

St Dunstan's Review

Photograph: Mike Brown

We have a dream!

St Dunstaners Simon Brown and Craig Lundberg with Carla at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC. They visited Daniel Chester French's sculpture of US Civil War President Abraham Lincoln while attending a conference of America's Blinded Veterans Association.



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



The Chairman met up with Simon Brown and other St Dunstaners at the National Memorial Arboretum for the unveiling of a St Dunstan's Mosaic and rededication of the surrounding walkway. More on page 22.

On behalf of the family of St Dunstan's, I would like to welcome Andrew Ross to the Board of Trustees. As an ex-Serviceman, he will understand our ethos. As a highly respected City financier, his advice will be invaluable, particularly in these times of financial turbulence.

I congratulate St Dunstaners Simon Brown and Craig Lundberg for the positive way they represented St Dunstan's at the American Blind Veterans Association National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. They were able to meet up with fellow US Servicemen also injured in the Iraqi conflict. I know they will have found these encounters inspirational, encouraging and supportive. They will have given as much as they received. A full report can be found later this issue on page 16.

St Dunstan's Calendar

OCTOBER

Writers Forum	4
Widows' Week	5-11
World Sight Day	9
Commando Challenge	11-12
Golf	11-12
Computer Club	15-16
Amateur Radio	17-24
Bowling Club (II)	26-7 Nov
Great South Run	26

NOVEMBER

Writers Forum	1
Bowling Club (II)	Until the 7
Founder's Memorial Day	8
Remembrance Sunday	9
Armistice Day	11
Golf	15-16
Dancing Week	23-29
Christmas Craft Week	30-6 Dec

DECEMBER

Christmas Craft Week	Until the 6
Writers Forum	6
St Dunstan's Day	9
Christmas Week	20/21-28
New Year Week	28-5 Jan 09

2009

JANUARY

Archery Club (I)	17-25
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FEBRUARY

Computer Club (I)	4-5
Amateur Radio (I)	6-14
Music Week	15-21

Noticeboard

OVINGDEAN BAR HOURS

NEW CLOSING TIME: Due to the lack of business after 22:00, the bar in the lounge at St Dunstan's Ovingdean will close at that time in the future though it will remain open until 23:00 for special events. Residents and visitors may still drink beyond the 22:00 closing time but will have to get their glasses in beforehand!

READ NUGGETS

GENERAL INTEREST MAGAZINE FOR YOU: St Dunstan's general interest magazine *Nuggets* is available for blind readers in braille and on audio CD. Each monthly issue carries a eclectic mixture of diverse and interesting subjects. If you would like to receive the publication in either format, telephone Roberta Hazan at St Dunstan's Headquarters on 020 7616 7933.

EYES ON THE FUTURE

SIGHT LOSS IN LATER LIFE: World Sight Day 2008 (WSD08) on 9 October focuses on the ageing eye, and vision impairment in older people. The slogan "Eyes on the Future - fighting vision impairment in later life" recognises that in a world where populations are aging, and individuals are living longer, blindness from chronic conditions is also rising. Eighty per cent of people living with blindness are over 50, but three-quarters of blindness is needless according to Vision2020 -- it could have been prevented, treated or cured. Vision2020 is dedicated to eliminating the main causes of avoidable blindness by 2020 by facilitating the planning, development and implementation of sustainable national eye care programmes based on disease control, human resource development, infrastructure and technology, incorporating the principles of primary health care.

St Dunstan's Review October 2008, No 984

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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 Valerie Tomalin and Jeffrey Hyman.



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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

COARSE ANGLING CLUB

HOOK UP WITH BRITAIN'S MOST POPULAR SPORT: It has been decided that a coarse angling club can be set up for St Dunstaners. All participants will be shown how to use the necessary equipment that will enable members to fish a variety of locations such as commercial carp pools, reservoirs, rivers and canals.

Would any St Dunstaner interested in this type of activity and who would like to join the Coarse Angling Club please contact St Dunstaner Peter Moore by telephone on 01594 560241 or 07890 800730, or e-mail him via pmka@btinternet.com.

SEA FISHING DATES

BOOK EARLY: A series of sea fishing sessions have been planned for this year and next. Book accommodation at St Dunstan's Ovingdean early to make sure you get in.

The first session will run 10-14 November 2008, fishing out of Newhaven for the three days in the middle.

Dates for 2009 include 12-16 January, 9-13 March, 4-8 May all operating out of St Dunstan's Ovingdean. Further dates will be arranged for July and September, still based at Ovingdean but trying another part of the coast.

Updates will follow when available, but for additional information contact St Dunstaner Peter Moore by telephone on 01594 560241 or 07890 800730, or e-mail him via pmka@btinternet.com.

GREAT PRIZES PUT SEASONAL SPARKLE INTO CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

CAR, CASH, HOLIDAY OR RADIOS TO BE WON IN FUNDRAISING DRAW: Don't miss out on St Dunstan's Christmas raffle which has an excellent selection of prizes, worth over £10,000! A new car, distinguished in its refinement, and a sun-drenched Mediterranean holiday are just two of the prizes that will be claimed by 22 lucky winners. Runners-up will win one of 20 digital radios, the best in 21st century technology!

1st Prize - A Vauxhall Corsa (or £8,500 cash)

2nd Prize - A Tenerife holiday (or £1,000 cash)

3rd Prize - 20 digital radios to be won

To order tickets, which cost £1 each, or £12 for a book (containing 12 tickets), please call Luke Page on 020 7616 7932 or write to him care of St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. Please provide your name, full address and the number of raffle books you need and we'll do the rest. Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's. Entry to the raffle closes on 6 January 2009 and the draw to determine the winners will be held on 20 January. Good luck!

Please note: Due to Gambling Commission Regulations we are not able to supply raffle tickets to anyone under the age of 16 or to addresses in Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, the Channel Islands, and outside of the United Kingdom.

Details of winners will be published in **St Dunstan's Review** March 2009 and on St Dunstan's website, www.st-dunstans.org.uk.

LET US TALK TO YOUR CLUB

SPEAKERS' CORNER: If you belong to a club or group which holds exhibitions for traders in visual aids, please contact Jennifer Shannon at St Dunstan's Headquarters, as she may be able to arrange to have a stand there. St Dunstan's Speakers' Team will also visit any club or group to give talks on St Dunstaners to raise awareness of the Charity's work. There is no charge for a speaker presentation so if you would like to discuss a possible stand or speaker visit please call 020 7616 7990 and speak to Jennifer Shannon.

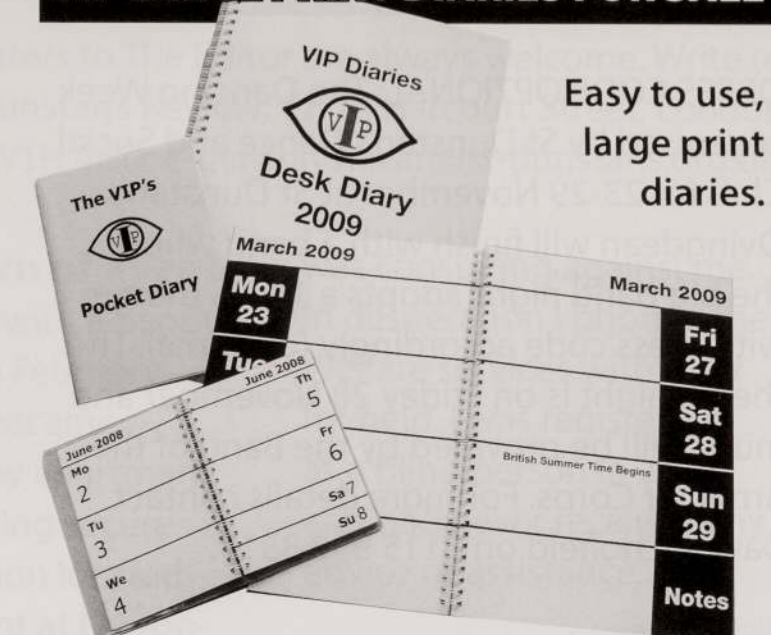
MUSIC AND DRAMA WITH AD

LONDON AREA SHOWS: Part mystery, part homage to the ghosts of memory, Harold Pinter's tragicomedy *No Man's Land* will be performed with audio description by Irene Richards on 18 November at 19:30 at the Duke of York's Theatre, St Martin's Lane. It stars Michael Gambon and tickets can be booked on 0871 297 5477 or by e-mailing ticketcentre@theambassadors.com.

Other London area shows with AD include *West Side Story* on 30 October at 19:30 and *Carousel* on 6 November at 19:30. Both shows are at the New Theatre, Wimbledon. Tickets can be booked on 0871 297 5477 or by e-mailing wimbledonboxoffice@theambassadors.com.

Carousel is also on at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley on 4 October at 14:30 (book on 0870 060 6620 or e-mail bromleyaccessbookings@theambassadors.com) and at the New Victoria Theatre, Woking on 25 October at 14:30 (book on 0870 060 6645).

VIP LARGE-PRINT DIARIES FOR SALE



AVAILABLE FROM REHAB & TRAINING: Large print diaries can be ordered via Stephen Miles at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. The A6 pocket diaries cost £3.00 for the 2009 insert or £3.50 with the cover included. A4 desk diaries cost £6.50. Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's. Phone Stephen on 01273 391478 or write to him at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton BN2 7BS.

ACTION FOR BLIND SIGHT LOSS INFORMATION SERVICE

OCTOBER VISITS: AFB's Sight Loss Information Service will be visiting in the following areas this month. In the week commencing 13 October, they visit Cumbria, Northampton, Peterborough, and Saffron Walden, then from 20 October they will be in Dumfries and Galloway, and Devon. Finally, from 27 October they visit Bolton, Manchester, and Buckinghamshire. Full details of each itinerary can be found on their website www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk or by checking with the National Helpline Number 0800 915 4666.

FORTIES THEME FOR DANCE NIGHT

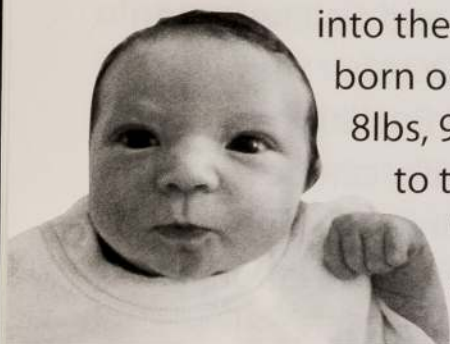
DRESS CODE OPTIONAL: The Dancing Week organised by St Dunstan's Dance and Social Club for 23-29 November at St Dunstan's Ovingdean will finish with a bang when the big band night adopts a 1940s theme, with dress code accordingly (optional). The theme night is on Friday 28 November and music will be provided by the Band of the Army Air Corps. For more details contact David Schofield on 0115 932 3517.

HELEN TAKES UP THE REINS AT ST DUNSTAN'S OIVINGDEAN

NEW OIVINGDEAN MANAGER: Helen Emmerson became Ovingdean Manager in September. She is Australian with a nursing background and spent over ten years working for a church charity in Sydney managing a variety of care, nursing and community services. Having lived in the UK for three years, she set up and managed a new mental health service in West Sussex before joining St Dunstan's.

DEBBIE'S BUNDLE OF JOY

IT'S A BOY: For everyone who asked, Area Welfare Officer Debbie Martin and her husband Graham were delighted to welcome Hamish Angus Matthew Martin into the world. Hamish was born on 18 August, weighing 8lbs, 9oz, and we expect him to take over St Dunstan's Woodingdean office sometime around 2033. Congratulations!



NEW TRUSTEE AT ST DUNSTAN'S

ANDREW ROSS: As introduced by the Chairman on page 2, Andrew Ross recently joined St Dunstan's Board of Trustees (St Dunstan's Council). He is Chief Executive of Cazenove Capital Management Limited, a highly respected manager of investment funds and hedge funds. It also provides financial advice and portfolio management services to Private Clients and Charities. Prior to joining Cazenove in 2001, he was Chief Executive Officer, HSBC Asset Management (Europe) Limited where he was responsible for the management of the retail, institutional, charity and private client asset management businesses of HSBC in London. He began his career in the City with James Capel & Co in 1985 and remained with the Company when it became part of the HSBC Group.



After graduating from Southampton University (First Class Honours Degree in Roman and Hellenic Studies), Andrew served a commission with the Royal Green Jackets from 1981 to 1985, reaching the rank of Captain. He saw service in England, Germany, Canada and Northern Ireland.

Andrew is 48 years old and lives in Ticehurst, East Sussex with his wife Elizabeth and three sons. With them (or occasionally to escape!) he enjoys travel, skiing, country pursuits, acting and wine.

A selection of your comments drawn from The Editor's postbag

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

Shades of Green

Without lowering your standards, have you considered, in light of the credit squeeze and being green, using a less expensive and more easily re-cycled paper? Keep up the good work!

Francis Hookham,
Clayton Le Dale,
Blackburn, Lancashire

• The **Review** is currently printed on paper drawn from sustainable sources, which means that the raw materials come from managed renewable forests. It is elemental chlorine free, fully recyclable, biodegradable and acid free. Hobbs the Printers are rightly proud of their Forestry Stewardship Accreditation and their forests are approved by the Soil Association. While it might offer environmental gains, recycled paper still remains a more expensive option though it is something we re-examine from time-to-time.

A happy turn of events

This is a story with a happy conclusion. In February of this year I became aware of a new apartment building offering secure accommodation located on the seafront at Lee-on-the-Solent and decided to acquire an apartment. Since I had lived in my three bedroom bungalow for 41 years I was required to downgrade my chattels to suit a one bedroom apartment, a very hasty decision which for the ensuing weeks I was to regret; every cloud does have a silver lining, but that would present itself to me at a later date.

I am a seafaring man and 30 years ago I was diagnosed with severe glaucoma. Despite operations and constant treatment my sight deteriorated and now aged 75 I have limited sight in one eye only. Since I live alone the problems of moving appeared to go from bad to exceedingly bad and I began to lose all sense of reason and to think the whole world

was conspiring against me. In desperation I phoned the Welfare services with a cry for help. I was registered as a blind person in 2000 and had never received any advice or assistance.

My enquiry was met with the reply that I could only obtain help if I fitted the criteria laid down by the health authorities and also the budget for services was very tight. My problem had been that I thought I could manage on my own and as far as Social Services were concerned, I did not exist! My desperation led me to create a great deal of noise and to become a nuisance to Social Services.

My case worker arranged for me to contact St Dunstan's. Who were they, I enquired? During my entire Naval Service I had never heard of such an organisation. Also a puzzle was that Haslar had been an RN Hospital for the vast majority of my attendance history. I am now a proud member of the St Dunstan's family and

have, and am yet, to receive a great deal of help from what I can only describe as a dedicated and caring band of people who create a wonderful feeling of comradeship and I now realise that I am not alone as I, until recently, thought. Thank you St Dunstan's.

May I advise others that feel they can manage alone and do not wish to bother others? You are wrong, as I was to learn. Thank you.

**Peter Ford,
Lee-on-the-Solent,
Hampshire**

Evergreens forever

We all gathered at St Dunstan's Ovingdean in September 2006, Anne and Joe Elsender, Lynne and Stan Reed, Verna Elliot, Fran Ling, Graham Kiff, Mick Ion, Barrie Hathaway and Dai Jones, not knowing what to expect but in a strange way looking forward to whatever it was going to be. Meeting Martin in the reception area and being taken to your room by him does help to reduce the collywobbles in the stomach.

In the morning, the usual introductions took place and it was obvious that the whole lot of us would get on.



Anne and Joe Elsender, Lynne and Stan Reed, Verna Elliot, Fran Ling, Graham Kiff, Mick Ion, Barrie Hathaway, and Dai Jones.

Before the end of the week the two youngest trainees had collected everybody's telephone numbers, typed them out and distributed the list to all who were on the course. It was with some sadness that we all gathered on the morning of departure and with firm promises made not to lose contact we all left for home not really knowing what the future held. We did keep in touch, using the telephone mostly, but with training supplied by St Dunstan's e-mailing has now become the preferred method. It was suggested that a holiday for all at Ovingdean would be a good idea. The History Week in June 2007 was chosen for the first holiday and a good time was had by all members of the Evergreen Club. The next holiday was arranged for November 2007 but on

this occasion it was decided that we could arrange our own entertainment. A further holiday was arranged for May 2008 and all the members turned up, nearly two years since we first met on the intro course. All of our members have achieved personal goals; Joe has become a Level 2 Athletic Coach; Graham represents England as a triathlete; and Dai has successfully completed a computer course at the RNCB Hereford. We aim to continue with the Evergreen Club with future gatherings.

We have put together this brief account of what we have achieved because other St Dunstaners that we meet are surprised at what we have accomplished. All of this would not have been possible without the help

and support of St Dunstan's staff and the new sense of belief in ourselves we acquired when we became St Dunstaners.

**Barrie Hathaway,
Amlwch, Anglesey**

Class consciousness and the desire for round tables

I would like to make a comment on a reference in the August **Review** about the Lounge and the round tables in the Dining Hall. In all my long experience as an architect I had considerable dealings with design and layout and the furnishing of college dining halls, school dining rooms, restaurants and cafes, from about 400 persons to 20 persons. It has long been considered that round tables are not the best answer. They may look attractive but they consume a considerable amount of unnecessary space and make the serving at these tables a more prolonged business than it should be. In some ways the controversy over the round tables is, to a certain amount, of class consciousness because the round tables are furnished with quite nice white tablecloths and the rectangular tables only have place settings. I have,

over many years of coming down to Ovingdean, sat at both the rectangular tables during training or on respite, and at round tables, previously with my wife, on holiday. To say that there is better chance to talk to people on the round tables than the rectangular tables is completely out of context because if, on a rectangular table, you sit at the end seat you have the person in front of you, the person at the side and the person opposite them, and you have four persons to talk to quite comfortably, despite the noise from other people. If you are on the second seat in you have people on either side and opposite and you have six people to converse with quite easily. If you take the eight-seater round table, because of the considerable width across the middle there is no way that you can comfortably talk to six people. It is also a fact that for completely blind people accessing a rectangular table you can feel the end of it in relation to other parts of the building or tables and it is much easier to find your place than a round table which is, unfortunately, never ending.

**Clifford Gower,
Westbury, Wiltshire**

Targeting round tables

In reply to the debate about round tables versus rectangular tables at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, I would like to express my point of view.

I travel to St Dunstan's Ovingdean for Archery every January, May and August. I personally have sat at rectangular tables but prefer the round ones. The reason I say this is because being blind in my left eye – and also hard of hearing – I can't see or hear the person sitting to my left.

When I sit at the round tables I find it much easier for conversation with everyone. Keep the round tables please. With a round table there is also more space for moving arms, etc. If I have to sit at a rectangular table I have to sit on the end – aids my mobility (by me being able to stretching out my bad leg).

Plus I feel uncomfortable when "hemmed into a small space". Please will you consider my point of view and as David Poyner said – "What do others think?"

**Keith Lanchester-Harding,
Heath, Cardiff,
South Glamorgan**

Survey with a smile

In asking Allan's answers to the following 70 questions for the **Review**; 70) What would you like to be the main feature of the 1,000th issue of **St Dunstan's Review**? Reply :-)

Loraine Kayser
and Allan Acutt,
Boshof, South Africa

• We have Ted Bunting's take on a biography of Robert Maxwell lined up for a forthcoming issue, but perhaps that isn't what Allan had in mind. Most likely, any cheque we insert in the 1,000th issue will be of the rubber variety, so remember to duck when it bounces. However, with only 15 issues to go before the 1,000th

Review, the milestone is rapidly approaching.

In the meantime, we would like to thank everyone who has taken the time and trouble to answer the **Review** questionnaire. Your input is greatly appreciated. The results of the draw will be announced in the November issue.

Balancing the Books

Ted Bunting is locked inside with Jeffrey Archer's vivid account of daily life in Belmarsh High Security Prison

A Prison Diary – Vol 1 - Hell

Author: FF8282 (Jeffrey Archer)
Reader Jeff Bellamy
Catalogue Number 13241
Duration: 6 hours, 38 minutes

In addition to a lot of money, Jeffrey Archer's novels have earned him a reputation as a highly polished professional creative writer. However, in the first part of his prison diary, subtitled *Hell*, his talent for fictional invention has not been called upon. Nevertheless to my mind it is possibly the best book he has so far produced. To call it fascinating would be a giant understatement, if ever there was a recording I've been reluctant to switch off this is it. My interest was captured and maintained from the outset, I suppose because I've never been to gaol; and neither had Archer! His initial shock was much greater than mine, needless

to say, but because of his superb skills in description I almost imagined I was sharing his experience. Learning the prison routine at Belmarsh was obviously quite traumatic, because of strip searches and the long hours "banged up" quite a while elapsed before his sense of humour gained the upper hand. The stories of some of the prisoners he meets make horrific reading and criminals or not, it is difficult to refute Archer's argument that a better system of punishment and rehabilitation should be found. Without doubt this is a brilliant book and I eagerly await the sequel.

There are three volumes of *A Prison Diary*, though the RNIB Talking Book Catalogue does not record Jeffrey Archer as author or their respective subtitles – *Hell*, *Purgatory* and *Heaven*. Volume two is catalogue number 14133 and volume three is 14371. Jeff Bellamy is the reader in each case.

Ten questions on...

The subject of Cats

Harry Beevers comes up to scratch with a feline-themed quiz

- 1) Which cat in the wild is known as the hunting leopard?
- 2) Rigsby's pet cat in the TV series *Rising Damp* shared its name with which European capital city?
- 3) What are a cat's vibrisi?
- 4) What was the name given to the kitten in Texas University described in the year 2002 as the first pet to be successfully cloned?
- 5) Which breed is noted for its thick, long fur and its short nose?
- 6) Which comic strip character has a cat named Hot Dog?
- 7) In which ancient civilisation was killing a cat a crime punishable by death?
- 8) In September 2000, a large ginger and white tom cat was elected joint leader of which political party?
- 9) According to legend, the Manx cat lost its tail when it was caught in the door of what?
- 10) Which member of the cat family eats turtles and fish, loves swimming and has an American Indian name meaning "He who kills with one leap"?

Answers can be found on page 34.

Ships of the line



Photograph: David Hickey

ROYAL NAVY St Dunstaner Barrie Hathaway of Amlwch, Anglesey had a special gift as a thank you for staff at St Dunstan's Sheffield during a recent training week. He presented Sheffield Manager Terry Heaton with a model of HMS *Sheffield* which will be mounted in the Palmer Room. Although the real ship was lost during the Falklands Crisis, the crew maintain close ties with the town that gave them a name.

Farewell, Dick!



Photograph: Bill Lyth

St Dunstan's Chief Executive Robert Leader presents an emotional Dick Lake with a St Dunstan's shield. Robert was amongst well-wishers bidding adieu to Dick on his last day as Ovingdean Manager on 10 September.

Mayo wins British Blind Golf Open

ST DUNSTANER Mike Mayo won the British Blind Golf Open tournament held at Massereene Golf Club in Ireland on 7-8 August. "Day one was rained off but day two went ahead in tough conditions," said Mike. "After a chat with my caddy and guide Bill Routledge, we decided to go for gold. All season we had been in the top ten but still had no win."

"With superb guiding from Bill we shot a net 64, eight under par, seven over gross. This was the best performance I have had since becoming visually impaired in 2002 and I am



over the moon. Once again, a big thank you goes out to St Dunstan's for the kindness and support over the years. St Dunstaner Des Chandler won this event in 2006 so I

am very proud to keep the St Dunstan's flag flying."

Mike has also topped the Scottish Blind Golf Society's leaderboard for much of 2009.

John shoots and scores at Fancy Dress!

ST DUNSTANER John Patterson was quick off the draw when he won the trainees' Fancy Dress Competition at St Dunstan's Sheffield along with his wife Nora. Having come as a fortune teller, had she predicted the outcome that his Wyatt Earp was OK and would corral the top spot? St Dunstaners Gary Tomlinson, Barrie Hathaway, Bob Gadd, Graham Henley, and Ron Platt put up some



stiff competition as famous footballers, Jedi Knights and construction workers.

Support Worker Naomi Smith kept them in order as an axe-wielding warlock.

Blue Watch on Greenways



Photograph: Susan Morse

EAST SUSSEX Fire & Rescue Services were able to indulge some inquisitive sparks when they visited St Dunstan's Ovingdean. Firemen from the local Blue Watch answered questions about their work, while some individuals such as WAAF St Dunstaner Doreen Proctor of Bickley, Kent (above) were able to try their fire engine for size.



Photograph: Bill Lyth

Logistic presentation

MAJOR EDDIE BENNETT of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex recently presented St Dunstan's with a plaque for the Royal Logistic Corps. Eddie served 23 years with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps which was absorbed by the RLC. No stranger to logistics herself, Ovingdean's Services Administrator Mandy Marwick accepted the plaque on behalf of St Dunstan's.

Eyes on Ashford

ST DUNSTANER Gerry Jackson and his wife Maureen ran a stand for St Dunstan's at the Local Eyes Exhibition, KAB event yesterday at Ashford School and Ashford Friars Prep School on 20 August. Gerry met up with fellow Royal Navy St Dunstaner Cedric Hollands of Ashford and ATS St Dunstaner Mary Brett from Deal, Kent.

Web surfing for Matt's challenge

ARMY St Dunstaner Matthew Rhodes has gone surfing to promote his latest challenge. He has set up a website www.joy.uk.net/matthew/ to garner support for his sea bound plan to cross the English Channel in a kayak.

Last Post for WWI WRAF girl

GLADYS POWERS, reckoned to be the last female veteran of the First World War died on 14 August, aged 109. Born in Lewisham, she lied about her age to join the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, then switched to the original WRAF as a barracks waitress. She moved to Canada, outliving three husbands. Despite failing eyesight in her final years she enjoyed dancing.

Clear blue skies at Portrush Airshow

Joan Beevers reports

IN THE FIRST week of September while the rest of the UK was sinking under a deluge of rain, the little corner of Northern Ireland around Portrush was basking under hot sun and clear blue skies! "The luck of the Irish" was what the local people called it. Lucky indeed, because Portrush was hosting its annual air show. Two or three aircraft were unable to take off from England, but there was still a very full programme of flying displays. These included RAF Falcons, RAF Sea King, Battle of Britain Dakota and Spitfire, Royal Navy Black Cats helicopter display team, Irish Air Corps, wing-walkers and gliders among many others.

On the ground were vendors of food, clothing and luxury goods, and displays by all the Armed Forces, the Royal British Legion and, of course, St Dunstan's. We used a small tent provided by the TA and became the focus of unending interest as people watched demonstrations of equipment, played Braille dominoes with St Dunstaners Moira McGrath and Harry Beevers and attempted blindfold toy

boat-building. We gave out lots of information about St Dunstan's to teachers, nurses, Forces personnel, cadets and the general public.

A worthwhile couple of days came to an end with the British Legion's parade of standards and veterans. The parade formed up on the beach for the Remembrance Service which commemorated the 90th

anniversary of the Royal Air Force and the centenary of the Territorial Army. It culminated in an aerial drop of four million poppy petals over the sea.

There was one final treat when the Red Arrows powered into the bay for a second spectacular performance sending the 300,000 strong crowd home on a high.

Take off at Airbourne 08



Two American Airmen stationed at Mildenhall met up with Billy Baxter, Emilie, whose dad is serving in Afghanistan, Bob Strickland, Nigel Whiteley and Emilie's brother Josh.

Bob Strickland reports

ST DUNSTAN'S Public Speaker team ran a stand at the world's biggest seafront airshow held 14-17 August. St Dunstaners Billy Baxter, Chris and Hazel Humphrey, Gerry and Maureen Jackson, Bob and Ann Strickland, Nigel and Jacquie Whiteley

and Roger Williams took turns meeting the public.

Helicopters, including a Chinook, wing-walkers, old and modern day fighter aircraft, The Memorial Flight, were just some of the displays roaring overhead, before the Red Arrows demonstrated just why they get top billing.

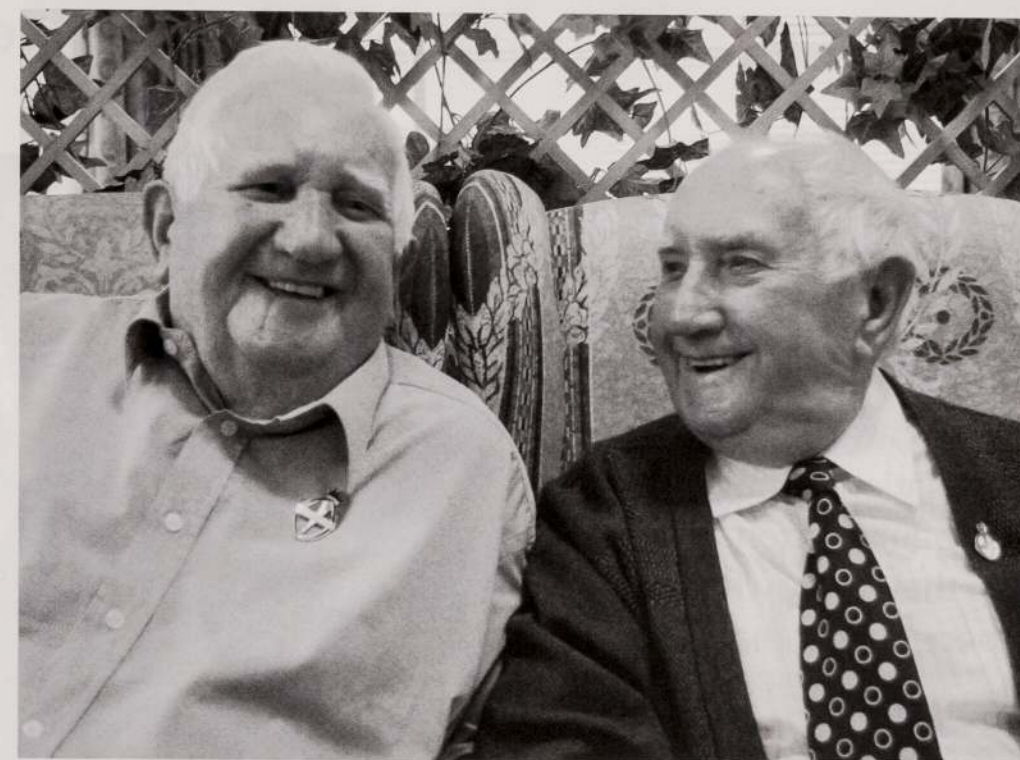
Family reunion at St Dunstan's

St Dunstaner brothers are reunited during Ovingdean holiday

TWO ST DUNSTANERS enjoyed a family reunion at St Dunstan's Ovingdean in August, the first time for several years. Brothers Charlie and Joe Cosby and their wives were reunited in the Lounge, beating the factors that had kept them apart.

There was no great disaster that separated them, telephone calls and Christmas cards maintained contact, but the vagaries of life prevented them actually meeting in recent years. "I can't drive," said Joe, "he can't drive, with the distance we just couldn't make it! It's too far to walk it!"

Elder brother Charlie lives in Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire. He served in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and Royal Engineers during World War II. After becoming a St Dunstaner in 2006 due to glaucoma, he suggested that Joe should apply when he too started losing his sight. Joe suffered a haemorrhage in one eye, then started to suffer from



Brothers in Arms! St Dunstaners Charlie and Joe Cosby.

macular degeneration in the other. Joe lives in Highcliffe-on-Sea, Christchurch, Dorset and served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

About two-and-a half years older than his brother, Charlie served in Sicily, Africa, Italy and Salerno.

Joe served around the UK, Normandy, Germany, Sardinia, Egypt, and Palestine. He recalled with some discomfort meeting survivors from Belsen.

In civilian life, Charlie and Joe worked for the same firm producing printing inks. However, in time other work opportunities drew Joe and his family down south.

They add that having become St Dunstaners has restored a lot of confidence since losing their sight. "I was down in the dumps," said Charlie. "But coming here, it's a new world, you come through that door and you meet Martin and it lifts you up. You get confidence that you're not the only one like this."

A letter from America!

Mike Brown joins three British soldiers blinded in Iraq as they meet up with their counterparts in the USA for Operation Peer Support

WHEN BEN Shaw, Craig Lundberg and Simon Brown were invited to join the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) in America for their 63rd National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, I'm not sure they knew what to expect. I know that when my son, Simon, asked me to go with him I had no real concept of what was ahead.



Photograph: Mike Brown

Ben and Louise Shaw, Deborah, Carla, Craig Lundberg, Pedro Jenkins and Simon Brown in Washington DC.

The plan was three days in Washington, then fly to Phoenix for a further seven days. In Phoenix we were to meet 12 recently blinded veterans from OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom). Whilst the main convention took place the New Vets were to take part in Operation Peer Support in a separate area, more about this later.

We were met at Washington Airport by our hosts Tom Zampieri and Pedro Jenkins. An air conditioned chauffeured minibus had been laid on to transport us to the hotel. Craig and

Simon knew each other but it was the first time they had met Ben, so the first night was spent in the bar discussing the best way to get over jetlag.

Our first appointment next morning was at the British Embassy in Washington for a tour of the gardens, and to meet with one of the Military Attachés. After a coffee in the staff canteen we were given a bag of "goodies" each. This gave our host Tom the opportunity to turn up

at odd times wearing t-shirts and hats with the Union Jack.

Our next call was Capitol Hill to meet Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton who represents the District of Columbia in Congress. Her aide took us in hand and this gave us a chance to see Tom at work. Tom is the Director for Government Affairs with the BVA and his job is to highlight problems and solutions for blinded veterans. The aftercare of veterans in America is taken

very seriously with the Veterans Agency controlling a budget of billions (yes, billions), so not surprisingly, we somehow ended up talking about sport and especially Rugby League. All this was followed by a personal tour around the Capitol Building where the guys were allowed past the barriers to hold and feel the history, an experience denied to the average American.

It was a short walk from there to the headquarters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the largest of the voluntary groups representing veterans. Here we were treated to a cold buffet and a warm welcome. All three of the visitors were presented with a model of the dome of the Capitol Building. After a short visit to Union Station it was on to the Washington Memorial then back to the hotel to prepare for our evening meal. The meal was with Tom and his family at their favourite restaurant; after all it was Jasmine's birthday (Tom's daughter) on Monday.

Saturday morning found us at the Kennedy Arts Centre, a state of the art theatre complex. A request had been made to visit



Photograph: Mike Brown

Simon Brown presented a regimental plaque when the group met representatives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Arlington Military Cemetery, and this we did next. It was, as expected, a place of quiet reflection, a place to give respect to fallen brothers. Without being there it is difficult to comprehend its size. Simon described the sea of vertical white headstones as being like a field of corn.

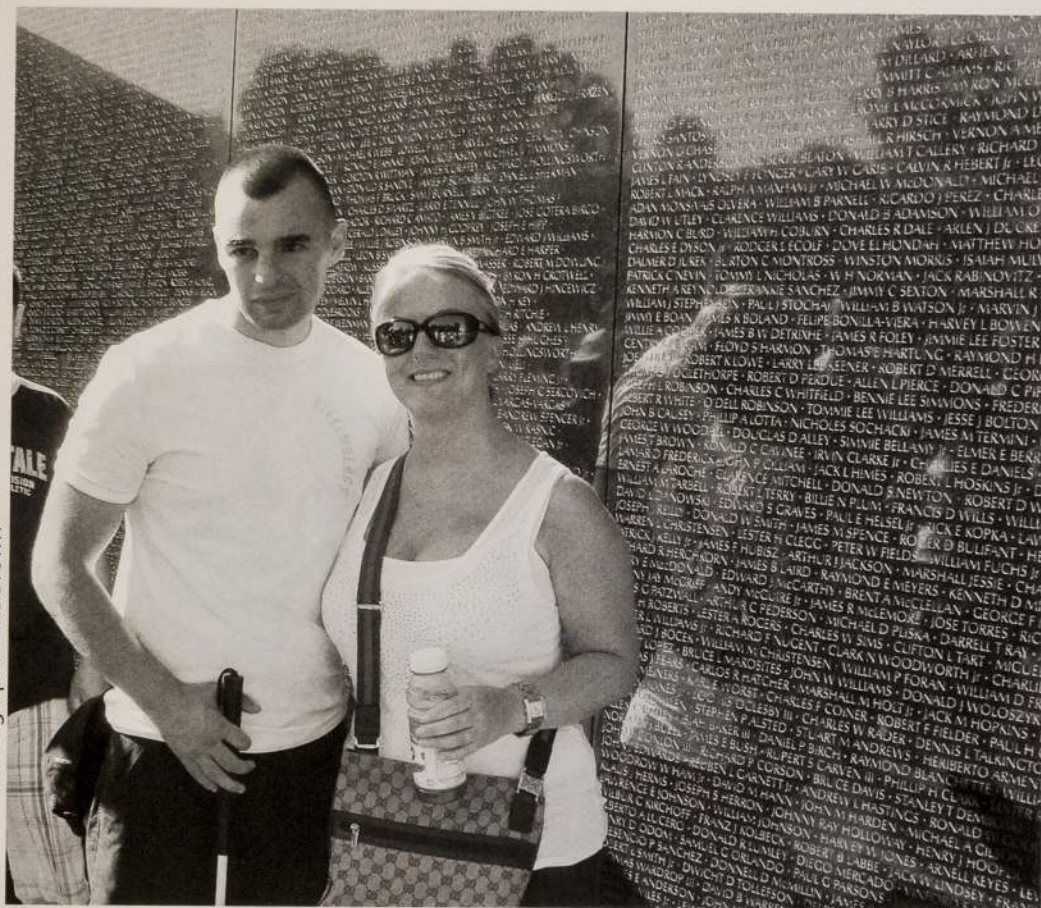
Tours of the cemetery are given using open sided, three carriage land trains. You can alight from them at certain points of the tour and rejoin them at a later point. We stopped at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and watched the immaculate change of the guard ceremony. It was shortly after this that one of the many acts of extreme kindness that



Photograph: Stuart Nelson, BVA

Ben Shaw, aged 25, served four years in the Light Infantry, now part of The Rifles. He was on his second tour of duty in Iraq and driving the lead vehicle when his patrol was caught by a roadside bomb in February 2007. He was severely wounded by shrapnel from the explosion.

Photograph: Mike Brown



Craig Lundberg and Carla beside the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The black marble wall lists nearly 60,000 USA Servicemen and women who died during the 1960s conflict.

we received over our visit happened. We were rejoining the land train tour, but as it stopped it was apparent that our group would have to split up as not enough adjacent seats were available. Pedro, our guide, quietly spoke to the Guard/Tour Guide. Within seconds the already seated passengers were vacating their seats and rearranging themselves so we could sit together. As the tour restarted the Guard/Tour Guide invited everyone to "welcome our UK guests" which caused a round of applause. The tour

commentary then included an explanation of the close ties between the US and UK forces and ended with a thank you for "your sacrifices". We spent the rest of the day walking around Washington looking at the White House, Lincoln Memorial and especially, the Vietnam Memorial. Again many acts of respect and kindness were shown. Craig was allowed to climb through the plant beds to feel the sculptures, a number of people shook their hands

or gave them a hug. We even met three RAF Regiment lads halfway through a posting to the USA (why does the RAF always get the best postings?).

Sunday upon us, and with the tourist stuff out of the way, it was time for an early morning flight to Phoenix. Tom explained that they had asked the local Air Force base to supply someone to guide us through the airport. We were amazed to find ten Airmen and women waiting to greet us. Heads were turned as the party proceeded through the corridors and lobbies flanked by uniformed personnel.

Now we were at the convention the real business started. Operation Peer Support was started three years ago. The idea is to get all recently blinded veterans together so that they can be given, and share, information and experiences. That is the idea, the actuality is much more profound, over the week, the new veterans are given respect by their peers and shown that they are valued. They meet people who are also blind and are playing a vital role in the community. Surrounded by people that have taken

the opportunity to start a new career they can also be inspired to do the same. Most importantly, they are shown that life has not hit a dead end, it has reached a junction in the road, and they have choices. The threads holding it all together? Camaraderie and laughter!

Sometimes taking the first steps towards recovery can be hard and daunting. The BVA attempts to help by getting sponsorship for Operation Peer Support (OPS) thereby offering places free of charge. The week is full of lectures and forums in everything from the latest technology, training availability, jobs and even a forum of Guide Dogs. The most popular forums were on communication skills; these were invariably held in the bar. Ideas and experiences were swapped along with jokes, general banter and most importantly contact details.

It would take too long to list all the events that happened over the week, but a few of the highlights are as follows.

A dinner was given to the OPS group attended by CEO Tom Miller. During the dinner, all the attendees



Photograph: Mike Brown

Simon Brown with Carla and Craig on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Behind them, on the far side of the reflecting pool is the National World War II Memorial, though this is overshadowed by the Washington Monument, a tall sand-coloured obelisk commemorating George Washington. The tallest stone structure in the world, it almost obscures the dome of the US Capitol, the seat of Congress and the legislative arm of American federal government.

were asked to tell their stories. It was at this point the common bond was exposed, the struggle back to a new normality.

The Director of the Veterans Association addressed the opening session of the convention and the USA National Anthem was played. Our National Anthem was played "in honour of their guests", and yes, we sang, loud and proud.

During the week it is traditional for the New Vets to be given a Braille flag, a copy of the Stars & Stripes at Arlington in Washington. A specially made Union Flag was commissioned for our three boys to make them feel right at home.

We had a number of excellent nights out including a visit to a local Veterans Club with live entertainment and a night in a British Pub.

The British Pub supported a full dining menu including fish & chips, cottage pie and bangers & mash followed in the morning by the good old British hangover.

There was (allegedly) a "Hooters" bar within a short walk of the hotel. Some of the boys had a couple of beers there one afternoon before coming back to the hotel for dinner. When they asked for the bill they found



Photograph: Stuart Nelson, BVA

Corporal Simon Brown, aged 29, of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was with 2 Lancs when he was shot in Iraq in 2006. He spent three weeks in a coma, waking to find that he had lost total sight in one eye and only had partial vision in the other.

it had been paid by some anonymous person who just wanted to say thank you.

The Network Bar and Grill situated in the Hotel was a firm favourite with all the boys. All the staff had prior training to help them deal with any needs that might have arisen. You were always able to find the group by following the sound of laughter. I was able to stand back and watch the staff's affection and respect grow as the week progressed. The bar manager has now volunteered as a helper at the local BVA and intends to go to next year's bash.

A demonstration and trial of Goal Ball and running was



Photograph: Mike Brown

Simon, Craig, Carla and Deborah Lundberg are joined by a blind American veteran for a walk around Phoenix.

arranged for one morning at the local sports facility. On hand were national coaches and players. Simon kept quiet that he had tried Goal Ball before and had a pretty strong throwing arm. Within a very short space of time, everyone wanted to be on Simon's team, just to avoid him throwing the ball in their direction.

One of the final events for us was the Presentation Dinner and the swearing in of the new officials. We had told of our tradition of remembering the fallen when Veterans get together by reciting the Exhortation, (They shall not grow old), followed by a short silence. Simon was invited to recite

this after the prayer by the Padre. Craig, Ben and Simon also presented plaques and flags to the BVA.

It has only been possible to give you a small sample of the agenda and events, but I was privileged to watch all the "new boys" grow in stature and confidence. One lad, a Marine, celebrated his 22nd birthday on the last night. He is a double amputee as well as having sight problems and was very quiet when we first met him. His mum told me it was 04:00 when she finally got him to bed (very drunk) after spending "his best birthday ever with his new mates." I rest my case.

Operation Peer Support is not about opening doors, but is about showing you which doors are open. It is not about helping you to make decisions, but tries to empower you with the knowledge to make your own. Above all, it's about preventing isolation and supplying an ongoing source of knowledge, experience, help and friendship.

I said at the start of this article I did not know what to expect. Now I'm back in the UK I realise that this is an ongoing organic thing. I still don't know what to expect.



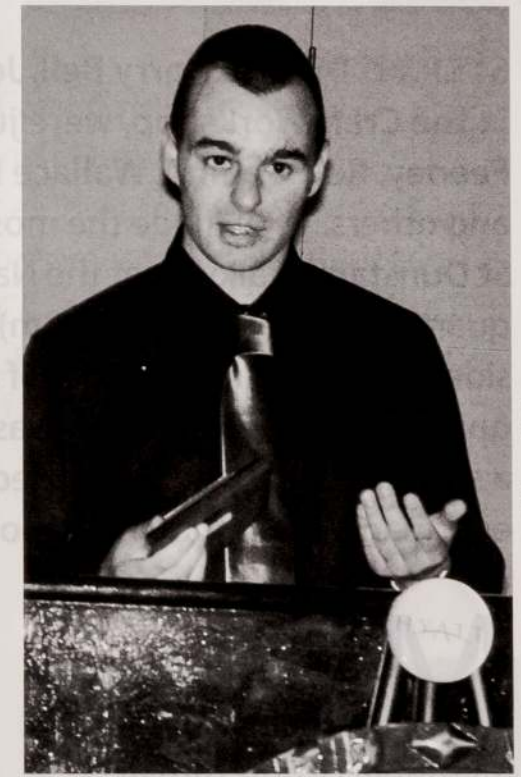
Photograph: Stuart Nelson, BVA

Simon Brown shakes hands with Dr Norman Jones, President of the Blinded Veterans Association during an exchange of plaques at the conference.



Photograph: Mike Brown

St Dunstaner Craig Lundberg presented Dr Jones with a St Dunstan's plaque. Dr Jones served with the 82nd Airborne Division, US Army before an injury caused his sight loss.



Photograph: Stuart Nelson, BVA

Lance Corporal Craig Lundberg, aged 23, of the Duke of Lancaster Regiment was gravely injured when caught by a rocket-propelled grenade while on patrol in Iraq in March 2007.

Memorial mosaic unveiled

Adrian Golland reports on the refurbishment and rededication of a tranquil walkway at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas

Photographs: Adrian Tilford and Sally Hancock



ST DUNSTANERS Harry Bell, Joyce Charlton and David Weltman, pictured above at work in the Craft Workshop, were just three St Dunstaners from a group including Patrick Feeney, Reg Goding, Wallace Burnet-Smith, John Watts, Marjorie Mower, Eddie O'Brien and others. They made the mosaic version of St Dunstan's crest that was then installed in St Dunstan's Walkway at the National Memorial Arboretum. Measuring roughly four and a quarter feet in diameter (1.3m) it was constructed in ten sections. The tiles were stuck colour side down onto a thin sheet of acrylic, in which a tactile design had been added using a glue gun. White Ciment Fondue was then used to grout each piece from behind with mesh and a stronger sand mix being used to strengthen the back. Later, the acrylic was removed and each panel was ground and polished before being sent to Staffordshire.

MANY GUESTS converged on the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire on 4 September. They came from far and wide, most having set out in the much earlier hours of that morning. The purpose of their travel was to attend the service of dedication

and the unveiling of the St Dunstan's Mosaic, which has been set beautifully into the St Dunstan's Walkway at the NMA, and which was sculpted by craftsmen from St Dunstan's. The walkway is the direct route between the NMA Visitor Centre and the Chapel and, therefore will be seen and no doubt admired by the many visitors who

attend the chapel. Its popularity was evident since the Chapel, which has seats for 120 people, was overflowing for both the daily act of remembrance at 11am and the St Dunstan's service of dedication which followed soon after.

The St Dunstan's dedication service was conducted by

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE - ST DUNSTAN'S 2008 CHRISTMAS SELECTION

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO SEND SEASONAL GREETINGS: As the Festive Season approaches, St Dunstan's is pleased to make its latest selection of Christmas cards available. All of our Christmas cards carry the St Dunstan's logo and the greeting "With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year". Each pack contains ten cards and envelopes, except the Craft Workshop twin pack which contain five cards of each design. All prices include VAT at 17.5 per cent.

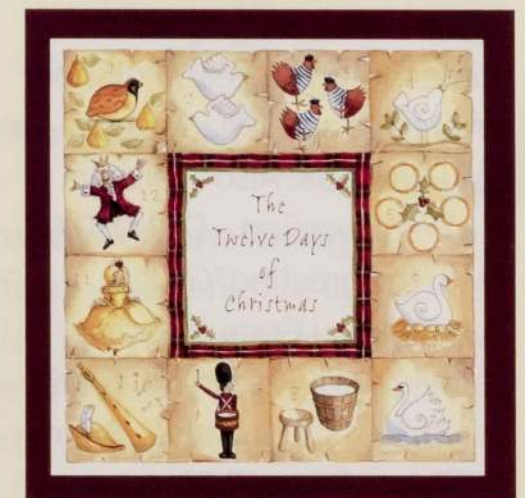


Letter to Santa
Santa resting in front of a cosy warm fire reading a special letter from a child. Ref: DUN020X. Size: 4.76 x 6.73 inches (121mm x 171mm). Price: £3.75.

St Dunstan's Craft Christmas Card twin pack
Unique cards made by our own St Dunstaners. Designs include the traditional Christmas wreath, over the lyrics of *The Holly and The Ivy*, and Christmas pudding, over the words of *We Wish You A Merry Christmas* – both featuring St Dunstan's logo on the front. Ref: DUN037X. Size: 4.76 x 6.73 inches (121mm x 171mm). Price: £3.50.

Twelve Days of Christmas
Unique card design depicting the twelve days and icons of Christmas. Ref: DUN021X. Size: 4.76 x 4.76 inches (121mm x 121mm). Price: £3.50.

Each square represents a verse of the popular song, starting with the partridge in a pear tree, followed by the two turtle doves, the three French hens, calling birds, five gold rings, six geese-a-laying, seven swans, etc through to the 12th day.





Baubles

Four colourful bauble designs depicting Christmas snow scenes – a jolly snowman and a decorated Christmas tree. Ref: DUN022X. Size: 4.76 x 4.76 inches (121mm x 121mm). Price: £3.25.



Way Home

A gentleman walking his sheep home through a beautiful snow covered village in early dusk. Ref: DUN023X. Also available in a Welsh version – DUN030X – with the greeting “Gyda Dymuniadau Gorau ar gyfer y Nadolig a'r Flwyddyn Newydd”. Size: 5.39 x 5.39 inches (137mm x 137mm) Price: £3.75



Madonna and Child

Peaceful painting of a nativity scene depicting Madonna holding a sleeping child. Blue light offsets their halos. Ref: DUN024X. Size: 3.86 x 5.12 inches (98mm x 130mm). Price: £3.50.



Post Early for Christmas

Surrounded by snow-covered holly, a red-breasted robin perches on deadwood near a rectangular red postbox in a country lane. Ref: DUN025X. Size: 5.39 x 5.39 inches (137mm x 137mm). Price: £3.75.



International Greetings

Red and gold Christmas card featuring international greetings in English, French, Welsh and Spanish. Christmas wreaths, holly and traditional Christmas flowers are depicted on the card. Ref: DUN026X. Size: 4.76 x 4.76 inches (121mm x 121mm). Price: £3.50.



The Carolers

Impressionistic painting of a lovely Christmas scene in old London town depicting carollers singing in front of a shop window in a gas-lit street. Ref: DUN027X. Size: 6.26 x 6.26 inches (159mm x 159mm). Price: £3.95.



Boy Pulling a Sledge

A young boy pulling a sledge with his Christmas tree through the heavy snow. Ref: DUN028X. 3.39 x 8.98 inches (86mm x 228mm). Price: £3.75.



Giftwrap

Six assorted sheets with 12 matching tags. Ref: DUN029X. Price: £3.50.



St Dunstan's baseball cap

Red baseball cap with the St Dunstan's logo on the front peak. One size fits all. Ref: DUN032X. Price: £5.00.



St Dunstan's metallic silver ballpoint pen

Marked with charity logo. Black ink. Ref: DUN033X. Price: £1.



St Dunstan's 2009 Diary - cover only

Slim design diary cover, green mock leather finish with St Dunstan's logo embossed in gold foil. Ref: DUN034X. Size: 6.3 x 3.5 inches (160mm x 89mm). Price: £5.00.

St Dunstan's 2009 Diary - insert only

Cream diary insert to accompany the St Dunstan's 2009 diary cover. Please note, this is not a large print diary. Ref: DUN035X. Price: £3.00.



St Dunstan's enamel badge

The official emblem of St Dunstan's, a Grecian cone-shaped torch with a flame at the top. The badge can be worn with any item of clothing. Ref: DUN036X. Price: £1.00.



St Dunstan's tie

Navy blue polyester tie with St Dunstan's logo placed three in a row and divided by a diagonal red line.

Ref: DUN031X. Price: £5.00.

Telephone 0845 450 8446 or use this form to place your order

Name _____ Address 1 _____
 Address 2 _____ Address 3 _____
 Post code _____ Telephone _____

Code	Description	No. of packs	Cost per pack*	Total £
DUN020X	Letter to Santa		£3.75	
DUN021X	Twelve Days of Christmas		£3.50	
DUN022X	Baubles		£3.25	
DUN023X	Way Home		£3.75	
DUN024X	Madonna and Child		£3.50	
DUN025X	Post Early for Christmas		£3.75	
DUN026X	International Greetings		£3.50	
DUN027X	The Carolers		£3.95	
DUN028X	Boy Pulling a Sledge		£3.75	
DUN037X	St Dunstan's Craft Christmas Card twin pack		£3.50	
DUN029X	Giftwrap		£3.50	
DUN030X	Way Home (Welsh version)		£3.75	
DUN031X	St Dunstan's navy blue polyester tie		£5.00	
DUN032X	St Dunstan's baseball cap		£5.00	
DUN033X	St Dunstan's metallic silver ballpoint pen		£1.00	
DUN034X	St Dunstan's 2009 Diary cover only		£5.00	
DUN035X	St Dunstan's Diary insert only		£3.00	
DUN036X	St Dunstan's enamel badge		£1.00	
Order total			£	
Postage & packing – Up to £15: £2.50, £15.01 to £30: £3.95, over £30: FREE			£	
*Cost per pack includes VAT @ 17.5 per cent TOTAL				

In the event that one or more of your choices is sold out, St Dunstan's will substitute an alternative design for you. Your order will be despatched in 21 days.

I am enclosing a cheque/postal order made payable to St Dunstan's Enterprises Ltd (please write name and address on the reverse). OR Please debit my Master Card/Visa/Amex/Maestro

Card No (Shaded boxes for Valid from Expiry date Issue No Maestro only)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this order form along with your payment to:

St Dunstan's Christmas Cards, PO Box 220, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 6ZQ

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Colonel Beatty unveils the St Dunstan's Mosaic. Simon Brown, Terry Bullingham, Sydney Tavender and Eric Sayce were amongst St Dunstaners in the congregation.

the Chapel's Pastor Paul Owen and included the laying on the altar of the St Dunstan's Standard, carried throughout the proceedings by Arthur Carter. Rousing hymns gave way to a reading by St Dunstan's Chief Executive Robert Leader, DL. The service concluded with the National Anthem. The service was followed by the unveiling of the St Dunstan's Mosaic by the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Colonel Mike Beatty, CBE, TD, DL. (Coincidentally, Arthur Carter's escort Adrian Golland had served under Colonel Beatty as 2IC 35 years ago). St Dunstan's Chairman, Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox RN, explained how the walkway had come about in the first place. Apparently the original layout plan had

visitors walking around the cloistered sides of the space between the Visitor Centre and the Chapel: but, humans being human, a muddy path had been beaten along the direct route. A suggestion that this should be converted into a sensory pathway dedicated to St Dunstan's was pursued and, after many years of planning and development, was formally opened.

Other guests included St Dunstan's Vice Patrons General Sir Peter de la Billière, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC and Air Chief Marshal Sir Roger Palin, KCB, OBE. St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan also attended.

Throughout, there was an honour guard of army cadets from Warwickshire & West Midlands (South



The Mosaic revealed.



Sir Roger inspects the cadets from Warwickshire.



Sir Peter with Standard Bearer Arthur Carter and Adrian.

Sector) ACF with their band of pipe and drums. It is always refreshing to see the splendid youngsters who come through the Cadet Forces, and these youngsters were amongst the best – thanks and congratulations to them. But thanks also to all who organised such a memorable occasion.

An enjoyable week for archers

David Poyner on St Dunstan's Archery Club's August contests

THIS YEAR'S second outdoor Archery Week started on 23 August at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. We spent the day setting up, checking and receiving some coaching. We were delighted to welcome back Major Dushyantha Yappa from Sri Lanka. He shot with us all week and said how much he enjoyed taking part. We look forward to seeing him again.

It was good to see Harry Docherty and his wife back at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, and Doug Rogers who returned after major illness and was soon shooting well.

Sunday, the weather was so bad we were forced to shoot indoors. We shot a Bray 1 round.

Total Blind

1st Peter Hammond
2nd Norman Perry
3rd Clive Jones

Tactile

1st David Poyner
2nd Doug Rogers
3rd Patrick Sidnell

Bowsight

1st Keith Lanchester-Harding
2nd Tom Roddy

Monday saw an improvement in the weather, much to the relief of the archers and organisers as it meant our match against Hellingly could take part outdoors. The round was a Junior Weston.

St Dunstan's Team Total 5796
Hellingly Team Total 5666

Well done St Dunstan's Team.

Tuesday saw similar weather to Monday so it was back to the field for the Club Championships when we shot a Bristol 4 round.

Total Blind

1st Peter Hammond
2nd Harry Docherty
3rd Clive Jones

Tactile

1st Patrick Sidnell
2nd David Poyner
3rd Doug Rogers

Bowsight

1st Steve Moseley
2nd Keith Lanchester-Harding
3rd Tom Roddy

Wednesday was a rest day for the archers and spotters, with coaching available upon request. Thursday was a Double Frostbite in the morning and a knockout competition in the afternoon.

Double Frostbite

1st Peter Hammond
2nd Tom Roddy
3rd Marjorie Scott

Winner of the knockout:

Tom Roddy

Friday we shot a Burntwood York round.

Total Blind

1st Peter Hammond
2nd Norman Perry
3rd Harry Docherty

Tactile

1st Patrick Sidnell
2nd Doug Rogers
3rd Marjorie Scott

Bowsight

1st Steve Moseley
2nd Keith Lanchester-Harding
3rd Tom Roddy

The Club presentation took place on Friday evening and we were thrilled to welcome a number of guests including St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan and his wife Robbie, Club President Major (Rtd) Wendy Le Gassick, MBE, Dick Lake, Mrs Betty Hagger and members of Ditchling, Hellingly and Newhaven Archery Clubs.

Ray Hazan was our Lord Paramount, presenting most of the trophies.

Club Champion Trophies:

Totally Blind:

Peter Hammond

Tactile: Patrick Sidnell

Bowsight Compound:

Steve Moseley

Bowsight Recurve:

Tom Roddy

Ladies: Marjorie Scott

Curly Wagstaff Trophy:

Doug Rogers

Club Coaches Trophy:

Keith Lanchester-Harding

Royal Insurance Trophy:

David Poyner

Special Trophy:

Major Dushyantha Yappa

Mrs Betty Hagger presented the Derek Hagger Memorial Trophy to Tom Roddy.

The Silly Ass Award was passed on from Brian Muggeridge to John Grout for his valiant efforts to shield Keith Lanchester-Harding from the wind regardless of the difference in their sizes.

During the week Peter Hammond broke four club records and Patrick Sidnell one club record.

Ray Hazan presented Dick Lake with a farewell card, gold medal and trophy from the St Dunstan's Archery Club to thank him for the enormous amount of help

Photograph: Jax Whiteley



Lord Paramount Ray Hazan with archers Norman Perry, Marjorie Scott, Tom Roddy, Steve Moseley, Doug Rogers, Keith Lanchester-Harding, Patrick Sidnell, Dushyantha Yappa, Ron Jones, Peter Hammond and David Poyner.

and encouragement he's given us over the years. We all wish him a long and happy retirement.

It was a great evening; there were many prizes in the raffle which raised a good sum for the Club. We thank our guests for attending and PPK who provided a good buffet and bar which was well staffed by Sue.

Saturday produced blue sky and glorious sun. We were delighted to welcome visiting archers from Ditchling and Newhaven Archery Clubs.

As 45 archers lined up to shoot it was a fantastic sight, attracting large numbers of spectators on the main road and some coming

down to the gate to find out more about what was going on. Everyone mucked in together, working to make it a hugely successful and enjoyable day.

The winners of the matches:

Newhaven AC v St Dunstan's - winners Newhaven AC
Ditchling AC v St Dunstan's - winners Ditchling AC

Our congratulations and thanks to Newhaven and Ditchling and we're looking forward to a rematch.

It was a great week and successful due to the efforts (often long in advance of the week) of our organisers, coaches, field captain, spotters, helpers, records officer, equipment officer and St Dunstan's staff.

The grandeur of Mother Nature

St Dunstaner Derek Brown on Canada's amazing landscape

IT HAS BEEN an ambition of mine for quite a few years to visit Canada. I have at last fulfilled that ambition with the aid of my daughter, Kim, when I went there in May and June. We flew to Toronto and were amazed at the skyscraper buildings but this was a taste of things to come. We were treated to a quick tour of the city and the next day we enjoyed lunch at the top of the CN Tower, indulging in the recommended rib of beef. It melted in the mouth. Between us we had three glasses of wine and one glass of beer which cost \$59, rather expensive but prices are high in Canada.

We were taken to Niagara Falls. They are so fantastic, it is difficult to find words adequate to describe them but it does remind you of the power of Mother Nature.

Next we spent four days on the train, crossing the vast country to the town of Jasper in the Rocky Mountains. From there we travelled into the Rockies by coach. Everybody was on



Kim and Derek by the massive glacier.

the lookout for wild animals, but my eyesight failed me. A trip up a mountain by cable car followed, taking in the marvellous scenery.

We visited the five million year old ice fields and saw the glacier. Next day, came a trip on a rigid inflatable over rough waters on a fast flowing river; fortunately we were provided with plastic macs to protect us. We travelled on to Banff, a little bigger than Jasper. I crossed on foot a sky bridge which wobbled like a piece of jelly 154 feet above the canyon. Our evening meal was in a big wooden building where

the staff put on a show, singing and dancing. It culminated with a Mountie (the only one we saw!) who sat in a canoe on the stage and posed for photographs. He was joined by a squaw and posed as if paddling when the pianist proceeded to play the opening bars of the music *Titanic*. I have not laughed so much in my life. It was after this we were taken up in a helicopter to the mountains. Finally, we reached Vancouver and taken out to dinner on a ferry around Vancouver Island. On the last day we were taken around Buschart Gardens which were very beautiful.

Difficulties of a Two-Tee Start

St Dunstan's Golf Club secretary Les Trout has the latest news

WINTER IS NEARLY upon us and the September meeting at Rusper was the last meeting to accrue points for the various trophies that are on offer. This is an amendment to the previous update, as we have to have the trophies engraved for the winner. There will be the special silver salver awarded and some prizes for the October Festival which is at the indoor venue of Golf Addiction situated in the Brighton Marina on 12 October. This is a completely different ball game and should prove to be an exciting event.

Many congratulations go to Mike Mayo who won The British Blind Golf Open Championship in Ireland in August and being in the winning Scottish team versus England at the China Fleet Club near Saltash Cornwall. More information can be found at www.blindgolf.co.uk. Belated thanks are owed to Mike for obtaining prizes for the Invitation Day. The next EPGA international meeting will take place at Hamilton Golf Club, Scotland in September 2009.

Please remember that the final meeting for this year is the Captain's Day in November. This is being organised by the Captain. Contact Mike Tumilson on 0247 6714922 for the details.

If anyone wishes to bring along a prize for a raffle for the October Festival meeting to raise some funds, it would be graciously appreciated. We are still pursuing various options for next year's Invitation Day, from suggestions made at the September meeting.

One of the main difficulties is trying to obtain a Two-Tee Start at weekends which is most essential. This is vital to avoid a long drawn out day for the golfers, especially for all those people who graciously give up their time to assist us.

Once again, we would like to thank all the guides and caddies who have attended the meetings over the year, doing such a marvellous job of helping those who love the game of golf.

Good news from Kuwait



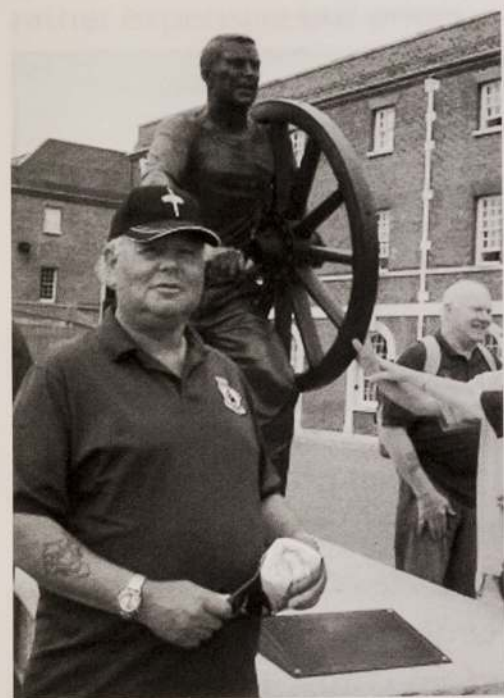
The British Business Forum (BBF) in Kuwait presented cheques for three service charities to Major-General Barney White-Spunner, CBE at a gala dinner in June. He accepted donations for St Dunstan's, The Royal British Legion and SSAFA. Left to right, Jeff De Lange, Janet Hubbard, and Chris Simpson of BBF, are pictured with Major General White-Spunner, as well as Paul McKay, RN, Mo Wilkinson, and John Lewinton of the BBF. Stuart Laing, British Ambassador to Kuwait also attended.

Summer joy at Sultan!

Robert Strickland reports on the 2008 Summer Camp at HMS Sultan

EACH YEAR HMS *Sultan* hosts the Annual St Dunstan's Blind Ex-Servicemen's Summer Camp. The Camp has been successfully hosted by HMS *Sultan* following the closure of HMS *Daedalus* in 1996. Traditionally supported by the Fleet Air Arm Field Gun Crew for 50 years, the St Dunstaners thoroughly enjoy their annual activity week and close liaison with the Service and Volunteer Helpers.

Those in attendance this year, 25 July to 2 August were St Dunstaners Maurice Bowley, Arthur Carter, Bob Crossan, Brian Durber, Peter Hammond, Gerry Jackson, Clive Jones, Brian Lang, John Lappin, Billy Miller, Alan Mitchell, Chris Ottewell, Don Planner, Rob Strickland and Nigel Whiteley. The were joined by first-timers Alfred "Butch" Bennett, Jack



Gerry Jackson celebrates the role of the Field Gunners.

Hadnum, John Moore and John Patterson.

The helpers, affectionately known as "Dogs" were Norma Atkinson, Tom Atkinson, Bill Bailey, Barry Bingham, Dave Burrows, Sammy Dyer, Jim Hawkins, Ron Houghton, Allison Macdowell, Sheona Melrose, Dave Morgan, Don Oliver, Taff Phillips, Kevin Pyke, Sue Pyke, Sue Poval, Kevin Rixon, Yvonne Rixon, Andy Salter, Kirby Taylor, Arnold Thompson, Dorothy Thompson, Liz Walker and Kirsty Warns.

The camp was arranged by WOI Bill Bailey, Organising Sponsor on behalf of the Royal Navy, and Dave Burrows, the Organising Secretary, both doing extremely well in preparation and organisation. Our thanks go to both for a wonderful camp, very well done. We all started to assemble on 25 July, coming in from

as far a field as Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and all parts of England. A true representation of all those who are St Dunstaners. As usual with well planned and organised travel arrangements.

After Supper, we all assembled in the WO, SRs & SNCOs Mess Snug Bar, for a briefing as to what was happening during the coming week. We were all told that if we had any problems we were to get them sorted straight away. After the meeting, one person reported that he might have a problem with his sleeping as one of the dividing doors squeaked every time it was opened and closed. Come the next morning everything was fine as the door had been oiled. Dave was as good as his word. (All our meals and Meetings took place in the WO, SRs & SNCOs Mess building).

SATURDAY 26 JULY (am)

At 8.45am most of us were transported in two mini-buses to the Gosport Sailing and Cruising Club. We were then split up into small groups and each group was allocated to various craft. Some in sailing boats and

others went out in small motor boats.

Sue Pyke (my dog) and I were assigned to a small sailing craft called the "Galadrial" with Malcolm the skipper and his lovely lady Ann. To both Sue and I it was a wonderful experience, we sailed out of Portsmouth Harbour, out into the Solent and on leaving the harbour, up went the sails and the engine turned off. We sailed out past the two main forts (Spit Head and No Mans Land) and back again. All skippers were told to get their passengers back to the club house by 12 noon for a buffet lunch.

The weather was great and the wind only light. I can well imagine why sailors really enjoy their sailing at week ends, its so relaxing. On arriving back at the Gosport Sailing Club, the club had a really nice buffet ready for us together with a free round of drinks, rounding the morning off nicely.

St Dunstaner Nigel Whiteley thanked the club on behalf of us all. The Gosport Club made us truly welcome and the crews treated us like VIPs. Thank you Gosport Sailing and Cruising Club.

SATURDAY (pm)

The main event for the afternoon was gliding. Five St Dunstaners took part, Bob Crossan, Jack Hadnum, John Lappin, Chris Ottewell and Rob Strickland. Our

helpers were Liz Walker and Dave Morgan.

At 1:30pm the five of us were driven out to Lee-on-the-Solent airfield, known as HMS *Daedalus*. The weather remained just perfect, clear skies and a light breeze.

Because there were only five of us, it was decided that each of us could have two flights. The glider we were using was a 60 year old glider. It had no canopy, which seated two persons side by side. (Pilot on the left and passenger on the right, no parachutes) The modern glider also has two seats but in tandem and you wear a parachute.

With Jack Hadnum (his first time ever in a glider) as the first of our group to fly, Jack was winched up at a tremendous speed of knots to 1200ft, released, and flown out over the Solent, Stokes Bay and over the surrounding country side and landed some 10 minutes



A St Dunstaner prepares for take off in the glider.

later. No sooner had he landed, when his glider was reconnected to the winch and up he went for a second trip.

The pilot remained in the glider and the passenger changed when it was their turn to fly. When it came to Bob Crossan's turn to fly, he came out with a real classic, on entering the glider he said "Who's that sitting next to me?"

Liz Walker, who has been a helper for some 35 years, plucked up courage and made her first glider flight ever. Our thanks go out to CFI John Hale and pilot Dave Howell from the Royal Navy Gliding Club.

In the afternoon, for those who were not gliding, some ventured down to Lee-on-Solent, Stokes Bay, or Gosport. Others used the afternoon for catching up on a few "Zzzz!"

During the evening we all took part in a brain rattling

quiz, organised by Sam Dyer, whilst taking part in a few be vies in the Snug Bar.

SUNDAY 27 JULY (am)

At 10am most of us assembled at St Francis Church, HMS *Sultan* for the Annual Church Service for St Dunstan's. John Lappin read one of the Readings and Dave Burrows read out the St Dunstan's Prayer.

SUNDAY (pm)

The afternoon was spent doing Archery, organised and run by the Havant and Hayling Island Bowman.

This is always a most enjoyable event, where we pit our skills as VIPs with the help of the Havant and Hayling Island Bowman, helping us to line up our arrows. It is quite a fierce competition, with each of us competing for trophies. The winners and losers are announced at the presentation evening.

Those who did not go gliding on the Saturday were given the chance to do so instead of taking part in the Archery event. Again, the weather was perfect and each had two flights.

MONDAY 28 JULY (am)

Monday is now traditionally the Sports morning. We assembled in the sports gymnasium at 9am, where we were split up into five teams of four. Each team took part in five events, first

using a hockey stick, hitting a puck to score goals in a Hockey net – Then heaving a heavy Volley Ball into a basket ball net – Followed by throwing hool-a-hoops over cricket stumps - Kicking footballs into a net in the fastest time - and lastly, rolling balls between cones. Team with best scores wins. All of the above sound so simple, but when you are blind or visually impaired, it all becomes very difficult, especially when heaving a heavy volley ball.

After the first event we were greeted by Commander Hodgkins who welcomed us to HMS *Sultan*. Later, Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, Chairman of St Dunstan's arrived and chatted to the St Dunstaners and staff. Both were very welcome.

When all the gym events had been completed, which was done in a very competitive manor, with great encouragement from all our helpers, we all drifted out onto the field for the walking race.

We all lined up and after being given the go, we all shot off at a fair gallop, around all the obstacles on the field's edge and all finished exhausted. Each St Dunstaner was assisted by their helper around the field safely. The winner was Don Planner, 2nd Chris Ottewell and Jack Hadnum was 3rd. It was nice to see Louise from

St Dunstan's Ovingdean greeting us as we finished.

Monday afternoon was to be a visit to the Gosport and Fareham Inshore Rescue Centre, but due to engineering works being done, this was cancelled. So the afternoon was spent with everyone doing their own thing. One group was going to *The Cocked Hat* for a visit and it was suggested that Kirby Taylor took a SatNav. Kirby's immediate reply was "I do not need a SatNav I have got Don Planner."

Monday evening we were all invited to the Conservative Club at Lee-on-Solent for a social evening. For many years we have visited the Club for lunch. The social evening turned out to be a great evening with plenty of organised games such as golf, dominoes and darts. A quiz had also been arranged, but the time was getting late, so it was cancelled. In order to make it a competitive evening, it was made into a Conservative Club versus St Dunstan's challenge. St Dunstan's won by a massive score of 42 to 21.

To commemorate the evening, Gosport & Lee-on-the-Solent Lions then presented the winning team with a wonderful new trophy, which was inscribed with the words "The St Dunstan's Challenge Cup", which they hoped would be played for each year. John Patterson

received the trophy on behalf of St Dunstan's and Gerry Jackson thanked the Con Club for a wonderful evening.

TUESDAY 29 JULY

This was our day for visit to the Isle of Wight via the Gosport Ferry. We left Gosport at 10:15am and returned on the 4:45pm ferry from Cowes. The Royal British Legion Cowes, extended a very warm welcome to us all, and Dave Burrows urged everyone visiting the Island to support this well run club. The weather turned out to be perfect and everyone had a great day out arriving home a little cream crackered.

WEDNESDAY 30 JULY (am)

There was a various amount of events taking place today, Golf at Stokes Bay Golf Club, Pitch & Put at Stokes Bay, Canoeing on the Hamble from Manor Farm Country Club and Fresh Water Fishing at DRYAD (Southwick Park).

Fishing

Three St Dunstaners went carp fishing. The overall weights of the fishing were had Alan Mitchell first with 21.5 lbs, Peter Hammond second with 18.5 lbs and Clive Jones was third with 17.5 lbs. The Heaviest Fish of the day was 10.5 lbs.

Helpers included Al Gore (HMS *Sultan*), Liz Walker and Andy "Sleepy" Salter.

The fishing trophy was presented to "Carp Man" Alan Mitchell by PO Justin Livemore (of HMS *Sultan*) at the lakeside.

Canoeing

Seven St Dunstaners, about the same number of carers plus five Combined Services personal, headed by Lt Paul Bastiaens, took to six Canadian Canoes and paddled up the Hamble River for about 90 mins, arriving at the Horse & Jockey Public house for Brunch.

Because of the weight factor and a strong current, the canoes were tied together in pairs for most of the time.

We arrived at the pub at high tide, but it was a different story when we came to leave. Because we were at the pub for about two hours, the tide had gone out considerably and thanks to Paul Bastiaens and his crew; we only just made it back to the main stream. Amongst us were three who had never done canoeing before, so it turned out to be a great experience.

WEDNESDAY evening

All the St Dunstaners and their helpers were invited back to the Wardroom, where we were warmly greeted by the Wardroom, President, Commander Hodgkins. After having a group photograph taken with Commander Hodgkins, we were led into

the Wardroom Mess for a very nice meal. The rest of the evening was taken up with a very competitive Quiz which was won by the "Vision Impossible" team. – A vote of thanks was given by Rob Strickland to the Wardroom, for the Hospitality, Dinner and the Quiz.

THURSDAY 31 JULY (am)

The morning was spent on a grand tour of HMS *Victory* where tour guides provided a very informative description of life in Nelsons' day.

THURSDAY (pm)

Ten Pin Bowling at the Go-Bowling rink in Fareham.

Great fun was had by all. They even had one person forgetting to release his fingers from the ball and followed his ball down the alley still holding on (take a bow – Dave Morgan). No strike was made



Justin congratulates Alan on a fine spot of fishing.



St Dunstaners and Dogs paddling up the Hamble River.

THURSDAY evening Prizegiving

Thursday evening is traditionally used for the Prizegiving for the events that have taken place during the week.

Archery

Prizes presented by the Havant & Hayling Island Bowman Club.

Totally Blind Awards

3rd with 107 Points & 3 Gold – Brian Lang
2nd with 209 Points & 1 Gold – Bob Crossan
1st with 267 points & 1 Gold – Peter Hammond

Partially Sighted Awards

3rd place with 213 Points & 5 Golds – Arthur Carter
2nd Place with 215 Points & 7 Golds – Rob Strickland
1st Place with 224 Points & 3 Golds – Chris Ottewell

The match between St Dunstan's & Havant & Hayling Island Bowman was not contested due to non availability of Team Members.

Novices

2nd place with 226 Points & 5 Golds – Butch Bennett
1st Place with 239 Points & 7 Golds – Jack Hadnum

Skilled Archers

2nd Place with 197 Points & 3 Golds – Clive Jones
1st Place with 260 Points & 3 Golds – Nigel Whiteley

The rest of the Prizes were then presented by the HMS *Sultan* base Commander, Commodore A.L. Rymer, together with good lady Jan.

Walking race

3rd place for the Bronze Medal in 3mins, 40secs – Jack Hadnum
2nd Place for the Silver Medal in 3mins, 10secs – Chris Ottewell
1st place for the Gold Medal in 3mins, 10secs – Don Planner

Indoor Sports Events

Penalty Goals

Totally Blind with a score of 4 goals in 12secs – Bob Crossan

Partially Sighted with a score of 5 goals in 4.5secs – Chris Ottewell

Best Beginner

The Sheila McLeod Cup was awarded to – John Patterson

Victor Ludorum Trophies

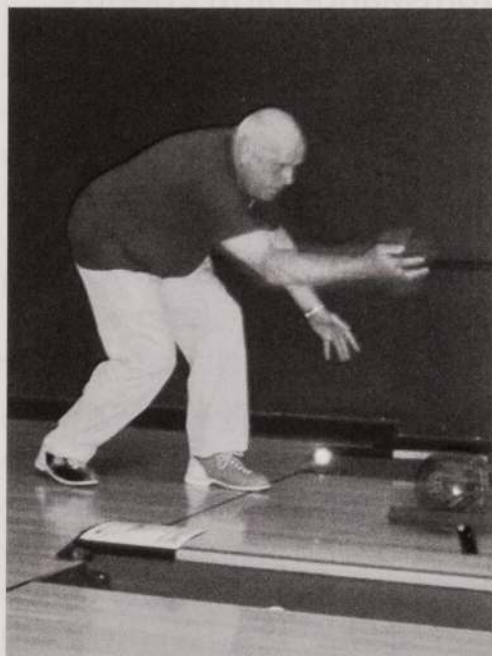
Totally Blind – The Victor Ludorum Cup for the best overall score was awarded to – Bob Crossan

Partially Sighted – The Victor Ludorum Cup for the best overall Score was awarded to – Joint winners – Jack Hadnum & John Patterson

Team result

4th place – Team "C"
3rd place – Teams "B&D"
2nd place – Team "A"
1st place – Team "E"

Team "E" were St Dunstaners Don Planner, Gerry Jackson, and Chris Ottewell.



St Dunstaner Bob Crossan goes ten pin bowling.

Best Team Effort

This award is in memory of Michael Perrett and is awarded to the Team that tries the hardest. The winning team this year was Team "D" – Peter Hammond, Maurice Bowley, Alan Mitchell & Nigel Whiteley.

The Don Minter Memorial Trophy

This award is given to the St Dunstaner who has without question entered fully into the spirit of the Camp and contributed to its success, both on and off the Sports Field. This year's winner was – Alan Mitchell.

St Dunstan's Challenge Cup

This is a new cup, presented by the Gosport & Lee-on-Solent Lions Club and is presented to the winning games team each year at the Court Barns Conservative Club Social Evening.

Patricia Homer, President of Court Barn Conservative Club, presented the Cup to this year's winners, St Dunstan's, which was received by Dave Burrows.

Speeches

Nigel Whiteley gave the speech to the Commodore, Officers & Ships Company, and Chris Ottewell to the WO & SNCO's Mess. Commodore Rymer then gave a reply.

During the evening it was nice to see Lt Colonel Jeremy Hinton, Deputy Chief Executive (Operations), St Dunstan's, who had come to circulate and meet all those present.

FRIDAY 1 August (am)

The morning was left clear for "wash-up" meetings to take place.

FRIDAY (pm)

The afternoon was spent at the Guildhall in Portsmouth, watching an Open Day Concert by the Royal Marines School of Music. The

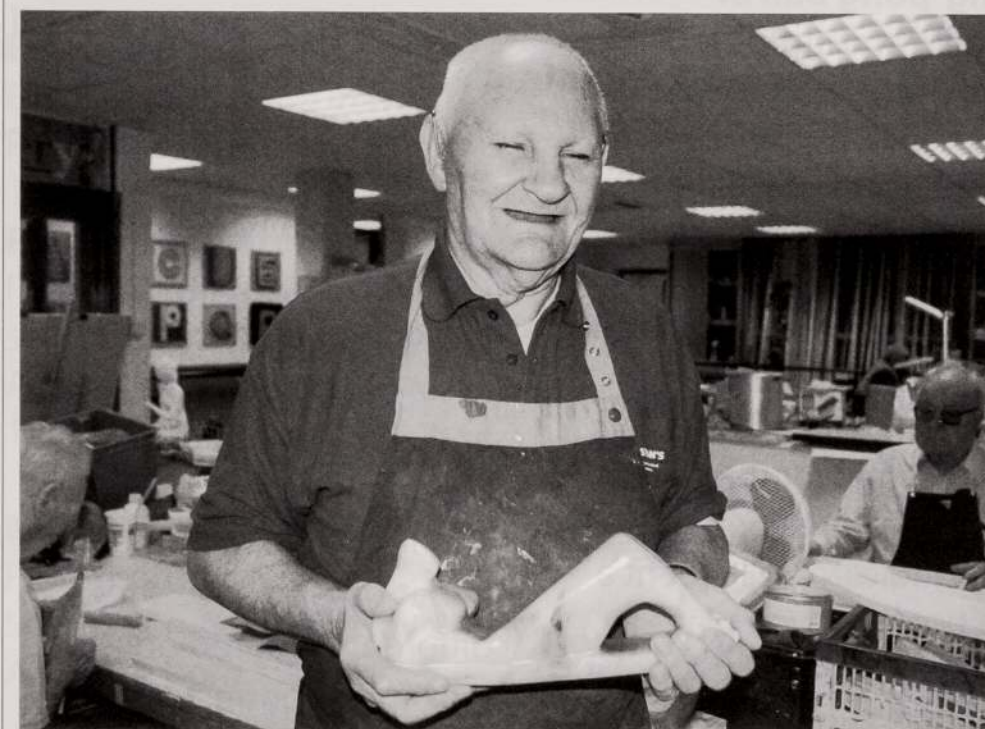
purpose of the concert was the presentation of awards to students on completing their third year of training.

It was then followed by the Ceremony of Beating Retreat out in the main square. Later that evening we held the "Farewell" musical evening, with numerous raffle prizes organised by Dorothy Thompson.

SATURDAY 2 August

After saying our farewells, we all made our way home after a truly memorable week of many happy memories.

From the Craft Workshop



Reclining Figure by Eddie O'Brien. Ed's sculpture of a reclining woman was made out of soapstone; a naturally soft rock. The sculpture was shaped using a variety of saws, files and sandpapers, then polished with glass paper under water and finally polished with beeswax. This piece has been much admired whilst on display at Ovingdean.

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

Nice and simple

As they say, "The best ideas are the simplest ones". Here are some more tips on how to use household items to make life easier at home. These are tried and tested innovations that have worked for many St Dunstaners.

Ping-pong ball or other floating object

If you have a little sight but have difficulty seeing the water level, a simple easy answer is a ping-pong ball. This will float on the water and provide a bright visual target. It is ideal for measuring jugs, kettles etc. The best tip for this has to be using it in a tea pot. A liquid level indicator will not fit a tea pot but if you place a ping-pong ball in the pot it will start to rise out once the water level is near the top. Any bright floating object will do as long as it's hygienic.

Blu Tack

This is great as a temporary tactile indicator. Using it to

mark measurements when doing DIY is ideal. Blu Tack can also be very useful to stick ornaments etc. down so if the shelf gets knocked they don't slip or fall over.

Trays

When doing any small task it is often beneficial to do it on a tray. This prevents small items rolling off and allows you to easily search for that dropped screw. This is very useful when changing batteries etc. A tray is also good to use when pouring as it will catch any spillages and allow you to easily pour these down the sink. Trays should be plain in colour and it pays to have a few different coloured ones to maximise contrast.

Do you have any top tips? ROD would love to hear from you so please write in to the Review with your ideas and we'll publish the best ones.

REUNION ROUND-UP

There were 45 St Dunstaners, one member of the Diana Gubbay Trust, and five widows at the Norwich Reunion on 10 September. The Lord Low of Dalston, CBE was the member of St Dunstan's Council presiding at the Barnham Broom Hotel, Norwich, Norfolk and St Dunstaner Peter Lillywhite responded for those present.

The Bristol Reunion on 17 September brought together 24 St Dunstaners and five widows at the Arnos Manor Hotel, Bristol. Once again, Lord Low of Dalston was the member of St Dunstan's Council presiding and St Dunstaner Steven Moseley responded for those present.

Ten Answers

Answers to quiz on page 11.

- 1) Cheetah; 2) Vienna;
- 3) Whiskers; 4) Copycat;
- 5) Persian; 6) Dennis the Menace (Hank Ketcham's US newspaper strip character, not to be confused with the tearaway tyke from *The Beano*);
- 7) Egyptian; 8) Monster Raving Loony Party;
- 9) Noah's Ark; 10) Jaguar.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

Rena Barron of Exeter, Devon served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1940 to 1945.

Thomas Boulton of Petworth, West Sussex served as Gunner in the Royal Artillery from 1934 to 1946.

Ried Butler of Littleover, Derby, Derbyshire served as Private in the Royal Signals from 1973 to 1977.

Ernest Carter of Haverhill, Suffolk served in the Royal Artillery from 1951 to 1965.

Arthur Chapman of Brighton served in the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1954.

William Chown of Exeter, Devon served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 to 1946.

Steven Coates of Ditton, Aylesford, Kent served in the Parachute Regiment and Royal Artillery between 1983 and 1988.

Gordon Coldrick of Bungay, Suffolk served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1947 to 1950.

John Copland of Dumfries, Dumfriesshire served

as Sapper in the Royal Engineers from 1942 to 1947.

Violet Davies of Folkestone, Kent served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

William Davy of Birmingham, West Midlands served in the General Service Corps and Cheshire Regiment between 1944 and 1948.

John Doyle of Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1939 to 1947.

Edward Elliott of Pevensey, East Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1952 to 1960.

Frederick Enstone of Peacehaven, East Sussex served as CSM in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1941 to 1946.

Norman Galletly of Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

Frank Gregson of Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire served in the Scots Guards from 1946 to 1952.

Mildred Griffiths of Swinton, Manchester served

in the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1947.

Thomas Hinton of Wigston, Leicestershire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1941 to 1948.

Derek Jackson of Wolverhampton, West Midlands served in the Royal Artillery and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1950 and 1956.

Brian Jefferson of Camberley, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1951.

John Johnston of Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire served in the Irish Guards and the Royal Engineers between 1944 and 1948.

Caradoc Jones of Oswestry, Shropshire served in the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers between 1940 and 1946.

Douglas Kell of Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve from 1942 to 1946.

Helen Lake of Arundel, West Sussex served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1944.

Morris Lashbrook of Weston-super-Mare, Avon served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1933 to 1942 and then the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1942 to 1958.

Jack Latham of Swinton, Mexborough, South Yorkshire served in the Army from 1949 to 1953.

Ivanhoe Lathom-Sharp of Ipswich, Suffolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

Kenneth Lindsay-Smith of West Wickham, Kent served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1947 to 1949 and again from 1951 to 1969.

Winifred March of Hove, East Sussex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

Robert Mills of Pimlico, London served in the General Service Corps and Royal Fusiliers between 1946 and 1959.

Thomas Orton of Tamworth, Staffordshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1945 to 1948.

Thomas Parker of Kettering, Northamptonshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Jack Pentelow of Raunds, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire served in the General Service Corps and the Northamptonshire Yeomanry between 1942 and 1947.

Geoffrey Pilbeam of Brighton served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

Geoffrey Plume of Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk served in the Royal Engineers from 1952 to 1957.

George Power of Ringwood, Hampshire served in the Welch Regiment from 1939 to 1941.

Kenneth Rawcliffe of Blackburn, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force Police from 1951 to 1953.

Kerry Reed of Holyhead, Gwynedd served in the Royal Air Force from 1979 to 1983.

Arthur Richardson of Rotherham, South Yorkshire served in the Pioneer Corps from 1942 to 1947.

Tom Sharpe of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served as Sergeant in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

Richard Steele of Bognor Regis, West Sussex served

as Able Seaman in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Albert Sutton of Kilbirn, Belper, Derbyshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1958.

Douglas Ward of Ingoldisthorpe, Kings Lynn, Norfolk served in the Royal Norfolk Regiment and the Royal Warwickshire Regiment between 1940 and 1946.

John Warnock of Beccles, Suffolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1954.

Eric Waters of Hornchurch, Essex served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1949.

Reginald Webb of Pencoed, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan served in the Army Catering Corps from 1946 to 1948.

Jack White of Letchworth, Hertfordshire served as Stoker in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Bert Wilson of Garstang, Preston, Lancashire served as a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

George Woods of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey served as Petty Officer in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

BEER OF THE MONTH

by Colin Williamson

Conwy Castle Bitter

On a recent visit to Llandudno I thought it would be rude not to sample a local beer, so plumped for the Castle Bitter brewed by Conwy Brewery. This is a delicious malty beer, very mellow, which is very easy to drink and would be a great session beer. Not particularly strong, it weighs in at a modest 3.8 per cent ABV but is very palatable and a popular choice in the pubs and inns that the lovely town of Conwy has in abundance.

Family News

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Holly Allison Smith on 21 December last year and Evie Olivia Nancy Kench on 21 January this year. They are both great-granddaughters of Olive McConnell of Bangor, Northern Ireland and the late Robert McConnell.

Charlie on 29 June. He is the great-grandson of Dot Upton of Swadlincoate, Derbyshire and the late William Upton.

Isla Stewart-Lindsay, weighing in at 6lb, 6oz on 6 August. She is the daughter of Peter Lindsay and Jillian Stewart of Glasgow.

Maddie Priestley on 9 September. She is the great-granddaughter of Hilda Greasley of Coventry, West Midlands and the late Herbert Greasley.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Jack and Sheila Stead of Grimsargh, Preston, Lancashire on 20 August.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Bob and Pat Brittles of Liverpool, Merseyside on 6 September.

Graham and Watts Draycott of Sheffield, South Yorkshire on 6 September.

John and Minnie McClean of Belfast, County Antrim on 6 September.

Trevor and Lena Secker of Blackpool, Lancashire on 6 September.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Andrew and Lillian Adie of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire on 6 September.

Dennis and Grace Cook of Abbeydale, Sheffield on 7 September.

Thomas and Elaine Ashton of Westhoughton, Bolton, Lancashire on 12 September.

Brian and Margaret Eldridge of Gotherington, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire on 14 September.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Sidney and Ellen Hughes of Solihull, West Midlands on 21 August.

Thomas and Violet Hurley of Loughton, Essex on 21 August.

Jimmy and Peggy Insch of Corby, Northamptonshire on 21 August.

Mary and Allan Corran of Lichfield, Staffordshire on 4 September.

Albert and Kath Hogbin of Brighton on 4 September.

Richard and Doreen Smith of Selsey, Chichester, West Sussex on 4 September.

Frank and Marguerite Stimpson of Reading, Berkshire on 4 September.

Leonard and Joan Lane of Evenwood, Bishop Auckland, County Durham on 11 September.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Edwin and Joyce Harris of Eastbourne, East Sussex who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 20 August.

Arthur and Violet Albrow of Brighton who celebrated 67 years of marriage on 23 August.

Stanley and Thelma Arnold of Yeovil, Somerset who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 30 August.

John and Joan Whiteley of Sutton, Surrey who celebrated 64 years of marriage on 30 August.

George and Peggy Attwood of Chatham, Kent who celebrated 68 years of marriage on 31 August.

Ronald and Mary Tipple of Crapstone, Yelverton, Devon who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 6 September.

Douglas and Tessie Knight of Churt, Surrey who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 7 September.

John and Eileen Taylor of Littlehampton, West Sussex who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 12 September.

John and Audrey Perfect of Yealmpton, Devon who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 14 September. They were delighted by a bouquet of flowers presented to them at St Dunstan's Ovingdean and thank everyone for their good wishes.

Dorothy and Allan Simpson of Oxted, Surrey who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 14 September.

George and Jean Simpson of Barnsley, South Yorkshire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 15 September.

Keith and Helen Crosby of Newhaven, East Sussex who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 17 September.

Arthur and Margaret Wood of Barnsley, South Yorkshire who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 17 September.

Joseph and May Gregory of Coventry, West Midlands who celebrated 68 years of marriage on 18 September.

Douglas and Muriel Pritchard of St John's, Worcester who celebrated 65 years of marriage on 18 September.

John and Sheila Ager of Luton, Bedfordshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 20 September.

Reginald and Joan Newton of Wallingford, Oxfordshire who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 20 September.

Noel and Madge Bracewell of Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 21 September.

Joan and Harry West of Parkstone, Poole, Dorset who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 21 September.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Patricia Mason of Winchester, Hampshire in January. She was the widow of John Mason.

Jean Gawthorpe on 25 June. She was the wife of Arthur Gawthorpe of Knottingley, West Yorkshire.

Gladys Oakley on 9 August. She was the wife of Ronald Oakley of Angmering, Littlehampton, West Sussex.

Grahame Greenwood on 12 August. He was the husband of Margarita Greenwood of Cardiff, South Glamorgan.

Betty Edwards on 13 August. She was the wife of Cyril Edwards of Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

Ellen Graves on 20 August. She was the wife of Richard Graves of Orpington, Kent.

Molly Mcgrath on 20 August. She was the wife of William Macgrath of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Violet Boughton of Milton Malsor, Northampton on 26 August. She was the widow of Frederick Boughton.

Betty Waitson on 5 September. She was the wife of St Dunstan Gordon Waitson of Ormskirk, Lancashire.

Marjorie Howard of Worthing, West Sussex died on 14 September. She was the widow of Herbert Howard.

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.

James Hall

Army

James Stanley Hall of Brighton died on 1 February, aged 94. He served in the Army from 1932 to 1934. In civilian life, he worked as a mechanic and salesman. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Barbara Bassil

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Barbara Virginia Mabel Bassil of Maidenhead, Berkshire died on 27 July, aged 91. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1941 and

trained as a Radar Plotter, serving in the UK and Egypt. Discharged as Corporal in 1947, she worked in the Maidenhead area. Her interests included tennis and swimming and she had qualified as a lifesaver.

Jack Sheehan

Royal Air Force

John Michael Sheehan of Towersey, Thame, Oxfordshire has died, aged 76. He joined the Royal Air Force as a boy in 1948 and served as an instrument technician. Discharged in 1950, he became a plumber but rejoined the RAF in 1958, specialising in air defence. Discharged in 1963, he then worked in the motor trade. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Humphrey Hoare

Royal Army Medical Corps

Humphrey Robert Hoare of Waterlooville, Portsmouth, Hampshire has died, aged 83. He was a page boy at Portsmouth Airport but left to complete an apprenticeship as a toolmaker before joining the General Service Corps in 1946. After training, he transferred to the Royal Army Medical Corps. Posted to Jamaica, he worked with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and moved on to postings in Bermuda, the West Indies and South America. Discharged in 1948, he resumed work as a toolmaker and later set up business as a precision engineer. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

John Davis

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

John Bromley Davis of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire died on 2 August, aged 93. He served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve from 1941 to 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Gerald Hooper

Royal Artillery

Gerald Victor Hooper of Peacehaven, East Sussex died on 8 August, aged 87. He was a

plumber before joining the Royal Engineers in 1938. In 1940, he transferred to the Royal Artillery and was deployed to Normandy shortly after D-Day. He was hit in the face by shrapnel while serving in Europe but fought through to Germany. Discharged in 1946, he became a maintenance engineer. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Nick Nicholls
Royal Artillery

Bertram Rowland Nicholls of Hilgay, Downham Market, Norfolk died on 8 August, aged 73. He was a ward orderly in a hospital before being called up for the Royal Artillery in 1953. After training at Oswestry, he was posted to Korea with 98 Medium Battery. Demobbed in 1955, he worked in hospitals before joining the Ambulance Service. His interests over the years included scuba diving, driving and DIY. Our sympathy goes to his widow Yasmine and all the family.

Dot Beal
Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Dorothy Florence Rose Beal née Lees of Maidstone, Kent died on 10 August, aged 87. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1941 and served at RAF Stanmore. Discharged in 1945, she raised a family and worked at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital amongst other jobs. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Marcia McGillivray
Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Marcia Clare La Rive McGillivray née Bouchier of Midhurst, West Sussex died on 10 August, aged 88. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1942 and trained as a radar operator. Discharged in 1946, she resumed training as a nurse in Middlesex and then studied midwifery in Edinburgh. Joining the Colonial Nursing Service, she went to Rhodesia and worked in a nursing and leprosy facility in Barotseland. She moved to Ireland after marrying, but later returned to Rhodesia and then South Africa as a nurse. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Douglas Banchini
The Life Guards

Douglas Sydney Banchini of Cawston, Norwich, Norfolk died on 14 August, aged 86. He worked for an East London manufacturing company before joining the Royal Norfolk Regiment in 1940. In 1942, he transferred to the Household Cavalry, joining The Life Guards and served in Normandy and Berlin before being discharged as Corporal in 1946. He worked for a fruit and vegetable retailer before joining the Civil Service where he worked for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Our sympathy goes to his widow Linda and all members of the family.

George Taylor
Royal Engineers

George Henry Taylor of Loose, Maidstone, Kent died on 15 August, aged 91. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. He was a heavy goods lorry driver before joining the Royal Engineers in 1940. Serving as Corporal with HQ 7th Army Troop, he was deployed to France in 1944, the objective had turned towards Holland when he was injured in action that September. He also suffered fractures to his arm and hand and was deafened. After training at St Dunstan's in Church Stretton, he became a telephonist for various firms. In 1949, he became one of St Dunstan's shopkeepers, running a tobacconist and confectionary shop. He sold the business in 1962 and resumed work as a telephonist, this time for the National Provincial Bank, later NatWest before retiring in 1972. For a while he played golf, but other interests included amateur radio and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his widow Hannah and all the family.

Louis Price
Royal Navy

Louis Henry Price of Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, West Midlands died on 16 August, aged 82. He worked in a factory making building materials and then

growing vegetables before joining the Royal Navy as a 16-year-old in 1942. He served in the Mediterranean, Atlantic, East Africa, and the Indian Ocean. Invalided out in 1952, he went back to manufacturing building materials but later turned to heavy engineering. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Walter Leathley
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Walter Leathley of Bury, Lancashire died on 18 August, aged 87. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1939 and transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1942. He served in North Africa and Europe. Discharged in 1946, he worked as a mechanic at a mill in Leeds but later became a handyman for a hotel group in Weston-super-Mare. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Ernest Gibson
Royal Army Medical Corps

Ernest Gibson of Hythe, Kent died on 20 August, aged 93. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1940 and served in Africa, Austria, Greece and Italy. Discharged as Lance Corporal in 1946, he resumed work on the coal fields. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Arthur Lincer
Royal Army Service Corps

Arthur Lincer of Upper Beeding, Steyning, West Sussex died on 20 August, aged 89. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1946. Discharged as Corporal, he then worked as a butcher and later as a gardener.

John Flint
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment

John Michael Flint of Ilminster, Somerset died on 23 August, aged 87. After school, he became an apprentice at De Havilland's in Cricklewood but later transferred to a munitions factory where he learnt tool making. He joined the General Service

Corps in 1945 and very soon transferred to the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment where he became a Drill and Small Arms instructor. Discharged in 1948, he worked in industry, eventually joining Westland Helicopters. He enjoyed football and painting. Our sympathy goes to his widow Winnie and all of the family.

Bob Childs
Merchant Navy

Robert James Childs of Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex died on 27 August, aged 82. He worked in the building trade before joining the Merchant Navy in 1944. As a Steward, he sailed on cargo and passenger lines before leaving in 1947. He resumed work as a builder, but after the loss of one lung, became a sales representative for building companies. A mason, he was also a member of the Royal British Legion. Our sympathy goes to his widow Thelma and all the family.

William Grant
Royal Navy

William Cunningham Grant of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria died on 27 August, aged 90. He worked as a butcher's boy prior to joining the Royal Navy in 1940. Training as a cook, he served on shore and at sea, working with the Fleet Air Arm and completing a tour of duty in the West Indies. Discharged in 1946 as Leading Cook, he joined the railways and worked in Scotland with LNER. He also worked for the power station at Barrow-in-Furness. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Alan Dent
Royal Air Force

Alan William Roy Dent of Northampton, Northamptonshire died on 31 August, aged 77. He completed an apprenticeship as painter and decorator before joining the Royal Air Force in 1951. He specialised as an Airframe Mechanic and was discharged in 1953. His interests included reading, maps and railways, history and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his widow Lesley and all members of the family.

Stanley Harpham
Royal Air Force

Stanley Thomas Harpham of Eagle, Lincoln, Lincolnshire died on 31 August, aged 92. He joined the Royal Air Force as a 15-year-old in 1931 training at RAF Halton. He also served at Hendon and in Aden. At the outbreak of war, he was a pilot flying Hampdens. Commissioned in 1942, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal. Qualifying as a flying instructor, he served around the UK, and post-war was stationed in Egypt and Germany. Leaving the RAF as Flight Lieutenant in 1963, he started a hotel in Knightsbridge, Devon but later moved to Spain. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Gordon Sawday
Royal Engineers

Gordon Edward Sawday of Swansea, West Glamorgan died on 31 August, aged 80. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1946, serving around the UK. Discharged in 1948, he joined the Post Office and became Postmaster in Neith and Port Talbot. Our sympathy goes to his widow Enid and all the family.

Colin Gough
Fleet Air Arm

Colin Thomas Gough of Upleadon, Newent, Gloucestershire died on 1 September, aged 82. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and trained at Skegness. Serving in the Fleet Air Arm as an aircraft engine mechanic, he worked on Corsairs, Wildcats, Fireflies and Seaflys. Discharged in 1949, he studied agriculture and then bought a farm keeping pigs and sheep and growing mushrooms. He enjoyed golf and flying. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mary and all the family.

Harold Sparrey
Royal Engineers

Harold William Albert Sparrey of Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire died on 6 September, aged 88. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1942 and was posted to North Africa as a dispatch rider. Fighting through the desert

campaign, he wound-up in Tripoli. He also served in Yugoslavia and Greece before being discharged in 1947. In civilian life, he worked in the building trade and for the local water authority. His interests included carpentry, car mechanics, football and cricket. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joan and all other members of the family.

Ernest Willett
Royal Army Service Corps

Ernest William Willett of Solihull, West Midlands died on 6 September, aged 89. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939 and then transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps. In civilian life, he worked for Shell at Birmingham Airport and became their aviation manager. Our sympathy goes to his widow Dorothy and all the family.

Bill Ditcham
Royal Air Force

William Alexander Ditcham of Hartlepool, Cleveland died on 7 September, aged 80. He worked as a driver's mate and then a driver before joining the Royal Air Force in 1946. Discharged in 1948, he became an electro-plater for Siemens, rising to foreman and then moving to South Durham Ironworks. He enjoyed gardening and holidays abroad. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Eleanor Galloway
Auxiliary Territorial Service

Eleanor Galloway née Palmer of Stone, Staffordshire died on 11 September, aged 89. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1939 and trained as a clerk. She then served as a cook in York and Durham. Discharged in 1941, she raised a family. Her interests included painting, embroidery, nature and gardening. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

John Boagey, MBE
Royal Air Force

John George Boagey of Durham, County Durham died on 12 September, aged 88.

He joined the Royal Air Force directly in 1936, completing an apprenticeship at RAF Cranwell. He served in Baghdad, Ceylon, Germany and Cyprus and was commissioned in 1946. He was awarded the MBE in 1960 and retired as Wing Commander in 1970. He had many interests including golf, bowls, swimming and horology. Our sympathy goes to his widow Millie and all the family.

Arthur White, OBE
Royal Army Service Corps

Arthur James White, OBE of Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire died on 12 September, aged 89. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1939 and served in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Discharged in 1946, he worked on the railways and later in shipping. He was awarded the OBE in 1990 for services as an advisor to small businesses in Liverpool. Our sympathy goes to his widow Anne and all of the family.

John Heath
Royal Air Force

John Heath of Halesowen, West Midlands died on 14 September, aged 69. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1958 to 1961 and again in Air Traffic Control from 1962 to 1971. In civilian life, he worked for the Post Office. He was a qualified cricket umpire and enjoyed darts. Our sympathy goes to his widow Diane and all of the family.

Mick Mitchell
Royal Navy

Robert Royal Mitchell of Romford, Essex died on 14 September, aged 76. He worked on Thames tugs before joining the Royal Navy in 1949. He qualified as a stoker at Chatham before being posted to a survey ship in Hong Kong. He later served in Northern Ireland and East India Docks in London. Discharged in 1957, he worked various jobs in security, in particular at

Romford Brewery. His interests included fishing. Our sympathy goes to his widow Sheila and all members of the family.

Dorothy Wright
Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Dorothy Wright of Ovingdean, Brighton died on 17 September, aged 95. A Civil Servant, she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1942. She was commissioned and posted to 26 Group (Radar and Signals) where she became PA to Air Vice Marshal Addison. Demobbed in 1946, she returned to the Civil Service but soon took an appointment helping establish the new National Health Service in Wales. She continued in the NHS in various appointments. She was a keen reader and motorist, actively involved with RAFA, Civic Society, Arts Club and pathfinders. After joining St Dunstan's, she quickly earned the nickname "Dynamo" taking part in the Acoustic Rifle Club, Craft Workshop projects, Flying Club, Writers' Forum, and encouraging new activities for residents at St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

Peter Burdon
Parachute Regiment (TA)

Peter Burdon of Blackpool, Lancashire died on 18 September, aged 76. He joined the Army Catering Corps in 1950. After completing National Service, he joined the permanent staff of the Parachute Regiment (TA) serving as a driver in Bradford. Discharged in 1957, he became a driver in the construction industry (delivering the roof of Wembley Stadium). Later, he joined Mecca as a general manager then ran a night club and public house. He also ran donkey rides on the Blackpool beaches. In recent years, he had revived a seaside tradition at St Dunstan's Ovingdean - the stick of rock with the charity's name running through the centre. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Tribute to the Peacemakers

THE LIVES and sacrifices of men and women who served in Britain's longest military deployment were commemorated in a service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral on 10 September. Operation Banner lasted 38 years during which time over 300,000 Service men and women served in Northern Ireland, with 763 being killed as a direct result of terrorism. Veterans of the Troubles, including three St Dunstaners, Ray Hazan and Ray Peart, both blinded while serving in the Province, and Peter Hammond, attended the service to pay tribute to their colleagues. The mood was sombre but assured that a welcome peace had been achieved. HRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall were also in the congregation as were Prime Minister Gordon Brown and his predecessors Tony Blair and Baroness Thatcher. Earlier, the Prime Minister had praised Britain's Armed Forces. "They helped create conditions for the peace Northern Ireland now enjoys and today we salute their courage." Emerging from the cathedral, the veterans formed up to march to the Guildhall in the City of London.



St Dunstaner Peter Hammond took part in the march as HRH The Prince of Wales took the salute at St Paul's.



St Dunstaners Ray Hazan and Ray Peart at St Paul's.