

St Dunstan's Review

Photography: Simon Rogers



The silence after the storm

On the 11th hour of 11 November, First World War Veterans Henry Allingham, Harry Patch and Bill Stone lead the Nation's tribute to the fallen of the Great War, 90 years after it ended.



From the President

A few words from Raymond Hazan

DURING THESE past few months, I have been almost reluctant to turn on the news. Perhaps this is all the more reason why, this Christmas, more than ever, we should concentrate on peace, goodwill, family and friends. We are fortunate as St Dunstaners to have a nationwide ready made family. To sit in the lounge at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, attend a reunion, sporting event or club activity is to be surrounded by warmth, laughter, chatter and companionship. You cannot put a price on these attributes.

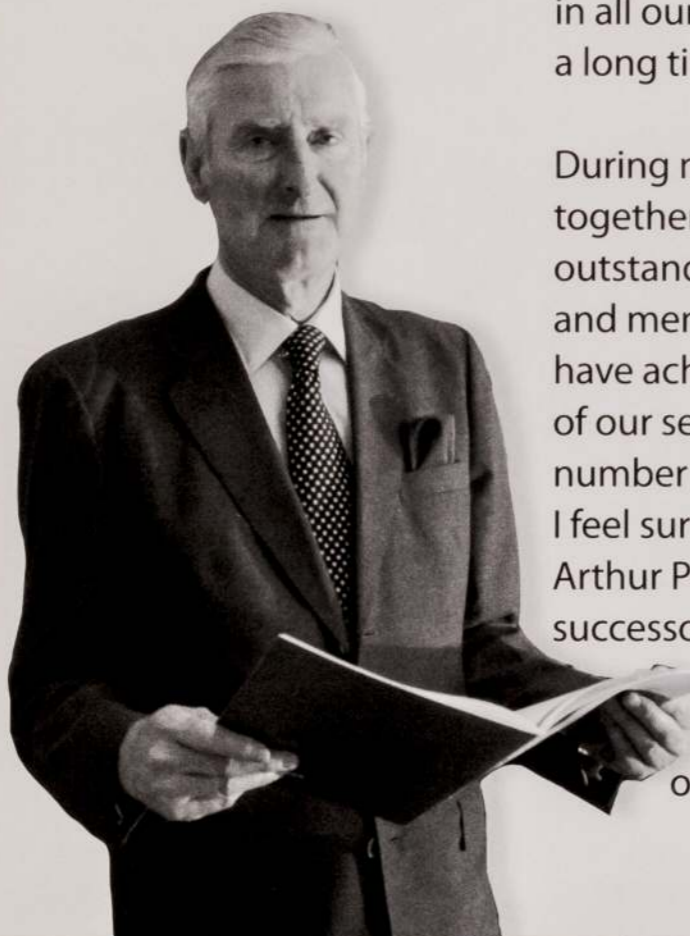
My wife Robbie joins me in wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a more promising 2009!

Ray Hazan

A special message from Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

From the Chairman

BEFORE THE Annual General Meeting on 13 November, I decided the time had come for me to stand down as Chairman of St Dunstan's. I have now been a Trustee for 15 years and Chairman for ten of those. I was 70 at the end of September, and I think that is old enough. Looking around at the charity business, a clear feeling comes to me that not continuing into advancing years is much better for donors, who will see a continuingly vibrant and effectively led organisation and I know it is time to move aside. I am delighted to report that Major General



Andrew Keeling, Royal Marines, was unanimously elected to succeed me, and the fact that he will be willing to serve for five years or so was an important influence on my timing. I wish him every good fortune.

Another long-serving trustee, Mr Tim Bacon, was elected as Vice Chairman.

At the same meeting, Mr Francois Edwards also stood down after 23 years of service to St Dunstan's. On behalf of everyone, I thank him warmly for the sound advice he has given, particularly financial, and the interest he has taken in all our activities over such a long time.

During my term, and together with truly outstanding fellow Trustees and members of staff, we have achieved the extension of our services to a far wider number of ex-Service people. I feel sure our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson and his successor, Lord Fraser would have approved of the broadening of this wonderful work.

It has been an incredible journey. I have met so many St Dunstaners and their families who have both demonstrated such an extraordinary ability to overcome serious handicap, thereby inspiring others, who will follow.

My wife Jenny, who has been a great support, joins me in wishing you all a Happy Christmas and fulfilling New Year, health, happiness and the best of good fortune. I very much hope to remain in contact with you all in the future.

Michael Gordon-Lennox

A seasonal message from Robert Leader, DL

From the Chief Executive

Even with the chill wind of Recession blowing round our feet, Christmas is still one of my favourite times of the year. For many it is a special time for reunions of family and friends. We, at St Dunstan's, have had our reunions during the summer months (what summer I hear you ask!) and they provide a marvellous opportunity for the St Dunstan's family to get together. Some St Dunstaners and other beneficiaries may not have any family left but I hope they will draw hope and courage from being part



of the St Dunstan's family where there are always new friends to be made. I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas and look forward to seeing you again in 2009.

Robert Leader

SEASONS GREETINGS

PEACE AND GOODWILL TO ALL

All staff at Headquarters, Sheffield, Ovingdean and working around the country wish the members of the St Dunstan's family a very Happy Christmas. We trust everyone will enjoy good health and happiness during the coming year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

As 2008 draws to a close, we would like to express a very special thank you to everyone who has contributed to St Dunstan's Review this year. Your effort is greatly appreciated.

St Dunstan's Review December 2008, No 986

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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 David Castleton and Valerie Tomalin.

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Noticeboard

WHAT'S ON IN THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

A WIDE CHOICE OF ACTIVITIES: These are just some of the events and activities that make up St Dunstan's 2009 calendar. Details of other meetings and activities will appear in future issues when arrangements have been confirmed. For events at St Dunstan's Ovingdean the dates quoted are usually the day of arrival and departure, but arrangements will be made to maximise use of Ovingdean vehicles. All holiday and club activity bookings should be made via Jackie Castle, Bookings Coordinator on 01273 307811 ext 1422 or e-mail jackie.castle@st-dunstans.org.uk. Events marked tbc are to be confirmed.

DECEMBER 2008

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

Writers Forum	3
World Braille Day	4
Fishing (I)	12-16
Archery Club (I)	17-25
Skiing (Italy)	17-24

FEBRUARY

Computer Club (I)	4-5
Amateur Radio (I)	6-14
Writers Forum	7
Music Week	15-21

MARCH

Dance Week (I)	1-7
Writers Forum	7
Fishing (II)	9-13
Brighton Reunion (I)	10
Bowling Club (I)	15-28
Founder's Day Awards Presentation	18

Brighton Reunion (II)	24
Derby Reunion	25
Founder's Day	26

APRIL

Middlesbrough Reunion	2
Fly Navy 100 Golf Bonanza	3
Writers Forum	4
Ex-POW Reunion	3-6
Cambridge Reunion	8
Widows' Week (I)	8-15
Golf (I)	18-19
Birmingham Reunion	21
Central London Reunion	23
Masonic Weekend	24-27
Anzac Day	25
Flora London Marathon	26

MAY

Writers Forum	2
Gardening Week	3-9
Fishing (III)	4-8
Leeds Reunion	6
Handless Reunion	6-12
VE Day	8
Scotland Reunion	11
Golf (II)	16-17
Feast of St Dunstan	19

Eastbourne Reunion (I)	20
Cardiff Reunion	21
Archery Club (II)	23-31
Burley Reunion (I)	27
Burley Reunion (II)	28

JUNE

Chichester Reunion	3
Bisley Shooting Contest	3
Writers Forum	6
Exeter Reunion	10
Ladies' Week	14-20
Surrey Reunion	16
Eastbourne Reunion (II)	17
50 Year Badge Holders Reunion	18-21
London to Brighton Bike Ride	21
Liverpool Reunion	23
Llandudno Reunion	24
North London Reunion	25
Veterans Day	27
Golf Invitation Day	28
Newcastle Reunion	30

JULY

Durham Reunion	1
Writers Forum Weekend	2-5
Barrow Reunion	8
History Week	12-18
Eastbourne Reunion (III)	14
Band of The Royal Marines Concert	15 tbc
Golf (III)	18-19
Blackpool Reunion	21
Chorley Reunion	22
Hook Reunion	28
HMS Sultan	31-8 Aug

AUGUST

Writers Forum	1
London Triathlon	1-2
Race Week	2-8
VJ Day	15
Golf (IV) (Captain's Day)	15-16
Sports & Activities Week	23-29
Archery Club (III)	29-Sept 6

SEPTEMBER

Northern Ireland Reunion	2
Writers Forum	5
Golf (V)	12-13
Norwich Reunion	15
Kent Reunion	16
Bristol Reunion	17
Aylesbury Reunion	24
RMA Lympstone	26-27
Physiotherapist Weekend	25-28
Lanhydrock (Cornwall & Plymouth) Reunion	30
Computer Club (II)	30-Oct 1

OCTOBER

Amateur Radio (II)	2-9
Writers Forum	3
Great North Run	4
Worcester Reunion	6
World Sight Day	8
Royal Marine Commando Challenge	10-11
Widows' Week (II)	11-17
Golf (VI)	17-18
Trafalgar Day	21
Bowling Club (II)	25- 7 November
Great South Run	25
Sheffield Reunion	tbc

NOVEMBER

Writers Forum	7
Founder's Memorial Day	7
Remembrance Sunday	8
Fishing (IV)	9-13
Armistice Day	11
Golf (VII)	14-15
Dancing Week (II)	15-21
Christmas Craft Week	29-5 December

DECEMBER

Writers Forum	5
St Dunstan's Day	9
Christmas Week	19/20-27
New Year Week	27- 4 January 2010

Bookings will be confirmed two months before the event. Where there is insufficient space to accommodate everybody, decisions on priorities will be made with club officials. We recommend that you confer with club secretaries to check how activities are structured - is the event a formal or informal meeting, tournament or competition, programme of visits, etc?

Visitors to Ovingdean can listen to a recorded weekly programme of events. The speaker is on the left of wall between the door to the lounge on the right and the dining room on the left. It has a prominent button for playback.

LLANDUDNO PROJECT UPDATED

PLANNING APPLICATION SUBMITTED: Because of the worldwide financial turmoil the St Dunstan's Council and the Senior Management Team have been working on a range of measures to secure the assets and the financial future of the Organisation. A number of measures have already been implemented to reduce in year expenditure, as this is clearly a very bad time to sell assets to fund capital projects. It is not a time of crisis, as St Dunstan's still has significant levels of reserves, but it is undoubtedly a time for prudent financial management.

The Third Centre in Llandudno is our major capital project at present. A planning application has been submitted and once this has been granted the tender specifications will be prepared. The Trustees, at their meeting on 13 November, agreed that they would keep the timing of the development under regular review at their

quarterly meetings. It is hoped that the outlook will soon become clearer and the option of mounting a Capital Fundraising Appeal can be developed.

ST DUNSTAN'S DAY

IN MEMORY OF SIR ARTHUR: St Dunstan's Day on 9 December will mark 87 years since the death of our founder Sir Cyril Arthur Pearson, Bart. It was his determination and inspiration that laid the foundation for the organisation that continues to help visually impaired ex-Servicemen and women achieve independent lives.

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

STOCKING FILLERS: Approaching the festive season, thoughts turn to cosy nights in, hot toddies, card writing, putting bets on whether it will snow on Christmas Day and what gifts to get your nearest and dearest to enjoy on our most special of holidays. Ask ROD has a few low cost and novel stocking fillers to get you started with gift ideas.

Audio Books

In recent years there have been great strides forward in the format of audio books from talking book services. The CD, MP3 and DAISY formats have proven so successful that it has become a popular choice for sighted listeners too, having the knock-on effect of even more titles being made available and often at a price equivalent to paper copies of the book. It is now also easier to find audio books on the high street and online.

2009 Almanack

A new Almanack is available every year from the RNIB. Based on the famous *Whittaker's Almanack*, it includes anniversary details, public and bank holidays as well as featuring eclipses, sunrises, phases of the moon and other notable dates.

Priced £2.50 it is available in Braille (Ref: TC20243), CD-Rom (Ref: TC20244), and Daisy format (Ref: TC20245).

Games

Cobolt, the company that many of you know as a supplier of talking watches also market games for older children and adults to enjoy such as the following:

Easy To See Low Vision

Playing Cards with Card Holders

Large numbers and letters with a different colour for each suit: priced £8.99.

Talking Battleships

Talking version of the classic naval combat game under £33.60 (without batteries).

Talking Chess Set

Talking version of the classic game of Chess costs £33.60 (without batteries).

RNIB also market a number of games and toys that would make great stocking fillers for adults and children to enjoy alike:

Braille and Large Print Monopoly

The extra large cards and money with Braille and large print allows everyone to play this game together. The 20" square game board has a moulded overlay which enables identification of all the spaces and locations. All squares, money, dice, property and playing cards have Braille and print. Comes

complete with Braille instructions. However, it is the American version of Monopoly with reference to American dollars and place names. Price £54.95.

The RNIB also have a range of games available, such as:

Knockout skittles

Ingeniously designed mini skittle game where the ball and skittles are attached to the board, so they will not be lost amongst the wrapping paper! Mini alien skittles are attached by strings to a round wooden base - knock down the skittles using an alien spaceship suspended from an over-arching arm, score one point for each alien skittle that falls down. Pull a knob on the base to stand them up again. Age range 4+. (Ref: GP44X) RNIB Price - £12.99.

Block puzzle

This consists of a square plastic box containing 13 different straight-edged, interlocking, three-dimensional pieces. Once these have been removed from the box, you can have hours of fun trying to fit them all back in! Age range 6+ (Ref: GP24) RNIB price £3.99.

Other gift ideas from the RNIB shop include large print calendars, watches and clocks. The new water-resistant Chrome Tactile Watch (Ref: CW110) is priced at £12.95 (excluding VAT) from the RNIB.

Enjoy the memories and the music

How about a Talking Photo Album where the whole family can enjoy photographs. This album allows you to add your own audio description. For £29.99 it can be ordered online through www.needapresent.com or by telephone on 020 7407 4821 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm).

Technology

Cobolt markets a Talking CD Wallet which holds and protects up to 20 CDs (two per page). It allows you to record a six second message per page. Recorded messages are automatically played back every time you turn a page. Price is £23.60 (without batteries).

TVonics MDR-300 digital set top box

The RNIB also stocks a Freeview Digital set top box that incorporates Audio Description. The device allows users to enjoy Digital TV using their existing analogue television set. Easy to set up using either a SCART or aerial connection, it will automatically tune in all the TV channels and radio stations. It is compatible with Audio Description (AD) which can be turned on using the dedicated AD button on the remote control. Audio feedback is also available with a beep to indicate when a button has been pressed.

Up to 57 free TV and radio channels are available. With Audio Description turned on, significant visual information such as scenery, action, facial expression and body language is described between dialogue.

Ref: TV01, the TVonics MDR-300 digital set top box costs £67.99. It is advisable to check that your area is covered by digital broadcast before purchase.

Franklin LM - 6000SE Language Master

The Language Master dictionary contains more than 300,000 definitions and more than 500,000 synonyms and antonyms. You can hear words and their spellings as well as phonetic pronunciations. As well as a dictionary and thesaurus, the Language Master includes educational word games.

It has an adjustable voice speed and a large screen with variable type sizes. Another feature is an "Identify Mode" where the keys speak their names when pressed, without performing their functions. This device is hand held so can be used anywhere.

The Language Master comes with the following accessories:- headphones, press-on locator dots, carrying case, instruction CD, manual and quick reference card. Size: 150mm (high) x 140mm (wide) x 30 mm (thick). Cobolt stock the Language Master for £199.95 (excluding batteries).

Contact Information

For further information on books and other products from RNIB, contact Customer Services on 0845 702 3153 or by visiting the online shop at <http://onlineshop.rnib.org.uk>.

Cobolt Systems Ltd can be contacted on 01493-700172 or by visiting their online shop at www.cobolt.co.uk.

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.



SPECIAL OFFER AT ACTION FOR BLIND PEOPLE HOTELS

REDUCED RATE FOR ST DUNSTANERS:

Action for Blind People have four hotels situated in some of the UK's most superb locations. They are ideal for holidays and short breaks, whether you want seaside fun or an activity holiday. The staff are trained to understand the particular needs of guests with various sight conditions but most of all they are friendly and helpful – nothing is too much trouble.

All the hotels are guide dog friendly – many of them have visited for many years. There is plenty to do at every hotel. Games, Braille books, large print books, talking books and audio described videos are available together with a range of trips and evening entertainment. All excursions are led by local guides and assisted by volunteers who act as sighted guides for those who need them. Theme breaks and special events take place throughout the year and vary from hotel to hotel.

The Windermere Manor Hotel

Set in three acres of beautiful landscaped gardens, and situated near the shores of Lake Windermere, this Victorian country retreat boasts some of the most spectacular views across the lake to the Langdale Pikes and beyond. Facilities include swimming pool, small gym and steam room. Tel: 01539 445801.

The Russell Hotel

The Russell Hotel stands directly on the seafront in the West Sussex village of Aldwick, close to Bognor Regis. Fronted by beautifully landscaped gardens and a nine

hole putting green, with the beach and the sea beyond, views from the hotel are stunning. Tel: 01243 871300.

The Lauriston Hotel

Located on the seafront at the heart of Weston-super-Mare, with its Victorian promenade as well as modern retail amenities, the Lauriston Hotel is well placed to enjoy Somerset and the surrounding areas. All rooms have been recently refurbished to a high standard and three of the rooms are designated accessible with walk-in showers. Tel: 01934 620758.

The Cliffden Hotel

The Cliffden Hotel is situated in Teignmouth on the English Riviera coast in South Devon. A former Victorian country house, it is set in seven acres of magnificent scented grounds, that you can explore at your leisure. There is easy access via the gardens, to the seafront and town centre. The Cliffden also has a swimming pool. Tel: 01626 770052.

If you would like to find out more about Action Hotels visit their website at www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk. Action are offering a special discount for St Dunstaners at a rate of £25 Bed & Breakfast. If you would like to book, call the hotel of your choice and quote code DUN25. Dinner can be added for an additional £10 per person per night.

Please note this offer is subject to availability and is only valid for those people who have never before tried an Action hotel. The offer is open to the St Dunstaner and up to three others, staying for a maximum of seven nights. Bookings must be made and taken by the end of March 2009.

HOLIDAY IN JERSEY

PREFERENTIAL RATES: The owners of Hotel La Tour, a unique residence in St Aubin, Jersey, have offered more able St Dunstaners preferential rates of £30 per person per night between 1 February and June 30 next year. Dating back to the 17th century, Hotel La Tour was a merchant's house owned by the Martel family. The hilltop building has no disabled facilities but is renowned as a distinctive location.

More details about the hotel and surrounding area can be found on their website www.hotellatour.com. To take advantage of this offer, contact the manager, Harry on 01534 747143 quoting "Patrick".

GOLF DAYS IN 2009

NEW YEAR ON THE GREEN: The 2009 St Dunstan's Golf Club season kicks off with a meeting at Rusper Golf Course on April 18-19. This will be followed by matches on May 16-17; July 18-19; August 15-16 (the 16th being Captain's Day); September 12-13; October 17 and November 14-15. By popular demand the AGM will be held at Golf Addiction in Brighton Marina on 18 October.

The Invitation Day will be held on 28 June at Cottesmore Golf Club in Pease Pottage, Crawley, West Sussex. We are asking that each St Dunstan's golfer recruits at least one other player for his team for the Invitation Day.

Other events next year include The Naval Aviation 'Fly Navy' 100th year celebration on Friday 3 April with a Golf Bonanza Day in the Coventry area, probably at the Stonebridge

Golf Club. St Dunstan's golfers have been invited to play in this prestigious event. Names of interested players should be sent in writing to the Secretary.

Also in 2010, six charity matches are being organised in aid of St Dunstan's. We are hoping as many members as possible will be able to attend.

Les Trout, Secretary

CUT PRICE TALKING DICTIONARY

CHRISTMAS OFFER: RWF Talking Software have reduced the price of Version 9 of the Talking Dictionary. It has been lowered from \$29.95 (£18.61) to \$9.95 (£6.18). This price includes free copies of their Talking Event Scheduler, Talking Calculator and Talking Maze Game. The price also includes the CD copy and postage charges. For more details visit their website at www.rwfts.com.

SEA FISHING DATES

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

Dates for 2009 include 12-16 January, 9-13 March, and 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.

ST DUNSTAN'S BADGE

BADGE OF HONOUR: The badge is presented to all those who become St Dunstaners. It is a prized possession and is worn with pride. It is not for sale.

It has come to our attention that some of these St Dunstan's badges are being sold, mainly on E-Bay.

St Dunstaners are the only people allowed to wear the badge.

Widows/widowers, children/grandchildren may retain the badge as a keepsake.

However, if you do not want to hold on to the badge for any reason, then please return it to St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

IS THE STORY CONTEST ALL OVER? IT WILL BE ON 5 JANUARY

GET YOUR ENTRY IN NOW: The **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** story writing competition closes on 5 January 2009. The content and title are yours to decide. However, the story should embrace a sporting theme. The competition is open to St Dunstaners, their wives, husbands, widows or widowers or members of the Diana Gubbay Trust. Full rules were published in September and November issues. Entries must be received by the Editor, **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD by 5 January 2009. Entries can also be submitted by e-mail to ray.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk or other electronic media.

TELL US WHO SHOULD RECEIVE A FOUNDER'S DAY AWARD

MAKE YOUR NOMINATION NOW: Nominations for the inaugural Founder's Day Awards need to be submitted to St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan by 31 December. A nomination form was published in the September **Review** but can also be obtained from Barbara Sweeney at St Dunstan's Headquarters. Call her on 020 7616 7922. Nominations can be made in six of seven categories:

- i) Community Award for best contribution to their local community or the family of St Dunstan's by a St Dunstaner, spouse, widow or widower;
- ii) Best Student Award, for the best novice on learning new skills - St Dunstaner only;
- iii) Craft/Art/Music Award - St Dunstaner only;
- iv) Sports Person of the Year Award - St Dunstaner only;
- v) Volunteer of the Year Award - outsider who has contributed to St Dunstan's;
- vi) Innovator of the Year Award for any person or organisation which has successfully introduced to St Dunstan's a beneficial device or idea.

Proposers must explain in writing why the nominee has been put forward. Nominees can be proposed for more than one category. Nominations will be scrutinised by a selection committee for short listing. The final adjudication will lead to a presentation of the awards on 18 March 2009.



YOUR FEEDBACK IS WANTED

ST DUNSTAN'S LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE: The new St Dunstan's website was launched at the beginning of September 2008 and has already seen a significant increase in visitors. Latest news, In the Community, and Ways in which visitors can support St Dunstan's are just a few of the new features on the site. Improvements have also been made to help increase accessibility for visually impaired people by including colour contrast and size. It also has sections to allow visitors to order newsletters, book a speaker online and make a donation.

At St Dunstan's we strive to be the best we can and therefore we would love to hear your thoughts on the new website; if you have any comments please feel free to give Marketing & Communications a call on 020 7616 8370. You can also e-mail them to webmaster@st-dunstans.org.uk or write to: The Marketing Officer, St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London, W1H 4HD.

WINTER FUEL PAYMENTS

DO YOU QUALIFY?: The Government will again be making Winter Fuel Payments to most people aged 60 or over for winter 2008-09. A Winter Fuel Payment is an annual payment to help people aged 60 and over with the costs of keeping warm this winter.

If you are aged 60 to 79 and you are entitled to receive a Winter Fuel Payment, this year you will get either £125 or £250, depending on your circumstances in the qualifying week (15 to 21 September 2008).

If you are aged 80 or over and you are entitled to a Winter Fuel Payment, this year you will either £200 or £400, depending on your circumstances in the qualifying week.

You do not pay tax on Winter Fuel Payments. If you need to make a claim for a payment for winter 2008-09, you should return your claim form on or before 30 March 2009.

In line with changes to State Pension age for women, the qualifying age for Winter Fuel Payments will rise gradually between 2010 and 2020, from 60 to 65. This means that from winter 2010-11 onwards, both men and women will need to have reached women's State Pension age by the end of the September qualifying week.

You can get more information by calling the Winter Fuel Payment helpline 08459 151 515, textphone 0845 601 5613. Lines are open Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. You only need to claim once. After this you should automatically get a Winter Fuel Payment each year as long as your circumstances do not change.

AUDIO DESCRIBED SHOWS

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: Audio description enhances stage productions for blind patrons by explaining scenery, costume and action in between dialogue. *The Sound of Music* is closing at the London Palladium next year. The last audio described performance will be with Summer Strallen as Maria and Simon MacCorkindale as the Captain. Simon is well known from BBC's *Casualty* and repeats of *Manimal*. Irene Richards will be describing the show on 7 February at 14:30. Book on 0844 412 4648 or e-mail customer.relations@seetickets.com. Advance CDs are included, with details of pre-show events to follow.

Clwyd Theatr Cymru in Mold have four audio described performances of *Cinderella - The Panto with Soul* lined up. The dates and times are 6 December at 14:00, 18 December at 19:00, then 3 January 2009 at 14:00 and on 15 January 2009 at 19:00. The Box Office can be contacted on 0845 330 3565.

Irene Richards will be describing *Cinderella* at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley on 13 December at 14:30. Book on 0870 060 6620 or e-mail bromleyaccessbookings@theambassadors.com.

The Edinburgh Playhouse, Edinburgh will have an AD enhanced performance of *The Witches of Eastwick* on 15 December at 19:30. The Box Office is on 0870 606 3424.

The Snow Queen will be described on the evening of 18 December and the matinee on 20 December at Perth Theatre. (Audio Description takes place the last Thursday and last Saturday matinee of each show

at the venue). Their Box Office can be contacted on 01738 621 031.

An AD version of *Cinderella* will also be staged at the Bradford, Alhambra Theatre on 20 December at 14:30. The Box Office number is 01274 432000.

At The Lowry in Salford on 20 December, *The Wizard of Oz* will be described at 14:00. There is also a Touch Tour at 13:00. For details call the Box Office on 0870 787 5780.

The Playhouse in Liverpool has West End comedy *Boeing, Boeing* on 29 December at 19:30. The Box Office is on 0151 709 4776.

Hansel and Gretel at the Northern Stage, Newcastle on 3 January 2009, at 14:00 will have AD. The Box Office is on 0191 230 5151.

The Theatre Royal, Norwich has *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* on 8 January 2009 at 14:30. The Box Office can be contacted on 01603 630000.

The ever popular stage version of 'Allo 'Allo, will be described at The Lowry on 10 January 2009 at 14:30. There is a Touch Tour at 13:30. Contact the Box Office on 0870 787 5780.

Mary Poppins will be described at Manchester, Palace Theatre on 12 January 2009 at 19:30. The Box Office is 0870 145 1163.

The New Victoria Theatre in Woking will stage *Aladdin* on 15 January 2009 at 14:30. Book on 0870 060 6645.

Venue Cymru in Llandudno have a performance of *Dick Whittington* on 3 January 2009 at 19:15. Their Box Office is on 01492 872000.

ST DUNSTANERS E-MAILING LIST

ONLINE ADVICE FROM YOUR PEERS: St Dunstaners have their own electronic noticeboard using e-mail to pose questions and get answers. Questions regarding visual impairment, technical issues and day-to-day living are all regular topics of discussion. There is likely to be someone with the knowledge to answer any question posted. St Dunstaners can draw on the experiences of their fellows for support. If you are interested in joining, then please send a blank e-mail to vi-std-subscribe@topica.com. A confirmation e-mail will be sent and once you reply, St Dunstaner David Poyner who manages the list will authorise your membership of the group.

RNIB AND ACTION FOR BLIND

COMBINED SERVICE: Two of the leading sight loss charities in the UK – the Royal National Institute of Blind People and Action for Blind People – have agreed in principle to combine their services across England in an innovative move which will see Action for Blind People become an associate charity of RNIB.

AUDIO BOOK RADIO ONLINE

SPOKEN WORD ON INTERNET: A new web-based radio station is dedicated to the spoken word. Stories, poetry, drama and interviews can be listened to on www.audiobookradio.net which also carries a shop with audio book downloads. All broadcasts are free, though donations are appreciated. A common schedule includes readings from Agatha Christie, Jerome K Jerome, J.B. Priestley and an interview with Naomi Klein.

TALKING TELETEXT UP FOR GRABS

TWO MACHINES ON OFFER: The Rehabilitation and Training department have two talking teletext machines to give away. They plug into a normal TV aerial socket and receive the teletext information, reading it out with a synthesised voice. There is no screen but a number of buttons similar to those on a keyboard, that are used to navigate round the different pages of Teletext. This will only work until your area goes digital, when they will become obsolete. We are unable to offer any support with the machine but if anyone would like one of these, please contact Steve Miles in Rehab & Training on 01273 391478.

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE

FAMILY EVENT AT IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM: An actor-in-role will talk about the Christmas Truce of 1914 and how soldiers coped in winter in the trenches during the First World War at the Imperial War Museum London on 6, 7, 13, and 14 December with performances at noon, 13:00, 14:00 and 15:00.

NO CHRISTMAS CHEER THIS YEAR

UNCOVERED: There were no entries for the *Review's* Christmas Cover contest.

BACK IN FEBRUARY 2009

NEXT ISSUE OUT AT START OF FEBRUARY: There will be no edition of **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** published during the month of January. The **Review** will be back, in all formats, in February 2009 with more news, features and information. In the meantime, all comments and contributions are welcome.

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.

In Memoriam

On Friday 24th October 2008 I attended the funeral mass for Evelyn Jean Firth, held at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Stubbington, Hampshire. This lovely lady was well known, and loved, by all St Dunstaners who have attended Summer Camp, at both *Daedalus* and *Sultan*. Jean was there every year at camp time to welcome St Dunstaners to her home for a meal and also act as a "dog" for the week. Even this year, when she was clearly very ill, Jean still attended *Sultan* every morning. She commented that she could only be there in the morning as she was past her "best by date" by lunchtime. The service was well attended by Jean's friends, *Sultan* "dogs" and church dignitaries who included two bishops. Campers will not be surprised to hear that at the reception, included in the refreshments, were egg sandwiches and cherry tomatoes. Jean always supplied these particular comestibles on the Isle Of

Wight trip during camp. Jean will be sorely missed by all but I suspect that her name will never be forgotten by St Dunstaners.

Gerry Jackson
Worthing, West Sussex

Good memories

Once again the Remembrance Weekend was very enjoyable. It is great to meet old friends and make new ones, also to think about the many who lost their lives, and for people who are remembered in our hearts. I met up with a good group of people. On the Saturday, my adopted mum Audrey and her family joined us and we spent a lovely time at the Albert Hall.

Remembrance Sunday meant an early start for all. My guide Dawn Brown did a fantastic job in escorting me and Bill Chambers on parade and also at the formal dinner in the afternoon. Thanks Dawn! The speech by St Dunstaner Simon Brown was very moving and touched a few heart strings. It was very emotional.

I stayed on the Sunday evening and again had a lovely reunion with friends, like Billy and Karen Baxter, Simon Brown, Audrey and her family. Michael, Audrey's grandson was over the moon as he met his hero, Billy Baxter. He had done a school project on Billy, so had to have his picture taken to show it off to all his school friends. Fame at last Billy.

I would like to thank Niki Kokonas and all the staff for a great weekend yet again. You all do a fantastic job.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and all the best of Health and Happiness in 2009, to all St Dunstan's Staff, and all fellow St Dunstaners

Maria Pikulski,
Leyland, Preston,
Lancashire

We have also heard from Ernie and Edna Parker of Bromley, Kent and Chris and Hazel Humphrey of Thorpe End, Norwich and thank them for their comments.

Balancing the Books

Ted Bunting is none the wiser about the Queen of the Nile

Cleopatra

Author: EE Rice

Reader: Anita Wright

Catalogue No: 13053

Duration: 2 hours, 20 minutes

Thanks to a combination of William Shakespeare and Cecil B. De Mille most people would probably tell you that Cleopatra the seventh was a beautiful woman (a bit over-generous with eye make-up) who ruled Egypt, had a flirtation with Julius Caesar, a passionate love affair with Mark Anthony and committed suicide by clasping an asp to her bosom. Well "it ain't necessarily so" as the song says; or at least not according to this rather dry book which points out how difficult it is to be sure of facts when dealing with historical figures who died before Christ was born. Ellen Rice depends greatly on the Greek writer and philosopher Plutarch for information (probably from his famous *Parallel Lives*) but since Cleopatra died in

30BC and Plutarch wasn't born until 46AD they could hardly have met could they?

However, we do know that Cleopatra did not rule Egypt, that task went to a governor appointed by Rome. It seems highly unlikely that there was ever any hanky-panky between Cleopatra and Julius Caesar either, since records apparently say they only met on a couple of formal occasions. Nor can we say if she was beautiful or not; she could have been like the back end of a camel for all the good Plutarch is here. There are only a few coins to go by and I expect the professionals at the mint could even make me look beautiful if they had a mind to. And finally it seems that the story of the asp is no more than that, just a story, a mere figment of someone's imagination. So all in all this is not a book I can recommend; the only thing that singles it out from any other I have heard is that I knew more at the start than I did at the finish.

A Halloween treat

THE PATRONS of the Marshland Arms in Marshland St James, near Wisbech, Cambridgeshire demonstrated their support for blind servicemen at a Halloween event. They raised £100 for St Dunstan's at the West Norfolk pub which is renowned for good food. A group from the village have also been sending goody parcels to Paras and Marines stationed in Afghanistan.

Ben is P65 patron

WOUNDED PARA Ben Parkinson has been chosen to become patron of an ambitious charity hoping to raise £500,000 for injured war veterans. Project 65 intends to honour the memory of the men that captured the bridges on the Caen Canal and River Orne on D-Day 65 years ago. A group of volunteers intend to run 65 miles, a mile for each year, to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of D-Day.

Ten questions on...

The subject of Ranks

A new quiz from Sgt Harry Beevers

- 1) Which 18th-19th Century European leader was nicknamed "The Little Corporal"?
- 2) What rank was Horatio Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar in October 1805?
- 3) Which member of the Royal Family has the rank Lord High Admiral?
- 4) What was the rank of Guy Gibson when he led the raid by 617 Squadron in World War II on German dams?
- 5) Which rank in the British Army was created by King George II in 1736, the first holder of the post being John Campbell, the 2nd Duke of Argyll?
- 6) Who has the higher rank in the Royal Navy, a Commander or a Commodore?
- 7) What is the rank of an officer in the Royal Air Force who wears two broad rings on his sleeve?
- 8) In the Gilbert and Sullivan opera *The Pirates of Penzance*, a character describes himself as "The very model of a modern..." what?
- 9) Which former MP and Cabinet Minister who made the famous "Rivers of Blood" speech rose from the rank of Private to Brigadier during World War II?
- 10) Which member of the British Royal Family joined the services in 1945 and attained the rank of 2nd Subaltern and Driver/Mechanic?

Answers can be found on page 46.



Dedicated Glenys dances off with an excellence award

ENERGETIC Glenys Holmes has received an Excellence in the Community award for the time and effort she puts into supporting the St Dunstan's Dance and Social Club weeks.

Glenys and her partner Army St Dunstaner David Schofield of Ilkeston, Derbyshire have created an infectious enthusiasm for ballroom dancing at St Dunstan's. She has been closely involved with the organisation of the dance weeks which incorporates dancing lessons for blind Service men and women with several nights of dancing to bands big and small. The popularity of the event shows no sign of waning, with a long waiting list for each week next year.

The award was one of several given for voluntary service by Derbyshire residents. Councillor Joyce Sanders, chair of Derbyshire County Council, is pictured with Glenys and Councillor Anne Western, Deputy Leader of Derbyshire County Council.

Long name and a longer drop!



That's an awkward railing.

ROYAL NAVY St Dunstaner Barrie Hathaway went over the edge at Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysyliogogoch to raise funds for the North Wales Society for the Blind recently. The Welsh village with the longest name in the world is also home to the Marquess of Anglesey column, a 90ft structure that commands impressive views over the Menai Straits and the mountains of Snowdonia.

The splendid column was finished two years after the battle of Waterloo, 18 June, 1815. A statue was added in 1860 to commemorate the life of Henry William Paget, Earl of Uxbridge and first Marquess of Anglesey. The Marquess was second-in-



St Dunstaner Barrie Hathaway half way down the column.

command to Wellington at Waterloo, where he lost his right leg but survived and lived to the grand age of 85.

The column has been regularly commandeered for charity abseils in recent years. So it was that Barrie, aged 54 of Amlwch, Anglesey joined other visually impaired locals to tackle the challenge. Wearing crash helmet and harness, he was attached to a pulley and prepared to abseil down from the top.

His only moment of hesitation came at the start as he had to clamber over the

metal railing that surrounds the square platform at the top. Once over that hurdle, he had a smooth ride down as he fed the rope through the pulley and abseiled to terra firma. Barrie and the group raised £3,000 through their venture.



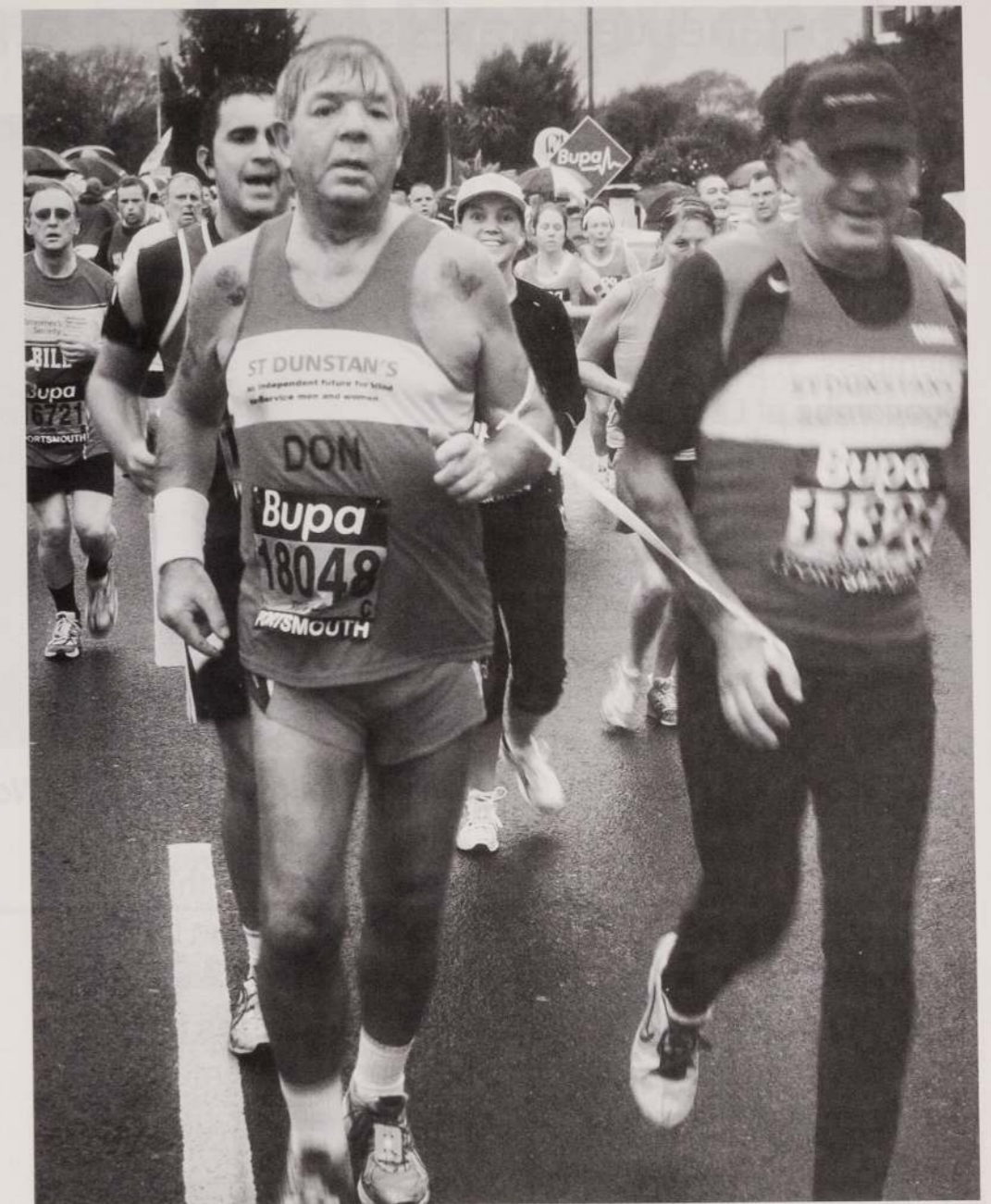
Barrie reaches the ground.

Don sets the pace down South

ARMY St Dunstaner Don Planner of Poole, Dorset maintained an impressive lead for much of the Great South Run on a rain-drenched 26 October. The ten-mile race around historic Portsmouth and Southsea attracted nearly 19,500 runners and saw Olympic legend Paula Radcliffe regain her crown when she completed the run in 51 minutes.

Don, aged 61 was accompanied once again by Christopher Moorley and maintained his position for the first seven miles. However, RAF St Dunstaner Iain Millard of Saltdean, Brighton was fast closing and eventually overtook Don. Dave Powell, aged 46, had to give up early in the run.

Don and Christopher finished in two hours, one minute and 16 seconds. Iain, aged 50, flanked by Louise Timms and Jamie Aspin finished in one hour, 48 minutes and 54 seconds. Also running for St Dunstan's was Mark Kilner who finished in two hours, 17 minutes and 25 seconds. Andrew, Mandy and Stephen from Sports and Rec also ran.



Don Planner and Christopher Moorley running in the rain.



Wot no shield? Can Iain catch up with World War II legend Captain America?

Ron's 70 years as a lifesaver

St Dunstaner celebrates seven decades of safe swimming

WORTHING LIFE Guard Corps celebrated a unique anniversary on 13 October, when one of their members, St Dunstaner Ron Duncombe of Lancing, West Sussex was presented with a Commemorative Bronze Medallion to celebrate the day on which he first passed the award 70 years ago. Ron has been an active member of Worthing Life Guard Corps for 30 years, he joined the Corps in 1978.



Ron with fellow members of Worthing Life Guard Corps.

Lifesavers, or the Royal Life Saving Society, is the leading drowning prevention organisation in the UK. They have an awards system to assist in turning bystanders into lifesavers. The Bronze Medallion is recognised as the flagship award for lifesaving, assisting in developing fitness, knowledge, and skill.

Ron, aged 82, took his first Bronze Medallion in Fulham Baths in October 1938, when he was a member of the Fulham Schools Association. The second time was with the Chelsea Boys Club in 1941 and

the third was with the London Schools Association in 1942. In those days lifesavers were given a clasp which fitted on the ribbon each time they retook the award.

Ron joined the Royal Navy during the Second World War, serving on HMS *Nith*, a beach landing craft control ship. (Interestingly the ship was sold to the Egyptian navy after the war and was sunk by the Royal Navy during the course of the Suez crisis.) He went on to serve in the Mediterranean, the Far East and Burma.

During this time, he took

his Bronze a further three times, on HMS *Ganges*, at the Chatham Barracks and on HMS *Braganza* in Bombay, India. After the war Ron joined the Chelsea Swimming and Lifesaving Club in 1946, where he took his Bronze for the seventh time. His next major lifesaving achievement was to gain his Distinction Award in 1954, this is the highest award in the lifesaving programme of the Royal Life Saving Society. Ron also retook his Bronze award again in 1994, which was 56 years after the first award, a truly remarkable achievement.

Rugby locals rally round Lionel after thieves steal Poppy cash

THE PEOPLE of Rugby, Warwickshire have demonstrated their support for a St Dunstaner who was robbed of the money he had collected for the Poppy Appeal. Lionel Broughton, who served in the Royal Engineers fell victim to thieves in the run-up to Remembrance Sunday.

Having endured a cold and wet day, he had sold all but 13 poppies. As crowds milled about him, an opportunist

thief stole the cash he had collected, around £250. Despite the setback Lionel returned to the town centre to resume collecting in the days leading up to Remembrance Sunday.

"I could have said I do not want to collect anymore," Lionel told a local newspaper. "But we lost so many people in the wars and if I had given up, it would have let them all down and let the thieves win. It does

make you wonder about the people who do this but I will not give up."

Members of the public in Rugby were quick to denounce the act of the thief and a local businessman stepped in with a donation to replace the stolen money. "I can't thank the kind man enough for donating the money," said Lionel.

Police subsequently arrested a 14-year-old boy.

Great result from concert



St Dunstaner Tony Lee of Mildenhall, Suffolk took great pleasure in presenting Graham Footer with a cheque for £2,075 raised through the concert he organised in Bury St Edmunds in September. Tony arranged the performance of The Band of The Royal Marines.

Sutton Valence go the distance

DAYS OF torrential rain preceded the latest attempt by Sutton Valence School Cadets to take on the St Dunstan's 'Go the Distance' Cadet Challenge. For the fourth year running, they decided to complete their 13.5 miles on foot. After

camping out the previous evening, the students embraced the challenge on 13 October and walked through puddles of thick mud. St Dunstaner Chris Humphrey and Education Officer Catherine Hutchinson joined the cadets on the walk.

Armistice Day birth for Henry the II

A BRISTOL COUPLE have named their son after St Dunstaner Henry Allingham because he was born at 11 minutes past 11 o'clock on 11 November. Henry West who weighed 6lb, 14oz, followed his twin brother Charlie. The boys' uncle has just returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Back in the mud



Photographs: Eleanor Stack

ARMY ST DUNSTANERS Jamie Cuthbertson and Maria Pikulski were covered in mud and soaked to the skin in the Sheep Dip at the Royal Marines Commando Challenge on near Exeter on 11 October. However, they both came up smiling. Steve Sparkes, Tom Boal and Colin Williamson also took part.



Well done, Graham



Photograph: Oxfordshire Sport

St Dunstaner Graham Kiff receives his award from John Amatt of local leisure providers Nexus Community and Anna Hemmings, Olympian and World Champion Canoeist.

OXFORD ST DUNSTANER Graham Kiff was crowned Disabled Sportsperson of the Year in 2008, at the Oxfordshire Sport Awards ceremony at Kassam Stadium on 7 November. John Amatt, Operations Director at Nexus Community, presented him with a trophy and a special

gift. Graham, aged 40, who served in the RAF, was the first disabled athlete to represent Great Britain in the Triathlon. He won silver at the British Disabled National Championships and then gold in the World Triathlon Championships (AWAD) in Vancouver, Canada.

Low vision day in Lambeth

ST DUNSTANER Gerry Jackson and wife Maureen manned a St Dunstan's stand at St Thomas' Hospital's their Annual Low Vision Day on 11 October. They were supported by Graham Footer and Catherine

Hutchinson The event was officially opened by Broadcaster John Suchet and has been developed to help people with Low Vision in the London area access resources which can assist them in their day to day life.

Crepe Poppies make Big Draw 2008 something to remember

Kathryn Jones-Romain and the Craft Workshop say thank you to everyone who participated in the latest art project



The Computer Club break from the digital divide to make some poppies for the project.

OCTOBER MARKED both Art Beyond Sight Awareness Month (an initiative from America which hopes to raise awareness of the needs of those with a visual impairment to have access to the arts) and the Big Draw (which is a national initiative run by the Campaign for Drawing in the UK, encouraging everyone in the country to draw in whatever medium they like).

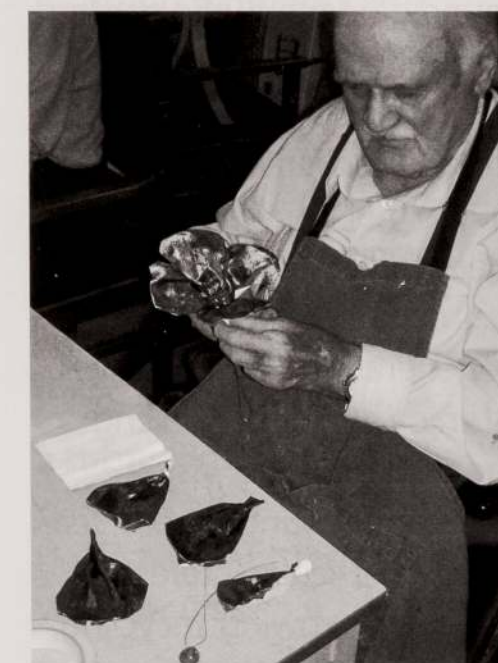
For the last couple of years the Craft Workshop has tried to mark these events by running different projects. This year we encouraged everyone throughout the organisation to make poppies out of 'sculptable'

metallic crepe paper. Some of the finished poppies have been planted in a carved emblem of the charity's badge in the grounds at St Dunstan's Ovingdean others have been displayed throughout the house.

We just wanted to say a big, big thank you to those of you that had a go ... the results were fantastic. We've had a huge amount of poppies back. As well as making poppies within St Dunstan's, we also had a great response from local schools and nurseries, in both the Sheffield and Brighton areas, and a local group of Brownies.

To those of you that got

involved, we hope you had fun and hope you manage to examine the displays at St Dunstan's Ovingdean.



Army St Dunstaner Bill Carthy tries his hand at assembling one of the metallic poppies in St Dunstan's Craft Workshop.

Gardening is still a joy for Jean

AN 82-year-old lady from Hove, East Sussex has been named Blind Gardener of the Year for 2008. Organised by the National Blind Gardeners' Club – a partnership between Thrive and RNIB – the competition celebrates the skills of blind and partially sighted gardeners, whatever their age or experience and however large or small their growing space – from container or window box to patio or border.



St Dunstaner Chris Humphrey presents contest winner Jean Harrington with a small woodturned trophy.

The Blind Gardener of the Year category recognises all-round gardeners who garden throughout the year. First prize went to Jean Harrington for her innovative approach and for her unique tips and ideas. Seven years ago, Jean was diagnosed with macular degeneration. She still strives to enjoy her garden, facing the challenges her visual impairment brings about. Jean takes a particular interest in vegetable growing, recycling, composting and encouraging wildlife into the garden.

The Blind Gardening Club/ Group of the Year award which covers clubs and

community gardening groups where the majority of people are blind or partially sighted and was won by The Meristems Garden Group in Nottinghamshire.

Elliott Roberts from Impington Village College won first prize in the Young Blind Gardener of the Year category for his independence and individuality. Elliott has always gardened with sight loss and enjoys growing herbs and vegetables.

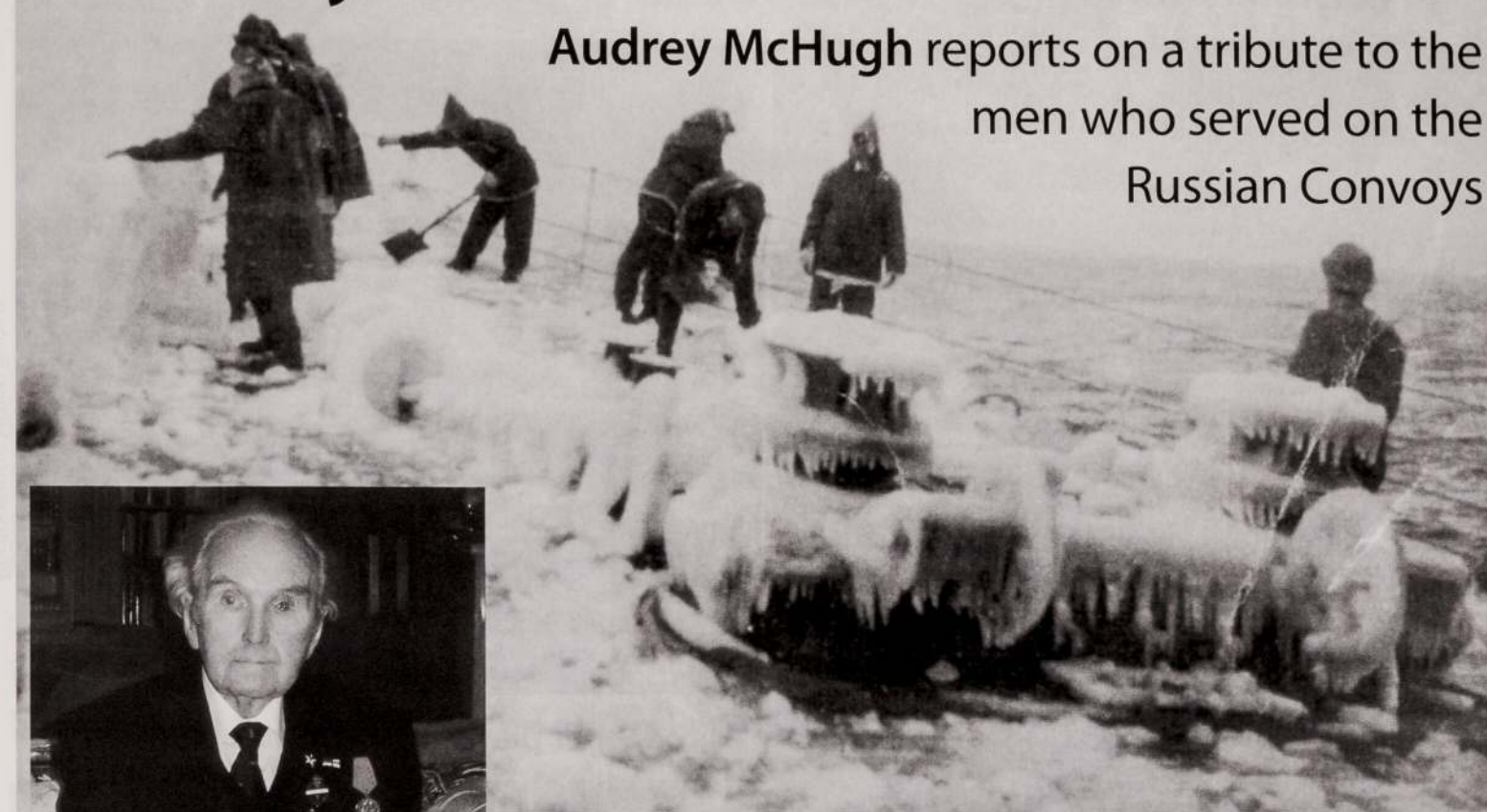
Judges commented on the

way that people's enjoyment of gardening, as well as the benefits it can bring, shone through in all the entries.

Finalists also received woodturned trophies designed and made by St Dunstaners Gerry Jones, Chas Rhodes, John Long, Bob Michael and Ken Thomas, and congratulations go to them for their skill and hard work. Chris Humphrey, a member of St Dunstan's public speaking team, attended the ceremony to talk about the charity and present the trophies.

Convoy Veterans return to base

Audrey McHugh reports on a tribute to the men who served on the Russian Convoys



James McHugh, left, and his shipmates sailed under frozen conditions during the Second World War.

ROYAL NAVY St Dunstaner James McHugh of Aldershot, Hampshire returned to Loch Ewe, Western Ross on 9 October. This was where ships would gather before setting off in convoy to Russia which was classified by Winston Churchill as "the worst journey in the world."

A service tribute was held in Port House Hotel attended by a small number of veterans and dignitaries who paid tribute to the seaman and pilots who did not come back from these convoys. Lord Lieutenant Mrs Janet

Brown attended on behalf of HRH The Prince of Wales. Also present were Commodore Charles Stevenson, Royal Navy, Squadron Leader Stuart Roxbrugh, RAF, Lt Col Hans-Jacob Rodo, Norwegian Military Attache, and Mr Vladimir Malygin, Consul General of the Russian Federation. During the service, a ship's bell which had been donated was presented to be placed in the hotel on permanent display.

Local school children and a group of Air Cadets attended the event and the youngsters were invited to ask the veterans questions.

A stirring moment came when Piper Sandy Ross played a lament across the water. HMS *Bulwark*, our latest assault ship was at anchor in the Loch and much to the delight of everyone there was a flypast by an RAF Tornado, then a submarine came slowly, partially submerged, up the dock. A very fitting finale. The weather was cold and windy.

Between 1940-45, 2,800 lives and 127 ships were lost but they still delivered 12,755 tanks, 22,000 aircraft, 375,800 trucks and four million tons of ammunition to Russia.

Acts of Remembrance



Photograph: Scott Heppell

St Dunstaner Arthur Carter, escorted by Tom Lang, carried our Standard in Sunderland.



St Dunstaner Arthur Patton of Peterlee, County Durham, escorted by Colin Woodward, laid a wreath at a war cemetery in the Dutch village of Valkenswaard in September. He travelled with the Teesside branch of the RASC/RCT Association.



Photographs: Simon Rogers

As the Piper plays, RAF Founder member Henry Allingham, aged 112, is taken towards the Cenotaph with escort Flight Lieutenant Michelle Goodman, DFC.



In Hampstead Cemetery, RAF St Dunstaner Peter Carr lays of a wreath on behalf of St Dunstan's Organisations throughout the world on Sir Arthur's grave. Next, Royal Navy St Dunstaner Jeff Parker added another on behalf of St Dunstaners worldwide.



St Dunstan's contingent with Ray Hazan, Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN, Simon Brown, Sir Peter de la Billiere, George Jackson, Sir Jock Slater, Clive Woods, and others in Whitehall.



Para St Dunstaner Stephen Tuffen, escorted by his son Michael, carried the wreath for post-WWII veterans.



HM The Queen lays the first wreath.



Arctic Convoys were represented.



Vivian Jerome, widow of WWI St Dunstaner Samuel Jerome, with Walter Briggs, Rae Brown and Christine Stalham.



St Dunstaners Frank Breach, Bill Griffiths, MBE, Irene Wilkinson and Donald Pilgrim in Whitehall. St Dunstan's new Chairman Major General Keeling and his wife Woppy were amongst the escorts.



Second World War St Dunstaners on parade.



A group of St Dunstaners observed a moment of reflective silence at the graveside of our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson. Nigel Whiteley was Standard Bearer during the vigil.

In Memory of Sir Arthur Pearson

It is very appropriate, that, although he was not a victim of war himself, we should remember our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson during this Remembrance weekend." With these words, the President of St Dunstan's, Ray Hazan, launched the first of what will become a regular event in our calendar of Founder's Day commemorations. Fourteen St Dunstaners, plus their wives or escorts, gathered in London's Hampstead cemetery on the morning of Saturday 8 November at the family graveside of Sir Arthur Pearson, Founder of St Dunstan's. It was a cool, breezy day, but the rain held off.

Ray paid tribute to the memory of a man to whom we owed so much. A blind man with a vision, which, with the blessing of the then National Institute for the Blind, he was able to put into effect. Where possible, given employment skills, blind ex-Service people could go back into their communities and return to as normal a life as their handicap permitted.

Not only had Sir Arthur conquered his own handicap, but he went on to enable others to do the same both within the United Kingdom and abroad. These overseas organisations were set up by people who themselves had been through the rehabilitation and training process in Regents Park.

In similar vein, 87 years ago,

St Dunstaners from all over the UK had gathered on the same spot to pay tribute to Sir Arthur. As the silence settled to allow for personal thoughts, Nigel Whiteley lowered the St Dunstan's Standard and we gave private thanks to the memory of our illustrious Founding Father.

St Dunstaner, the Reverend David Youngson then said a prayer, which was followed by the laying of a wreath on behalf of St Dunstan's Organisations throughout the world by Peter Carr, and then by Jeff Parker on behalf of St Dunstaners worldwide.

It was a memorable and meaningful act of remembrance of such a great man, and works in so well with the Cenotaph arrangements.

Crowds gather for Remembrance Day

By the evening, the Marriott Hotel, Swiss Cottage was resounding with the calls of greetings and the buzz of "catching up" chatter. By 08:30 the next morning, breakfast had been consumed and all coaches were loaded and away to Horse Guards Parade.

There were 198 St Dunstaners, plus escorts, who marched into Whitehall. As Big Ben started to sound eleven o'clock, the single canon shot rang out to commence the two minutes of silence. A cool breeze swept down Whitehall, luckily from behind us. No sound interrupted our thoughts of lost comrades or of the many St Dunstaners known to us, who had given their sight for their country.

After we stepped off to march past the Cenotaph, we had to mark time to slip in behind the second Band and apparently transform ourselves into Far East Prisoners of War, as far as the BBC TV commentary was concerned. At the Chairman's left elbow at the head of the column was Simon Brown, aged 30, and



Alfie Amos, 6, became unofficial mascot for the day.

a relatively recent casualty of the Iraq conflict. The pavement applause seemed to be even louder this year - is it more awareness and appreciation of what British troops are facing currently in Iraq and Afghanistan? As

we passed the Cenotaph, wreaths were handed over by Clive Woods, WWII ex-Royal Marine escorted by Admiral Sir Jock Slater, and Steve Tuffen, post-WWII ex-Parachute Regiment, wounded at Goose Green, Falklands, escorted by his son Michael in Sea Cadets uniform. The St Dunstaners' contingent this year was kept in order by Colour Sgt Howlin and Drill Sgt Robinson, both of the Grenadier Guards.

The Earl of Wessex afterwards took the salute at the March Past on Horse Guards Parade. He was accompanied by the new Secretary of State



St Dunstan's contingent march on, including Jeff Parker, Tony Haskey, Wendy Kane, Bob Strickland and Tom Boal.

for Defence, The Right Honourable John Hutton.

The Chairman, Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN, opened his after-dinner speech by welcoming guests and expressing gratitude to the escorts. In particular, he thanked the organisers David Habershon, Niki Kokonas and Inderpal Kallah, ably aided by staff from London, Ovingdean and in the field.

The Chairman went on to summarise the main events of the year, especially the increase in numbers and the importance of heightening the fundraising profile. He talked about Llandudno and the pending reception by the Mayor and local inhabitants. The mosaic, made by our craft workshop and unveiled in October at the National Arboretum Memorial, was a great advertisement to the 325,000 visitors anticipated there next year.

The Chairman ended on a cautious note. The current financial situation would make it hard for charities. We shall have to be careful and be patient until "the sun comes out again". He then introduced Simon Brown, "who has been a pleasure to



Second World War veterans near the Cenotaph. The group includes Marjorie Scott, Leslie Sims, and Joyce Graham.

escort". Simon responded on behalf of St Dunstaners.

Simon had several personal thanks to express. Firstly, to the Training and Rehabilitation team who had "given us the confidence to get on with our lives again." This drew much applause. Simon was grateful for being included in the schools programme, which had given him the opportunity to go out and tell his story, raise the profile of St Dunstan's, and "tell children what it was really like, and maybe they will create a better world than what we have done."

This was a popular sentiment amongst the audience. He thanked

St Dunstan's for the "way we are enabled to interact with each other, the friendship, the camaraderie, which we thought we had lost with our sight - life could be worse."

Simon concluded by reciting a verse, delivered at the memorial to many lost comrades:

"They say: Whether our lives and our deaths were for peace and a new hope
Or for nothing
We cannot say.
It is you who must say this."

Simon drew a standing ovation for his moving and mature words. He proved a truly worthy successor to previous generations of St Dunstaners.

90th anniversary of Great War Armistice

THREE OF THE surviving veterans of the First World War attended a special ceremony of Remembrance at the Cenotaph on 11 November - the 90th Anniversary of the Great War Armistice. It was an emotional experience for St Dunstaner Henry Allingham who tried to stand in an attempt to lay a wreath at the memorial.

The ceremony was attended by HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, The Prime Minister and Defence Secretary John Hutton. As crowds lined the streets, including many serving members of the Armed Forces, the three veterans were led by a single piper towards the Cenotaph where the Right Reverend David Conner, Bishop to the Armed Forces stood by a podium.

The three veterans were lined up in wheelchairs to lay their wreaths, each representing the Armed Service they belonged to: the Royal Navy for Bill Stone, aged 108, the Army for Harry Patch, 110, and the Royal Air Force for Henry, 112. Accompanying each man was a member of today's Armed Forces who has



An emotional moment for Henry at the foot of the Cenotaph.

been decorated for bravery; Marine Mkhusele Jones, who won the Military Cross, Lance Corporal Johnson Beharry, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for risking his life to rescue comrades in Iraq, and helicopter pilot Flight Lieutenant Michelle Goodman, who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

In turn, they were wheeled forward, passing the wreath to the younger veteran who placed it at the base

of the Cenotaph. However, Henry was wheeled closer, determined to lay the wreath himself. Try as he might, he could not rise from the wheelchair and finally passed the wreath to Flight Lt Goodman to place.

The Last Post was sounded by four buglers, followed by two minutes of silence. Then, as *Reveille* was played the crowds saluted three representatives of a lost generation. Will we see their like again?

St Dunstan's calling the world

St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society were airing the station, **GX3STD** during their meeting of 17-24 October

THE ANNUAL General Meeting of the St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society was held in the Ballroom at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, and quite a number were led a fine dance to find it! At the opening, Bill Shea, the Chairman, welcomed all, particularly three new members to the Society, namely, Colin Denton, G3DSX, Dick Hardy, G3TIX, and John Bell, G4XBL, the good news being that they are all competent operators, a much needed commodity.

All members of the Society were sorry to hear Tom Hart and Alex Scott were in hospital and wished them a speedy recovery.

The Club paid tribute to the late Beryl John, who, with Ted, had never failed to attend a Society meeting in 32 years. Beryl was of inestimable value in supporting Ted John by carrying out all the book work and always took your subscription from you with a smile! Beryl will be sorely missed by all who knew her. She made our lives that much richer and happy for having known her.

A tip-top luncheon was served in the Winter Garden following the meeting and a crowd of 44, comprising

members, escorts and guests settled down in a very convivial atmosphere to enjoy the meal, for which our thanks are due to the PKB Staff.

After a slight pause to digest our excellent lunch, the Station, using the Special Event Call-sign, GX3STD, went on the air. This was due to the superb maintenance carried out by John, Brian and Eddie, fondly known as Freeman, Hardy and Willis! During the ensuing week some 184 contacts were made in the Eastern Mediterranean, UK and many continental stations, many of which were by CW (morse) by Ray Peart, GOFHK, a delight to listen to. Edna McGoff was also acclaimed for her devotion to keeping the log on all the contacts,

an arduous task. I am sure that everyone thoroughly enjoyed a most successful and satisfactory week.

For those interested, meetings at Ovingdean in 2009 are from 6-14 February, and from 2-9 October.

Through his good offices, Eddie Wilson, GOECW, has arranged for authorised members of the Worthing and District Club to help any St Dunstaner to sit the Foundation Licence, details of which can be obtained from St Dunstaner Ted John, Secretary of our Society, telephone 0151 638 5514.

RAF talk down blinded pilot

A PILOT who suddenly went blind while flying his plane at 5,500ft was guided in to land by an RAF plane. A plane was scrambled from the RAF base at Linton-on-Ouse in North Yorkshire to help stricken pilot Jim O'Neill, 65, who suffered a stroke.

St Dunstan's Chairman retires

CAPTAIN MICHAEL Gordon-Lennox, RN retired as St Dunstan's Chairman on 13 November. He was the fifth person to hold the position since the charity's foundation in 1915.

Born in London in 1938, he joined the Royal Navy in 1957 as a Cadet at Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth. In 1960 he served in HMS *Salisbury*, qualifying as a Ship's Diver during a Far East deployment. He served in HM Yacht *Britannia* and later as the First Lieutenant of the Inshore mine hunter HMS *Squirrel* on Fishery Protection duties. He was involved with the first commission of the guided missile destroyer HMS *Kent* before being appointed ADC to the unified Commander-in-Chief Far East, in Singapore, for the duration of the Indonesian Confrontation campaign. On return to the UK, he specialised in anti-submarine warfare.

From 1974-76 he served on the staff of the Flag Officer First Flotilla (then Vice-Admiral Henry Leach) and

The Chairman at the National Memorial Arboretum in September.



was promoted Commander, thence to the Operational Requirements Directorate in the Ministry of Defence before commanding the Vosper Frigate HMS *Active* from 1978-80. Promoted Captain in June 1985, he became Chief of Staff to the Flag Officer Scotland, until being appointed Chief Staff Officer for Reserves and Cadets to the CINC Naval Home Command in April 1988; then to Hong Kong as Captain in Charge of the naval base and patrol craft until 1991. He was appointed the Commodore Admiralty Interview Board in 1992, and left the Royal Navy in 1994.

As a Retired Officer, he ran the RN Personnel Security vetting organisation in Portsmouth. He is actively involved with the Coastal

Forces Heritage Trust, in the Royal Navy Museum. Interests include fishing, shooting, golf, cricket, gardening and other country pursuits. He is a member of the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland (Royal Company of Archers).

He joined the Council of St Dunstan's in 1993, and became Chairman in October 1998. As Chairman, he steered the Charity through many changes, picking up the baton of a constitutional change aimed at providing assistance for a wider group of visually impaired ex-Service men and women and their families. The Organisation was revitalised, opening a new training centre in Sheffield, laying plans for a third centre in Llandudno, and developing a nationwide network which aids nearly 5,000 people.

Wisdom from the Blind Kitty

The humour of everyday life as a blind person holds serious advice on how to deal with the world hopes one St Dunstaner

ONE ST DUNSTANER has been publishing amusing anecdotes and what she hopes will be useful advice for other visually impaired people in a weekly diary on the internet.

Constance Halford-Thompson is determined to retain her independence and not to let visual impairment limit her lifestyle to any great degree. She has been recording some of her observations on life at www.blindkittycat.blogspot.com.

Her cat, named Kitty, has a significant role in the origin of Granny's Blog. Aged around 17 years old, the Burmese feline suffers its own visual impairment and has been as solid a fixture in the lives of Constance's grandchildren.

"She is a source of amusement to them all," said Constance. "We get mice round here and she never catches them. You will see poor old Kitty walking around and putting her foot



Constance uses a mix of Guide and Supernova software.

out rather gingerly to see if a chair is there. They think that's funny, so I'm always hitting them and telling them to shut up. It's not funny at all, poor Kitty!

"But they have known her all their lives, they have known her since they were small children."

So how did Constance and Kitty find themselves thrust in to cyberspace? "I was spending Christmas with my son in France and the eldest grandson there, he's about 20-21, he's a sort of

great joker and he's a whiz-kid on the computer and he said 'Oh Granny, I'm going to set you up a blog.' So I said 'Fine, it will give me another thing to do'.

"I read through what he wrote at the beginning and I feel quite embarrassed actually, it sounds like I had written it up myself, praising myself as a painter and this sort of thing. He put it up and I started to write it. I just found that I had a lot of funny stories to tell and it gave me something to practice on the computer. I

try and keep them with an amusing story or various things I have discovered that I can or can't do and I have started including the odd simple recipe.

"I thought I would do it for mothers or daughters who are beginning to lose their sight, because I don't think a lot of them know how to be independent. On the whole, I try and write it once a week but it helps if I have something to say."

One such entry concerned a rail trip to Lincolnshire on her own. The assistance on the outward trip was in Constance's words "marvellous". Coming back was less so, though once back in London, a rail guard with an Army background stepped in to pick up the slack. "And all those wretched buttons, by the time I had located my luggage everybody had got off and you lean against the side and the door shuts. He was standing outside and every time he opened the door I shut it again."

The guard explained that the usual assistance wasn't available and escorted Constance to a taxi. "Often if that happens, I will ask a

passer by if they can escort me to the ticket office. But if you are not aware of these things, it's agony hanging around hoping for somebody to come and nobody comes, it can be worrying."

The worst thing anyone can do, says Constance, is give up. "I know my sister missed out on a couple of years. She took the opposite view and I know a lot of people think like this: They don't want anyone to know that you can't see. Well, of course, if they don't know you can't see, nobody is going to help you. She wouldn't have a white stick, she had a basket.

"We got lost once in a store in Southampton and I said 'You know if you had a white stick we would have been out here by now'. So I convinced her to get a white stick and I asked her where it was? She said 'It's in the basket'. I said 'It's no good in the basket, you've got to get it out'. She did, and you know she couldn't get over it. Everybody was so kind, it was like a magic wand."

Constance served in the Women's Auxiliary Service, Burma. "It was a very small force. My sister had joined. It was started just before

Burma was occupied and then everybody had to get out. We were living in India, my father had been posted there, and I had been made to do a typing course in which I only got 18 words a minute. I even have the certificate, my family think that's hysterical.

"I just squeezed in before I was 18 and we went in with troops when they were retaking Burma. We were rather like WVS in a way. We had a mobile canteen which we had to take into the jungle to troops who couldn't get anything."

Usually the girls had a driver, but Constance adds that on occasion she had to drive the jeep or heavier vehicles. "It was all terribly exciting at that age."

"After the war, I met my husband. He had been a prisoner on the Burma Railway and had only survived because he caught malaria. Anyway, we got married and we had the most amazing time. He was in the Army and we were in Vienna during the occupation, and then in Naples, and Paris with NATO. So I couldn't have asked for a better life. Now I'm over 80, I can say I have had a jolly good life."

The shrinking world of Hi-Tech

Ray Hazan reports on the Computer Club meeting of 15-16 October

IF THE SUCCESS of a gathering can be measured by the number of questions posed, hints and information gleaned, then the club meeting was top rate! It was the largest number of attendees so far, 22 including wives. Enthusiasts only ran out of breath some 30 minutes before the end of the two day event!

of his usual high standard sessions, fielding many questions and supplying all the right answers.

An innovation this year was a session led by Ian Hebborn, ROVI Supervisor. He brought us up to date with telephones, labelers and the Trekker Breeze, a new GPS system about to be launched by Humanware. Unfortunately a Humanware rep was unable to be present and St Dunstan's didn't have the pre-production Breeze they had been loaned. This item will be covered in a future issue.

The remainder of the time was filled with a spirited exchange of hints and information. Harry Beevers is not just an expert in posing quiz questions, but has a myriad of answers when it comes to purchasing audio peripherals such as blank CDs and digital radios, which could lead to the nick name of "DAB Hand"!

Harry and Ian also told us about the updated Milestone 312 due to be launched early

Review. In ten to twenty seconds, the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software inside the phone translates the text into spoken language - and very intelligible it is too! The unit costs £1,600 and is marketed in the UK by Sight and Sound of Northampton.

We were privileged to enjoy sessions led by Brad Crawshaw, who runs his own local IT business. He explained the value of de-fragmenting your hard drive every so often to speed the system up. Disk Cleanup, also located in the systems tools menu, is additionally beneficial. "He who shall be nameless" was prepared to bet there was not a single question Brad could not answer! Regrettably, the bet was lost on an obscure abbreviation; this must have been a first! Staff member Michael Crawford gave one

A most remarkable illustration of how far technology has shrunk in physical terms, was demonstrated by St Dunstaner physiotherapist Mike Tetley. The first reading machine for the blind, converting the written word to speech, was the Kurzweil Reading Machine. St Dunstan's and the RNIB together purchased such a system in 1979. The unit was trolley mounted and made up of a computer and scanner, each measuring some 18 by 24 inches. Now, try and picture all that contained in a mobile phone!

The KNFB (Kurzweil National Federation of the Blind) uses the camera in the N85 mobile phone to take a picture of any text, such as a menu, cooking instructions on the side of a packet, or, as Mike did, a page of **St Dunstan's**

next year. This credit card size MP3 player and recorder and Daisy book reader is to be vastly enhanced with variable speed playback of Daisy books, the ability to play many different file formats, label reader, the incorporation of an FM radio, an agenda, date and time capabilities with alarm, the ability to set to record from FM radio, and optional addition of high-end stereo microphone and colour detector. This is not a comprehensive list! The RNIB is marketing this item, which is expected to retail at £270.

The buffet supper was distinguished by its usual happy band of chatter and jokes. Once again, we were indebted to Janis Sharp, Brad and the ladies for their "waitressing". Brad demonstrated he is equally adept with keyboard or corkscrew!

Janis and her team of IT instructors can also be found asking for your queries and quandaries on page ?? . Give them a call.

Another first this year was low tech. As mentioned earlier this issue, we all had a go at making a paper poppy for St Dunstan's entry

in the nationwide Big Draw competition. Personally, I feel I should stick to the keyboard - far simpler!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday and Thursday 4-5 February 2009. All members would like to thank Janis, Brad, Mike Crawford, Ian, and Mike Tetley. Those who attended should pat themselves on the back for their generosity in sharing knowledge and experience.

Since the meeting, we have heard that the VIPlayer, a portable talking book reader with FM radio was due to be launched at the end of November. Price £175. Please note you need a PC to download books onto both this device and the Milestone. Please visit their websites for more details.

Contacts

E-mail addresses have already been exchanged and some useful telephone numbers and web addresses follow:

Trekker Breeze

www.humanware.com

Talking Computers magazine

Contact Elizabeth Warren on 01752 783214

Talking tin labels

www.talkingproducts.com

RNIB volunteers

(Computer, telephones and electrical goods)

Telephone 020 7388 1266

Audio peripherals

Pursula Foundation

(Tape Sense)

Telephone 020 7357 9298

Listen again

www.webbie.org.uk

KNFB mobile phone reader

www.sightandsound.co.uk

Telephone 0845 634 7979

Milestone

www.bones.ch

VIPlayer

www.viplayer.co.uk

Talking Newspaper Association of the UK (TNAUK)

Telephone 01435 866102

CVIP Ltd

In the past, we have recommended CVIP Ltd as an agency for several VI accessible aids. However, following several comments about their non response to e-mails and general service back-up, we can no longer support this outlet.

Indoor golf lightens serious AGM

Paquita Oliver reports on October play for St Dunstan's Golf Club

THE DAY was 12 October, the place, deep in the South of England, a township called Brighton where a band of men came together for a serious AGM and a game of indoor golf at Adam Knight's place, Golf Addiction in Brighton Marina. The verbal assault commenced with our illustrious Chairman, Geoff Collins welcoming everyone, especially the 14 newcomers, to the club.

We have had a successful year, with a good turn out for most of the matches. Many thanks were expressed to those whose hard work went into the organisation throughout the year, especially the Invitation Day. Next into the affray should have been the Captain, Mike Tumilson, but alas he couldn't make it. However, he sent his best wishes and his written report. Up next, stood our bold giant, Les Trout who gave the Secretary's Report and confirmed that we abide with the golf handicapping system as laid down by the EBGA and the R&A,



Overall winner Des Chandler with his daughter Tanya.

mentioning that we are unable unilaterally to change the rules. The points system which came into being this year has proved successful. Who was next? Yes, it was that man who looks after the cash. The Hon Treasurer gave an account of money spent, monies received from various sources, and reported that we had managed by great fundraising efforts to raise the princely sum of £2,200.

Next on the firing line came the election of officers for the ensuing year. The Chairman fought hard to keep his chair, and won handsomely - no one else came forth to challenge him. Same as with the Secretary, everyone said he had done

such a good job that it would be shameful to take his title from him, so he's in it for another year.

When the Hon Treasurer indicated that he was feeling his age, and felt perhaps it was time to go, a deadly hush fell over the members - some even started to cry and begged him not to leave. The "Hon Treasure" said he is fast approaching his 75th birthday, and is beginning to feel older. He has been helping St Dunstaners for over 46 years ago and although he would like to make it 50 years, he needs to slow down a bit. He will see how next year goes, and agreed to stay on for now.

There was only one nomination for Captain, and that was for John Powell, who was elected unopposed, and commences his duty on the 1 January, the same day as all horses have their birthday.

It was then proposed that the above Officers be confirmed for the year 2009, which was unanimously carried.

A young man then leapt out of his seat and in a squeaky voice, the irrepressible Des Chandler demanded a vote of thanks to the outgoing Committee members of 2008 and also for those brave persons who are about to give their all in 2009. All the members jumped up from their seats shouting for joy and waving banners - well, not really, but it sounds good. A vote of thanks, however, was carried unanimously and there closed the serious business of our October Golfing Festival.

Seven Trophies were on display at the arena where these men who were armed to the teeth with clubs, were ready to do battle. Three trophies had already been decided by the points system introduced this year,



John and Irene Powell with their trophies.

though the recipients were kept in suspense until the presentation. The overall winner with the most points, was Les Trout who received a silver salver donated by David Christopher. The Most Improved Player of the year was our new Captain, John Powell, well and truly deserved. Then, much to her surprise and delight, the winning Guide of the Year went to Irene Powell. This is the first time this year that she has been rendered speechless. Congratulations to both John and Irene.

The fight began in earnest for the October Festival Trophy which was also donated by David Christopher. After a three hour battle in this technological indoor arena, the third place went to John Nunney who received a beautiful trophy. Runner up was John Powell, receiving an even more beautiful trophy and the overall winner was Des Chandler who takes home his very handsome trophy for a year the Small Silver Salver which was also donated by David Christopher. All the winners were also were given three additional prizes to keep, these were donated by the Honorary Treasurer.



Points mean prizes! Secretary Les and Young Ollie at Golf Addiction.

Congratulations to all the winners.

Conclusions: The different venue was enjoyed by all; the staff were very helpful, venue interesting with excellent facilities. By popular demand the members expressed their wish to come back again next year for the 2009 October AGM and Festival meeting.

St Dunstan's on YouTube

IF YOU need something to keep the kids occupied after Christmas lunch, check out YouTube. Searching for St Dunstan's should yield clips from this year's Cenotaph parade, some of the Cadet Challenges and Craig Lundberg running the London Marathon.

ASK ROD

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

Tel: 01273 391447

E-mail: rovi@duty@st-dunstons.org.uk

Disabled travel National Rail

Special arrangements can be made for disabled or mobility-impaired passengers when travelling by train. For example, National Rail staff can usually help passengers get on and off a train. It is best to call ahead at least 24 hours before you travel. Many mainline train and coach stations have accessible toilets. You can take support and assistance dogs into station buffets and restaurants, as well as onto trains, including buffet cars.

The Disabled Person's Railcard allows you to buy rail tickets at a discount of up to a third. You can get a one-year or a three-year card. If another adult is travelling with you, they can also travel at the same discounted fare. You qualify if you are registered as visually impaired, this

means blind, sight impaired, severely sight impaired or partially sighted. To buy a Railcard you need to complete an application form which can be obtained at most stations and send it with a copy of proof of entitlement and payment. Telephone: 0845 6050 525

Coaches

Assistance from coach drivers and other staff. Coach drivers are now required by law to provide reasonable assistance to disabled people, in particular to help them get on and off the coach. This does not extend to physically lifting passengers or heavy mobility equipment. If you need help to get on and off the coach, you should ask for this when you book your ticket.

Some major coach companies offer concessionary fares or free travel to disabled

people under the government's scheme for concessionary half-fares on scheduled coach services. You may need to show your local authority bus pass as proof of your disability.

Buses

New single-decker and double-decker buses are designed to be accessible to disabled people, including wheelchair users. Local councils offer disabled people in their area a free bus pass which means free off-peak travel on all local buses anywhere in England.

Local councils may offer further benefits to their residents, but these will only apply for travel in the local area, not everywhere. Extra benefits could include bus passes being valid for travel in the morning rush hour; or for use on trams, trains or taxis. Some passes also cover a wider area, such as a county or metropolitan area. If you live on the border with Wales or Scotland, your local authority may also have travel arrangements with the neighbouring ones allowing you to use your bus pass in these areas as well. Check what is covered before you travel. Your local council can give you further information.

Your Top Tips for Ask ROD

THANKS TO St Dunstaner Elsie Hall of Fortrose, Scotland for these two top tips:

Tip 1

Nutcrackers will open any screw-top bottle quite easily. Just clasp them around the top and twist. They are usually ridged, so they will not slip.

Tip 2

Blind and partially sighted gardeners can avoid extra eye damage if they save the coloured tops from spray cans. Place a bit of Blu-tack inside the top and push any garden canes into place. The tops will be more visible and if you can see one or feel one, you can be sure there is a plant at the bottom.

Garden centres and hardware stores will also sell ready-made plastic caps that fit on the end of garden canes for this purpose.

Gaynor Mankin wrote to ROD to tell us about her tactile marking system:

"I looked after Albert Hobson for 14 years and we had a system of marking which kept him very independent

almost to the end. My idea was very simple, didn't cost anything either. All it took was a little bit of time, few pieces of cardboard, odds and ends of wool or string and a pair of scissors."

Gaynor used to make cardboard tags that represented different coloured items of clothing. "Whenever I did the ironing I made sure I placed the correct marker on the hanger." A plain rectangular piece of card, tied onto the coat hanger with the piece of string or wool would be for white items. Different bits cut out of one of these tags would represent different colours:

V shapes cut out of one side equalled brown. Rounded at the bottom meant green. Two rounded shapes down one side were blue. "For stripes I would cut a strip from the middle."

Gaynor would also cut out letters to Blu-tack onto items in the bathroom or kitchen: BB for baked beans, VS for vegetable soup, etc. There are loads of different ways to help identify items

in the kitchen, we'd like to hear about what tactile methods you use.

For people with some useful vision, using your electronic (CCTV) or handheld magnifier might enable you to read all but the smallest of print. Lighting is also very important. RNIB as well as places like Argos, Scotts of Stow and most DIY stores sell small battery powered lights that can be stuck on the underside of your cupboard shelves, helping you to locate those food items that are stored in an otherwise dark place.

REUNION ROUND-UP

The Kent Reunion united 31 St Dunstaners, seven widows and one widower at the Marriott Tudor Park, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent on 30 October. Tim Bacon was the member of St Dunstan's Council presiding and St Dunstaner Tom Hart made an eloquent response for those present.

POETS' CORNER

Golf in South
Africa and Santa

To the Guys at Sardinia Bay Machie Golf Club By Andy Allott

When you're getting old and grey
And it's golf you love to play
Try a game at Sardinia Bay
A Machie Course, suits just right
In the lands quite out of sight.
Friendly club house where you'll engage
A group of chaps of your age.
Monday, Wednesday and Friday too
Start at nine, so quarter to.
Nine holes is what they play
And all enjoy for what they pay
Balls into a hat, all rolled out to see
Whose partner you will be.
Maybe a four ball, could be a three.

First tee off down the bill.
Par three, short hole, so with skill
The green to get, the hole to fill.
Now you're out in the game
Fairways clean on number two
Your drive's in sight if hit right
All eyes set to watch its flight
Should YOU not have good sight.
The green's well kept, to putt is fine
Up to YOU to find the line.

Now up the hill to number three.
For a better score to get.
Sure to be careful, don't you see
Your drive must not find a tree.
So push it right, too far left it's "Goodnight."
Now here's where you may go awry

As from other players cross-fire you get
If you hear a call, your ball best check.
Drive from the tee at number four.
Short hole, it's up a slope
On the green for one you hope.
All depends where you land
As the bounce takes a hand
Unless on the green - no chance of Rand.

Number five open fairway, straight and clear
A good drive will get you near.
Now you think you've got it made
But you chipped too far, and so
Chipping back is another go.
Now to putt for a point
But your wrists have stiff joints
Maybe you'll get a five,
Just to keep your score alive.

Number six, much the same as three, we hope
But the green is on a slope
Should you get it with your drive
Wow, the green comes alive
To left or right it takes a dive.
If so, now as before,
A chip or putt - it could be four.

Number seven -you're in heaven - right?
Not an obstacle in sight
Drive you can to the green
And now it is another scene
Second shot if not firm
From the grass you get return
Now you're robbed of a three
A carded four its got to be.

If you can drive good and true

The number eight is the hole for you.
But if you're not sure of your drive
Best play short and stay around
For too far left you're outward bound
Now to attack the green
Where it could land cannot be seen.
If it's short it can run back
Too far over it's in a pit
So then to chip and make it sit.

What I'd like to say to thee
Anyone can duff a shot or hit a tree
And on your scorecard it will be.
It's not only you that's at fault
Your partners too are not all malt.
So now on number nine
A good drive, good chip and one putt
Now you're out of the rot
With a "come-back tomorrow" type of play
Just cannot wait for next Wednesday.

Into the club house and a beer
All the chaps in good cheer
But just listen to the "bull"
Should have had a two
But the ball didn't follow through.
Did you see that drive of mine
Would have made Gary Player whine.
Putting has not been my play
Thought if on the green to stay
Why have to putt and spoil the day.

Sardinia Bay Machie - a Super Club
With guys to play,
The best you'll find any day.
Second Friday there's a braai
Bring your own and have a fry
Drinks from the Club
Outside if it's fine
BUT just watch out for Roy's red wine!!!



Santa never came by Arthur Morley

For years and years and years it seems,
I've tried to play the game,
To let old Santa know I'm here,
But Santa never came.

It started when I was oh, so small,
I asked him for a game,
I even went out carolling,
But Santa never came.

The kids at school were luckier,
For me it remained the same,
I wrote and wrote to Santaland,
But Santa never came.

There must be a blooming jinx on me,
It's filling me with shame,
I said my prayers most every night
But Santa never came.

I tried the Christmas stocking thing,
I WANTED to make my claim,
For something to show my friends next day,
But Santa never came.

I suppose I'll try just one more time,
But I'm tired of the waiting game,
I've wasted mince pies and milk galore,
So I guess it'll be a shame,
When he finds my note in his Christmas card,
- "I was out of town when YOU came!"

Welcome to St Dunstan's

Andrew Allen of Belfast, County Antrim who is serving in the Royal Irish Rangers.

Norman Allen of Morrision, Swansea, West Glamorgan served in the Merchant Navy from 1940 to 1972.

Alan Allport of Westminster, London served in the Royal Air Force from 1957 to 1959.

Raymond Bell of Birchgrove, Swansea, West Glamorgan served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

Douglas Betts of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1946.

William Black of Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire served in the Royal Highland Fusiliers from 1975 to 1987.

Henry Bloor of Salford, Staffordshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Peter Butterfield of Brighton served in the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment from 1957 to 1960.

Thomas Cox of Bexleyheath, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1948 to 1955.

Thomas Croxton of Boston, Lincolnshire served as Flight Sergeant in the Royal Air Force from 1935 to 1965.

John Curtis of Lowestoft, Suffolk served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

John Docherty of Glasgow served in the Royal Artillery from 1950 to 1956.

Charles Frankel of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire served in the General Service Corps and Royal Artillery between 1947 and 1949.

George Holden of Salford, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force Fire Service from 1946 to 1948.

Ronald Horspool of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the Royal Pioneer Corps between 1949 and 1955.

Anthony Knipping of Llanrummney, Cardiff, South Glamorgan served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1946.

Thomas Lealman of Yarm, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1952.

Dennis McDonald of Fleet, Hampshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Colin MacLean of Cupar, Fife served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

Robert Maris of Felixstowe, Suffolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Stanley Michael of Monmouth, Gwent served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1952.

Peter Olliver of Newhaven, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

Annie O'Neill of Colwyn Bay, Clwyd served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1944 to 1947.

Marian Orley of Kinston, Lewes, East Sussex served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and Auxiliary Territorial Service during WWII.

Ernest Platt of Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire served in the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1946.

Royston Randle of Arnold, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1948.

Harold Robinson of Farnsfield, Newark, Nottinghamshire served in the Army from 1942 to 1947.

Charles Scaife of Hull, North Humberside served in the Corps of Military Police and Royal Army Service Corps between 1937 and 1951.

John Scott of South Shields, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

Terrence Setchell of Leicester, Leicestershire served in the Royal Army Service Corps and General Service Corps between 1943 and 1946.

Francis Shelton of Swadlincote, Derbyshire served in the Royal Air Force during 1950.

Michael Taite of Nutley, Uckfield, East Sussex served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

John Thompson of Gwernaffield, Mold, Clwyd served in the Royal Air Force from 1938 to 1966.

Frederick Thornton of Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire served in the Royal Signals from 1949 to 1950.

Reginald Tunncliffe of Woodville, Swadlincote, Derbyshire served as Corporal in the Pioneer Corps from 1940 to 1946.

John Whitney of Alconbury, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1942 to 1946.

Violet Wills of Hove, East Sussex served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1944 to 1946.

Walter Woodthorpe of Thetford, Norfolk served in the Royal Artillery and Army Catering Corps between 1939 and 1946.

DO IT? ASK IT? Janis Sharp wants to know your computer and other technological hang-ups

THE IT TEAM will be offering advice and hints on computing, as well as hopefully dispelling some myths about information technology. There are an increasing number of St Dunstaners using typewriters or

computers with a variety of access software, so it is not surprising that we have many calls for help. Please let us know if you have any IT questions, or if you have any other ideas or suggestions for the IT section. Our support e-mail address

is rtithelp@st-dunstans.org.uk and the telephone number is 01273 391432. In the meantime, very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year from the IT Teams at St Dunstan's Ovingdean and Sheffield.

BEER OF THE MONTH

by Colin Williamson

Moorhouse's Blond Witch

ABV 4.5 per cent. Available from Booths, Asda and Tesco, this is a superb golden ale with a lovely aroma of roasted malt. Notes of citrus fruits and floral hops give this Lancaster ale a zesty feel to it. The finish is hoppy and bittersweet which eventually

turn dry. Burnley history and folklore inspire all of Moorhouse's ales. The brewery has been trading since 1865. The label depicts a modern and very glamorous interpretation of a witch, but strangely, over the pond in good ol' US of A the beer is sold as Blond Bitch! Do they know something we don't?

Ten Answers

Answers to quiz on page 17

- 1) Napoleon Bonaparte;
- 2) Vice-Admiral;
- 3) HM Queen Elizabeth II;
- 4) Wing Commander; 5) Field Marshal;
- 6) Commodore; 7) Flight Lieutenant;
- 8) Major General;
- 9) Enoch Powell, (and according to his biographer he was the youngest man to attain the rank of Brigadier in the British Army during World War II);
- 10) HM The Queen, then Princess Elizabeth

Family News

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Isla Lily Stewart of Dumfries on 7 September and Euan Simer of Ashby-de-la-Zouch on 16 September. They are both great-grandchildren of Ruth Bradley of Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire and the late Alf Bradley.

Charles John Crates on 25 September. He is the great-grandson of Sybil Unsworth of Winchester, Hampshire.

Leighton James Burton on 19 October, weighing 7lb, 4oz. He is the grandson of Sylvia Burton of Washington, Tyne & Wear and the late Ken Burton.

Elizabeth Maddock was born on 5 November at 22:26 hrs in Landeskrankenhaus Villach, Austria. At 50cm long and weighing a petite 6lb, 4oz she is the daughter of Mark and Elizabeth Maddock of Harmagor, Austria.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:



RAF St Dunstaner Gary Tomlinson of Wetherby, West Yorkshire who married Dawn Haithwaite at Leeds Town Hall Registry Office on 12 November. Friends and relatives celebrated at a reception held at the Black Bull, Wetherby. We wish them well and a happy future together.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Eddie and Alice Cooper of Hackney, London on 28 October.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

David and Linda Weltman of Peacehaven, East Sussex on 26 October.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Robert and Teresa Gregson of Marton, Blackpool, Lancashire on 21 October.

John and Pamela Griffiths of Newport, Shropshire on 26 October.

Frederick and Edna Ward of Oldbury, West Midlands on 26 October.

Kenneth and Alice Marshall of Newlands, Lancaster, Lancashire on 1 November.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Geoffrey and Oriel Baker of Braintree, Essex on 26 October.

Michael and Jean Bullar of Kingsbridge, Devon on 30 October

James and Vera Walker of Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire on 13 November.

Sidney and Gertrude Baldwin of Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire on 20 November.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Ted and Amy Ashworth of Richmond, North Yorkshire who celebrated 68 years of marriage on 23 October.

William and Evelyn Beardsmore of Lower Gornal, Dudley, West Midlands who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 24 October.

Kenneth and Nester Heath of Bengier, Chippenham, Wiltshire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 26 October.

Ken and Lorna Westcott of Alcombe, Minehead, Somerset who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 26 October.

Kenneth and Jean Piper of Eastbourne, East Sussex who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 28 October.

Thomas and Martha Davies of Pontllanfraith, Blackwood, Gwent who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 31 October.

Alan and Joyce Hirst of Darlington, County Durham who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 1 November.

Robert and Mary Austin of Oswaldtwistle, Accrington, Lancashire who celebrated 65 years of marriage on 6 November.

Leslie and Gwen Smith of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire who celebrated 70 years of marriage on 6 November.

Francis and Mary Cross of Barton, Preston, Lancashire who celebrated 62 years together on 7 November.

Leonard and Lily Fulker of Borehamwood, Hertfordshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 8 November.

James and Doris Fox of Westhoughton, Bolton, Lancashire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 9 November.

Peter and Joyce Webster of Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 14 November.

William and Muriel Williams of Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 14 November.

Frank and Betty Wooldridge of Bromley, Kent who celebrated 67 years of marriage on 15 November.

Russ and Alice Goodwin of March, Cambridgeshire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 16 November.

Albert and Marie Burns of Gillingham, Kent celebrating 64 years together on 21 November.

Harold and Doll Jackson of Gravesend, Kent who celebrated 66 years on 21 November.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

RAF St Dunstaner Iain Millard of Saltdean, Brighton on passing the VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Body Massage, furthering his skills as a Complementary Therapist.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Carl Gildea on 29 September. He was the son of Tom and Norma Gildea of Liverpool, Merseyside.

Ellen Hall on 15 October. She was the wife of Stanley Hall of Consett, County Durham.

Elsie Bruce of Bishops Waltham, Southampton, Hampshire on 28 October. She was the widow of Keith Bruce.

Dorothy Fribbins of Uphaven, Pewsey, Wiltshire died on 29 October. She was the widow of Frederick Fribbins.

Olive Cole on 1 November. She was the wife of Victor Cole of Worcester Park, Surrey.

Edith McLoughlin on 11 November. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Tom McLoughlin of Spital, Wirral, Merseyside

Lucy Martin of Kelvedon, Essex on 13 November. She was the widow of John Martin.

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.

John Myers

Royal Navy

John Myers of Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire died on 17 September, aged 89. He joined the Royal Navy in 1938, sailing on ships such as HMS *Furious*, *Inglefield*, *Resource* and *Anson*. He served in the Atlantic, Russian Convoys, India, Austria and the Far East. Discharged in 1947, he worked

as a postman, milkman and spray painter. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Jack Leah

Royal Army Service Corps

Jack Frank Leah of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire died on 10 October, aged 91. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1939, training at Mytchet. In 1942, he was commissioned and transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps, serving in Ulster and Germany. Demobbed in 1946, he resumed work as an Environmental Health Officer. Our sympathy goes to his widow Dorothy and all the family.

Sidney Scarrett

Royal Air Force

Sidney James Scarrett of Tunbridge Wells, Kent died on 13 October, aged 84. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947. Our sympathy goes to his widow Pamela and all the family.

Owen Brook

Middlesex Regiment

Owen James Brook of Eastbourne, East Sussex died on 14 October, aged 83. He worked in a munitions factory before joining the General Service Corps in 1944. He soon transferred to the Middlesex Regiment, serving in the UK and Europe. Discharged in 1948, he worked in construction, motor sales and as a milkman. He later became responsible for maintaining electric milk floats. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Kathy Evans

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Kathleen Lydia Evans nee Saddler of Hycliffe on Sea, Christchurch, Dorset died on 17

October, aged 84. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1942, specialising as a telephonist. Discharged in 1944, she worked as a clerk. Her interests included music, walking and swimming. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Noel Simon

Fleet Air Arm

Noel Murray Simon of Chidham, West Sussex died on 20 October, aged 86. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and later joined the Fleet Air Arm. He flew Hellcats and Corsairs from HMS *Illustrious* in the Mediterranean. Discharged in 1946, he became a farmer in Kenya and later became Deputy Director of the National Parks of Kenya. He was founder of the Kenya Wildlife Society for Conservation and then the East African Wildlife Society. He was the prime mover in arranging for Lake Nakuru – famous for the richness and diversity of its bird life – to be accorded National Park status and was also responsible for persuading the Kenyan authorities to set aside 105,000 acres in the South West Mau Forest as a nature reserve. Whilst still in its early stages, his Kenya Wildlife Society became deeply involved with the Tanganyika government's controversial proposal to excise the Ngorongoro Crater from the Serengeti National Park. Although this had nothing to do with the Kenyans, the Tanganyika National Park authorities welcomed the initiative. Simon's proposal that the loss to the Park should be compensated by an award of land reaching northwards to link up with the Kenya Masai Mara was adopted, and some 2,000 square miles were added to Serengeti to embrace the full migratory range of the wildebeest, something that has since been of great

benefit to Kenya's tourism industry. While working for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, he compiled a series of "Red Data Books", sometimes in collaboration, which listed threatened wildlife along with definitions of degrees of threat. Other books, notably *Between the Sunlight and the Thunder*, *the Wildlife of Kenya* followed. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Eric Grainger

East Yorkshire Regiment (The Duke of York's Own)

Eric Grainger of Havercroft, Wakefield, Yorkshire died on 21 October, aged 82. He worked as a miner before joining the East Yorkshire Regiment in 1944. Serving in France, Belgium, Germany, Egypt and Palestine, he was demobbed in 1946. Resuming his job as a miner, he worked 32 years in various collieries. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Harvey Hyde

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Harvey Keith Hyde of Hellesdon, Norwich died on 21 October, aged 65. He joined the Parachute Regiment in 1960, serving in Aden and Yemen. Later, he transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, serving in BAOR and Northern Ireland. Discharged in 1977, he worked as a van driver and security guard. His interests included mountain walking and outdoor activities. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Ernest Price

Royal Marines

Ernest Edward Price of Kings Norton, Birmingham, West Midlands died on 22 October, aged 70. He joined the Royal

Marines in 1956 and spent two years in the Far East on HMS *Newcastle*. Discharged in 1960, he worked as a driver and later in engineering. Our sympathy goes to his widow Jean and all members of the family.

William Poulson

Royal Armoured Corps

William Edward Poulson of Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex died on 23 October, aged 95. He joined the Suffolk Regiment in 1940 and transferred to the Royal Armoured Corps the following year. Deployed to Algeria, he was the sole survivor of a tank battle and was hospitalised with burns. After recovering, he joined the RAC Training Team in Italy. Discharged in 1946, he worked for Charrington's Brewery in Mile End. Our sympathy goes to his widow Jean and all members of the family.

Jim Fraser

Royal Air Force

James Fraser of Seaton, Devon died on 25 October, aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1950. Originally a poster and ticket writer, he joined the Royal Air Force in 1940. He was deployed as Aircraftman II to the Far East and taken prisoner when Java fell to the Japanese in 1942. He was moved with fellow prisoners to the island Amboina where poor sanitation mixed with oppressive heat and sickness. During this captivity, he contracted beriberi and subsequently suffered from a deterioration of vision as well as paralysis in his arms and legs. Despite the privation he experienced as a Far East Prisoner of War, his eyesight seemed to recover and after liberation, he was discharged in 1946. Resuming civilian life, he suffered a further deterioration of vision leading to his

introduction to St Dunstan's. Training as a telephonist, he then started work with the Ministry of Labour, later joining electrical appliance manufacturer Morphy Richards in St Mary Cray and then Westminster Bank in Maidstone. In retirement, he moved to Seaton and became involved with the local Talking Newspaper that had recently been established by fellow St Dunstaner Colin Beaumont-Edmonds. A man of varied interests, he and his wife were founder members of the amateur dramatic society in Maidstone. Apart from trying his hand at archery, he also enjoyed gardening, music picture framing, and woodwork. He was a Probus member and regularly attended gatherings of St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War Association. Our sympathy goes to his widow Nancy and all the family.

Frank Coats

Royal Army Service Corps

Frank Alexander Coats of Kingsweston, Bristol, Somerset died on 25 October, aged 84. He joined the General Service Corps in 1944, later transferring to the Royal Army Service Corps before being posted to France. Discharged as Lance Corporal in 1947, he worked in shipping and later the Civil Service. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doreen and all of the family.

Ivor Price

Fleet Air Arm

Ivor William Parr Price of Shrewsbury, Shropshire died on 27 October, aged 88. He joined the Royal Marines in 1940 but transferred to the Fleet Air Arm after two years. Discharged as Petty Officer in 1946, he resumed teaching, specialising in technical drawing and carpentry. Our sympathy goes to his widow Nancy and all the family.

Betty C Parkin

Queen Alexandra's

Imperial Military Nursing Service

Bessie Charlotte Cora Parkin nee Steven of Pontardawe, Swansea, West Glamorgan died on 28 October, aged 98. She enlisted with the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service in 1939 and was posted to France until the British Expeditionary Force had to retreat from Dunkirk. Commissioned in 1941, she served in North Africa, Egypt and Palestine, taking the opportunity to visit Jerusalem. She also served on hospital ships, such as HS *Oranje* which despite having Red Cross status was targeted by German High Command because the Captain had ignored orders to return to occupied Holland. Discharged in 1944, she raised a family. She also enjoyed writing short stories and told of her war time experience in *Desert Nurse: A World War II Memoir*. She also won the **Review's** story writing contest on several occasions as well as contributing some features. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Bernard Fowkes

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Bernard Fowkes of Beeston, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire died on 29 October, aged 88. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1940 and fought in the North Africa campaign and later with the Chindits in Ceylon and Burma. Discharged in 1946, he became manager of a garden centre.

Kenneth Russell

Royal Signals

Kenneth Russell of Bilton, Hull died on 2 November, aged 86. He joined the Royal Signals in 1941 and specialised as a Morse code and wireless operator. Landing in

France on D+3, he moved through Belgium, Holland and Germany. Discharged in 1946, he worked as a butcher and later for Hull Constabulary as a Warrants Officer. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Lindsay Marshall

Royal Army Service Corps

Lindsay Marshall of Woodhouse, Sheffield, Yorkshire died on 4 November, aged 85. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1946 and served in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and on the Isle of Wight. Discharged in 1948, he worked in engineering and later became a publican. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Norman Moor

Indian Army

Major Norman Moor of Parkham, Bideford, Devon died on 5 November, aged 91. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1936, transferring to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps the following year and then the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1942. Shortly afterwards, he was commissioned into the Indian Army and became second in command of a workshop in Karachi. Discharged in 1955, he worked for Jaguar until retirement. Our sympathy goes to his widow Rosemary and all the family.

George Nailard

Royal Army Service Corps

George Thomas Nailard of Radcliffe on Trent, Nottinghamshire died on 10 November, aged 92. He joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment in 1940, transferring to the Royal Army Service Corps the following year. He fought in North Africa and the Italian Campaign. In civilian life, he was a wall tiller. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Special presentation for Andy

A ROYAL IRISH soldier who was badly injured in Afghanistan has said thank-you to the people of Northern Ireland for their support.

Ranger Andrew Allen, 19, from The 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, who recently became a St Dunstaner, lost both legs and received serious facial injuries when an improvised explosive device detonated in Helmand Province on 14 July.

On 17 October, Andrew proudly rejoined his regiment to receive an operational medal in recognition of his extraordinary sacrifice in Afghanistan. Andrew's family accompanied him to the ceremony at the Regiment's home in Clive Barracks, Tern Hill in Shropshire.

His mother, 45-year-old Linda Sheridan, said: "Today is a really big day, when you consider that there were times when we thought Andrew might not make it.

"I'm feeling so many different emotions today; it's very difficult to put into words. I'm so proud of Andrew; he's



Andy and his family at the presentation ceremony.

achieved so much in a short space of time."

Ranger Allen said: "I'm really pleased to be able to go onto the parade ground to accept my medal today.

"But to be honest, the biggest buzz is just being back with the lads again. It's the first time I've seen them since I was injured and I've just been having a lot of banter with them, which I've missed.

"At the moment I'm taking each day at a time. But I want the people of Northern Ireland to know just how much their support means



Andy receives his medal from Sir Phillip Trousdell.

to me. There have been fundraising events over at home and I've received cards and letters from lots of people; people I don't even know. It means a lot to know that everyone is behind me."

Ranger Allen was one of 400 soldiers to be presented with his 'Op Herrick' medal (Afghanistan) by Lieutenant General Sir Phillip Trousdell, KBE, CB, the Regimental Colonel of the 1st Battalion.

The unit recently returned from a six-month tour of Helmand Province where they worked as mentors to the Afghan National Army.

Photographs: Stuart Bingham, Crown Copyright