces and general public is promised by Blackpool Council for Veterans Week. An ambitious programme will build up to Veterans Day, when the town hosts the national celebration on 27 June.

Events include a Gala Dinner with military band at the Empress Ballroom on 25 June; An Organ Concert with Phil Kelsall playing the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Tower Ballroom on 26 June; An air race, Aero GP, 26-29 June, which has two days of exhibition flying followed by the main competition; A music and dance show on the Pleasure Beach on 27-28 June; A cricket match on 28 June; and a Veterans Golf Day at Stanley Park Golf Course on 29 June.

Also on the programme are military displays of skills and trades, challenges, presentations, concerts, film shows, workshops, night time parachute drops and firework displays, and a Veterans Parade along the famous Golden Mile.

Veterans Day events will also be held around the country on 27 June, at the Old Naval College in Greenwich, London, in Birmingham, Walsall, Bristol, Kelso, Stirling, Rhyl, and Carrickfergus amongst others. Check local press and radio for finalised arrangements in your area.

AUDIO DESCRIBED SHOWS

MYSTERY, MUSIC, AND TWO MARIAS: Audio description will be provided by Irene Richards at The Churchill Theatre, Bromley, Kent when Simon McCorkindale and Michael Praed take to the stage in *Sleuth* at 14:30 on 19 April. She will also describe Anita Dobson and Darren Day in *Hello Dolly* at 14:30 on 3 May at the same theatre. Bookings can be made by calling 0870 060 6620, or on bromleyaccessbookings@theambassadors.com via e-mail.

Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat with Lee Mead will be audio described at the Adelphi Theatre, London at 19:00 on 13 May and 15:00 on 14 May.

The Sound of Music at the London Palladium will have AD on 8 July at 19:00 with Summer Strallen as Maria, and on 9 July at 14:30 with Aoife Mullholland as Maria.

The Really Useful Company offer pre-show events if possible and tickets include advance introductory CDs. They have a new booking line 0844 412 46 48 or customer.relations@seetickets.com.

Vocaleyes will be audio describing *Dirty Dancing* at the Aldwych Theatre, London at 19:30 on 22 April. Telephone 020 7379 3367. They will also provide AD for *War and Peace Parts 1 & 2* at the Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage, London at 15:30 and 19:30 on 26 April. There will be a touch tour at 14:00. Call 020 7722 9301 for details.

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

Unforgettable

I am a staff nurse at a local hospital in Staffordshire, and a few weeks ago I had the honour and pleasure of tending to a most delightful, witty charming gentleman by the name of Mr Raymond Colley.

Mr Colley is a St Dunstan's veteran, and I spent most of my shift nursing him, we spoke about a great many things, my grandfather who was blind, my dad who used to sing me a Nat King Cole song called *Sweet Lorraine*, and Mr Colley told me how he had seen him at the Albert Hall, many years ago. He told me that he had many of his recordings, and indeed had my sweet Lorraine. Imagine my delight when I went on duty this morning to find a copy of your magazine and a cd with the track on it, a present from Mr Colley.

I wondered if your magazine would be able to say a

huge thank you to him for my thoughtful, touching present. I can honestly say that some people are in your life but for a short time, but leave a lasting impression, and Mr Colley has had that effect on me, it was a pleasure to meet him and indeed a great honour.

If you can find some way of sending my thanks, I would be grateful,

**Lorraine Poxon (Mrs),
BSc Nursing Practice, (Adult),
Staffordshire**

• Raymond himself adds that he was impressed by the attention he received during his stay in hospital and he is glad Lorraine enjoyed the cd.

Accentuate the positive

The year 2008 sees yours truly celebrating 70 years of being a devotee of popular music. I can remember quite distinctly the very first number that created such an interest.

(Listeners to the audio **Review** will hear a short

burst of Bing Crosby and Johnny Mercer singing about the origins of swing).

I knew about Bing Crosby, everybody had heard about Bing Crosby because he had been around since 1926, but who was this Mr Mercer? I didn't know. I actually thought he might be what they term nowadays Afro-American. I was not to know that this same Mr Mercer had been to London in 1936 to write the lyrics for a show called *Blackbirds*. He wrote the lyrics and Rube Bloom wrote the music. Rube Bloom had played with the legendary Bix Beiderbecke. While in the UK, Johnny Mercer and his wife Ginger had been up to Scotland to try to trace relatives because he was of Scottish ancestry.

I'd like to dwell on the tune, because *Mr Gallagher and Mr Sheen* is the original tune. Apparently Mr Gallagher and Mr Sheen were a vaudeville act and Johnny Mercer, who became one of the world's great lyricists, wrote separate lyrics to do that recording

with Bing Crosby. But let's go back to 1938, a 13-year-old schoolboy, yours truly, knew literally nothing about popular music and that record really stirred me. I had never heard anyone doing what I called adlibbing during a song, cross chatting to each other.

I was completely fascinated and that was the beginning of my interest in popular music. The band, I found out many years later, the accompaniment was by the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, one of the famous Dorsey Brothers, and that really great drummer was Ray McKinley who became the drummer in the Glen Miller Overseas Orchestra which appeared in London during the Second World War.

In 1938, very important things were happening in America regarding popular music. The Big Bands were taking over from vaudeville and Benny Goodman and his Orchestra on 17 January 1938, appeared at Carnegie Hall with a number of invited musicians from the black bands of Count Basie and Duke Ellington.

Looking back at the life of Johnny Mercer, I suppose I

can't even remember how I started to glean information about who he was. I realised he was, as sometimes referred to in his lyrics, a Southern Gentleman. He wrote a song called *Pardon My Southern Accent* when he was working in the great Paul Whiteman Band. He was there because he won a talent competition as a singer. So this multi-talented Southern Gentleman from Savannah, Georgia in the United States stowed away on a ship and within two days was found and put to work in the hold. And Johnny remembers it was, as he put it, "kind of dirty". But he remembered his first seeing the skyline of New York. He went there to be an actor, but when he went round various venues nobody was looking for actors but they were looking for people to write songs. And that is where Johnny Mercer really came into his own!

He wrote some lyrics for a show and in the chorus line was the girl he married. She was known as Ginger Meehan. She was actually Jewish but she was hoping with a name like that she would be mistaken for Irish. When Mercer wrote the lyric to a song by Hoagey

Carmichael, a song called *Lazy Bones*, when he received a cheque for writing those lyrics he didn't have a bank account. Another very famous singer called Mildred Bailey invited Ginger and Johnnie to her place for the weekend and she cashed the cheque for him.

It's ten years ago that a young lady librarian approached me and said "You should really share your knowledge of music with other people." She persuaded me that we could do it together and I started giving what some people called "musical recitals" which was really a talk illustrated with music.

The second of these talks was entitled *My Huckleberry Friend, Johnny Mercer*. Some people might say you are being very forward to have a heading like that. Well, I think I'm entitled to that because I am a member of Friends of Johnny Mercer, based in Savannah, Georgia, Johnny's home town. Any finance involved goes towards students involved in the entertainment industry.

**Ernest Phillips,
Walmley, Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands**

Fergus speaks!

Hello everybody, my name is Fergus and I should like to tell you just a little bit about my boss and how his life has changed since I took him in hand. Before I arrived he lived a very strange life walking around with a long white cane that had no idea where it was going, and a little lady who was wearing herself out keeping her eye on him.

Over the last four years that I have been leading the team life has changed a great deal, for a start his walking has improved and his throwing arm is much stronger than it was. I wish I could persuade him to give up going to those rooms where he just sits and talks. Talk, talk, talk, that's all he seems to do, apart from eating biscuits, and you know something he has never yet offered me one, not that I would accept it of course, as we guide dogs are above that sort of thing! He sits a lot of the time playing with bits of cane pushing it into holes in old chairs, or gets into an awful mess mucking about with mud. Well never mind, it seems to keep him happy. However, there is one thing that he does for which he has to stand, I will try to explain it to you.



Fergus on watch.

The sport is called archery, and what happens is this. The boss stands by a bit of metal and with a stick with some string attached throws another stick at a round straw thing in the middle of a field and they keep doing this for hours until they pack everything up and then they sit around until I have to take the boss up to the front when the lady gives him a kiss and puts a ribbon around his neck and makes him go all red. The other night dozing in my super duper sheepskin lined dog basket, I was thinking about Him and his archery and decided that he must be pretty good at it, at least he is when I am with him. I know that it must be something to do with me because when he went to France and Italy he only managed to get 5th and that proves that it must be me that does the trick for him.

I do my best to look after both the boss and his little lady and all in all life is good and I have even got used to going to chapel. At first I found it hard to take the howling of the pack and had to put my paws in my ears but I am used to it now. Often whilst having a little nap I could swear that someone was watching over us all I hope that you will forgive me for rabbiting on about myself but it does help to talk. See you around!

Fergus,
c/o Terry Ottewell,
Brecon, Powys

A memorable stay

In April 2007, I went into hospital for a shoulder replacement operation. Immediately after, my wife and I travelled down to St Dunstan's Ovingdean for a term of convalescence. This was to be our last holiday together as my wife died at the end of May of that year after nearly 60 years of happily married life. Our treatment in Brighton was not just the provision of care, but dedicated care.

In February this year, my right shoulder was replaced and, once again, I went to St Dunstan's Ovingdean for respite and convalescence.

I enjoy meeting and talking to people and engaged in several fascinating conversations with Billy Orr, as we had both served in Korea. One day, I started talking to someone else and eventually discovered we had been boy soldiers together at the Army Technical School at Chepstow. We had both joined up on 1 July 1936. It was fascinating to meet Arthur Newlove again!

We immediately rediscovered that camaraderie which had held us together so long ago. It was thanks to St Dunstan's that we had re-met. After Chepstow, we went our various ways – Arthur to India, and myself to Belfast in the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC).

I was posted to Algiers in January 1943. The garage where we worked had large picture windows overlooking the harbour. It was quite a spectacle to watch the bombing raids by night. I watched an ammo ship blowing up, which, in turn, set fire to a tanker, which burned for three weeks. I witnessed a similar incident a few weeks later when another ammo ship blew up and took 15 fire-civvy

fighters with it to the bottom – unsung heroes they were.

I eventually travelled through France to Holland for the end of the war. I left the army in Bicester after the hard winter of 1947, but was recalled for the Korean conflict in 1950.

But I want to thank Arthur and St Dunstan's for making my stay at Ovingdean so memorable. The staff were wonderful and I look forward to visiting Brighton once again. Thank you all!

Ron Stevens,
Ashford, Middlesex

Bucket loads of fun

What a wonderful day we all had last week at St Dunstan's. The visit was most memorable, for so many reasons, none more so than the tremendous fun and humour of your team as well as ours. There is nothing like the old servicemen's sense of fun, and that came through in bucket loads during the day.

The friendship and hospitality by everybody was so much appreciated by all of us, and we so much enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many St Dunstaners

in the lobby rooms. It was good to get the chance to have a swim, although I was disappointed that we didn't get the chance to beat you at Water Polo!! As for the Bowls Match, what can I say in our defence!!

We do look forward to hosting you here in 2009 and I will be in touch towards the end of this year to fix the date in the calendar.

Colonel Nigel Gilbert,
Royal Hospital Bowling Club,
Royal Hospital Chelsea,
London

• A report on St Dunstan's v Royal Hospital is on page 20.

Abseiling for terminally-ill children

My husband, St Dunstaner Nigel Whiteley, is planning to abseil down the front of the Congress Theatre in Eastbourne on 6 April. He is raising funds for the "Make-A-Wish" Foundation which provides memorable experiences for children and young people with life-threatening illnesses. Anyone who wishes to sponsor him, please e-mail him nigel@whiteley.eclipse.co.uk or telephone 01273 579479.

Jax Whiteley,
Peacehaven, East Sussex

Balancing the Books

Ted Bunting adjudicates on Mortimer's infamous lawyer!

Rumpole and the Golden Thread

Author: John Mortimer

Reader: George Hagan

Duration: 10 hours, 44 minutes

Catalogue No: 9694

Strange as it may seem I quite enjoy John Mortimer's stories about the law, although I find his main character, the barrister Horace Rumpole utterly unlovable. For one thing, he is forever "lighting a small cigar" (filthy habit), and for another he drinks far too lunch. He continually calls people "old darling" (another nasty habit) and he uses silly euphemisms like "she who must be obeyed" for his wife and "the mad

bull" for one of the judges which I find most irritating. But Horace has a saving grace that he demonstrates very early in this collection of tales; he acknowledges the debt owed by the Bar to the criminal "without whom" (as he says in a toast) "we should all be out of work." A humourless colleague in the same chambers, a QC no less hastens to dispute the point but the truth, of course, is on Rumpole's side. Whether or not the members of the legal profession are so protective of their dignity that they resent being made fun of by John Mortimer, I have no way of telling but the old adage "crime doesn't pay" certainly doesn't apply to lawyers, does it?

Terry wins Olivier trophy in Brussels

ST DUNSTANER Terry Ottewell and his wife travelled to Brussels to shoot in the Belgium National Indoor Archery Championships on 23-24 February. The contest was a Paralympics event that included an 18 metre Fita round for visually impaired archers. The event was shot under IPC (International Paralympic Committee) rules and that meant that all the tactile archers wore

blackouts throughout the competition. It was held in the sports complex on the Avenue De Marathon. "This is one of the best I have shot in, but it was unbearably warm as the shoot progressed," said Terry. "The competition was very friendly but very competitive and I was happy to find that when the scores were added up I had scored 397 and had won by 20 points."

Terry won the Olivier Maingain Trophy. "Avril and I always enjoy the hospitable way we are treated in Belgium, but it must be wearing a little thin now as this is the second time I have denied one of their own archers the open title. "I should like to take the opportunity to thank StDunstan's for all the support that it has given to me and many others over the years."

That'll be the day Quo play!

ROCK 'N' ROLL legends Status Quo will be playing at what promises to be the charity event of the year in Dagenham, Essex on 9-10 August.

Amongst other acts on stage during the two-day festival will be actor-singer David Essex and pop favourites Showaddywaddy, while Les McKeown's Bay City Rollers will give teeny-boppers the chance to dust of their tartan shorts.

Proceeds from the event in Dagenham's Central Park will be in aid of Cancer Research, and St Dunstan's. The charities were a personal choice for the concert organisers, Ed Saunders and Terry Dormer.

"My beloved father passed away with cancer, and my mother's family has always been involved with St Dunstan's because my grandfather was blinded during the First World War," said Ed Saunders who also hopes to book one of the UK's biggest selling girl groups for the weekend.

Ten questions on...

The subject of the Royal Air Force

Harry Beevers has a new quiz on the runway

- 1) Which two organisations were amalgamated on 1st April 1918 to form the Royal Air Force?
- 2) Originally known as Squadron X, what was the number of the squadron specially formed to carry out the Dambusting mission?
- 3) Which member of the Royal Family learned to fly a glider with the ATC and earned his parachutist's badge with the RAF whilst still at school?
- 4) In the RAF which rank comes immediately below that of Wing Commander?
- 5) Which Science Fiction writer was a RADAR instructor in the RAF during World War II?
- 6) Which rank in the RAF is roughly equivalent to that of a Major in the army?
- 7) "Après moi la deluge," ("After me the flood"), a remark attributed to Madame de Pompadour, the mistress of King Louis XV, was the appropriate motto of which RAF Squadron?
- 8) Which branch of the armed services was established in 1924 to operate aircraft for the Royal Navy although until 1937 it was controlled by the RAF?
- 9) In the European theatre of operations in 1944 some Spitfire aircraft were painted in which unusual colour for reconnaissance purposes?
- 10) In the 1942 film *The First of the Few*, who played R.J. Mitchell, designer of the Supermarine Spitfire?

Answers can be found on page 30.

Electric April take-off for Ovingdean wind turbine

By Henry Kaiser

S EVEN NEW WIND turbines are to be installed at St Dunstan's Ovingdean this month, sprucing up the aeroplane-styled building for the post-carbon era. The Howards' Goosier wind generators, version 1:4, will convert kinetic energy from the powerful South Downs wind turning it into electricity. This power can then be used to run appliances within the building in an environmentally friendly fashion. It may also be possible to return electricity to the national grid. Winds around nine-metres-a-second will generate an estimated three megawatts of electrical power.

"The turbines are quite silent and will be installed on the roof of the Pearson Wing and the Fraser Wing with minimal disruption," said installation manager Hugh Howards. "They are quick to install, so work is expected to have been finished by noon within a single day at the start of this month."

Dick Lake, commented on the long and secret negotiations to overcome the building's Grade II-listed status. "It was the alignment of 21st century need with the architect's original concept that eventually won over the planners," he said.

"The unbelievable speed of this prefabricated installation is entirely due to the preparation work that Jim Faithfull and the Maintenance Team did on the roof while we had the scaffolding up last year for the new windows project.

"Not only does this scheme firmly nail Ovingdean's green colours to the Kyoto mast," enthused Dick Lake, "but it means that I can have an accurate read-out of wind speed and direction and plan my cycle ride to the station with precision."

Completed in 1938, St Dunstan's Ovingdean was purpose built for use by blind people, incorporating guide rails with tactile markings, rubber edged doors and safety gates on stairways. Architect

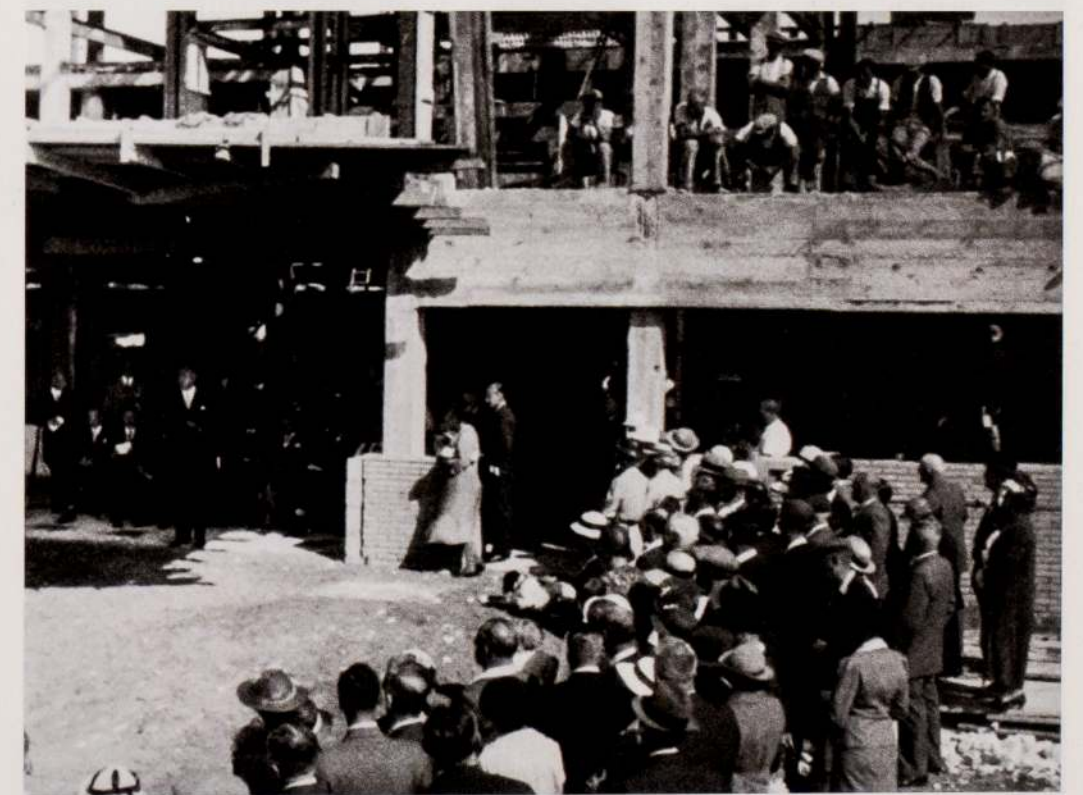
Francis Lorne modelled the Art-Deco structure on an aeroplane, a central fuselage with two wings either side, though the later addition of the swimming pool and Ansell training wing now creates the impression of an aeroplane and side car.

Each turbine will stand 30ft tall with 17ft propellers to catch the wind. Although the new turbines enhance the architect's original vision of a building based on an aeroplane, there is

no danger of the structure taking off in an extreme gust. "If it did take off, I expect it would be impounded by the harbour authorities before it went a mile," joked Mr Howards.

Similar turbines can be found generating electricity off the Prestatyn coast, not far from Llandudno where St Dunstan's plans to open a new centre. They were placed on the sea bed in 2003 using remotely operated vehicle installation (ROVI).

A spruce boost that will juice-up Ovingdean's batteries.



Building the future. Lady Pearson lays the foundation stone.

We just love to dance!



David Schofield and Glenys dance to the music of the Band of the Adjutant General's Corps.

IN THE WORDS of one St Dunstaner, it was the best night of his life. Love was in the air as the Band of the Adjutant General's Corps put a little swing into the

Valentine's Day Dance that crowned February's Dance Week. Something special was in order, so participating St Dunstaners and their partners conjured up some



Romantic music gave Valentine's Day a swing.

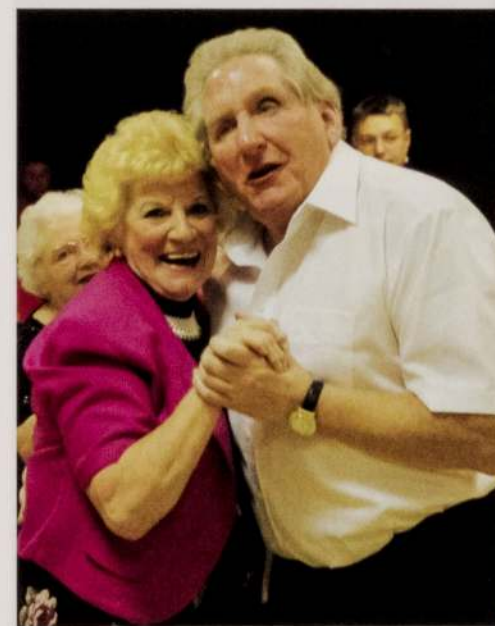
sparkle with a masqued ball. An impressive mass of birds, butterflies, harlequins and columbines stepped out for social waltzes, cha-chas and tangos. Captain Lawrence Sale, conducting, was called upon to select the finest gentleman's masque and the finest lady's masque. After deliberation, he settled on St Dunstaner Tom Bryden who was sporting a masque with a long pointy protuberance. On the ladies' side he selected Margaret Firth who was wearing a feathery butterfly masque. She had also extended the Valentine theme to her dress and heart-shaped flashing



Captain Sale congratulates Tom on his masque.

earrings. Matching hearts could also be found on Bob Beswick's bow tie. He was also, quite literally, wearing his heart on his sleeve.

Lawrence Narhkom and Katherine Day were able to show off their singing voices as the band offered a catalogue of favourite tunes throughout the night.



John Griffiths and Maureen Bernard keep dancing.



Bob Beswick congratulates Margaret Firth on a heartfelt win.



Who lies behind the masque? A trio of ladies at the dance.

The reds are on the green

ST DUNSTAN'S BRIGHTON Bowling Club faced another team of ex-Service bowlers with an impeccable pedigree on 25 February. They were playing bowls with members of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. This clash of titans has long been in planning, bringing both sides together in a friendly

and good spirited match at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. Marjorie Scott and Wallace Burnet-Smith gave the guest team a tour of facilities. Marjorie was also able to illustrate the history of St Dunstan's with a personal memento, the braille watch he was given as a St Dunstaner back in 1923.

The main action was in the Sports Hall with some fair banter crossing the woods as each competitor, St Dunstaner then Chelsea Pensioner, took their turn.

"There's one thing I do enjoy, it's a nice friendly game of bowls," said Joan Osborne, a sentiment greeted with a

A slice of history. Marjorie Scott has the braille watch given to her St Dunstaner father, George Fallowfield.



Colonel Nigel Gilbert presents Bob Osborne with a Royal Hospital plaque. Bob had presented a St Dunstan's shield.



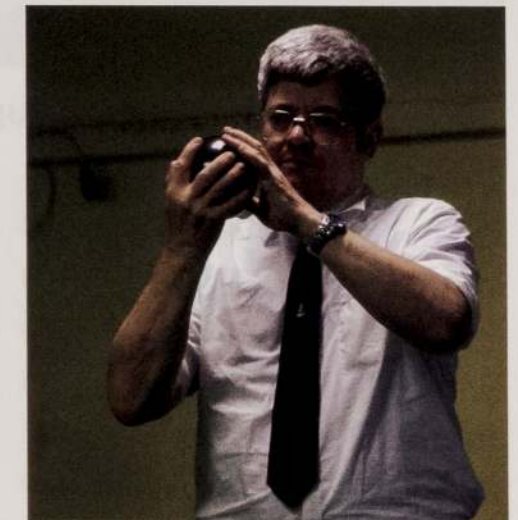
St Dunstaner Wallace Burnet-Smith with a Chelsea Pensioner bowler.



United we stand! The Royal Hospital Chelsea Bowling Club and St Dunstan's Brighton Club.



St Dunstaner Lionel James gives his best shot.



St Dunstaner James Poole.

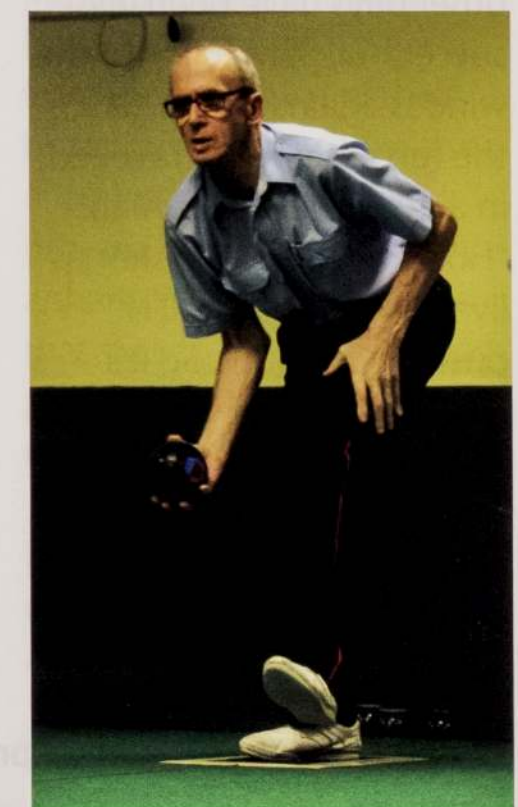
A decisive roll from the Royal Hospital team.



loud cheer from both sides, as she explained that she had asked RHC Governor Lord Walker if such a match was possible when he was guest speaker at St Dunstan's 50-year-badge reunion last year. "All I got from the St Dunstaners was 'Trust you to get a word in' but he said yes and I was absolutely delighted."

St Dunstan's won the day, 21-10, though plans are afoot for a re-match next year.

Chelsea Pensioner John Callander takes the green.



Bound for Barbados?

Royal Navy St Dunstaner **Alan Lock** and Matthew Boreham have crossed the halfway mark on their epic Atlantic rowing adventure! But are they on course for Antigua?

THEY HAVE BEEN at sea for over sixty-days! Two men in a rowing boat with the vast expanse of the Atlantic Ocean between them and civilisation! St Dunstaner Alan Lock and his shipmate Matthew Boreham were jubilant when they crossed the half way point on their journey early in March.

Despite this achievement, another 1,300 miles were still ahead of them. Weather conditions and water currents mean that progress is variable. On 9 March they managed to row 54 miles, other days have been less successful, particularly if the wind is against them. "It's the furthest we've travelled in any one day," said Alan. "However, our joy is short-lived as the sea swell is pushing us south. So it's still hard to see whether we will end-up in Barbados or Antigua. It doesn't really matter, as both destinations will qualify us as completing an Atlantic row!"



Clear skies for the Gemini crew during a rowing pause.

Alan and Matt have been keeping supporters in touch with their progress via a website www.atlanticrow4sense.com which also has details of their chosen charity, Sense, which deals with the welfare of deaf-blind people.

Cooking is also a trial. "We lost three cookers due to the high waves. We're now using our last cooker. Fortunately all our food is designed to be

eaten cold if necessary, but it's not so nice!

"We ate a meal of pepperami and muesli last night, as the waves were spraying on deck and it was difficult to cook. Salt from the waves becomes encrusted in the gas working parts and eventually starts to block them from working. The cookers remain a critical factor, and we regularly improvise to keep them dry,

which again, is extremely difficult on-deck.

"Matt managed to revive one of the cookers, which was good news, and we were down to the last burner. The thought of cold food all the way to the Caribbean, sounded a nightmare that I could well do without. I'm continuing to miss all sorts of food and I regularly dream of food (Am I turning into Homer Simpson?).

Music is also at a premium. "Since both our iPods broke our music choice is now limited to CDs – and we don't have too many of them. So we now listen to CDs while we row and the radio in the evening. Most of the CDs are compilation albums. At present we're listening to the soundtrack of *The Blues Brothers*. Our boat has a stereo – similar to a car stereo – with a CD player and radio. In the middle of the Atlantic the radio does not pick up any signals, so we use our short-wave radio which gives access to many English-language speech-based radio stations, such as the BBC World Service, Radio China and Radio Netherlands."

Alan has also mused on being homesick. "It's natural



Alan reminds Matt of Navy regulations for growing a beard.



breakfast, another short row and then a break for a chocolate bar, followed by another short row before stopping for a coffee, and so on throughout the day."

that we feel homesick – for our friends and family and for the creature comforts we're missing. It's harder for Matt as he has a young family. It's not so bad for me as I spent long spells away from home when I was in the Royal Navy, but that was in much more comfortable conditions!

"We overcome it by breaking the day into short periods. For example, a short row before stopping for

Despite being in the middle of the ocean, Alan and Matt have had some company. Inquisitive dolphins swam by as Alan scraped barnacles from the underside of their boat, Gemini. They have also encountered whales, flying fish, sea turtles, and possibly a shark. Picking up jellyfish that stick to the oars is also a problem for them, particularly if they drop on deck.

For up to the minute details on their progress, visit www.atlanticrow4sense.com.

ASK ROD

Your questions and queries answered by the ROVI (Rehabilitation Officer for the Visually Impaired) on Duty

Tel: 01273 391447

E-mail: rovianduty@st-dunstans.org.uk

What is MP3 and what does it offer me?

DON'T PANIC, MP3 is just a way of recording sound that can be played like a tape or conventional CD. There has been a large amount of concern associated with the introduction of the MP3 format. It's simply a way to play sound, whether music or voice, which takes up less space on a CD and means, therefore, that more can be stored. For example, a conventional audio CD can contain approximately 70-80 minutes of playback. Produced as an MP3 CD, the same CD could hold up to and possibly over 24 hours of playback.

This sounds very good but there is always a downside. Although MP3 uses the same sort of CD, it can only be played on MP3 compatible CD players. These are becoming more common

and are available from £29 upwards. The CD player must state that it is an MP3 CD player. The important function to look for is the "resume" facility. This allows you to stop the CD, then when you press play again it resumes from where it stopped rather than starting at the beginning again. Just think how annoying it would be listening to ten hours of a talking book just to press play the next day and have it start all over again.

The good news is that the

Best wishes to Charlie

ST DUNSTAN'S MAN north of the border retires in April. Charlie Claydon has been St Dunstan's Welfare Officer in Scotland since 1997. Having served in the Army from 1952 to 1977, he was familiar with

talking book machines supplied as part of the RNIB Talking Book service, the trusty Victor Reader and Plectalk, both play MP3 CDs and have the "resume" function. This also works the other way around as the RNIB talking books, "daisy" books, are recorded in an MP3 format so will play on a conventional MP3 CD player. This will skip chapters but all other daisy functions, such as bookmarks or phrases navigation, will not be available.

At the end of the day if you receive an MP3 CD such as **St Dunstan's Review** or a talking book, you can simply put it in your MP3 CD player, press play as normal and get many more hours of listening. For more information on suitable MP3 CD players please call ROVI on Duty - 01273 391447.

the Serviceman's lot and enhanced that experience working as a social worker in the intervening years. A much valued colleague, his sense of humour will be missed by St Dunstaner and staff alike.

After the work, best to play

TRAINEES AT St Dunstan's Sheffield have discovered that after a hard day's graft in computer, mobility, or daily living skills lessons, it is rather fun to unwind with a variety of activities.

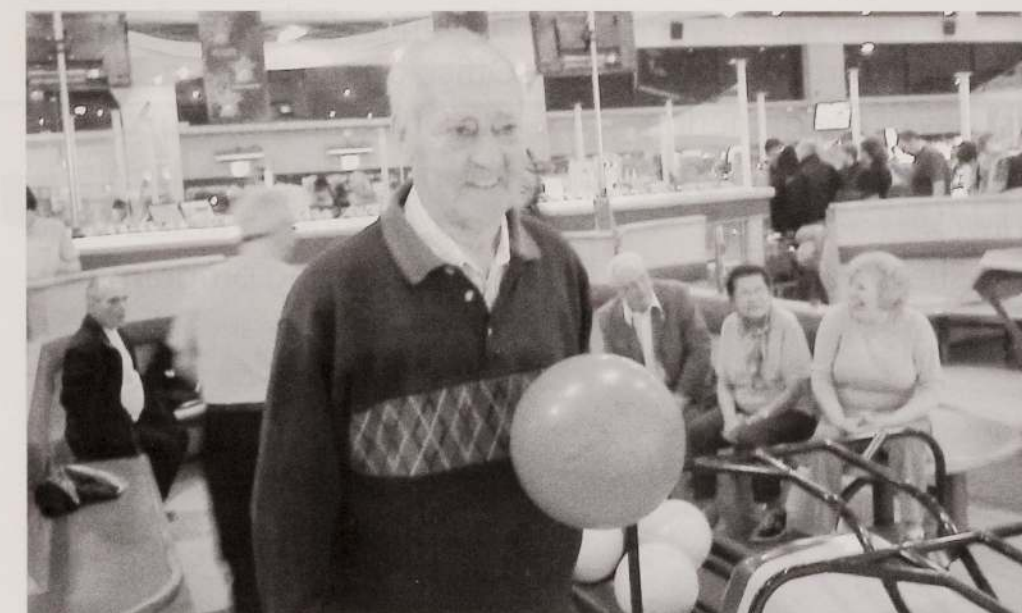
Some recent groups have ventured out to nearby Valley Centertainment to put their ten-pin bowling skills to the test. "It was absolutely brilliant," said St Dunstaner Joe Elsander from Chester-le-Street, Durham. "It's not something I had done before but it was nice to go out and try something different. Some were a bit nervous, but we all mixed in and had an enjoyable time. We were from all over Britain and all different ages but we all got on.

"The staff there were very good and we could hear all the noise around us. I think the first one I bowled went in the channel, but then someone else got two strikes, they knocked the pins down."

Tuesday seems to have settled as games night,

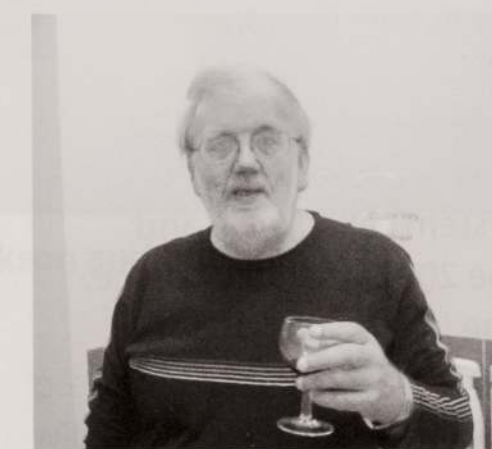


St Dunstaner Simon Brown is hoping for a strike.



St Dunstaner Fred Page wonders how he can follow that.

subject to variation, but another popular pastime has arisen on Thursday nights. The upstairs lounge provides a convivial and relaxed location for St Dunstan's Sheffield trainees to get together over an equally convivial and relaxed selection of cheese and wine.



Trainee Barrie Hathaway at a cheese and wine evening.

A Byte of the Apple Core

by Ray Hazan

IT WAS GOOD to see some new faces amongst a slowly increasing number of participants at the Computer Club meeting on 20-21 February. We were in for a different view of the computer this time and raised our eyes to new Vistas and a taste of the Apple tree of knowledge!

Regular fixtures on the first day of the gathering are sessions led by Mike Crawford and Brad Crawshaw. Mike looks after hardware matters within the IT department at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. But his knowledge of the computer in all its aspects and his particular understanding of the needs of visually impaired users make him an invaluable friend!

Mike demonstrated the new Microsoft operating system called Vista and the 2007 version of Office. The jury is still out as to the efficacy of Vista and the more people you talk to, the more confusing the responses! Mike gave us a

very balanced opinion. He said that the service pack, which corrects faults, is still anticipated, as it has been for several months now!

Of equal knowledge is Brad Crawshaw who fostered a lively question and answer session. He recommended www.cutepdf.com for anyone wanting a free way to create pdf files. He suggested accessing Office on the Web (in the Office help menu) to download updates. He also recommended a disk and file size measuring programme called Treesize, available from www.download.com. CCleaner, another utility, removes temporary and unwanted files.

One timesaving tip is to learn the search command in your screen reader. Instead of having to trawl through the whole of a web page to find the link or information you want, simply search for a word or phrase and it will take the speech cursor straight there.

Brad's talents extended to a very well supported and

delicious buffet held that evening, keeping our wine glasses well topped up. Janis Sharp attended to our plates. Thank you both for your hard work that evening.

Day 2 of the Club meeting was a breath of fresh air, in that we looked at the Apple Mac range of computers. David Poyner converted fairly recently and had met Guy Hemmings. Guy, a freelance Apple supporter, is in the business of setting up Apple systems. He brought with him several different models, from desktops to laptops, via 'minis'.

Two features struck us straight away. The speech output for the visually impaired is integral with the Apple OS X operating system. It also incorporates screen magnification – so no third party add-ons. Even the desktop version is compact, in that the monitor contains the processor, drive, webcam, microphone and speakers. The keyboard is the only external accessory.

Guy and David demonstrated a very

human sounding voice and many other features, some operated by voice and where Guy could access David's system via the telephone so as to be able to provide remote assistance. The cost of a desktop is £799 new.

One cannot describe all the features we were shown and there are obviously disadvantages. Apples are in the minority and there is not the backup and support for visually handicapped users as may be found for Microsoft products. Each new

upgrade of the operating system has to be purchased at around £100. While most programmes are replicated on the OS X system, there are many which are not compatible. But it was a fresh look outside the box and some may well be tempted to switch.

To break up the programme, a short demonstration of the Victor Reader Stream was given. This was described in the March **Review** but it gave attendees the chance to feel it for themselves. One

St Dunstaner did put in an order immediately afterwards.

It was a very fascinating two days, thanks to the fresh outlook. Our gratitude to Janis, Mike, Brad and David. For Guy, it was a completely new venture into the world of computing with sight loss. Our interest and demand on his time meant he overstayed his predicted visit by an extra day – apologies to Mrs Hemmings!

The next gathering takes place on 15-16 October.

TS Eastbourne pull it together

by Jax Whiteley

ST DUNSTANERS Gerry Jackson and Ron Jones congratulated 14 cadets from TS Eastbourne for completing the St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge last April. They covered the required 13.1 miles by pulling a field gun up and down Eastbourne Seafront.

Gerry and Ron presented the Sea Cadets with certificates of achievement at their 4 March meeting. Apart from hauling the field gun, Eastbourne Sea Cadets



TS Eastbourne with Gerry Jackson and Ron Jones.

had also carried collecting buckets, accepting donations from local residents. Their chairman Bob Hamblin

presented Gerry Jackson with a cheque for the proceeds to support blind ex-Service men and women.

Saluting the ANZAC spirit!

A musical hunt led **Ernie Phillips** to the inspiring story of one man and his donkey saving lives in the face of great danger!

ON 25 APRIL it is ANZAC Day! Every time I think of ANZAC, I think of the Army clerk who thought he might get writer's cramp so he abbreviated that which was the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

In Canberra, the capital of Australia, down ANZAC Way, one has the Australian Parliament on one side and the War Museum on the other side. Outside of the War Museum is a statue of a man with a donkey. The Australians and New Zealanders recognise that man as being a symbol of all the great heroes of Gallipoli. His name was John Simpson Kirkpatrick. He was in fact an Englishman and a fellow county man of mine. We were both born in the county of Durham, he at one end and me at the other.

He was born at South Shields, then in county of Durham, now in Tyne & Wear. His father was captain of a coastal merchant

ship. When his father died prematurely, John Simpson Kirkpatrick at the age of 17 immediately went to sea to give his mother a financial allowance. It was while he was serving as stoker on a British ship, he did in fact along with 13 other crew members, jump ship in the port of Newcastle, New South Wales. That is how John Simpson Kirkpatrick happened to be in Australia.

When the First World War started, John Simpson Kirkpatrick joined up thinking he would be sent to France and thereby quite close to England. That was not to be!

My involvement with the ANZACs is rather strange. I sought information regarding a sea shanty which I believed to be British. It was a shanty called *The Lime-Juice Tub*. I now accept the fact that it is not English, it is really Australian. It is a rare shanty and I now have a copy of it by probably the best folk singer to render this particular

sea shanty. I am referring, of course, to the late A.L. Lloyd, Bert Lloyd, who recorded this on a number of occasions and he was able to adopt the Australian accent because he had worked as a sheep-shearer in Australia in the 1930s.

I contacted a Colonel Hank Lendl, who lived outside Kansas City, Missouri. He was something of an authority of Australian folk music and I hoped he would have a copy of this particular sea shanty. He didn't, but he did send me four separate cassettes involving Australian history.

Of course, the ANZACs were covered in one of those recordings. It's quite old in one particular respect because it was recordings of the ANZACs themselves and we are referring to something that happened 93 years ago.

This particular cassette is rare, but it is quite fascinating because it gives you the true history

of the ANZACs and further what happened to the ANZACs when they had to evacuate Gallipoli after nine months. It also mentions John Simpson Kirkpatrick, commonly known as Jack.

The story of the man with the donkey is quite fascinating. For some reason the average person doesn't seem to know the story about John Simpson Kirkpatrick and it is for that reason that I believe I almost have a duty to tell the true story of a fellow county man of mine, particularly since he was Merchant Navy like myself.

I found out that there was book about this particular man, the title being *The Man with The Donkey*. I went into Walmley Library, the first time since it had been refurbished and asked if they would search for it.

The librarian suggested we try the internet and within minutes she said "There he is!" Apparently there was a photograph of John Simpson Kirkpatrick standing there with a little donkey. That donkey had carried over 300 wounded men from the trenches to the beach and there onto hospital ships for treatment.

For some reason, he was never given the appropriate medal. Even now in Australia there are websites where people are saying, after all these years, he should have been given the Victoria Cross.

He had dropped the name Kirkpatrick because a deserter from the Merchant Marines could not join the Army. Private John Simpson was allocated to 3rd Field Ambulance as a stretcher bearer. He went ashore at ANZAC Cove, Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. He was the second man ashore, the first and third were shot dead as they all waded through the water. Nearly 750 men were wounded or killed in that landing, half the force.

With the Turks holding the high ground, stretcher parties were under constant fire. Having carried two men down, Simpson decided to use a donkey to carry a third.

He improvised saddle and halter from field dressing and made regular forays in Shrapnel Gully. The Diggers soon knew him as "The Man with the donk." On 15 May 1915, he was killed by machine gun fire, the donkey carrying his body back to base.

In conclusion, the whole of the Gallipoli Campaign was an Anglo-French project. The English side of it was Lord Kitchener and Winston Churchill. When they called upon the troops of the British Empire to support them, that is when the ANZACs came into being. Everyone of those ANZACs was a volunteer. We tell that as it was – the real truth of those young men from Australia, from New Zealand, couldn't wait to answer the call, as the "ANZACs put it, the call of the Empire and the Flag."

So on 25 April, we will commemorate ANZAC Day in a most appropriate place, St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

I will be talking about the ANZAC's struggle, using the war songs of the First World War, which naturally we took from this particular cassette. I shall be working with Mrs Ann Gee, from Walmley Library who helped with my research. I like to work with a sighted person because obviously, I can't read notes. If anyone cares to ask me about the "Man with the Donkey", then I will be more than delighted.

Ernie will be in the Blue Room between 19:00 and 20:00 on 25 April.

Pals of mischief

Memories of a lasting friendship leave Ned Larkin in a nostalgic mood!

AT THE TENDER age of two my parents gave me a present which was wrapped up in a cloth. When I unwrapped it, I found a little dog, and as we were both so small I named it Tiny.

As we grew up, if my parents did not get to the letter box first and get the papers, Tiny and I would play tug of war with it.

Where we lived there was a large sundial, and on top of it was a thick brass plate with all the cities of the world. Until I started school, I used to ask my mother to

pack up some lunch and a bottle of pop and Tiny and I would travel the world.

Later, laid up with all the children's illnesses, Tiny had a little family of her own. So my father brought her and her family into the bedroom with the little ones laying in the tudgebasket, with Tiny standing beside, gave me a nudge to tell me to look at her family.

As we got older, we'd go for nice long walks, just her and I. Sadly I had to say goodbye when I was 16.

Ten Answers

Answers to quiz on page 15.

- 1) The Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service;
- 2) 617 Squadron;
- 3) Prince Andrew;
- 4) Squadron Leader;
- 5) Arthur C. Clarke, author of the story *The Sentinel* on which the film *2001: A Space Odyssey* was based;
- 6) Squadron Leader;
- 7) 617 Squadron;
- 8) The Fleet Air Arm;
- 9) Pale pink;
- 10) Leslie Howard (*First of the Few*, also known as *Spitfire*, was Howard's last on screen performance. He died in 1943 when the KLM plane he was on was shot down by German fighters over the Bay of Biscay).

BEER OF THE MONTH

Battle of Britain Ale

This is a full bodied, plum-coloured ale with roast malts and bold citrus combining well with the fruity spiciness of the hops. It is a bottle conditioned ale, weighing in at five per cent, and is easily drinkable and lends itself well to a session. The first batch, produced in

2000 for a Battle of Britain reception, was presented to RAF Halton's Station Commander Steve Lilley (whose uncle is St Dunstaner John Lilley). The Officers' Mess at RAF Halton later commissioned artist Michael Turner to produce a painting based on the label. Limited edition prints signed by Battle of Britain pilots can

by Colin Williamson



be purchased from the brewery via www.chilternbrewery.co.uk/batobrit.asp.

POETS' CORNER

Poems by St Dunstaners from Hadlow, Kent and Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

TUNNEL VISION

by Andy Allott

When you're young and twenty-nine
The years ahead seem lots of time
To do what you have in mind
So no putting off, as they say,
To do what one should do today.

Thinking naught of what might be
Of what could happen to how you see.
Life goes on and all is well.
The years go quickly and in the dell
The trees you see them in their prime,
Their buds, their blooms--they disappear.
As they do, so does the year.
All so quickly to the fall
And it happens to us all.

Having always played the sport
Of golf, not with the best report.
But just to be out on the course
Fresh air and friends, no remorse.

Getting older by the score
For this year I'm eighty-four.
Still quite fit and feeling fine
Think I might make ninety-nine!

But when you play golf as I do
Swinging the club at the ball
Hoping to get it near the hole...
Now, you know my eyes aren't good
The ball's not seen as it should
If its straight down the fairway
To see it land makes my day.
If its left or its right
To me its always out of sight.
Makes me feel a little sore
Not to mention - "What's the score?"

Chipping out onto the green
Where the ball is clearly seen.
Putting down to get a five
Not too bad - I'm still alive!
So while I'm hitting balls galore
Best look out when I shout "FORE"

You young people could be like me
So please watch carefully all you see.
You have the precious gift of eyes
To me they are certainly ...
FIRST PRIZE!!

THROUGH THE WINDOW

by Arthur Morley

Through the window all the world is there,
Watch the darkness turning into light,
Silence captivates the waiting mind,
Muted murmurings illuminate delight.

Rustling leaves and whispering winds intrude,
Gentle, orchestrated birdsongs tint the air,
Slowly sunbeams dance then into sight,
Telling of the new day gathering there.

Sparkling dew, that gathers and delights
For every passing butterfly or bee,
Fashioning a magical display,
A captivating world for all to see.

Suddenly a raucous magpie calls,
Scaring other gentler, birds around,
Doe-eyed rabbits freeze, a curtain falls,
Fracturing the air with silent sound.

Within this universe, this, wondrous world,
What of the 'morrow for this place divine?
Look all around, for every sign and sound,
Through the window, all the world is mine!

Welcome to St Dunstan's

Robert Astington of East Grinstead, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1959 to 1961.

Harry Ayres of West Malling, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

Arthur Bates of Lytham St Annes, Lancashire served in the Royal Horse Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

Dorothy Beal of Maidstone, Kent served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

Paul Bird of Londonderry, County Londonderry served in the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers from 1979 to 2002.

Henry Clarke of Hammersmith, London served in the Essex Regiment and Royal Artillery between 1939 and 1971.

Thomas Collingwood of Ilford, Essex served as a Technician in the Royal Air Force from 1962 to 1967.

Alan Davies of Hordle, Lymington, Hampshire served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1945.

Arthur Davies of Neath, West Glamorgan served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Glen Denham of Bristol, Avon served in the Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1961.

Albert Dickinson of Leeds, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1946.

Harold Eardley of Fowey, Cornwall served in the Royal Engineers from 1943 to 1946.

Emily Earl of Hove, East Sussex served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Louis Early of Earley, Reading, Berkshire served in the General service Corps and Royal Artillery between 1942 and 1946.

Harry Edwick of Wilsden, Bradford, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1949 to 1957.

Jean Gilchrist of Edinburgh served as Petty Officer in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1947 to 1950.

Peter Goodwin of Horsham, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1948.

Oswald Harrison of Leeds, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Frederick Heath of Edenbridge, Kent served as Signaller in the Royal Signals from 1951 to 1957.

Harold Hill of Woking, Surrey served in the General Service Corps and Royal Army Service Corps between 1944 and 1947.

Thomas Horton of Woodbridge, Suffolk served as Commander in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1965.

James Hoy of Bootle, Merseyside served as Stoker Mechanic in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1951.

Cyril Inwood of Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1947.

Anthony Lee of Birmingham, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

John Lelliott of Surbiton, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1945.

Rachel Lovelace of Ilkeston, Derbyshire served in the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1955 to 1958.

Harry Luckhurst of Maidstone, Kent served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers between 1944 and 1948.

Mary Lukes of Old Colwyn, Clwyd served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945. Her husband, Tom, has been a St Dunstaner since 1945.

Harold McMullan of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1953.

Michael Molloy of Llantarnam, Cwmbran, Gwent served in the Royal Engineers from 1941 to 1947, then the Monmouthshire Regiment from 1948 to 1967.

Peter Nash of Attleborough, Norfolk served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1941 to 1946.

Raymond Nash of Radstock, Somerset served

in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

Barbara Norman of Northampton, Northamptonshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1945.

John Norman of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

Donald Pearce of Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1946.

Dennis Ray of Birmingham, West Midlands served in the Merchant Navy from 1943 to 1947.

Dixon Recknell of Marlow, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps and the Army Catering Corps between 1940 and 1946.

Derek Robertson of Sale, Cheshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

Kenneth Scoble of Newtown, Powys served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

Frederick Smaggasgale of Marylebone, London served in the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1946.

Thomas Smith of Ipswich, Suffolk served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

George Spratt of Hayling Island, Hampshire served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1965 to 1971.

Arthur Tate of Norwich, Norfolk served in Egypt and Italy in the Royal Norfolk Regiment and the Northamptonshire Regiment between 1940 and 1946.

Roy Taylor of Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Middlesex served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1956 to 1958.

Frank Thompson-Platt of Burnley, Lancashire served in the Coldstream Guards from 1972 to 1984.

Frank Vaughan of Felixstowe, Suffolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

George Warner of Borehamwood, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1939 to 1946.

Lionel Williams of Mundesley, Norwich, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1953.

Family News

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Ewan Joseph Lowe on 5 February. He is the great-grandson of Sheila Alexander of Kempsey, Dymock, Gloucestershire, widow of St Dunstaner Jock Alexander.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Robert and Muriel Richards of Wrexham, Clwyd on 8 March.

Francis and Margaret Eddy of Penzance, Cornwall on 15 March.

Raymond and Eve Rawcliffe of Cherry Tree, Blackburn, Lancashire on 15 March

Husband and wife St Dunstaners Walter and Denise Rosser of Lovedean, Waterlooville, Hampshire on 15 March.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

John and Olive Workman of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire on 13 March.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Philip and Betty Broomhead of Heysham, Morecambe, Lancashire celebrated 65 years of marriage on 22 February.

Alfred and Ivy Pickering of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire celebrated 62 years of marriage on 23 February.

Robert and Dee Chandler of Seaford, East Sussex who celebrated 64 years of marriage on 26 February.

Robert and Bertha Webb of Saltdean, Brighton who celebrated their Platinum Anniversary, marking 70 years of marriage, on 26 February.

Samuel and Kitty Wrest of Staincross, Barnsley, South Yorkshire celebrated 62 years of marriage on 28 February.

John and Millie Boagey of Newton Hall, Durham, County Durham who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 2 March.

Stanley and Lynne Dupree of Saham Hills, Thetford, Norfolk who celebrated 68 years of marriage on 2 March.

Kenneth and Eileen Seaman of Winton, Eccles, Manchester who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 3 March.

Max and Joan Ash of Sidmouth, Devon who celebrated 64 years of marriage on 4 March.

Allan and Maria Tennant of Guiseley, Leeds who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 4 March.

George and Joan Thompson of Chesterfield, Derbyshire who celebrated 65 years of marriage on 6 March.

Jim and Valerie Lile of Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot, Devon who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 7 March.

Joseph and Iris Hardy of Springwell, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 8 March.

William and Mary Tate of Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, Cleveland who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 8 March.

Robert and Jenny Parkinson of Westgate, Morecambe, Lancashire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 13 March.

Cyril and Bett Edwards of Nuneaton, Warwickshire who celebrated 65 years of marriage on 15 March.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Margaret Cartlidge on 3 December. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Eric Cartlidge of Hartlepool, Cleveland.

Deborah Tuson on 19 December. She was the wife of Roland Tuson of Exeter, Devon.

Betty Hammond on 4 February. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Robert Hammond of Roydon, Diss, Norfolk.

Elsie Paine on 15 February. She was the wife of Stanley Paine of Penenden Heath, Maidstone, Kent.

Sybil Eilenberg on 16 February. She was the wife of Max Eilenberg of Cambridge Park, Twickenham, Middlesex.

Marion Sills on 21 February. She was the wife of Kenneth Sills of Winteringham, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire.

Irene Collins on 26 February. She was the wife of Thomas Collins of Walters Ash, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Beryl John on 1 March. She was the wife of Ted John of Wallasey, Merseyside.

Bessie Cork of Swallowcliffe, Salisbury, Wiltshire on 10 February. She was the widow of Edward Cork.

Cissie Capon of Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent on 6 March. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Ollie Capon.

Our sympathy goes to their family and 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.

Jack Burke

Royal New Zealand Engineers

John Irving Burke of Wellington, New Zealand died on 8 December, aged 87. He was a machinist before joining the 6 Field Company, Royal New Zealand Engineers in 1939. He lost his left eye when wounded at El Alamein and was subsequently discharged in 1943. Our sympathy goes to his widow Sylvia and all of the family.

Michael Mitchell

Royal Air Force

Michael Mitchell of Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland died on 31 January, aged 78. He worked for an aircraft part company in Shrewsbury before being called up for the Royal Air Force in 1947. He trained at RAF Bridgnorth and was then posted to RAF Odiham as a clerk with 247 Squadron, the first Vampire Squadron. Discharged as Aircraftman I in 1949, he went to study at the Royal College of Music. In 1953, he joined the London Symphony Orchestra originally playing violin but later changing to viola. Over 35 years, he played an extensive range of classical music, film soundtracks and pop experimentation, performing works by composers such as Beethoven and Tchaikovsky. Live

performances around the world went hand-in-hand with studio recordings with as many as 50 works being released each year. He worked with Carlo Giulini, Pierre Monteux, Carlos Kleiber, George Solti, Rudolph Kempe, Sir Adrian Boult, Sir John Barbirolli and Andre Previn and many other conductors. Apart from a pantheon of classical works, he also performed on two albums of Stravinsky-style composition by Frank Zappa, the *Star Wars* trilogy and *Superman* movies. Our sympathy goes to his widow Helen, daughters and all the family.

Alexander Thomson
Royal Artillery

Alexander Bell Wilson Thomson of Dundee, Angus died on 6 February, aged 86. He worked as a ploughman and horseman on a relation's farm and in the transport industry before joining the Royal Artillery in 1940. He served in the UK, India, Bombay, Calcutta, and Burma. Demobbed in 1946, he returned to farming but later became a heavy goods vehicle driver. He enjoyed football, rugby and reading. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Sandra and all the family.

Daphne Topham
Women's Royal Naval Service

Hilda Alice Daphne Topham nee Bowring of Surbiton, Surrey died on 10 February, aged 88. She joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1941 training at HMS *Boscowan* and HMS *Attack*. She later became a Wardroom Steward for the Coastal Raiding Forces. Discharged in 1946, she raised a family. Later, she worked for the Home Office in Criminal Statistics and then for the local authority in Kingston. She enjoyed music, tapestry and embroidery. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family

Howard Spencer
Royal Navy

Howard Spencer of Ashford, Middlesex died on 13 February, aged 82. He was a trainee metallurgist before joining the Royal Navy in 1943. His training included a period on HMS *Vernon* which was located at Rodean and had annexed St Dunstan's Ovingdean. Posted to Grimsby, he served with coastal defence on minesweeping duties. Discharged in 1947, he joined the Libya Police, working in their marine division for 12 years. Later, he worked for EMI in Saudi Arabia and the UK. He was an active member of the Coastal Forces Defence Association, travelling by bus to their meetings on HMS *Belfast*. Our sympathy goes to his son Paul, daughter Sandra, and all other members of the family.

William Faulkner
Royal Armoured Corps

William Douglas Faulkner of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands died on 14 February, aged 84. He was a roof worker and fitter with a builder and decorator before joining the Royal Armoured Corps in 1940. While stationed in Cairo, he was injured by an accidental explosion during training. The blast resulted in his left eye being excised and the loss of two fingers. In 1943, he was returned to the UK and joined St Dunstan's at Church Stretton. He trained as a capstan lathe operator, though taking this up was complicated by continuing health problems. Falling back on assembly work, he also made rugs, trays and table lamps while holding an ambition to open a fish and chip shop. He and his wife opened the business in 1947. After running the shop for three years, he returned to industry as a capstan lathe operator and

assembly worker, eventually carrying out inspection work for a carburettor manufacturer. He later took up woodwork as a hobby and completed St Dunstan's wrought iron work course in record time. He was also a keen gardener. Our sympathy goes to his widow Constance, son Paul, daughters Peggy, Patricia, and Pamela, and all other members of the family.

Tim Forder
Royal Air Force

Albert James Francis Forder of Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire died on 17 February, aged 95. He worked for the News of the World and the London Electrical Company before joining the Royal Air Force in 1940. He trained at Bridgnorth and was then posted to RAF Duxford where he serviced Douglas Bader's aircraft. He was later posted to India, travelling via Sierra Leone and Cape Town. He also served in Assam and Burma before being discharged in 1947. He resumed work with the LEC but later joined BATT Cables in Rotherhithe. He enjoyed gardening and dancing, attending several of the Dance Week's at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. Our sympathy goes to his son Martin and all other members of the family.

William Bainbridge
Royal Air Force

William Gordon Bainbridge of Great Lumley, Chester-le-Street, County Durham died on 19 February, aged 88. As a 14-year-old, he spent a year as a miner before being taken on by a printing firm as an apprentice. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 and trained at RAF Catfoss and then Cranwell. He was posted to Cairo, spending time in the Western Desert. After becoming sergeant, he was posted to Aden and the

Italy and Greece. Discharged in 1946, he returned to printing but later joined Royal Ordnance as a cartographer. This was a step towards becoming a surveyor with the local authority. He was a member of the local operatic society and a keen swimmer. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doreen, son Ross, daughters Anne, Katherine and Lynn, and all other members of the family.

Walter Hearl
Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
Walter Joseph Hearl of Luton, Bedfordshire died on 19 February, aged 71. He joined the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers in 1954 and served in Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Borneo and the Philippines. He was discharged as craftsman in 1957. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Jacqueline, son Robert and all the family.

Leslie Epps
Royal Artillery
Leslie Reginald Epps of Thetford, Norfolk died on 20 February, aged 89. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1937 and served in Palestine, Iraq and Egypt. He transferred to the Royal Artillery before discharge in 1940. In civilian life, he was a postman and repair man. His interests included sailing. Our sympathy goes to his widow Phyliss and all of the family.

George Pears
The Hallamshire Battalion
George Pears of Norton Lees, Sheffield, South Yorkshire died on 20 February, aged 94. In his teens, he worked for Vickers and trained as an electrician. In 1933, while working as a tram driver, he joined The Hallamshire Battalion, the TA wing of the York and Lancaster Regiment and became

a drummer in the band. In 1940, he took part in the Norwegian Campaign and was subsequently posted to Iceland. After a period of garrison duty in Scotland, he was sent to France. Discharged in 1945, he resumed work as a tram driver but later worked in transport workshops, refrigeration and engineering. His interests included football and music. Our sympathy goes to his sons Raymond, Derek and Malcolm, and all members of the family.

Len Dean

Royal Engineers

Leonard Dean of Gosport, Hampshire died on 23 February, aged 82. He was a wood machinist before joining the General Service Corps in 1943. Transferring to the Royal Engineers, his unit landed in Normandy on D-Day and advanced through to Germany. Discharged in 1947, he worked in the building trade. He enjoyed reading and playing cards. Our sympathy goes to his widow Pat and all members of the family.

Arthur Pearson

Pioneer Corps

Arthur Lee Pearson of Norton, Cleveland died on 23 February, aged 94. He joined the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps in 1940 and served in the UK before being deployed to France in 1944. He also served in Belgium and Germany before being discharged in 1946. Our sympathy goes to his son Les and all other members of the family.

Ernest Axtell-Axtell

Royal Engineers

Ernest Axtell-Axtell of Ripon, North Yorkshire died on 28 February, aged 69. He was a painter and decorator before joining the Royal Engineers in 1956. He served on

Christmas Island during the nuclear tests, and later in Aden, Germany and Gibraltar. After his discharge in 1965, he worked as a steel erector and fitter on oil rigs until his eyesight deteriorated further. He worked in civil engineering before becoming a St Dunstaner in 1986. He was a founder member of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association. He enjoyed swimming, snooker, computer games, fishing, line dancing and country and western music. A keen model maker, he constructed gypsy caravans and guitars from matchwood and also collected and repaired cigarette lighters. A taste for CB radio, broadcasting under the name White Stick, developed into an interest for amateur radio and he learnt Morse Code. Our sympathy goes to his son Adrian, daughter Amanda, and all of the family.

Kenneth Brooke

5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, RAC

Kenneth Brooke of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died on 28 February, aged 87. The son of First World War RAF St Dunstaner James Brooke, he joined the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards in 1938. They were deployed to France with the British Expeditionary Force. As the Germans advanced, he was evacuated from Dunkirk on HMS *Vimy*. He was then stationed in the UK, retraining and re-equipping with Cromwell tanks until July 1944. When his unit deployed to Normandy, he served as a wireless operator and loader as they helped capture Lisieux and advanced to Belgium. After being wounded in Germany, he was returned to the UK. Discharged in 1946, he joined the GPO working as a postman and sorter. His interests included walking in the Peak District, dancing and gardening. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

George Simpson

Royal Engineers

George Simpson of Doncaster, South Yorkshire died on 2 March, aged 89. He was a plumber before joining the General Service Corps in 1942. He transferred to the Royal Engineers the following year and trained at Lincoln and Longmoor. He was involved with Operation PLUTO (Pipe Line Under The Ocean) which supplied fuel to Allied Forces in Europe. He subsequently deployed to France in 1944, advancing to Belgium and then Germany. Discharged in 1947, he resumed work as a plumber. His interests included DIY, gardening, and swimming. Our sympathy goes to his widow Beatrice, sons George and John, daughter Anne, and all other members of the family.

David Allen

9th Queen's Royal Lancers

David Arthur Whiteley Allen of Cirencester, Gloucestershire died on 5 March, aged 90. He studied agriculture at Cambridge before joining the 9th Queen's Royal Lancers in 1940. Deployed to France, he was evacuated from Dunkirk and then posted to North Africa with the 8th Army. He was involved with the invasion of Italy. Discharged as Captain in 1946, he resumed his agricultural studies and later farmed dairy cattle in Gloucestershire. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret and all of the family.

James McKay

Royal Navy

"Jimbo" William James McKay of Arbroath, Angus died on 7 March, aged 70. He joined the Royal Navy from 1954 and trained at HMS *Raleigh*. He later served on HMS *Gambia* and was involved with the Suez Canal Crisis. Later, he joined the crew of

frigates HMS *Salisbury* and HMS *Chichester*. He became an Engineer Mechanic 1st Class. Discharged in 1959, he eventually became a paramedic. He enjoyed painting, drawing, gardening and music. Our sympathy goes to his widow Georgina and all of the family.

Clive Tunks

King's Royal Rifle Corps

Clive Graeme Tunks of Trenance, Newquay, Cornwall died on 7 March, aged 88. He worked for an insurance firm before joining the King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1940. He was posted to North Africa where he was taken prisoner by the Germans in 1942. Initially, he was held in Italy, but later was transferred to Germany. Liberated in 1945, he was discharged in 1946. In civilian life he did clerical work for various firms including the South Western Electricity Board. His interests included DIY, gardening and listening to jazz music. Our sympathy goes to his widow Dolores, sons Christopher and Steven, daughter Teresa and all the family.

Reginald Montgomery

Royal Air Force

Reginald Albert Montgomery of Milton-under-Wynchwood, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire died on 11 March, aged 91. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1935 and trained as an engineer. He was commissioned in 1942 and served in Iraq and Greece. After the war, he served in the Middle East and Suez during the crisis. From 1959 to 1962, he was involved with rocket trials at Woomera. Discharged in 1966, he worked with Oxford Air Training School and was later Chairman of the local parish council. Our sympathy goes to his widow Eva, sons Andrew and Robert, and all members of the family.

Triple congratulations for Strood

THERE WAS a triple round of applause for the members of Strood Army Cadet Force on 26 February. St Dunstan's Steve Pendleton congratulated the youngsters on taking part in St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge last year and their achievements in drawing attention to the needs of blind ex-Service men and women. The unit's sponsored "war-walk" had been widely covered in a variety of publications in Kent and beyond.

Steve produced a braille list of participating cadets and instructors, reading their names so that Mayor of Medway Cllr Val Goulden could present certificates of achievement. She added her own thank you, commenting that she was extremely proud of the unit.

Further gratitude was voiced when Strood ACF presented a cheque for £1,300 which they had raised through sponsorship of their 13 mile walk (including first aid tests and other exercises). Steve accepted the donation which he said will be of great benefit to blind ex-Service men and women.

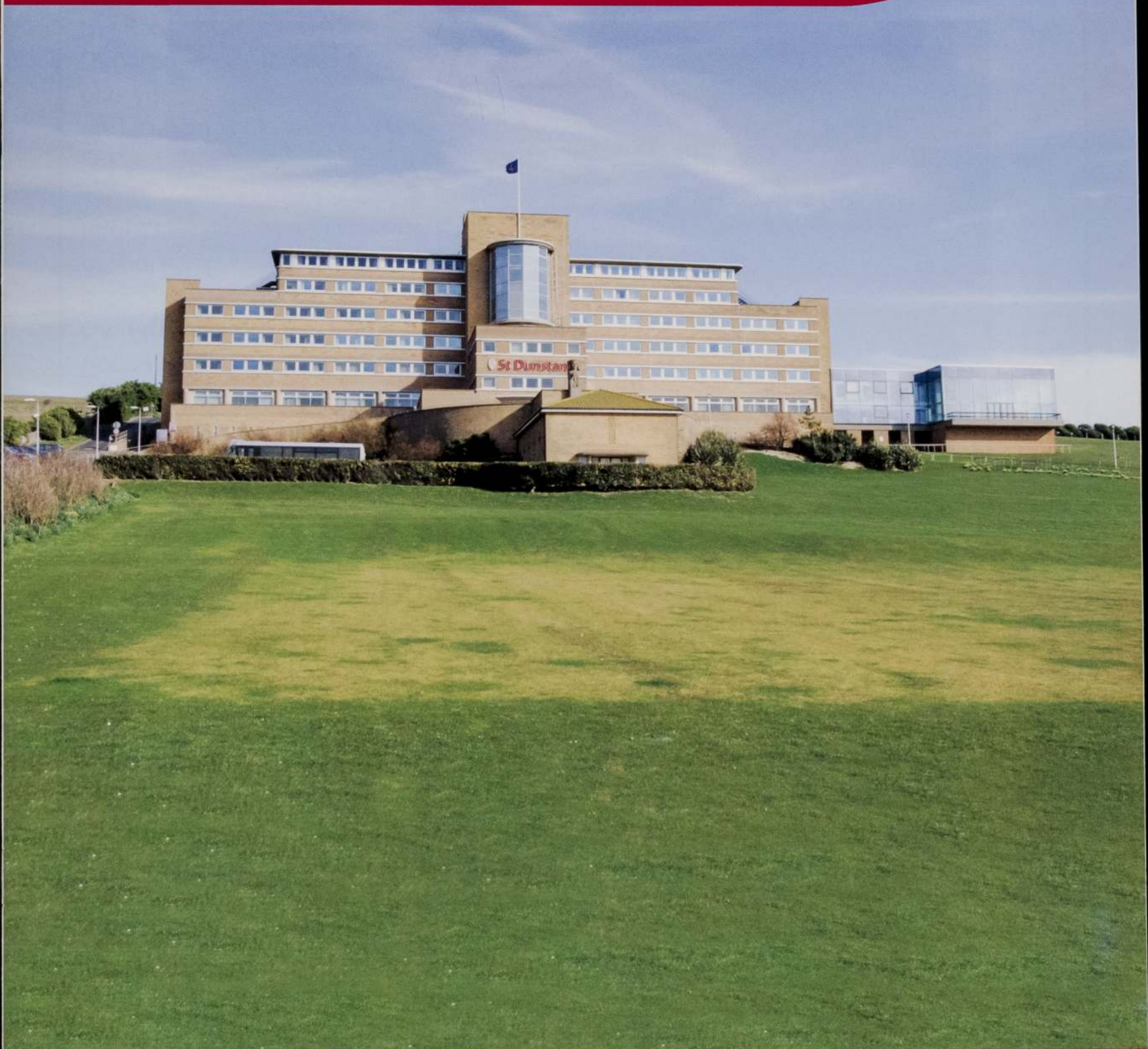


You've done us proud! Mayor of Medway Cllr Val Goulden and St Dunstan's Steve Pendleton say thank you to Sgt Bob Vincent and the cadets of Strood ACF.

Steve prepares for the presentation, reading through a braille list of the Strood cadets who excelled on behalf of St Dunstan's.



Visiting St Dunstan's Ovingdean



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

www.st-dunstans.org.uk

April 2008

Visiting St Dunstan's Ovingdean



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| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Manager | Dick Lake |
| Head of Care | Jackie Greer |
| Bookings Coordinator | Jackie Castle |
| R&T Coordinator | Claire Green |
| Transport | David Vinall |

Visiting St Dunstan's Ovingdean is also available in braille, on MP3CD, on audio cassette, floppy disk and via e-mail.

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Visiting St Dunstan's Ovingdean

USUALLY ST DUNSTANERS will make their first visit to St Dunstan's Ovingdean when undertaking their Introduction Week with the Rehabilitation and Training (R&T) Department. Your Welfare Officer will give you more details of that week. Once undertaken at St Dunstan's Ovingdean or St Dunstan's Sheffield, you are eligible to stay or visit St Dunstan's Ovingdean. You might stay for a holiday or some form of short term or respite care. There are basically two sorts of room allocation at Ovingdean. These relate to whether or not an individual requires the assistance of staff. As indicated below, it is vital to understand which basic category you are in. Your Welfare Officer can advise you.

Demand is now such that there are occasions when there is insufficient in-house accommodation to meet everybody's wishes. In these circumstances, we may have to limit the length of stays or apply a priority system. Priority will always be given to those with the greater care needs and to war-blinded St Dunstaners above those without care needs. As an alternative to not obtaining a place at all, those without overriding care needs may be offered sleeping accommodation in our small close-by, off-site premises.

We must point out that the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) registers us as a care home and we have to abide by their regulations. Anyone needing any supervision, support and/or care from us

must be assigned to a care room (bed). The interpretation of care is if you need assistance from us with:

- injections, dressings to ulcers, wounds, etc however small
- wheelchairs
- medications, oxygen, nebulisers, etc.
- personal care including washing, bathing, dressing, toileting etc
- eating or drinking

There are two categories of care allocation:

Nursing Care where Registered Nurses and Carers are able to help with all categories above. All those requiring assistance with injections and dressings etc, however small, and some cases where there is a significant mobility issue or significant assistance is required when toileting, must occupy a nursing care bed.

The second is Residential Care where Carers are able to help with most wheelchair users and with medications, oxygen, etc and personal care including washing, bathing, dressing, toileting, eating or drinking.

If you do not require this assistance from the staff or have brought your own carer with you (spouse etc) so that you are effectively an independent, self-caring, mobile St Dunstaner, Spouse or Widow(er), then you may occupy a non-care 'holiday' room.

How to book

HOW TO BOOK

Rehabilitation and Training Bookings, including the New St Dunstaners Introduction Week, start from a referral to R&T by your Welfare Officer and you will be called forward in due course by the Ovingdean R&T Coordinator, Claire Green (01273 391461) or Sheffield Coordinator, Rachel Underwood (0114 2672563). It is important that we know if you or a person accompanying you has a care need which requires our assistance as we must then accommodate you at Ovingdean and on a Nursing or Residential Care wing.

Residential and Nursing Bookings for respite or convalescence must be made through your Welfare Officer, as must all bookings for Christmas and New Year.

Holiday (No-Assistance-Required) Bookings should be made via our Bookings Coordinator, Jackie Castle on 01273 391422 unless for Christmas and New Year. Bookings can be made by e-mail (jackie.castle@st-dunstans.org.uk), telephone (01273 391422) or letter. In many ways, e-mail is preferable, if you have that facility.

For direct holiday (no staff assistance) bookings you must make a realistic assessment of your situation. Your Welfare Officer or the Ovingdean Care staff can advise you. If, on arrival or subsequently, we find that your health and mobility are not appropriate for the holiday category, there are three options:

- a) Transfer to Residential or Nursing bed (dependent on need/bed availability) and pay the appropriate rate.
- b) Return home, probably at your own expense.
- c) Transfer to the Accident & Emergency Unit (Sussex County Hospital) if your health is considered poor.

The decision of the Head of Care will be final in respect to which category of care or bed anybody staying at St Dunstan's Ovingdean should occupy.

ACCOMMODATION CHARGES

Charges for Nursing and Residential Care stays vary depending upon status and the paying agency. Stays exceeding 28 days will usually incur a higher rate. Stays by St Dunstaners for R&T are free. The weekly rates (at the time of printing) are:

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Nursing (Free Nursing Care paid in addition to the charity) | £371 |
| Residential | £266 |
| Holiday (including VAT) | £168 |
| R&T St Dunstaner Spouse or carer (or, for Intro Week only and if room-sharing) | Free of charge £168 £80 |
| Off-site premises (including VAT) | £133 |

Children aged between 3 and 14
50 per cent reduction
Children under the age of 3 Free of charge

A surcharge will be applied for certain occasions such as Christmas, reflecting the additional costs incurred by St Dunstan's.

CANCELLATION AND AMENDMENT CHARGES

In cases of non-emergency cancellation, a fee may be levied as detailed below. Cancellations including leaving early, unless for a valid reason, can spoil someone else's chance of a holiday or training. Amendments, likewise, cause additional work and potential disappointment. We have had to introduce a cancellation charge as follows:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 1 month's notice or more | no charge |
| 2 - 4 weeks' notice | £25 |
| Under 14 days' notice or leaving early | £50 |

Amendments made after a booking has been confirmed will incur a £5 fee. In addition, those leaving early will normally be expected to make their own travel arrangements and pay the whole stay charge. These charges will be waived in cases of exceptional circumstance or illness.

BOOKINGS - GENERAL INFORMATION

Bookings can be made six months in advance but will only be confirmed at about the 3-month stage. Even then, it is just

possible that a higher priority case may arise and we may have to postpone your visit.

All rooms in-house are en suite but special requests for particular rooms and/or equipment such as Appollo baths cannot always be met. There are separate Appollo baths, Closomat toilets, walk-in showers, Arjo baths, etc. available to all on the nursing floors, on request.

Couples, unless requiring different types of care, cannot be provided with separate rooms due to the pressure on accommodation.

Unless there are overriding reasons of care need, accommodation may be offered off-site at Port Hall or Beacon Hill rather than in-house.

DEPARTURE

Please settle your bills before you leave - cheque, credit and debit card facilities exist. Failure to do so may mean that it will not be possible to offer you accommodation in the future. The Cashier's office is open 09:00 -13:30 on weekdays.

In order that rooms can be properly prepared for subsequent occupants, you are requested to vacate your room by 10:00. Rooms may not be occupied on arrival until 12:00. If these times are not convenient to your travel arrangements then, please, avail yourselves of our other facilities while you wait. Luggage may be stored temporarily at Reception.

General information

LAUNDRY AND FACILITIES

All linen and towels are supplied. A small amount of personal washing will be done weekly, collected on Wednesday and returned on Saturday. Port Hall laundry will be collected Tuesday afternoon and returned on Friday afternoon.

All rooms contain kettles and tea and coffee-making facilities. Hair dryers are available on request. Apart from shavers, no private electrical equipment may be used without prior testing by the St Dunstan's Ovingdean Maintenance department.

EMERGENCY APPOINTMENTS

Only emergency appointments can be made with the visiting services below. The Head of Care will decide if the situation or illness requires these services. A charge will be made for appointments other than with the General Practitioner.

GP Physiotherapist Dentist
Chiropodist Ophthalmic Surgeon

GUIDE DOGS

We can accommodate guide dogs (but not pets) and provide suitable equipment – bed, spending area etc. Please ask us for the separate leaflet about having your guide dog with you.

SMOKING

Smoking is not permitted in any St Dunstan's building. Smoking may only take place outside in designated areas.

ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

The annual Ovingdean programme, including the dates of theme, activities and club weeks, is published in the December **St Dunstan's Review**.

If you are staying, we will always try to include you in any outings arranged for our permanent residents, subject to availability and, for trainees, subject to your R&T programme which takes precedence.

Please note that staff are not available to escort holiday visitors or trainees who are not staying in a nursing or residential bed on outings, etc. If sufficient notice is given, we may be able to acquire the services of a volunteer to assist holiday visitors.

Escorts may be supplied to assist Nursing and Residential Care visitors to attend some trips and outings. However, our priority is to ensure that all, but especially our permanent residents, are cared for and have an opportunity to participate in activities, therefore, the availability of escorts is limited. Details of the activities programme can be obtained in advance of your stay by contacting the Lounge Desk and booking on arrival.

WHEELCHAIRS AND SCOOTERS

If you (or the person accompanying you) use a wheelchair then, please, bring it with you for your stay. It must be fully serviceable. If we are collecting you, you must tell us in advance that you have a wheelchair or scooter and ensure that the driver knows. Failure to do so may mean that we cannot transport you and/or your appliance to Ovingdean. Soon after arrival, the staff will assess your ability to self propel and that of anyone propelling you. The safety of other people in the house is our paramount concern. The assessment will be repeated at every visit.

MEALS

Meal times are:

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| Breakfast: | 08:15-09:30 |
| Coffee: | 10:00 |
| Lunch: | 12:30-13:30 |
| Tea: | 16:00 |
| Supper: | 17:30-18:30 |
| Hot drinks | 20:00 |

Once in-house, meals are ordered from the menu the day before. Unless ordered by 18:00 on the day before arrival by contacting the Lounge desk (01273 391659), the main choice of the day will be provided.

SEATING

The type of booking that you make when you come to Ovingdean (Holiday, Training or Respite Care) and thus the amount

of support that we give you, will dictate where you will be invited to sit for your meals. This is the usual state of affairs during stays at Ovingdean:

The far end of the room on the tables served by PBK (our caterers): those who do not require our support e.g. holiday makers, permanent residents with visitors, trainees or respite care visitors with spouses or carers.

Rectangular tables served by the Residential Care Staff, for example, permanent residents (unless with visitors), unaccompanied Introduction Week, and trainees and respite care visitors.

The rectangular tables adjacent to the entrance of the Dining Room are normally reserved for wheelchair users regardless of the category of stay that they are in and whether or not they are accompanied.

We have a computerised booking system which will enable the dining room staff to plan and book seating in advance of your arrival using the principles outlined above. Where individuals state a preference, such as unaccompanied visitors or groups of St Dunstaners wishing to sit together or join others already there, we will try and facilitate this unless space dictates otherwise if we are requested in advance of coming into Ovingdean.

On getting to the dining room, it may appear that another table than the one

Facilities and transport

allocated to you is free and preferable but its place may already be designated for another diner so, please, check with dining room supervisory staff before you take it. They will do their best to try and sit you where you would like to be seated for the duration of your stay but only if space permits.

SWIMMING POOL AND GYMNASIUM

The pool and gym are available Monday-Saturday. Before you arrive for your stay at St Dunstan's Ovingdean you will be required to obtain authorisation from your GP stating that you are fit to exercise if you propose using the gym.

We have made the form very simple so that in most cases a GP does not need to examine you. You can self-authorise if you only wish to swim. Once completed the form is valid for one year.

If you really don't want to use our specially configured facilities, please ignore the letter that we will send you, but many visitors are surprised how keen they become to do so once they understand what is on offer.

MEDICATION

For holiday or R & T stays, please remember to bring adequate medication for the whole period of your stay if you are taking any medication. If a holiday visitor runs out

of medication then the pharmacy which serves Ovingdean can, in exceptional circumstances, arrange for an emergency supply but may charge the visitor for each item issued.

For Nursing and Residential stays, please bring with you sufficient medication (in correctly labelled bottles, not medication wheels) to tide you over for the duration of your visit. If your medication is due to run out during your stay, you will need to bring a fresh prescription (not a repeat order form) obtained from your GP, in order to obtain more tablets for the remainder of the stay. This prescription is to be filled by the pharmacy serving Ovingdean only, not by your own pharmacist at home. It is very important to note that we can only use medication brought into Ovingdean if the medication is very clearly labelled with the name of the patient, the name of the drug, the dose, and frequency of administration. Medication cannot be used if it has been put into a different box or the label adjusted in any way.

TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL POLICY

A fundamental principle of St Dunstan's is to encourage independence. Thus, although travel to and from Ovingdean will usually be subsidised, St Dunstan's vehicles will normally only be provided for those unable to use public or their own transport unless it is more cost effective or practical to provide a St Dunstan's vehicle.

However, we will always offer transport to those coming to Ovingdean for their Introduction Week. Those using their own cars or public transport will be reimbursed at least to what it would have cost us to transport you. Please see the cashier at Ovingdean to claim mileage allowance or take your rail tickets or a receipt.

You should make use of a disabled rail card to cover you and the person travelling with you. Ticketing advice can be sought from the Ovingdean Transport department (01273 391704) before travelling.

In practice, it will often be more cost effective to provide Ovingdean transport but only if people share the journey and so we fill the vehicle on the outward and inward trip. Sometimes we may have to adjust your booking to achieve this but there will be no charge for the extra days.

Smoking is not allowed in any vehicle.

The Transport department will decide on the route taken, the type of vehicle used, and the date and time of pick-up and return and will contact you to give you details of the pick-up some two days before coming to Ovingdean. If you are being picked up the next day and still have not heard from your driver (usually one of our own though, just occasionally, from our contracted taxi firms), phone Ovingdean Reception on 01273 391400 or 307811 (the line is always manned) and check on the arrangements. Similarly, if you have to cancel your visit at very short

notice for illness, etc then phone Ovingdean Reception and speak to the Receptionist. Please, never leave messages on ansaphones especially out of hours or at weekends.

Every effort will be made to make the journey as comfortable as possible. The driver will make "convenience" and light refreshment stops as required and help with mobility to and from the restaurant or toilets. However, the driver will not be able to provide "nursing" or other intimate care. Anyone taking regular medication should carry sufficient supplies for the journey. The Transport department will liaise with the Head of Care when general transport is deemed unsuitable for those with a medical condition or requiring care support.

On the return journey, we will stop if requested to allow you a quick shop for essentials (bread, milk) and can provide a packed lunch. Those who are unwilling to fit in with this practical proposition will be asked to make their own arrangements (with travel costs reimbursed at the standard rate, if appropriate).

Welfare Officers will be consulted in cases of doubt and travel assistance will be provided where a need is clearly evidenced. If arrangements are altered by the user for reasons other than ill health or bereavement and St Dunstan's cannot supply transport on the revised dates, the individuals will be responsible for their own travel arrangements at their own expense.

Short stay visitors

Although in most cases you won't be charged for the transport, it is appropriate that there are some limitations. Thus, the stay at Ovingdean must be for a minimum of two consecutive nights and for a St Dunstan's approved purpose - using Ovingdean as an overnight hotel en route to or from Gatwick for ones holiday in the sun would not be in the spirit of the free transport provision!

On occasions those staying at or staging through Ovingdean want travel outside of the schedule for some private purpose. This will not come within the principle of free transport normally, but Ovingdean vehicles may be used if:

- The journey is recommended by the Welfare Officer
- The individual is charged the appropriate costs (usually the St Dunstan's public transport rate or the St Dunstan's taxi account charge).
- Transport is available.

St Dunstaners may not book taxis on St Dunstan's account. This may only be done by a limited number of key staff. Provision at St Dunstan's expense will not be provided for those who have failed to utilise scheduled transport.

Notwithstanding these guidelines, individual needs will be considered based on your Welfare Officer's recommendation.

This recommendation could mean costs being supported by a welfare grant. Such occasions might involve a spouse visiting a St Dunstaner in hospital, or vice versa. Thus, please, don't feel inhibited about discussing your needs with your Welfare Officer so we can continue to provide a personal and appropriate service.

A SUMMARY FOR SHORT STAY VISITORS

Holidays at Ovingdean are for independent, self-caring, mobile St Dunstaners, Spouses and Widows or Widowers or those accompanied by somebody who will provide all the necessary assistance. However, breaks can also be taken in the Nursing and Residential wings, if necessary, on a respite care basis, which must be arranged through your Welfare Officer. Whatever the type of stay, you can participate in the activities programme including theme weeks subject to availability.

Think as if you are going to a standard hotel in the community. Would you be able to look after yourself?

The advantages of coming to Ovingdean are:

- You are safe and secure in an environment and building that you will easily get to know well and it is specifically designed for blind and visually impaired people.

- Can mix with friends and colleagues.
- Join in the entertainment.
- Join the outings with the permanently resident St Dunstaners when space and any other programmes (e.g. Introduction Week or training) permit. If sufficient notice is given, we may be able to acquire the services of a volunteer to act as an escort as staff are not available to escort holiday visitors or trainees who are not staying in a nursing/residential care bed.
- Use the gym, swimming pool and, by prior arrangement and for St Dunstaners only, the craft workshop. A GP's certificate is required for those using the gym; the necessary form will be sent to you on booking.
- Drink at the in-house bar.
- Benefit from the heavily subsidised accommodation charges.
- Have travel to and from Ovingdean by St Dunstan's vehicle or with a reasonable mileage or train fare reimbursement.

If you genuinely require assistance by the St Dunstan's Ovingdean care staff, it is better to have respite residential or nursing care, so do let us know.

DAILY VISITORS

Although Ovingdean is not a day centre, its facilities may be available for limited use by local St Dunstaners who have completed their Introduction Week. Day visitors must be self-sufficient (i.e. requiring no/very little support from staff and so can navigate around the building unaided, need no assistance for feeding, toileting etc) or those whose use of the building is facilitated by a spouse or primary carer (i.e. a beneficiary but not a support worker/friend). Apart from some out-of-house activities, there is currently no charge for local St Dunstaners using the following facilities subject to individual agreement and review:

- Sports and Recreation (subject to induction and medical clearance)
- Sports and Social Clubs
- Craft Workshop (subject to limited availability)
- In-house Activities Programme Events
- Out-of-house Activities Programme Events
- General recreation, including use of the bar and dining room
- Other specific activities as agreed with the Ovingdean management

Self-sufficiency includes the user's ability to make his or her own way to and from Ovingdean without the use of St Dunstan's transport. Where the user is otherwise self-sufficient but would be unable to attend without the provision of transport, limited

Admissions and Review process

transport will be provided on the basis of demonstrable and agreed need. The radius of transport provision is ten miles. Subject to the admissions process, self-sufficient St Dunstaners living beyond that range may use Ovingdean's facilities if they can make their own way.

OUTSIDE TRIPS

Local St Dunstaners may join in the Ovingdean programme for which there is no transport charge, on the following basis:

- Places are only available after the needs of those in-house have been met.
- Charges are levied for certain trips including entrance fees and food provided as an integral part of the outing.

- Normally local beneficiaries will provide their own meals and refreshments.

ADMISSIONS AND REVIEW PROCESS

Apart from those wishing to go on outside trips, all users of Ovingdean on a daily basis must apply through their Welfare Officer. Use will be approved by a Dailies Admission Panel and reviewed regularly. The Ovingdean Social Worker will be the day-to-day point of contact for dailies.

FINALLY

We hope this information assists you to understand what will help us to provide you with an excellent, safe and happy visit. We look forward to seeing you.

