

July 2008

St Dunstan's Review



Sandhurst shoot-out!

St Dunstaner Marjorie Scott is flanked by competitors from the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy during St Dunstan's Annual Tri-Service Archery contest which was hosted by the Army at RMA Sandhurst.



St Dunstan's

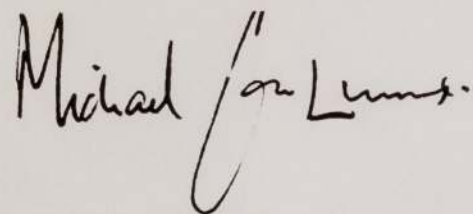
An independent future for blind
ex-Service men and women

Your message from St Dunstan's Chairman,
Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

From the Chairman

AS YOU READ these notes, we shall be half way through the year, and although it is supposed to be summer there a few signs of hot weather, and certainly no question of a drought! My thoughts go out to those who have been flooded and suffered difficult travelling conditions.

I am presiding at the Llandudno reunion on 9 July, and hope I shall not need a boat with which to get there. I am looking forward to visiting the site of our third centre and getting a feel for the town itself and the local people. I am sure we are going to benefit from being there and that all those who will eventually attend Llandudno will find it an exciting and rewarding experience.



St Dunstan's Review July 2008

No 981

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St Dunstan's Calendar

JULY

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

AUGUST

Writers Forum	2
Race Week	3-9
London Triathlon	9-10
Rock and Roll Charity	9-10
VJ Day	15
Golf	16-17
Archery Week (III)	23-31
Activities Week	31-6 September

SEPTEMBER

Activities Week	Until the 6
Writers Forum	2
Op Banner Commemoration	10
RMA Lymstone	13-14
Golf	13-14
Physio Weekend	26-29

OCTOBER

Writers Forum	4
Widows' Week	5-11
Commando Challenge	11-12
Golf	11-12
Computer Club	15-16
World Sight Day	16
Amateur Radio	17-24
Bowling Club (II)	26-7 Nov
Great South Run	26

NOVEMBER

Writers Forum	1
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Forthcoming events and activities

Noticeboard

UNEXPECTED SURCHARGE ON ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF ROYAL MAIL SAY THERE IS INSUFFICIENT POSTAGE ON YOUR COPY OF THE REVIEW: Recently a few St Dunstaners have received their copy of the **Review**, posted under the Articles for the Blind scheme, with a claim for insufficient postage. Please contact Simon Rogers at St Dunstan's Headquarters on 020 7723 5021 if you experience this. Ideally, we will require the postcard (or a photocopy) that Royal Mail deliver, but the envelope with surcharge stamp will also be useful.

SAIL AWAY WITH MANDI

SAILABILITY MEETS REGULARLY AT SHOREHAM: Does anyone fancy going sailing for the day? There are opportunities to get out in a boat on a regular basis? We have a local club called Sailability at Shoreham Yacht Club who regularly go out. If you are interested in taking part, please call Mandi Fermer in the Sports and Recreation department at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 391465.

NEW APPROACH IS DERBY WINNER

REVIEW DERBY SWEEPSTAKE RESULTS: When New Approach raced in to the lead at the Epsom Derby on 7 June it was also good news for St Dunstaner Peter Murray of Rustington, West Sussex. He had drawn the winning horse in the **Review's** Derby Sweepstake and as a consequence won the £214.70 first prize.

Second prize, £85.88, was won by St Dunstaner Jim Knowles of Darfield, Barnsley, South Yorkshire who drew Tartan Bearer, and third prize, £42.94, was claimed by St Dunstaner Ray Peart of Abbeydale, Gloucestershire, who drew Casual Conquest.

There were 13 other horses running on the day, so the Starters' Prize of £85.88 was shared amongst Arthur Beard of Hartlepool, Edith Worrall of Clent, Eva Coston of Elm, Margaret Grant of Aberdeen, Arthur Blackwood of Midhurst, Bill Kennedy of Peterborough, John Harris of Reading, Bob Beswick of Southgate, Eric Church of Ovingdean, Ron Jones of Nuneaton, Maria Pikulski of Leyland, Michael White of Nottingham, and Richard Workman of Tewkesbury.

St Dunstan's Review is also available in braille, on MP3CD or as a word document via e-mail or on floppy disc. Your readers this month are David Castleton and Valerie Tomalin.



OPERATION BANNER SERVICE AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

COMMEMORATION SERVICE FOR UK FORCES WHO SERVED IN NORTHERN IRELAND: The Ministry of Defence is holding an official service to honour members of the UK Forces and civil servants who lost their lives or were injured in Northern Ireland. It will also pay tribute to over 300,000 personnel who served in the Province on Operation Banner, the official title for military operations in Northern Ireland, between 1969 and 2007. There are 2,000 tickets available for people to attend the event, which is being held on Wednesday 10 September 2008 at St Paul's Cathedral, London.

The service will be an opportunity to give thanks to the many servicemen, women and civil servants who served in Northern Ireland and to remember those who gave their lives helping to bring stability to the Province over 38 years.

"The Armed Forces made an enormous contribution towards the peace and stability that now exists in Northern Ireland," said Veterans Minister Derek Twigg. "Operation Banner lasted for 38 years, with several generations of servicemen and women taking part in often extremely challenging circumstances. We should never forget the loss of so many Service personnel and the thousands who were wounded over that period. The service at St Paul's will be an opportunity for us all to pay tribute and say thank you for their considerable efforts."

Andrew Bennett, now Chairman of the Northern Ireland Veterans Association, was a member of the Royal Corps of Signals. He served in Northern Ireland between 1986 and 1990 as an Electronic Counter Measures Operator with a Bomb Disposal Team, and with a Brigade Signal Squadron. He said: "Operation Banner is the longest campaign in British military history, and those who served, and in some cases lost their lives over the years, deserve this national recognition. As a Northern Ireland veteran I am proud to have the opportunity to attend this service alongside former colleagues and families."

Tickets are available for the Commemorative Service for Armed Forces veterans of Operation Banner, including MOD civilians, and the families and friends of those who lost their lives. An application form can be downloaded from www.veterans-uk.info or obtained by calling the Veterans-UK free helpline on 0800 169 2277 which will send the form out on request. Tickets will be issued to successful applicants by 27 August 2008. Each applicant will receive a ticket and one for their guest as required.

The application form can be returned by post or fax to Operation Banner, Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, Room 6108, Norcross, Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire FY5 3WP. Fax: 01253 330561.

Could any St Dunstaner who makes a successful application to attend the service contact St Dunstaner Services Manager Ray Hazan at Headquarters on 020 7723 5021.

PRIORITY NHS HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL VETERANS

SCHEME EXTENDED TO ALL VETERANS WITH A HEALTH PROBLEM CAUSED BY MILITARY SERVICE: Under long-standing arrangements, war pensioners have been given priority NHS treatment for the conditions for which they receive a war pension, subject to clinical need. This provision has now been extended to all veterans where a person has a health problem as result of their military service. They no longer need first to have applied and become entitled to a war pension.

When referring a patient who they know to be a veteran for secondary (more specialist) care, GPs have now been asked to consider if, in their clinical opinion, the condition may be related to the patient's military service. Where this is the case, and with the patient's agreement, it should be made clear in the referral.

Where secondary care clinicians agree that a veteran's condition is likely to be Service-related, they have been asked to prioritise veterans over other patients with the same level of clinical need. Veterans will not be given priority over other patients with more urgent clinical needs. It is for the clinician in charge to determine whether a condition is related to Service and to allocate priority.

Except in exceptional circumstances, the extension does not apply to anyone who

had already been referred to treatment or who was already undergoing treatment before the new arrangements came into effect. To prioritise them could affect other people who have already received dates for appointments.

It is important to note that a veteran who has a disorder recognised as qualifying for priority treatment, does not then automatically fulfil the criteria for an award of a war pension or Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payment. Veterans given priority treatment are encouraged to contact the Veterans-UK helpline on 0800 169 2277 to discuss eligibility under the schemes.

Veterans who are not war pensioners do not have the same access to free prescriptions that war pensioners receive.

Veterans are able to use the NHS complaints system in the same way as war pensioners, to resolve any breakdowns in the arrangements for priority treatment.

GRAND MILITARY TATTOO

FORT NELSON EXTRAVAGANZA: Marching bands, parachutists, flypasts, fireworks and more will add a little pomp and circumstance to the Royal Armouries at Fort Nelson in Fareham, Hampshire on 6 September. Tickets for both matinee (13:00) and evening shows (18:00) can be purchased on the gate or in advance from the ticket hotline on 01329 848500.

COBSEO MEMBERSHIP OPEN TO SERVICE ASSOCIATIONS

WORKING FOR THE SERVICES AND THE VETERANS COMMUNITY: The Confederation of British Service and Ex-Service Organisations, (COBSEO) was established to represent, promote and further the interests of Service and ex-Service men and women of all ranks, and of their spouses and dependants by all practical, legal and proper means.

This is achieved by exchanging information, sponsoring research, identifying issues of common concern and representing the views of the Service and Ex-Service community to the Government and the Ministry of Defence. COBSEO is represented on the MODs Veterans Forum and the annual Veterans Conference that replaced the Veterans Plenary.

COBSEO currently has 62 charitable and Service welfare organisations, (including St Dunstan's; Chief Executive Robert Leader, DL is Vice Chairman of COBSEO) and 65 regimental associations as members.

Membership is open to all those organisations with similar interests to those of COBSEO. Contact Mike Bray, The Secretary, COBSEO, MAP, The Baird Medical Centre, Gassiot House, St Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH. Tel: 020 7202 8322. E-mail: sec.cobseo@btconnect.com. Website: www.cobseo.org.uk.

VETERANS LAPEL BADGE

AVAILABLE FOR VETERANS FROM WWI TO THE PRESENT DAY: The UK Armed Forces Veterans Lapel Badge is now available to all veterans who served in HM Armed Forces. The badge is an enamelled, engraved, and pinned, lapel badge featuring the words "HM Armed Forces – Veteran", which encompass the Tri-Service, Anchor, Crossed Swords and Eagle motif. Its symbolism is intended to unite all veterans in recognising the commonality of their service, to encourage a sense of unity and community between surviving veterans and to ignite public recognition of current veterans and their continuing contribution to society.

St Dunstaners who have not already obtained a Veterans Lapel Badge can apply through Barbara Sweeney at St Dunstan's Headquarters on 020 7616 7922.

PAINTING OF THE MONTH

FIRST SATURDAY AT TATE BRITAIN: The Tate Britain on London's Millbank offers audio descriptions for their Painting of the Month. These take place on the first Saturday of every month at 2pm. Half-hour sessions are followed by a 15 minute general talk about the painting. The session is free - just turn up on the day. The Saturday 5 July (14:00-14:30) session will be in Room 22, discussing Victor Pasmore's painting *The Quiet River: The Thames at Chiswick*. The Audio Describer is Gillian Cutbill. Audio described tours of the displays can also be booked at Tate Britain for individuals or groups. Call 020 7887 8888 to book.

DONATED ITEMS IN MEMORY OF A ST DUNSTANER

CONTACT ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT: St Dunstan's regularly receive requests to place objects on display as an act of dedication in memory of an individual. Due to restrictions on space we can only receive an item if it is connected to St Dunstan's or a St Dunstaner.

As you can imagine, the quality and value of the dedicated items varies enormously and it has been the policy for some time to avoid offence by declining all such offers unless there is some extremely overriding reason to the contrary. However it is always worth discussing a particular piece of memorabilia with Roberta Hazan, St Dunstan's Collections & Archives Manager who is based at Headquarters. She will be able to advise on the item to see if it is suitable for St Dunstan's collections and archives.

If the item is not deemed suitable for the collections and archives perhaps you may wish to consider selling the item at an auction or privately and the proceeds then donated to St Dunstan's in memory of the St Dunstaner. Ovingdean and Sheffield do occasionally require items such as new garden benches and a plaque contributed by the family can be added. Another alternative is to place a small plaque, provided by the family, on the Inner Garden raised flower beds.

Dick Lake,
Ovingdean Manager

ROYAL MARINES BAND CONCERT



The Band play the National Anthem last year!

WEDNESDAY 16 JULY: It is approaching that time again when we will soon have the pleasure of the company of the Band of the Royal Marines (Portsmouth).

As you are aware, it is a very popular event and we only have a limited number of seats available for local St Dunstaners and spouses only (i.e. no additional guests). If you wish to apply for a ticket, please, contact Linda Starr on 01273 391412.

For those who have a real need, there will be limited bus service for St Dunstaners living in the immediate vicinity of St Dunstan's Ovingdean. If you are local and you are able to make your own way in this would help alleviate pressure on the Transport department.

Lunch bookings will not be accepted on the day except for those already in house.

Order of Events

- 13:30 Pimms served in Inner Garden
- 14:00–15:15 Band of Royal Marines Concert
- 15:20 Tea, Scones & Cream
- 16:00 Guests depart

Balancing the Books

Ted Bunting finds himself an unwitting participant in this book

Time for Bed

Author: David Baddiel

Reader: Chris Pavlo

Catalogue No:11090

Duration: 11 hours, 15 minutes

Believe me I am no prude, I am not easily shocked and I am not shocked now but this book has left me with a mixture of unpleasant emotions in which shock is not completely absent. My principle reaction, however, is embarrassment; embarrassment and disgust. It is the embarrassment of one who has stumbled upon something obscene or shameful and feels that somehow, because of being a witness one has also become a participant. Is this sort of crudity supposed to be clever? Sophisticated? One thing is absolutely certain, if it is supposed to be funny it is not a humour I either recognise or would wish to be associated with. We once went to hear a so-called comedian at our local Conservative club. His act was extremely poor, his material filthy without a single saving grace, so we decided to leave. I wish I could have walked out on this awful book too.

Ten questions on...

The subject of Hobbies

Harry Beevers has some questions on your favourite pastimes ...

- 1) What is the hobby of a twitcher?
- 2) Which form of needlework gets its name from the French word for "Hook"?
- 3) What are collected by a person described as an arctophile?
- 4) What was the hobby of Norman Bates in the Hitchcock film *Psycho*?
- 5) According to a Yellow Pages TV commercial, J.R. Hartley was originally interested in which activity?
- 6) ...And which interest did J.R. Hartley then take up?
- 7) Which hobby is Sherlock Holmes said to have taken up on his retirement?
- 8) In what would you be interested if you were dealing with "Puss in the Corner", "Beggars' Blocks", "Road to Oklahoma", "Bear's Paw", "Goose Tracks" and "Jacob's Ladder"??
- 9) In dressmaking Featherweight, Skirtweight and Open-ended are all types of what?
- 10) Which hobby has been described as "The Hobby of Kings" and the "King of Hobbies" and gets its name from two Greek words meaning "Love of that which is tax-free"?

Answers can be found on page 27.

The years fly past for Henry, 112

Many happy returns for the oldest man in Europe!

EVERYONE WANTS to know his secret, but St Dunstaner Henry Allingham isn't letting on as he celebrated his 112th birthday on 6 June. His usual reply that it's "wild women, whisky and cigarettes" has become a chant from those around him, almost as common as the inevitable peal of "Happy Birthday!"

He was born in 1896, the same year as the first modern Olympic Games, when the national speed limit was 2mph and the first X-ray was taken. Such is the interest in Henry that the Daily Telegraph deemed him to have taken on the aspect of a "living exhibit."

He is the oldest surviving First World War Veteran and became a founder member of the Royal Air Force after the Royal Naval Air Service was merged with the Royal



Photograph: Anna Gowthorpe, PA Photos

Henry received a birthday cake at RAF Cranwell bridging the advance from biplane to jet plane.

Flying Corps. On his birthday, he was treated to a personal flypast by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire. The RAF Falcons had also planned a formation parachute jump in his honour, but this was cancelled due to weather conditions. Instead they jumped from a Chinook helicopter to deliver a birthday card. Henry was joined by eight

of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren who flew in from the USA. Senior members of the armed forces were also present for a celebratory lunch including Air Vice Marshal Peter Dye and Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns (Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command). Later, 40 pupils from Cranwell Primary School presented him with a birthday cake.

Happy day for oldest couple in UK

A CHORLEY COUPLE are heading into the record books after celebrating 79 years of marriage on 25 May. St Dunstaner Fred Simpson, also of Chorley, congratulated his in-laws Jim and Margaret Entwisle who may well be the oldest married couple in Britain. Father-in-law Jim celebrated his 102nd birthday on 4 June, while mother-in-law Margaret was 100 earlier in the year.

It's thought the couple, who still live in their own house, will officially earn a place in the Guinness Book of Records if they clock

up 80 years of marriage. Their anniversary fell within National Marriage Week.

Jim and Margaret tied the knot at St Gregory's Church, Chorley on 25 May 1929 after a four-year courtship. "I first saw Margaret when I was friends with her brother," Jim said. "I asked him who the girl in the corner was and he said 'that's our Maggie - she's a good 'un' and he was right! We were married on the Saturday and back to work on the Monday - there was no time for honeymoons in those days."

Remembering the wedding

day, Margaret added: "I told my mother not to spend her money on a wedding dress as Jim had bought me a smart dress for a Territorial ball. It was pale green with a petal trim but I didn't really like it as it was short and showed too much leg."

During the Second World War, Jim served with the Royal Navy and was based at the South East Asia Command on HMS *Battler*. The pair also have three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. St Dunstaner Fred was married to their daughter Pauline who passed away in 1985.

Wrong kind of snow slows Kevin

A BLIND skier's attempt to set a world record by exceeding 100 kmh on an indoor slope was thwarted this week by the wrong type of snow. A lack of moisture in the snow dome at Landgraaf, Holland, meant more friction on Kevin Alderton's skis, slowing him down and preventing any chance of breaking his

old record. The 36-year-old St Dunstaner from Dartford, Kent was left frustrated with the situation, but is already planning another attempt later on this year.

"I was really happy with my line and position but couldn't work out why we weren't getting the speed," he said. "After the event we

sat down with the organisers and discovered the snow in the dome was left over from the winter season. Over time as the snow gets used it makes it quite abrasive.

"It's a little bit disappointing but I have still got the record and we have been invited back in September, when we will have fresh snow."

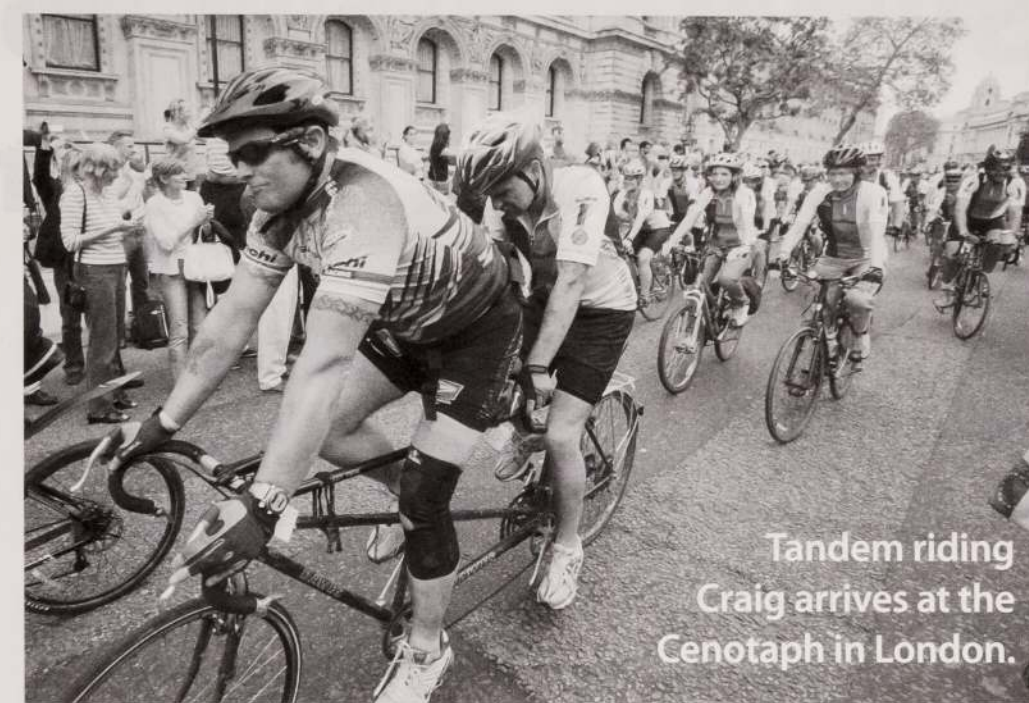
Craig cycles out to help heroes!

ST DUNSTANER Lance Corporal Craig Lundberg took part in a cross-Channel cycle ride to raise money for facilities at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre Headley Court in Epsom, Surrey in May. He was one of around 3,000 riders on the Halfords Help for Heroes Bike Ride which started in Portsmouth by HMS *Victory* on a rain-soaked 26 May.

Craig rode on a tandem through the event which took riders to significant battle sites from the First and Second World Wars. One such stop was at Pegasus Bridge, where a wreath laying ceremony was held.

Back in the UK on 31 May, he managed to enliven proceedings while conducting an auction which raised £15,000, selling items such as the shorts worn on the ride by Sun model Peta Todd.

The final leg of the ride brought cyclists up into London where they were congratulated by the Chief of the General Staff, Sir Richard Dannatt.



Tandem riding
Craig arrives at the
Genotaph in London.

Photographs: Peter Jordan, The Sun

The Sun's Peta Todd with Craig Lundberg at the memorial to Major John Howard located at Pegasus Bridge.



Father Paul's grand run!

FATHER Paul Ormrod, Vicar of Formby St Peter's missed his usual Sunday service to raise £1,000 to support blind ex-Service men and women. He ran the Blackpool Marathon on 27 April in four hours, eight minutes and 34 seconds, which in his own words was "not bad."

Father Ormrod was inspired after meeting St Dunstaner

Gordon Macdonald, who occasionally visits St Peter's. Gordon served as a gunner in the Royal Navy during World War II, when he protected merchant ships from German U-boats. Today his sight and mobility are both limited. St Dunstan's have improved the quality of Gordon's life, providing magnification equipment, and a rise and recline chair.

Patrick Sidnell reports on St Dunstan's Archery Club in May

Summer draws bowmen to outdoor archery matches

ST DUNSTAN'S ARCHERY Club's first outdoor week of 2008 took place during 24 May to 1 June. We were pleased to welcome two new club members, Carol Sharpe and Les Dobson.

The week started on the Saturday with setting up equipment and practise. On Sunday, an open invitation competition took place in great sunshine. This included

a shooting match between Belgium's Straff Boog and St Dunstan's team. It was won by the Belgian team but Keith Lanchester-Harding broke the Burntwood/York Open Sight compound club record with a score of 1085. Well done Keith!

Totally blind

St Dunstan's v Straff Boog
Peter Hammond 696
Clive Jones 327

Norman Perry 182
Total 1205
Straff Boog total 1623

We were also pleased to welcome two BBS archers Les Colf, and his wife, and Carl Harrison. The Open Invitation competition was a great success; we look forward to next year's match. And hope more BBS members attend the Open Invitation competition.

Monday, the weather was so bad we were forced into the McKinley Sports Hall for a shooting match against Hellingly Archery Club who emerged as the winners.

St Dunstan's
David Poyner 1430
Leslie George 1424
Keith Lanchester-Harding 1413
Clive Jones 1391
Team total 5658
Hellingly total 5721

Tuesday, the weather improved and we were able to return to the archery field for the club's RUC Pairs match. Keith Lanchester-Harding, who scored 575, Leslie

George, scoring 147, won. In second place were David Poyner and Marjorie Scott with a total of 596, while Patrick Sidnell and Clive Jones scored third with 513.

Wednesday was a rest day which was good as it was really windy and wet.

On Thursday, the archery team travelled to RMA Sandhurst for the annual Tri-Service competition. The weather was again fine and warm. St Dunstan's team came fourth with the Army team winning. Keith shot well once again and won the Best Archer medal, and also broke another club record. Marjorie Scott won the Bronze in the recurve section. Patrick also managed to win the worst white on the final end (or as he sees it the best white).

1st Army
2nd RAF
3rd Navy
4th St Dunstan's

Friday, it was back to the club shoot with a Bristol IV. Keith Lanchester-Harding came first with 1523; Peter Hammond with 1449 was second and Pat Sidnell third with a score of 1445.

1st Totally Blind Peter Hammond 968
1st B2 David Poyner 949



Pat lets his arrow go during the Tri-Service Tournament.

1st Bow sight
Keith Lanchester-Harding 1217

Friday evening, the club presentation was held in the Blue Room with Christine Price as Lady Paramount.

Saturday, we were pleased to welcome Ditchling Archery Club for a match.

St Dunstan's Team
Keith Lanchester-Harding 1489
Ron Jones 1445
David Poyner 1383
Norman Perry 1379
Total 5696

Ditchling team were the winners with a total of 5848. Well done to Ditchling Archery Club.

Sunday, we welcomed two teams from Southampton University Archery Club and Taverham and Thorpe Hamlet Junior Archery Club.

The winners were Taverham and Thorpe Hamlet Junior Archery Club, no mean feat as they had travelled down from Norwich that morning. Southampton University Archery Club came second and St Dunstan's third.

Keith Lanchester-Harding broke three club records during the week and David Poyner broke one, well done to both.

The whole week went well due to the efforts of the our Coaches, spotter's, scorer, equipment officer, range captain and all those who gave up their free time to make the week, once again, a great! Without the hard work and time given by them the shoots would not be able to take place.



Shooting well! Keith Lanchester-Harding lets his arrow fly.

Laura Mitchell reports on St Dunstan's Speakers in Dunkirk

Beaches of Remembrance

ST DUNSTANERS from the Service Awareness Speaker Team, St Dunstan's staff and invited guests discovered the history of Dunkirk and the Fall of France on 13-14 May. The tour run by The Service Awareness team and Anglia Battlefield Tours was conducted by Colonel Peter Hewlett-Smith OBE, the current Chairman of The Guild of Battlefield Tour Guides. He was accompanied by his colleague Emrys Jones, also a long-standing and highly respected guide.



St Dunstaner Bob Crossan is guided on the beaches of Dunkirk by Lisa Coyle from the Welfare department.

En route to the first stop, it was hard to imagine the peaceful, flat farmland, being the scene of such terrible violence and suffering only 68 years previously.

Our first stop was Mont Cassel, a small town near to Dunkirk. The sun was blazing as we debussed and made our way to the war memorial at the summit. The clear blue skies made for panoramic views of the battlefields below as Peter and Emrys

recounted the heroic defence and evacuation of the town of Cassel. After a relaxing lunch in the nearby park and a rousing rendition by our piper, Duncan Urquhart, we set off once again.

Next, came the Peckel Bunker, now in the centre of a crop field. We could not go inside the bunker for fear of incurring the wrath of the local farmer! Emrys told us of the defence of the bunker by a platoon of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light

Infantry and the grit and determination of the men who bravely fought to the last.

From there, we travelled to Wormhout to hear the story of the defence of the town by the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Outnumbered and ill-equipped, they never let their spirits wane. The guides told us of ordinary men who went to extraordinary lengths to serve their country and fight for what they believed in.

The most moving and memorable part of the day and indeed, the tour for many was visiting the site of the Massacre at Esquelbeq. Vivid description, personal accounts and the in-depth knowledge of both guides helped conjure up images of the great acts of heroism and atrocities which took place on that fateful day.

Before we heard about the events at Esquelbeq, the new St Dunstan's Standard was blessed by Colonel Hewlett-Smith, also an ordained vicar. With the barn in the background, Nigel Whitely dressed in full regalia, bought forward the Standard. He solemnly lowered it and it was blessed by Peter in words of thanksgiving for the sacrifice of many and the ongoing work of St Dunstan's.

A short Act of Remembrance at Esquelbeq enabled those assembled to reflect upon the men from the 2 Royal Warwicks, the 4 Cheshires and the Royal Artillery who were herded into the small barn and brutally massacred by members of the SS. During the ceremony, our bugler Charles Percival and piper Duncan played *The*



Chris Humphrey and Harry Beevers with Graham Footer examine a fortified position on the beaches of Dunkirk.

Last Post and *Amazing Grace*, making for a very moving tribute to the fallen.

Next day started with a visit to Bray Dunes and a description of the evacuation of Dunkirk. The guides explained how desperate the situation had been for the Allies but how, thanks to the determination of many, acts of self-sacrifice by individuals and the weather conditions, over 300,000 troops had returned to Britain.

The final element of the programme was a visit to Dunkirk CWGC for Act of

Remembrance and wreath laying ceremony. A stunning cut glass window depicting the plight of the men evacuating the beaches looked down on imposing stone monuments carrying names of the hundreds of missing. The beautifully kept, peaceful cemetery proved a fitting place to remember those who never returned from war-torn France.

Harvey Grenville invited to attend on behalf of the Charity Commission, was also impressed by the tour, and was impressed by how much everyone had gained from the experience.



St Dunstan's Speakers in silent tribute at the Dunkirk Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery.

St Dunstaner **Alan Brown** ruminates on the all-too-human consequences of the retreat from the beaches of Dunkirk

REAL PEOPLE



Admissions' Wendy Graves, Piper Duncan Urquhart and St Dunstaner Roger Williams on the beaches of Dunkirk.



Alan Brown at the Ox & Bucks memorial in Cassel.

IT WAS NOT on a film set where we met on the beaches of Dunkirk.

Where we stood during that Wednesday morning, 14 May, was the site where real people gave their lives while trying to escape back to Great Britain. Where we stood in the afternoon to give thanks for lives given up was the scene of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

To the strains of the bugle

and bagpipes we offered up our prayers, thoughts and reflections to the lives of strangers, yet friends forever.

As we laid our wreath and crosses at the memorial, I am sure many tears flowed from the youngest to the oldest of us.

We take part in this ceremony each year as representatives of St Dunstan's throughout the country and we do it proudly.

Yes, the scene on those beaches was not romanticised in any way because we were thanking real people for their ultimate sacrifice so that we may live.

Life to them was worth the living. Now it is up to us to continue where they left off.

Let us forget our differences of opinion and try our best to get everyone to live in harmony for the sake of those real people.

Cannonball amongst the golf balls

by Don Oliver

ST DUNSTAN'S GOLF Club has been out on the green since 1994. We still have two of the original members in the club, Des Chandler who has risen to the dizzy heights of some high class tournaments - such as the Blind Masters Championship - the other is Arthur Carter who still dreams of the shots he used to play.

We welcome our new members, Marjorie Scott, Andy Allott, George Jackson, Graham Johnson and last but not least the world Downhill Speed Champion on snow, Kevin "Cannonball" Alderton. We have had such interest from new members that at present we are drafting a "guidance" package which will be sent to all present and future members of the golf club.

The new points system introduced this year seems to be working very well. It gives a more accurate position of the players, and their handicaps, whilst complying with EPGA rules and regulations, which are

being strictly enforced, thereby giving all players a fair crack of the whip.

The winners for May Medal Match were:

- 1st Les Trout
- 2nd John Powell
- 3rd George Jackson.

No other cards were handed in to the Handicap Secretary.

Golf Addiction from Brighton Marina has given us the honour of being one of the sponsors at Wildwood this year. Mail shots were

sent out to players in the Sussex area, with an introductory free offer at their venue in the Marina. So far no one has responded to this generous offer.

The World Blind Championships and Blind Open Championships are being held in the UK in August 2010, the same year as the Ryder Cup. Hopefully St Dunstaners will win the Blind Championships and Europe will win the Ryder Cup. Are there any of our club golfers up for it?

Blind swimmers relay some good news for Marie Curie

FOUR ST DUNSTANERS struck out in what was billed as the world's largest swimming fundraising event on 19 April. They dived into Swimathon 2008 at Brighton's Price Regent Swimming Pool for a 5,000 metre relay supporting Marie Curie Cancer Care.

St Dunstaners Eddie O'Brien, Iain Millard and Marise Falkingham were joined by Mandi Fermer, Stephen Murphy, Alex White, Andrew

Seivewright and Gemma Kirkwood as they took turns to complete a length and hand over to the next swimmer. Marise, nicknamed "The Rodean Wren" has long enjoyed swimming and hasn't given up after a hip replacement.

St Dunstaner Susan Eyles was also giving her best in the pool, she had entered the solo event and swam 200 lengths to complete the required 5,000 metre distance.

Dedicated to Britain



Photograph: Stan Bowers

St Dunstaner Mike Tetley, MBE and Val Male, with Inderpal Kallah from St Dunstan's Pensions department, Bill Griffiths, MBE and Alice Griffiths outside St Paul's Cathedral.

SEVERAL ST DUNSTANERS were amongst the congregation at St Paul's Cathedral on 21 May which provided the evocative setting for a service of dedication of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. The service was attended by His Royal Highness The

Duke of Edinburgh, Grand Master of the Order, whose arrival at the Cathedral was announced with fanfares by the State Trumpeter of The Life Guards. The Duke was greeted by the Lord Mayor on the Cathedral steps and received by the Dean and Chapter as he entered.

Blind Paul is top gun!



The Guardsman and the Para! Paul received his trophy from Dr Who star Bernard Cribbins.

THE ANNUAL BISLEY Clay Pigeon Shoot held on 28 May was a huge success, with 20 teams competing for prizes and raising vital funds for St Dunstan's. Two teams of St Dunstaners took part, with Paul Chadwick winning the visually impaired shooters' Top Gun. He beat off competition from Ron Jones and Mark Threadgold, amongst others. Other winners on the day included top team The DMA's and overall top gun, Ian Urry.

A whizzing start for Military bikers

Photographs: LCPL Rupert Frere



The team from HMS Ocean received the Spirit of St Dunstan's award from Billy and Colin for embracing the ethos of Exercise Enduring Help with the greatest of enthusiasm.

BILLY "THE WHIZZ" BAXTER set off a weekend of motorcycle mayhem in Hampshire on 23-25 May. He gave the signal for around 500 riders (61 teams) to race off on the latest Exercise Enduring Help. The event supports St Dunstan's and Childline with teams keeping their bike running over 5km or rugged countryside in a off-road endurance course for a constant 24-hour period. Competitors come from the Army, Royal Navy and RAF along with teams from the German and Dutch armies.



Billy Baxter with just one of the Army teams riding that weekend.

Billy with two singers who were entertaining the troops.

Historic march of Londonderry cadets

FORTY-ONE Army Cadets from Londonderry created history on the 19 April 2008 when they competed in the St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge at Coleraine in Northern Ireland.

This was the first time since the Troubles began in Northern Ireland in 1969 that the cadet force was to be seen in strength and in public wearing their uniforms; a fact that the cadets, and adult staff, were extremely proud of.



B Company, 1 Northern Ireland Battalion

CARS OF CHARACTER

St Dunstaner **Dave Simmonds** has fond memories of his driving days and the car that made it so special

I GUESS I WAS one of the lucky ones, learning to drive in the early fifties, when roads were relatively clear and fellow drivers more considerate than in today's free-for-all. Yes, there were driving tests, quite stringent and sometimes nerve racking; and the old tales of eggs behind the wheels on hill starts actually happened; also we had to know the Highway Code backwards. There were cars of character around in those days, especially, as in my case, "umpteenth-hand" cheap models of middle-thirties vintage, with their own quirks and personalities.

How well I remember my first lesson in my Dad's Morris eight-tourer, with him gritting his teeth beside me, and the old white and red 'L' plates fore and aft. Down a quiet country lane I "kangaroo hopped" for what seemed like half-a-mile in first gear, until Dad, the clutch, and our shattered nerves had had quite

enough for one session. But Dad didn't give up easily, I persevered, and although I thought I would never master the short travel on the clutch pedal, I eventually triumphed, and was considered good enough to apply for my driving test.

For the great event I was allowed to drive Dad's pride and joy, a 1934 Rover ten saloon. Waiting outside the local labour exchange, I was shortly joined by my examiner Mr Price, wearing a grey trilby and matching expression. Realising small talk was out of order, I proceeded to put the Rover and my nerves through their paces; getting along pretty well, although at the end of the "three point turn" I didn't know whether to wipe the beads of sweat from my brow or just let it trickle down naturally!

I also answered most of the Highway Code questions correctly, and arrived back calm and quite optimistic.

In, by some mileage, the longest "speech" since our meeting, Mr Price pointed out that although I had performed creditably enough, "we like to be given a ride you know; I felt as if we had been following a funeral." Taken a touch aback I explained that we had been in a built up area, I may even have voiced my thoughts about "better to follow than be a part of", but whatever was said by either party after his linguistic marathon, I had clearly failed my driving test. Three months later, a little wiser and much calmer - although the sight of the grey trilby moving towards me again didn't fill me with unbounded delight - I gained the coveted pass.

But back to the Morris eight-tourer, series 1, with folding hood and windscreen and wire wheels. The only car I've regularly dreamt about since we sold it in 1963 for £30. Companion of my courting days and

national service in the UK, it carried me everywhere uncomplainingly and never let me down. The nearest it came to giving me grief was when the engine cut out one day in the Cotswolds, at the top of a gentle decline, and I was able to coast all the way down to a petrol station, where the mechanic (yes, such beings actually existed then), diagnosed and cured an "air bubble in the fuel line" and we were soon on our way again, whilst "she" purred away happily and no-doubt thought smugly how clever and considerate she had been.

Early in our association I had taken over maintenance of the Eight; which included regularly crawling underneath and brushing waste oil over all exposed steelwork until it ran down into my armpits! I also re-sprayed the car completely, renewed worn floorboards, and bought two new squabs for the front seats. By the time we had "been together" a few years if anyone had shown me a part of that car, even a nut or bolt, I could have named its use and location.

I shall end my story with a few anecdotes from

our travels together. Like our honeymoon in North Devon, when after flying up the notorious Porlock Hill (they really did used to stand by the steepest bends and cheer you onwards and upwards), she stalled on the lesser known Lynmouth/Lynton hill.

So keeping in first gear, I unscrewed the hand throttle, and my wife and I got out and pushed and up she went, until I jumped in and we got to the top. This dodge was also handy when stuck in muddy fields, etc. although one's clothes tended to suffer more!

On another occasion, returning home on a "forty-eight" pass from trade training in Wiltshire, the (single) windscreen wiper repeatedly stalled, and a pal had to hand operate the blade for some 80 miles in heavy rain: but these were courting days for us both, and the desire to get back to our ladies overcame any moans and Neville's aching wrist!

Back home, I spent an interesting hour at the workbench - I was in electrics prior to call up, and an instrument mechanic

in the RAF - got the wiper working smoothly, and it gave no further trouble.

Only eight horse power, with a side valve engine and three forward gears, the old tourer could be surprisingly nippy. I well remember "taking on" a Rover 90 on a 20 mile drive back from Worcester one evening, and parking outside the owner's house a full five minutes before he arrived. Not much was said, but the look on his face spoke volumes - he had previously given me the impression that he had scant faith in our "old banger" getting the four of us there and back!

Following my "turning traitor" in 1963, I owned and ran another Morris eight-tourer up to having to hand my driving licence over in 1994.

Nostalgia often lends a false glow to our memories, but looking back I know that the enchantment of those draughty, oily and smelly "old ladies" was very real - those index numbers are as ingrained as our service number! I was indeed blessed to travel with them in, what was for me, driving's golden era.

POETS' CORNER

A greenfingered touch this month

THE RECENT Gardening Week concluded with its infamous poetry contest. These are the top three winning entries. First prize went to Marjorie Humphrey of Crosby, Isle of Man, second prize to Yvonne Woods of Southampton, Hampshire and third prize to Cynthia Robins of Southampton, Hampshire.

Watch the garden grow by Marjorie Humphrey

I used to be a good gardener
My dad he was one too
He taught me all about it
So I knew just what to do
So when I owned a garden
I was never at a loss
To try this, that and t'other
'cos I knew who was the boss

So when I came to Brighton
Like minded were a few
Who always got together
To compare just what they grew

There's one thing about gardeners
It's the best week here by far
Because apart from gardening
It's a good crack at the bar

We've been around and here and there
Life is never dull
Our days are very busy
And we never have a lull
But now I cannot stretch up high
Or even bend down low
I simply just sit back
And watch the garden grow.

My Greenhouse by Yvonne Woods

My greenhouse is an 8 x 12
A place where seedlings grow
It is a pleasant peaceful spot
And there I like to go

Springtime is chaotic
With so many things to do
The seedlings need transplanting
So their growth can start anew

Sometimes I have surprises
With seeds I thought I'd sown
Only to find them on the shelf
Trust me !! I moan and moan

My greenhouse has a lodger
A most unwelcome guest
A little field mouse is his name
He comes in just for a rest

Persevere I always will
For I like to see things grow
Other hobbies are put aside
And my garden's a lovely show.

Time to Reflect by Cynthia Robins

In amongst the vegetables
A tiny flower grew
Its colour was so different
A lovely shade of blue
A cornflower never planted
Was a joy for all to see
No harm was done
As it grew in the sun
Quite contentedly

ASK ROD

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

Tel: 01273 391447

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

Telephone groups for people with sight loss

Telephone groups for people with sight loss can be great for socialising if you cannot get out and about easily or you simply want to socialise from the comfort of your armchair at home. They differ from the number of telephone helplines that are available because they are more social in their focus, whereas helplines generally exist to offer information, support and advice on a one-to-one basis.

Telephone groups give participants the opportunity to socialise and chat with a group of others as you would do face-to-face, and can also be a source of informal support as experiences and ideas can be shared. The groups take place on the same day and time at regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly intervals depending on which group it is. They

are run by a facilitator who, at the start of each session, telephones each participant in turn and connects them to the rest of the group.

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) run four different telephone groups under the umbrella name of Talk & Support:

Tele Befriending

Tele Befriending telephone groups meet once a week for an hour. They are designed for people to meet others through general conversation. Groups consist of no more than eight people and are facilitated by trained volunteers who are there to ensure that conversation flows and that everyone feels comfortable about joining in. A free trial month is available if you want to try the service to see if it is right for you.

Book Clubs

Telephone Book Clubs

are groups who meet by telephone once a month, for a six monthly period. Two books are chosen for all group members to read or listen to and then discussed in the sessions but there is also opportunity to talk about books and reading in general.

Support

Tele Support groups are about benefits and concessions for people with sight loss. These groups are free to join, they meet weekly for four weeks with each session lasting about 45 minutes and give people the opportunity to listen to information from a trained volunteer and share experiences.

Parenting

The Parent Network Group is for parents who have sight loss to get together and chat, regardless of whether or not their children have sight loss. These groups meet once a fortnight during term time only and run for three months at a time.

The Talk and Support groups that incur a charge currently cost £2 each a week. To find out more or join any of them contact the RNIB Talk and Support team on 0845 330 3723.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

John Adams of Barry, South Glamorgan served in the Welch Regiment and Royal Regiment of Wales between 1965 and 1987.

Dorothy Avery of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

John Baker of Gosport, Hampshire served in the General Service Corps, Royal Pioneer Corps and Royal Hampshire Regiment between 1942 and 1950.

Arthur Banton of Maidenhead, Berkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Francis Blackwell of Liverpool, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Dorinda Bowen-Colhurst of Christchurch, Dorset served as Leading Wren in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1944.

John Bower of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Tank Regiment in 1959.

Arthur Brown of Swinton,

Mexborough, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Kenneth Buchanan of Averton Gifford, Kingsbridge, Devon served in the Royal Marines from 1947 to 1965.

Ronald Bullock of Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Shelagh Caley of Carmathen, Dyfed served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1942 to 1945.

Kenneth Carr of Alvaston, Derby, Derbyshire served in the Lancashire Fusiliers from 1954 to 1956 and the Royal Navy from 1957 to 1965.

Charles Coleman of Lawford, Manningtree, Essex served in the General Service Corps and the Essex Regiment between 1943 and 1945.

Michael Coleman of Weston-super-Mare, Avon served in the Royal Signals from 1956 to 1959 and the Royal Engineers from 1961 to 1980.

Matthew Cowing of Keighly, West Yorkshire

served in the Lancashire Fusiliers from 1940 to 1946.

Derrick Cross of Torquay, Devon served in the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and the Royal Hampshire Regiment between 1956 and 1959.

Joseph Crossley of Leyland, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Thomas Davies of Welshpool, Powys served in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, Gordon Highlanders and Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders between 1940 and 1946.

Henry Dawson of Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 and 1943.

John Dix of Barmouth, Gwynedd served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1954.

Clare Dyer of Crawley, West Sussex served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1941 to 1942.

Dennis Ede of Dorking, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

John Everett of Hartlepool, Cleveland served in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, Durham Light Infantry, and South Wales Borders between 1939 and 1946.

John Firth of Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1949 to 1951 and then the Royal Tank Regiment until 1985.

Gerald Fitzgerald of Bilton, Hull, North Humberside served in the Royal Navy from 1937 to 1946.

Peter Ford of Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire served as Lieutenant in the Royal Navy from 1948 to 1970.

Raymond Gorringe of Sunderland, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1943 and then the Royal Navy until 1946.

Colin Gough of Upleadon, Newent, Gloucestershire served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1943 to 1949.

Robert Grainger of Osbaldwick, York, North Yorkshire served in the General Service Corps, Sherwood Foresters (Nottingham and Derbyshire Regiment), and the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry between 1944 and 1948.

John Griffiths of St Athan,

Barry, South Glamorgan served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

Douglas Hale of Crosby, Liverpool served in the King's Regiment (Liverpool) and the Liverpool Scottish Regiment between 1930 and 1945.

Cyril Hood of Southowram, Halifax, West Yorkshire served in the General Service Corps and Royal Signals between 1943 and 1945.

Brian Jeffery of Ossett, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1953 to 1955.

Charles Jervis of Pendlebury, Swinton, Manchester served in the Lancashire Fusiliers from 1938 to 1940 and then the Royal Artillery until 1968.

Alan Kendall of Levens, nr Kendal, Cumbria served in the General Service Corps and Royal Army Service Corps between 1945 and 1948.

Rev Maldwyn Lloyd-Jones of Glyn Neath, West Glamorgan served in the Royal Navy from 1952 to 1968.

John Lynch of Stafford, Staffordshire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1952 to 1954.

Ronald Male of Halesowen, West Midlands served as Corporal in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

Rt Rev Michael Mann, KCVO of Northleach, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Armoured Corps, King's Dragoon Guards from 1942 to 1946.

Gordon Mitchell of St Austell, Cornwall served in the Royal Artillery from 1954 to 1956.

Nigel Patterson of Blackpool, Lancashire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1952 to 1957.

Cyril Phillips of North Bradley, Trowbridge, Wiltshire served in the Royal Artillery and Army Catering Corps between 1939 and 1946.

Phillip Plumpton of Raynes Park, London served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1945.

Dennis Rapp of Garston, Watford, Hertfordshire served in the Army Air Corps from 1944 to 1946.

William Reed of Lyme Regis, Dorset served in the Devonshire Regiment from 1943 to 1944.

Brian Ritchie of Maylandsea, Chelmsford,

Essex served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1956 to 1958.

Stephen Robarts of Hoylake, Wirral, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1963 to 1966.

Dennis Ross of Wrexham served in the Royal Signals from 1955 to 1958.

Norman Rylatt of Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

George Sennitt of Exeter, Devon served in the Royal Marines from 1940 to 1946.

George Shotton of Choppington, Northumberland served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1954.

Beatrice Simpson of Doncaster, South Yorkshire served as Private in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1946.

Dorothy Simpson of Oxted, Surrey served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Ronald Skidmore of Conisbrough, Doncaster, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Engineers from 1951 to 1954.

Philip Sparling of Horsforth, Leeds, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Marines from 1948 to 1955.

Kenneth Storer of West Heath, Birmingham, West Midlands served in the General Service Corps and Royal Engineers between 1947 and 1949.

Eric Tayler of Crediton, Devon served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Charles Taylor of Ascot, Berkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

Harry Taylor of Billingham, Cleveland served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

Dennis Turton of Woodhouse, Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Artillery and

London Irish Rifles between 1940 and 1946.

Edward Vaughan of Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps between 1946 and 1948.

William Waldron of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands served in the Royal Artillery from 1933 to 1946.

Frederick Warren of Bexleyheath, Kent served in the Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery between 1938 and 1945.

Peter Webb of West Derby, Liverpool, Merseyside served in the Royal Artillery and Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 to 1946.

William Williams of Machynlleth, Powys served in the Royal Artillery from 1950 to 1959.

William Woolf of Hove, East Sussex served in the London Irish Rifles from 1936 to 1945.

REUNION ROUND-UP

The Scotland Reunion at the Marriott Hotel, Edinburgh on 15 May saw Iain Lumsden of the Scottish War Blinded make his debut as presiding member of St Dunstan's Council. There were 26 St Dunstaners and one widow attending. Professor Maurice Aldridge gave a very entertaining and erudite response, paying tribute to Welfare Officer Charlie Claydon and wishing the very best in retirement. ROVs Paul Hartley and Paul Harbour offered those present the opportunity to examine daily living aids and offered advice on using the various gizmos.

There were 30 St Dunstaners and four widows attending the Eastbourne (I) Reunion at the Hydro Hotel, Eastbourne on 20 May. It was a lovely sunny day

and David Knowles, CBE presided. The response was made by St Dunstaner Ernie Bignel. Woody Oakes presented a coin collection which embodies a range of British History such as the Golden Steam Age, represented by 18 silver proof gold coins. The collection was accepted by David Knowles who thanked Colin for the gift.

The Burley (I) Reunion at the Burley Manor Hotel, Burley, near Ringwood, Hampshire on 28 May brought together 23 St Dunstaners and five widows. David Knowles, CBE was back in the chair as presiding member of St Dunstan's Council, while St Dunstaner Bob Dixon responded on behalf of those present.

St Dunstan's Chairman Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN presided at the Burley

(II) Reunion, also at the Burley Manor Hotel. There were 26 St Dunstaners and two widows attending on 29 May. St Dunstaner Bob Strickland made the response for those present.

The Chichester Reunion at Crouchers County Hotel, Chichester on 4 June brought together 36 St Dunstaners and five widows. Major General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE presided and there was a heartfelt vote of thanks from St Dunstaner David Eyton-Jones.

There were 35 St Dunstaners and nine widows at the Exeter Reunion, held at the Southgate Hotel, Exeter on 11 June. The Lady Walker was the presiding member of St Dunstan's Council and St Dunstaner Michael Hunter gave a vote of thanks for those present.

BEER OF THE MONTH

by Colin Williamson

Williams Black

A RICH DARK Scottish ale from Alloa with a strong roasted malt flavour. It is part of a range that has been prepared using "Divine Proportions". This superb ale has coffee and chocolate undertones.

The brewer has added some late harvest cone hops to the brew giving it a lovely blackcurrant aroma. It is quite tame, with an ABV of 4.2 per cent and is a good, easy going flavoursome ale.



Ten Answers

Answers to quiz on page 8.

1) Bird watcher; 2) Crochet; 3) Teddy bears; 4) Taxidermy; 5) Fly fishing (you may find a copy at jumble sales, Michael Russell wrote the book for fans of the advert, then followed with a sequel); 6) Golf (again, Michael Russell produced *JR Hartley's Guide to Golf*); 7) Bee keeping; 8) Patchwork (they are patterns); 9) Zips; and 10) Philately or stamp-collecting.

50 YEARS AGO

Sir Ian Fraser was created a Life Peer on 24 July 1958 and was the first to receive letters patent, thus becoming the first Life Peer on 1 August that year.

Family News

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Calum Vost on 11 December 2007. He is the great-grandson of Lilian Bradley of Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire and late St Dunstaner Alf Bradley.

Ellie Jaye Hunter on 15 May. She is the great-granddaughter of Helen Hunter of Hucclecote, Gloucester, Gloucestershire and the late John Hunter.

Zara Mary Strickland on 16 May in Sydney, Australia. Weighing in around seven pounds, she is the granddaughter of Bob and Ann Strickland of Fareham, Hampshire.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

David Sampson and Stacey Richards who married in Porth Elizabeth, South Africa. David is the eldest grandson of Beryl Tatchell of Cardiff and the late Trevor Tatchell.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Douglas and Jo Rogers of Colchester, Essex on 8 June.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Stuart and Sylvia Clements of Hawthorne, Sherborne, Dorset on 7 June.

Leslie and Jean George of Enfield, Middlesex on 14 June.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Albert and Edna Bradley of Norwich, Norfolk on 5 June.

Husband and wife St Dunstaners Kathleen and Dan Laplain of Downham Market, Norfolk on 5 June.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Bob and Thelma Childs of Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 4 May.

Peggy and Sam Saunders of Worthing, Sussex who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 4 May.

John and Marjorie Janes of Brighton, East Sussex who celebrated 64 years of marriage on 20 May.

John and Winnifred Tibble of Basildon, Essex who celebrated 68 years of marriage on 20 May.

Lewis and Doris Dale of Hunstanton, Norfolk who celebrated 71 years of marriage on 21 May.

Edward and Win Roberts of Poplar, London who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 23 May.

Thomas and Doris Potter of King's Lynn, Norfolk who celebrated 66 years together on 25 May.

Percy and Dilys Saywell of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 25 May.

Nancy and Frank Chadwick of Royston, Oldham, Lancashire who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 26 May.

Jack and Mary Patten of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 31 May.

Patrick and Ivy Cox of Hullbridge, Hockley, Essex who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 1 June.

John and Muriel Gray of Bournemouth, Dorset who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 1 June.

Eric and Catherine Andrew of Wymondham, Norfolk who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 2 June.

Ken and Anne Clare of Wendover, Aylesbury who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 2 June.

John and Win Brown of Old Coulsden, Croydon, Surrey who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 3 June.

Jim and Nellie Robertson of Sidcup, Kent who celebrated 65 years of marriage on 5 June.

Stan and Muriel Taverner of Westgate-on-Sea, Kent who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 5 June.

Ronald and Ella Barker of Faversham, Kent who celebrated 65 years of marriage on 6 June.

Leonard and Peggy Hobbs of Waterlooville, Hampshire who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 6 June.

Margaret and Jocelyn Raban-Williams of Petworth, West Sussex who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 6 June.

John and Elsie Lancaster of Sherborne, Dorset who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 7 June.

Leonard and Miriam Simpson of Whickham, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear who celebrated 67 years of marriage on 7 June.

Edward and Kathleen Thatcher of South Nutfield, Redhill, Surrey who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 7 June.

Ernest and Dorothy Willett of Birmingham, West Midlands who celebrated 67 years of marriage on 7 June.

George and Frances Mander of Birmingham, West Midlands who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 9 June.

Eric and Laura Andrews of Wrexham who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 11 June.

Edna and Richard Wilkinson of Eastbourne, East Sussex who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 11 June.

Joyce and Don Holland of Worthing, West Sussex who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 14 June.

George and Elsie Roberts of Llandaff, Cardiff, South Glamorgan who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 16 June.

Hugh and Jane Rance of Rottingdean, East Sussex who celebrated 69 years of marriage on 17 June.

Henry and Kathleen Glass of Coleford, Gloucestershire who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 18 June.

Eric and Hazel Prebble of Clevedon, Avon who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 18 June.

Kenneth and Eileen Richardson of Benfleet, Essex who celebrated 65 years of marriage on 19 June.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

The Reverend Stephen Griffiths who has become the new vicar of St Bridget's Church, Moresby, nr Whitehaven, Cumbria. He was inducted on 9 April by the Bishop of Penrith, James Newcombe. Ordained four years ago, Stephen has been an assistant minister in Derby. He is the grandson of Lilian Bradley of Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire and the late Alf Bradley.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Joan Sharman on 7 March. She was the wife of John Sharman of Great Plumstead, Norwich, Norfolk.

Frances Allen of Farnham, Surrey on 22 May. She was the widow of William Allen.

Olive Robinson of Enfield, Middlesex on 2 June. She was the widow of Louis Robinson.

Fiona Manners of Worthing, West Sussex on 7 June. She was the widow of Royal Engineer St Dunstaner Melville Manners.

Isabella Ellis of Warwickshire on 10 June. She was the widow of Edward Ellis.

In Memory

William Potts

Royal Artillery

William Wilk Potts of East Molesey, Surrey died in November 2007, aged 92. He joined the South Lancashire Regiment in 1939 and transferred to the Royal Artillery in 1941. He served in Arnhem and on the Rhine before being demobbed in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Walter Cunningham

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Walter Cunningham of Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire has died, aged 73. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1953 and served in Korea. Discharged in 1955, he became a construction worker. He enjoyed boxing, swimming, cycling, sailing and canoeing. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Ralph Taylor

Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers

Ralph Kenneth Taylor of Hastings, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand passed away earlier this year, aged 91. He served in the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers during the Second World War until he contracted Malaria. In civilian life, he worked as a cabinet maker and also for a manufacturer constructing lawnmowers and bicycles. He grew his own vegetables. Our sympathy goes to his widow Nan, and all other members of the family.

Josephene Chatterton

Women's Royal Naval Service

Josephene Rene Kathleen Chatterton nee Stacey of Hove, East Sussex died on 12 March, aged 83. She joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1942 and served at HMS *Daedalus* qualifying as an armourer and working on Fleet Air Arm Aircraft. She then served in Scotland until being discharged in 1946. She enjoyed jazz and travel. Our sympathy goes to her son Barry and all other members of the family.

Albert Perioli

Royal Navy

Albert Andrew Perioli of Cirencester, Gloucestershire died on 23 April, aged 86. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and served in the North Atlantic and on Arctic

convoys. Later he served on shore in Germany. Discharged in 1946, he studied agriculture and emigrated to Rhodesia, farming in the Bulawayo area. He moved to South Africa the Eighties and returned to the UK in 2004. Our sympathy goes to his widow Ann, son Paul, daughters Kaye and Sarah, and all other members of the family.

Charles Broad

Royal Artillery

Charles William Broad of West Hampstead, London died on 30 April, aged 92. He trained as a printer and like many young men of the day, disturbed by the rise of fascism in Europe, joined the Young Communist League. As a consequence of their activities, he was arrested for inciting unrest (along with his friend astrophysicist Michael Seaton). He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 and was stationed in the north. During this time, he featured in barrack room sketches by war artist Robin Ball. Discharged as Bombardier in 1946, he worked as a journeyman for process engravers in Woking, Surrey and Reading, Berkshire before joining a firm in Fleet Street. After being made redundant, he joined Royal Mail at their head office near St Paul's Cathedral. In retirement, he became a courier for a theatrical agency. A keen chess player, he was a member of Hampstead Chess club, winning medals and cups. He was a collector of books, and enjoyed music and theatre. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret, son Robin, daughter Jennifer, and all members of the family.

Frank Vaughan

Royal Air Force

Frank David Edward Vaughan of Felixstowe, Suffolk died on 3 May, aged 85. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941. Specialising as an armourer, he worked on Spitfires and Wellingtons. Discharged in 1946, he became

an upholsterer. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doreen and all of the family.

Ernest Madill

Royal Australian Air Force

Ernest William Madill of Dee Why, New South Wales, Australia died on 4 May, aged 89. He was a trainee engineer before joining the Royal Australian Air Force in 1940. He was discharged as Sergeant in 1947 following an accident. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

John Toomey

Royal Navy

John Toomey of Saltburn-by-Sea, Cleveland died on 4 May, aged 81. He joined the Royal Navy in 1944, training at Skegness, Wetherby, and Malvern. He served in Ceylon as a writer and then in Madras. Later, he was posted to Singapore until the end of the war in the Far East. Demobbed in 1947, he worked in the hotel trade but then went back to sea with the Merchant Navy. He also worked as a bookmaker and data technician. His interests included gardening and current affairs. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Kenneth Marsden

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Kenneth Marsden of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died on 5 April, aged 73. He worked as a garage hand and miner before joining the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1953. He served in Derby and Nottingham. Discharged in 1960, he worked in the steel industry and later became a taxi driver. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Major William Waistell

Durham Light Infantry

Major William Hugh Waistell of Slapton, Kingsbridge, Devon died on 6 May, aged

91. He completed Officer training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Durham Light Infantry in 1937. Stationed in Port Said at the outbreak of WWII, he became an OCTU instructor. Promoted to Lieutenant, he was then posted to Iceland. Returning the UK after two years, he was stationed on the Isle of Man before deploying to France. He was made Captain in early 1945, continuing as a career officer after the end of hostilities, serving in Palestine and Baghdad. He later went to the Staff College at Quetta, Pakistan and was promoted to Major in 1950. After retiring from the Army in 1958, he worked for the Automobile Association. His interests included golf, gardening, walking and fishing. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mary, sons Michael and Nigel, and all other members of the family.

Frederick Smith
Durham Light Infantry

Frederick Stuart Smith of Blyth, Northumberland died on 13 May, aged 89. He worked for Weardale Steel and Coal Company before joining the Durham Light Infantry in 1938. He served on searchlights and anti-aircraft equipment before deploying to France on D+10. His battery moved through Belgium and Germany and he was stationed in Holland at the end of the war. Demobbed in 1947, he worked in refrigeration as a service engineer and then for the MOD at Aldermaston. His interests had included caravanning and camping but he continued to enjoy music and concerts. Our sympathy goes to his widow Gladys, son David and all members of the family.

Ken Williams
Royal Signals

Kenneth Edgar Gladstone Williams of Stroud, Gloucestershire died on 15 May,

aged 87. He worked for the General Post Office as a messenger before joining the Royal Signals in 1939. Having served in Bristol, Portsmouth and Plymouth, he was deployed to Belgium in 1944, joining the staff of Field Marshal Montgomery until being demobbed in 1946. Returning to civilian life, he worked for the Inland Revenue. His interests included gardening, bowls, bridge, and swimming. Our sympathy goes to his widow Winifred and all members of the family.

William Burrell
Royal Norfolk Regiment

William Thomas Burrell of King's Lynn, Norfolk died on 16 May, aged 87. He worked on a farm before joining the Royal Norfolk Regiment in 1939. After training, he deployed to France where he was attached to the 51st Highland Division. As the last remaining division in France, they were not evacuated from Dunkirk, retreating instead to St Valery-en-Caux, but no boats came to collect them. With depleted supplies, they were captured by the advancing German army. He was held prisoner until the end of the war. Discharged in 1946, he worked for a coal merchant and then with the local water authority. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Alan Chew
Royal Marines

Edward Alan Chew of Chorley, Lancashire died on 16 May, aged 83. He worked as an errand boy before joining the Royal Marines in 1942. After training at Lympstone, he was stationed at Plymouth and later deployed to Ceylon and India. He also served on the Atlantic convoys and landing craft before being demobbed in 1946. In civilian life, he went to work for Kemsley Newspapers at their printing plant which was later taken

over by Thompsons. He worked on the production of the *Manchester Evening Post* and *Daily Telegraph*. His interests included football, going on cruises and making model sailing ships. One of his landing craft models has been displayed at the Royal Marines Museum, Southsea. He was also a member of the LST and Landing Craft Association. Last November, he was one of St Dunstan's wreath bearers, marching at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. His ashes were committed to the sea on 2 June. A Royal Marines landing craft took family, Corps Padre and mourners off the Dorset coast for a ceremony before his casket was lowered into the waves. Our sympathy goes to his widow Lillian, sons Michael and Phil, daughters Brenda and Lynda, and all other members of the family.

Sydney Gwillim
Royal Corps of Signals

Sydney Gwillim of Hemlington, Middlesborough, Cleveland died on 17 May, aged 87. He worked in his uncle's jewellers shop, learning watch making, before joining the Royal Corps of Signals in 1939. Initially posted to Whitby, he was sent on to Singapore where he was taken prisoner in 1942. After being held at Changi, he was forced to work on the Burma railway, but later shipped to Japan. He was sunk en route, by what he later discovered was a British submarine, and spent 36 hours adrift before being picked up by the Japanese Navy. Incarcerated in a Tokyo prison for the last 12 months of the war, he and fellow captives were told that they would be executed. However, as the fatal day got closer, this was threat was rescinded after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Following Japan's subsequent capitulation, he returned to the UK via New Zealand and Australia and was discharged in 1946.

Initially resuming watch making, he moved to Whitby and joined the General Post Office as a telephonist, remaining with British Telecom until he retired. He was a member of the FEPOW Association and attended St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War reunion. His interests included gardening and he enjoyed reading westerns. Our sympathy goes to his daughters Janet and Margaret and all other members of the family.

Duncan Maclver
Royal Air Force

Wing Commander Duncan Maclver of Studham, Bedfordshire died on 19 May, aged 83. Having spent a term at Edinburgh University with a view to studying medicine, he volunteered for the Royal Air Force in 1943. Training in Canada on Harvard aircraft, he was commissioned in 1944 and promoted to Flight Officer six months later. Returning to the UK, he converted to Hurricanes and then Mosquitos. When he became Flight Lieutenant in 1947, it coincided with a posting to America which was followed by a tour of duty at Woomera, Australia. He was made Squadron Leader in 1955 and went on to command a squadron in Germany, converting to the Javelin aircraft. Promoted to Wing Commander in 1962, he spent time in NATO in the Baltic area. After retiring in 1972, he joined BAE, living and working in the Middle East. His interests included golf and sailing. Our sympathy goes to his widow Kathleen, daughters Annabel, Catriona, and Laura, and all other members of the family.

Albert Serdet
Royal Artillery

Albert Maurice Serdet of Ovingdean, Brighton died on 22 May, aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. He was a van driver before joining the Army in

1941. He was posted to a Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery which deployed on home defence. The unit became part of 79 Armoured Division in 1942, preparing for the assault on Normandy that would follow two years later. Having advanced through France to Holland, he was injured in action, suffering perforating wounds to his eyes and damaged hearing. He was returned to the UK, spending the next six months at Stoke Mandeville before joining St Dunstan's at Church Stretton. He learnt Braille and the piano, though an ambition to become a telephonist was thwarted by his damaged hearing. Instead of this, he trained as a capstan lathe operator and started work with an engineering firm. He later joined an aircraft manufacturer. In 1963, he retrained as a joiner and developed a reputation as one of St Dunstan's finest carpenters, making toast racks, drop-leaf tables, trolleys and tea stands, cabinets, desks and other items for the stores. He also produced furniture for local department stores and private customers. A keen gardener, he enjoyed tape recording, toy making and picture framing. For many years, he organised meetings for fellow Jehovah Witnesses. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Rosemary and all other members of the family.

Madge Cross

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Dorothy Madeline Cross nee Peters of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire died on 27 May, aged 88. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1940 and qualified as a gas warfare instructor, teaching airmen how to deal with chemical weapons. Discharged as Corporal in 1945, she raised a family and also worked in catering and for Kodak. Our sympathy goes to her daughters Amanda, Judith, and Sharon, and all of the family.

Robin Horsfall

11th Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps

Robin Douglas Horsfall of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire died on 27 May, aged 83. As a 16-year-old, he served with the local defence volunteers and then joined the Royal Armoured Corps. He trained at Bovington with 58 Training Regiment and then RMA Sandhurst. Commissioned in 1944, he joined the 11th Hussars in preparation for the Normandy invasion. Landing on D+3, he was wounded and evacuated to Portsmouth. He later returned to Europe and was stationed in Germany before relinquishing his commission in 1946. Discharged with the honorary rank of Lieutenant, he emigrated to Kenya and started a farming business. He also worked as a magistrate. Later, he moved to Sudan setting up a company that produced yeast for bread making. After returning to the UK, he became an accountant, dealing with goods for Third World countries. Our sympathy goes to his widow Zoe, and all other members of the family.

Jack Bennett

Royal Armoured Corps

John Henry Bennett of March Cambridgeshire died on 30 May, aged 89. He worked in the meat trade as a roundsman and cold storeman in Smithfield Market. Called up in 1939, he joined the Rifle Brigade, training at Winchester and Salisbury. In 1941, he transferred to The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) which became part of the 18th Battalion, Reconnaissance Corps and was posted to Malaya. Taken prisoner in 1942, he was initially held as a Far East Prisoner of War at Changi but later taken to an island off Singapore which was being used as an ammunition dump. After being liberated in 1945, he returned to the UK as part of the

Royal Armoured Corps. Discharged in 1946, he became an electrician. Our sympathy goes to his son Philip and all of the family.

Joan Bootle

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Joan Sylvia Mary Bootle nee Day of Creekmoor, Poole, Dorset died on 31 May, aged 84. She worked for the Ministry of Food, testing eggs, and was a volunteer with the WRVS in Hertfordshire before joining the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1943. She trained at Western-super-Mare and later served at Uxbridge and other stations. Discharged as Corporal in 1947, she worked for the GPO as a telephonist later moving to Pinewood Studios. Our sympathy goes to her nephew Roger and all the family.

Eric Ball

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Eric John Ball of Watlington, Kings Lynn died on 9 May, aged 91. He worked as a barber and a bricklayer before joining the General Service Corps in 1942. He transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and became a driver. After landing in Normandy, he moved through France, Belgium and Holland, towards the Baltic Sea. Discharged in 1954, he returned to the building trade, designing and building his own houses. Our sympathy goes to his son Jeremy, daughters Wendy and Ruby, and all other members of the family.

Norman Gerrish

Royal Air Force Regiment

Norman Phillip Gerrish of Hanham, Bristol, Avon died on 1 June, aged 87. He worked in a Co-op store before joining the Royal Air Force Regiment in 1941. He served in India, Burma and Hong Kong. Discharged as Sergeant in 1946, he returned to the Co-op. He was a supermarket manager for 20 years but later worked in a toy store and for a

brake manufacturer. He enjoyed gardening, cricket and football. He was Chairman of the RAF Regiment Association in Bristol. Our sympathy goes to his widow Lily, son Clive, daughter Maureen and all of the family

Stanley Watson

Royal Pioneer Corps

Stanley Charles Watson of Layer de la Haye, Colchester, Essex died on 8 June, aged 85. He was an apprentice tailor and was granted the Freedom of the City of London. He joined the Rifle Brigade in 1942, but transferred to the Middlesex Regiment in 1943. He landed in Normandy with the Die-Hards on D-Day and was involved with a heavy battle in Caen where many of his comrades were killed. He transferred to the Pioneer Corps in 1944. Discharged in 1947, he became a postman and worked behind Post Office counters. Later, he worked for Lloyds register. He was a keen musician and played several instruments. Our sympathy goes to his widow Betty, son Geoffrey, daughter Suzanne, and all of the family.

John Dyer

Royal Navy

John Henry Dyer of Corby, Northamptonshire died on 9 June, aged 88. He worked as a trainee baker, then joined the Air Ministry in Airfield Construction at North Luffenham. After joining the Royal Navy in 1940, he trained as a cook on HMS *Royal Arthur*. Posted to HMS *Repulse*, he survived the sinking when the ship was hit by five torpedoes in 1941. He returned to the UK via Australia, joining HMS *Lawford* in support of the D-Day landings. The ship was sunk with 37 lives lost. After a tour of duty in India, he was discharged and became a plumber. In later years, he worked for a steel works, retiring when it closed. Our sympathy goes to his widow Ruby, son Robert, daughter Judith and all the family.



Ben is back behind the wheel.

Ben's racing boost in Ferrari!

by Simon Rogers

A SOLDIER BLINDED by a roadside bomb in Iraq drove a high-powered racing car in front of thousands of spectators on 10 May. Ben Shaw hit speeds up to 60mph as crowds cheered him at the Scottish Motor Show in Fife. The young soldier, still serving with The Rifles, completed one lap of the circuit in 4 minutes and 21 seconds.

Ben took the wheel of a Ferrari 360 Modena car at Knockhill Racing Circuit with an instructor at his side. He was a keen amateur rally driver before he was injured and welcomed the chance to rekindle that experience with the help of the Scottish War Blinded.

"I'm just buzzing now," he told Scottish newspapers after finishing the drive. "It was just about getting behind the wheel, that's it. It wasn't about speed, it was about getting to travel to Knockhill and drive the Ferrari."

Twenty-five-year-old Ben is the first blind driver to complete a lap at Knockhill and was applauded by crowds as he finished. "I know the track in my head but obviously I need instruction as to what part of the track I am on. I had driven on these tracks a few times but nothing serious, so the fact I get to do this is just amazing. It is the best feeling ever."

He thanked everyone who had supported his efforts, including the instructors

and staff at Knockhill and the Scottish War Blinded. Ben had an even bigger day to follow, he married his girlfriend Louise on 11 May.

He was back at Knockhill in June for the Scottish Classic Speedfair where drivers were contesting the Jackie Stewart and Jimmy Stewart Trophies as well as starting the Ferrari Open Championships. The atmosphere may be good inspiration for his ambition to break a certain land speed record!



Happy couple, Ben and Louise.