



Photograph: Simon Rogers

Is this the bus to a better 'ole?

St Dunstan's Review

an independent future for blind ex-Service Men and Women

February 2009

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Also available in tactile form with the text rendered in British Braille.

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An audio version of the Review comes on an MP3CD. It is produced with Talking Book machines in mind but can be used on players that are MP3

enabled. The ROVI on Duty can advise on RNIB Talking Book machines such as the Plectalk or Victor Classic devices. Telephone 01273 391447 or e-mail rovionduty@st-dunstans.org.uk. The Sony D-NE240 is a useful domestic alternative available from high street outlets or by mail order.

Your readers this month are David Castleton and Valerie Tomalin.

E-mail and floppy-disc

The Review can also be sent by e-mail in the form of a word document. This is also available on floppy-disc for computer users.

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Cover Story

Is this the bus to a better 'ole?

St Dunstaners Eric Powell, Chris Humphrey, Bob Crossan and Roger Williams stand in front of Ole Bill, a B-Type open topped London Bus that was used on the Western Front during the First World War. Designated B43, it was built in 1911 and used mainly on routes 8 (Willesden to Old Ford) and 25 (Victoria to Seven Kings) in London before being requisitioned for use in France and Belgium. It was named Ole Bill after Bruce Bairnsfather's grumpy cartoon character who later became a fundraising mascot for St Dunstan's. An old sweat with bulbous face and walrus moustache, Bill's most famous moment arguably comes when he turns to a young Tommy sharing his foxhole under fire and counters his moaning by bellowing "If you know of a better 'ole, go to it!" There is a copper bust of Ole Bill, wearing his tin hat, mounted on the radiator cap at the front of the bus. After the war, the bus returned to the streets of London and was inspected by



King George V in 1920. It was the first bus he had ever boarded. Ole Bill continued to carry passengers around London until 1924. In 1970 it was donated to the Imperial War Museum, London and has been on display ever since.

St Dunstan's Calendar

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 |
| Bowling Club (I) | 15-28 |
| Founder's Day Awards Presentation | 18 |
| Founder's Day | 26 |

APRIL

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

MAY

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

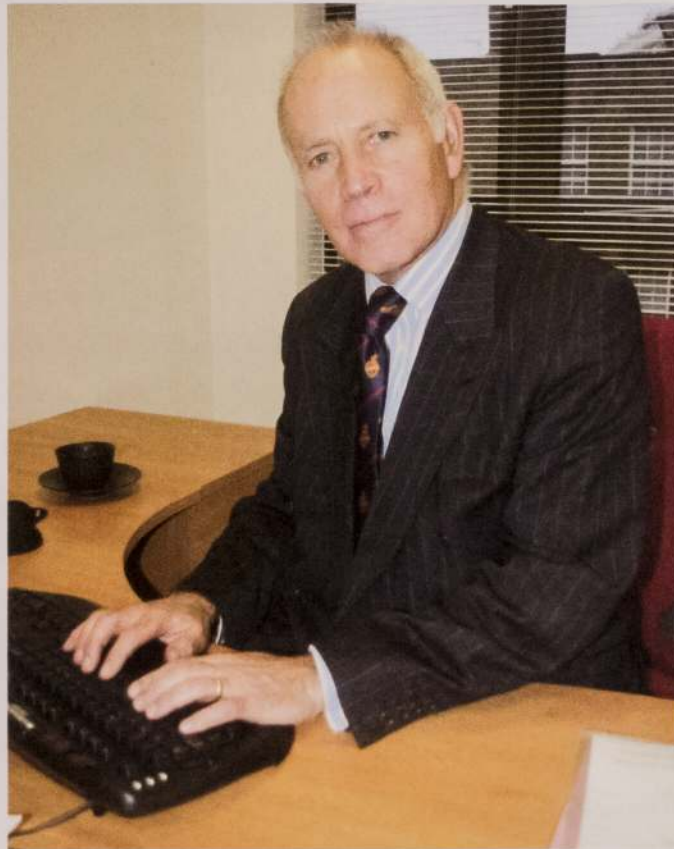
Your message from St Dunstan's Chairman, Andrew Keeling

From the Chairman

IT'S A SAD fact, but a true one, that the older we get the more funerals we attend. I've been to two St Dunstan's funerals recently, firstly Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, and secondly Sir John Wall. Colin and John were, of course, very different people but both led the most remarkable lives, full of determination and service to others.

Colin served for many years on our Council, including 18 years as our President. John was also a member of our Council. They were both real characters. At each funeral I marvelled at the courage, determination and sheer staying power of these fabulous men. In spite of the sadness of the occasions I felt very privileged to share the celebration of their lives with their families and close friends.

As I write this I am due to attend another St Dunstan's funeral, this time for Lieutenant Colonel Nick Carter, OBE, MC, Royal Marines, my Commanding Officer in 41 Commando in 1965. Nick became a St Dunstaner a few years ago. He too was a great character, much respected and well loved by his men. He also kindly gave me permission to marry, in spite of me being several years under the approved



Photograph: Simon Rogers

age for officers to do so. He clearly had a sense of humour too!

I suspect we are all going to need our sense of humour a little more than usual this year with the dreaded credit crunch bearing down on us. But I have no doubt that this will not deter any of you. I wish you and your families a safe and happy 2009 and much look forward to meeting many of you at work and at play over the year ahead.

Noticeboard

HAPPY NEW YEAR

ALL THE BEST FOR 2009: Members of St Dunstan's staff throughout the country, both serving and retired, wish to thank all St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows, widowers and their families for their cards and kind wishes received over the Christmas period. They wish you all a healthy and happy 2009.

NOTIFY WELFARE AND GRANTS DEPT OF ADDRESS CHANGES

PLEASE KEEP US UP TO DATE: We would like to remind St Dunstaners to let us know of any relevant changes in their circumstances, such as change of address or telephone number. Any changes should be notified to the Welfare and Grants department at St Dunstan's HQ on 020 7723 5021 or by e-mail sending details of any change to DataChanges@st-dunstans.org.uk.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks go to Sally Westlake, Joan Henlon, Lisa Coyle, Jennifer Shannon, and the StDIO girls for their assistance.

SIGN UP FOR HMS SULTAN

THE DOGS ARE BACK: Anyone wishing to attend the Summer Camp at HMS *Sultan* should contact Organising Secretary Dave Burrows on 02392 550532 or e-mail DCB119399@aol.com. Dates for the Camp are Friday, 31 July to Saturday, 8 August 2009. The closing date for applications is 1 May.

HUGS FOR FALKLANDS VETS

HS UGANDA REUNION : Veterans who served, sailed or were patients on HS *Uganda* are inviting St Dunstaners who served in the Falklands Conflict to join them at a reunion in Southampton on 18 April. The Hospital Ship Uganda Reunion 2009 (HUGS) will be held at the Premier Inn Southampton North. An overnight accommodation package is available. Dress is smart casual. The programme includes talks by St Dunstaner Terry Bullingham, Consultant Anaesthetist Dr Peter Bull, FRCA, and SAMA82 member Nicci Pugh. Admission is £15 a head. Applications to attend should be made by 27 March. For more details of the occasion contact Nicci Pugh by e-mailing n_pugh@btinternet.com.

GUIDE DOGS AT ST DUNSTAN'S

REVIEWING POLICY: Guide Dogs provide freedom and companionship to people with vision impairment and as such will always be welcome at St Dunstan's, indeed adaptations will be made to make having a Guide Dog in our sites as easy as possible.

St Dunstan's does cater for a large number of people with a range of abilities and needs and we would wish to meet all of these as best as we can, and sometimes some compromises have to be made.

We are reviewing our policy in respect of Guide Dogs, there has already been some consultation with the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, who we will look to work with, but as always we value the opinion of St Dunstaners and are looking for some St Dunstaners who are also Guide Dog Owners who are willing to be consulted and to comment on possible developments. We would also be interested in any comments from St Dunstaners whether or not you have a Guide Dog.

If you feel you are able to help please contact Paul Harbord at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. You can do so in several ways; by telephone on 01273 391440; by e-mail at paul.harbord@st-dunstans.org.uk; or by writing to him at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton BN2 7BS.

ACTIVITIES WEEK

SIGN UP NOW: Activities Week will be held Monday 24 August to Friday 28 August, possibly starting on 23 August. Anyone interested please contact Mandi Fermer in the Sport and Recreation department at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 391465

JOIN US ON THE LONDON TO BRIGHTON BIKE RIDE

ON YER BIKE: This year, the London to Brighton Bike Ride will be held on 21 June. Every year St Dunstaners take part in this exciting and challenging event, cycling from the centre of London to the Brighton seafront. For further information on the event, and how to take part, contact Will Martire from the Sport and Recreation department by phone on 01273 391463 or by email at will.martire@st-dunstans.org.uk. All entries must be in by 27 February, so don't delay folks!

CVIP Ltd

In St Dunstan's Review December 2008 (Report on Computer Club), comment was made about CVIP's lack of response to telephone calls and e-mails. CVIP has explained that this was due to absence caused through illness.

SWIMATHON 2009

FANCY A SWIMMING CHALLENGE? The Sport and Recreation department is looking for St Dunstaners who would be keen on taking part in Swimathon 2009. This annual event in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care takes place from 16-19 April and comprises several individual challenges ranging from 1,500m (60 lengths of a 25m pool) to 5,000m (200 lengths) or a team relay over the 5,000m distance. Places are limited so if you are interested please contact Andrew Seivewright in the Sports department at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 391465.

VI CRICKET TEAM LAUNCHED

JOIN US FOR A GAME OF CRICKET: The Hampshire Visually Impaired Cricket Academy was officially launched on 22 November. The Academy has been set up by Hampshire VI Cricket Club which welcomes adults and children of all abilities to regular coaching sessions preparing for a summer season of league, cup and friendly matches. Future sessions will be held at the Rose Bowl in Southampton, Hampshire between 17:00 and 19:00 on 21 February, 21 March and 18 April. If you are interested in being part of this new initiative please contact Disability CDO Greig Stewart on 07920 452537 or e-mail greig.stewart@rosebowlplc.com.

SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF LOUIS BRAILLE

BICENTENARY CHURCH SERVICE: A Church Service to celebrate Louis Braille's Bicentenary will be held on Saturday 21 March, 12 noon at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London. The non-denominational service will be conducted by braille readers with blind musicians playing the fine organ and leading the singing. Refreshments to follow. Nearby food outlets and the Café in the Crypt offer post-service lunch options. A freewill offering will be taken up during the service. For more details contact the Torch Trust on 01858 438260 or e-mail LB200@torchtrust.org.

REUNION DATE CHANGE

NORTH LONDON NOW TWO WEEKS LATER: Please note, the North London Reunion will now be held on 9 July, not 25 June as advertised in the December issue of the Review.

ST DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

PAGE COUNT: We would advise readers that, in the interest of economics, we are restricting the Review to 48 pages each month. As ever, we will endeavour to include as wide a range of submissions as possible.

FREE DIRECTORY ENQUIRIES

DIAL 195: A free directory enquiry service is available for blind people or anyone who has difficulty holding, handling or reading the phone book. To register for this service ring 0800 587 0195, Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 4:30pm, excluding public holidays. Once registered, just dial 195 and the operator will ask you for your Personal Identification Number (PIN) which will be allocated upon registration. You can then ask the operator to look up a number. The operator will then either tell you what the number is or connect the call for you if preferred. You do not need to be a BT customer to take advantage of this service which will usually be free, though some other networks may levy a charge.

If you are registered with the 195 service or you receive your BT phone bill in alternative media you can use the 1471-3 service. This means that you will not be charged for pressing button number 3 to ring back the last person that called you when you use BT Answer 1471.

REVIEW DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

SWEEPSTAKE 2009: The Epsom Vodafone Derby will be held on 6 June. As usual, the **Review** is running its annual Sweepstake. Full details will be included next issue.

LET'S YOMP AGAIN

GET WALKING: The 2009 Once A Marine Always A Marine Dartmoor Yomp will be held over the weekend on 18-20 September. Based around Princetown, the main event is a 15-mile trek across the southern part of Dartmoor. Participants will be expected to cover their own expenses. For more details of the weekend get in touch with Stan Bowers by e-mail on stan.bowers1@btinternet.com.

TAPE BOOKS UP FOR GRABS

MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE: We have three tape books available, courtesy of Mr Olsson of Reading. The first is a Poirot short story read by David Suchet, the second is Colin Dexter's *The Daughters of Cain* read by Kevin Whatley, and third is Joanna Trollope's *A Village Affair* read by Patricia Hodge. If you would like any of these titles, call Simon Rogers on 020 7723 5021. First come, first served.

NEW MAN AT LEGION

ENTER SIR JOHN: Lieutenant General Sir John Kiszely, KCB, MC has been appointed as the new National President of The Royal British Legion. Sir John has taken over the role from Air Marshal Ian Macfadyen, CB, OBE, FRAeS.

CAN WE CALL YOU A CAB?

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

RADAR TOILET KEY AVAILABLE

NATIONAL KEY SCHEME COVERS 7,000 LOCKED PUBLIC TOILETS: This offers independent access for disabled people to around 7,000 locked public toilets across the country. RADAR would like all providers of accessible toilets to keep their toilets unlocked if possible, but introduced the scheme where the provider concerned has to keep the toilets locked to stop vandalism and misuse. Keys should be available through your local authority.

St Dunstan's currently holds a supply of keys issued under RADAR's National Key Scheme (NKS) at a cost of £3.50. The key for accessible toilets can only be ordered for St Dunstaners domestic and personal use only. To apply for a RADAR NKS toilet key, please send a cheque for £3.50 made payable to "St Dunstan's" to Barbara Sweeney at St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. Please note that the toilets are the property of the providers concerned, and as such, any queries or problems concerning a toilet should be directed to that provider, rather than to RADAR or St Dunstan's.

AUDIO DESCRIBED SHOWS

AD AT THE THEATRE: There will be a Touch Tour for theatre-goers attending *The Witches of Eastwick* at His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen on 14 February. The tour precedes the 14:30 performance. Contact the Box office on 01224 641122.

Commemorating 50 years "since the music died" *Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story* is currently on a farewell tour of British theatres. The performance at the Birmingham Hippodrome on 20 February at 19:30 will be audio described. Call the Box Office on 0844 338 5000 for details.

Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story* will have AD by Irene Richards at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle upon Tyne on 21 February (Box Office: 08448 112121) and again on 26 March at the Grand Theatre, Leeds (Box Office: 0870 121 4901).

Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard*, based on the Billy Wilder film of the same name, will be performed with audio description by Irene Richards on Saturday 14 March at 14:30. It will be staged at the Comedy Theatre, London. The *Sunset Boulevard* booking line is 0871 297 5477.

Political drama *Gethsemane* will be audio described on 21 March at 14:30 at the Cambridge Arts Theatre, possibly with a Touch Tour. Call the Box Office 01223 503333 for details.

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

Letters to the Editor

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

Cooking lessons are great progress

How St Dunstan's policies and times have changed for the better. Back in 1954, I came to England from the colonies to train at St Dunstan's having been shot through the head and had no light perception or sense of smell. I was and am still very grateful to St Dunstan's for training me as a physiotherapist and my first job was in Luton. When my wife became ill I asked Lord Fraser's secretary if there was any way I could get training in how to cook safely as I was frightened to use an open hob should anything catch fire and due to the lack of smell I could not detect burning and might set the house on fire. The answer astounded me when the reply was that no one had asked for

such training before and I would have to solve the problem myself. There were no such things as microwave cookers at that time. My wife recovered and again I was fed properly but she did not want to teach me to cook as the kitchen was her domain.

Recently my wife died and I have been using the Microwave to cook some good food bought at supermarkets but the ingredients are not fresh. The medical profession know that "What you are is what you eat." Fresh food is essential and last week I had a visit for four days from a ROVI. During that time we cooked over ten dishes and she joined me for lunch and the evening meal. I found it a great benefit to prepare the food in my own kitchen and it also

enabled me to continue treating patients that attended my clinic.

I asked her to help me use a slow cooker or as the American's call it a "Crock pot". In it, it is possible to cook meat and vegetables safely without the fear of things catching fire and any excess can be frozen for another day. I used the microwave to cook simple things like an omelette. She was unsure of the microwave timings. However, after she left I had the idea to type in my Google the question "How do I make an omelette using a microwave." Eleven thousand replies came back and some most useful ideas making it simpler for the totally blind. I was unaware how simple it is to use Google to answer a question.

A hundred thousand answers were suggested on how to use the slow cooker. Google search has been a great help in the use of quantities and timings for the microwave and slow cooker.

It was the simple ideas which were very useful, like placing a special disk of metal in a pot which rattled when water started to boil when the noise of oven and extra fans drowned the gentle boiling noise. Another simple idea of sticking a receptacle to the work surface in which to place tools like knives used in preparing the food so that they may be quickly found without sending the receptacle flying or cutting your hand on a sharp knife.

Thank you St Dunstan's and the ROVI team for a very worth while rehabilitation week. I feel much happier knowing that I can now cook fresh food without the fear of fire. Compared with 50 years ago we the totally blind live like kings with

all the aids that are now available The guide dog, the wonderful Braille 'n' Speak computer, the mobile telephone with which you can take a photograph of your mail or cooking instructions on a packet and it will read out the information within ten seconds The help we receive from railway staff when travelling by train, knowing which way up to stick the stamp on an envelope and so many other useful simple ideas to make life easier. But we still need friends.

Mike Tetley
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Still doing my bit

My life as a fundraiser began in 1941. I was walking past an empty shop with Poppy posters on the windows, one asking for help. I went to see why. Two ladies were folding Poppy trays. They belonged to the British Legion Women's section. They gave me a box of poppies and a tray with red cord to hang round my neck, plus a

collecting tin. They asked me to sell them all and then come for a refill.

One was Mrs Ellis, the Poppy Organiser, the other Mrs Haliday, the Branch Treasurer. As I went in to the ATS, I did not see them again until 1947. In October that year, I joined the BFO Branch, British legion and helped with whist drives, Bring & Buy, coffee mornings, etc. Mrs Haliday kept asking me to join the Women's Section, so in 1956 I joined so not as to upset her.

The big change came once we became The Royal British Legion, everything had to be changed, the Standard, all badges, etc, plus the opening of new flats. When Mrs Haliday died, I was voted in as Treasurer, something I did for the next 22 years.

Due to the loss of sight in my right eye, I moved to Kent, but I still try to do my part helping others.

Mary Brett,
Deal, Kent

It was an honour

Once again, I was honoured and privileged to represent St Dunstan's on Remembrance Weekend in Sunderland, along with my escort Tom Lang. Our weekend started on Saturday at the Seaburn Centre with rehearsals for the evening show, which is similar to Festival of Remembrance at The Royal Albert Hall but on a smaller scale. We were honoured to lead the Contingent of Standards for the Salute.

Sunday morning was dull and cold at the start of the day with a light shower which didn't last long, but it remained cold. The Parade was formed under the direction of "RSM" Dean Markham, Royal Anglian Regiment. This consisted of the Pipes and Drums, 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, Royal Marines, 5th Regiment Royal Artillery, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, 1st Battalion Scots Guards and the Royal Dragoon Guards.

They followed the Esh



Photograph copyright: Scott Heppell

Arthur in Sunderland on Remembrance Sunday.

and Bearpark Colliery Band who proceeded in front of 150 Company, Royal Military Police, 9th Regiment, Army Air Corps, The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, The Parachute Regiment, and 609 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Our turn came to march to the War Memorial where the Standard of St Dunstan's was accorded precedence after that of the Royal British Legion. As we marched, the spectators, and there were a vast number, applauded us all the way which gave us a similar feeling to that experienced in London.

At the War Memorial, the *Last Post* was played by trumpeters of the Light Cavalry Band, followed by two minutes silence, then *Reveille* sounded and wreaths were placed on the memorial. The Benediction was given by Canon Stephen Taylor. The National Anthem was then played by The Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment. It was then that the veterans marched off, with the Standards leading the way to the salute which was taken by Lieutenant Colonel Ram Banerjee, OBE, DL and the Mayor Mary Smith.

Arthur Carter,
Bolton, Lancashire

A privilege to join you

How privileged I was to attend the recent Remembrance Day Parade in London to escort Harry Beevers. The whole experience was very moving. I was able to wear my Grandfather's medals. He was killed in 1915 at the Battle of Loos, I also carried my wife's uncle's medal in my pocket. He died in 1918. It also allowed me to meet people I have seen in the Review Harry gives me.

Gordon Claughton,
Ledstone, Castleford

Beer hunt

You have gone to great trouble to find and describe the Beer of the Month, but you never say where I can find it! My wife searched a big local supermarket without success for 1648's Armistice Ale. In future issues it would be a great help if you could say where the beer mentioned can be obtained. I would like to try it.

Frank Wooldridge,
Bromley, Kent

• We will endeavour to include details of potential outlets from now on, but there will frequently be regional or seasonal limits on the distribution of a beer. Beer of the Month author Colin Williamson usually relies on Asda, Morrisons and Tesco but also finds that website www.beersofeurope.co.uk has an extensive range of ales.

Ten questions on...

The subject of Seconds

Harry Beevers has a first rate quiz!

- 1) January 1st is the first public holiday in Scotland, on what date is the second?
- 2) Which journalist and TV cook called her second book *How to be a Domestic Goddess*?
- 3) Which is the second largest of the Channel Islands?
- 4) Named after an English monarch, which is the world's second largest freshwater lake?
- 5) Which was the second country after the United States to have a Disney theme park?
- 6) Marie Louise of Austria was the second wife of which European emperor?
- 7) Santiago de Cuba is the second largest city of which country?
- 8) "O Lord our God arise", is the first line of the second verse of which piece of music?
- 9) The Danube is the second longest river in Europe, is that true or false?
- 10) The first cricketer to have his portrait in the National Portrait Gallery was WG Grace of Gloucestershire, who was the second?

Answers can be found on page 38.

Balancing the Books

Ted Bunting reads a controversial account of D-Day

Overlord:

D-Day and the Battle for Normandy

Author: Max Hastings

Reader: David Rider

Catalogue number 5411

Duration: 14 hours, 55 minutes

How pleasant and convenient it would be if the truth was always what we wanted it to be. During the Second World War it almost was so; Lord Haw-Haw could say what he liked but we knew for a fact that the Japanese and the filthy Hun were the scum of the earth and that our own fighting forces were their superiors in every department. After 1945 filmmakers on the victorious side reinforced the message and cinema goers queued to see how the Americans had won the war with their chivalry, know-how and their daring. It is the historians such as Max Hastings who have spoiled the game, coming along and insisting on accurate data. But regret it as we may, truth and belief are not synonyms, brush away the propaganda and the facts emerge, the finest soldiers in the world were the Germans, the swine. They had some of the best equipment too. Nor did the Allies function as a well-oiled machine when they began the invasion of

Europe. This hard-hitting book reveals more cock-ups than you could poke a stick at; not at all the thing to reassure the folks back home. It is true that the Axis powers failed to recognise the vast industrial potential of the USA and that this failure guaranteed their ultimate downfall, but by no means was D-Day the great success we were once led to believe. Hastings draws together the eyewitness accounts of survivors from both sides with sources and documents, this text provides a controversial perspective on the devastating battle for Normandy.



Photograph copyright: Jax Whiteley

Pilgrims Golfing Society donated £500 to St Dunstan's on 11 December. Nigel Whiteley accepted the cheque with thanks from outgoing Captain Dave Tanswell and his successor St Dunstan's Trustee David Knowles.

Sir John Wall, CBE

Sir John Wall died suddenly on Sunday 30 November 2008, aged 78.

Born in East Finchley, North London, he suffered from severe glaucoma and lost his sight altogether at the age of eight. He was a pupil of Worcester College for the Blind distinguishing himself as an able student and topping the class despite being two years younger than the other boys. In 1944, he demonstrated his chess prowess by defeating former world champion Dr Max Euwe in a simultaneous challenge.

He studied at Balliol College, Oxford, reading jurisprudence and also represented the University at chess. After graduating, he qualified as a lawyer, specialising in Trade Union legislation. He was legal adviser at the National Association of Local Government Officers (NALGO) for 18 years then entered private practice. Sir John was the first blind person in modern times to be appointed Deputy High Court Master in 1990, an appointment he held until his retirement in 2002. He was awarded the CBE in 1994 and knighted in 2000.

Amongst many positions he held, he was President of the European Blind Union, Chairman of the RNIB and Chairman of the British Wireless for the Blind Fund. He was a Trustee of

St Dunstan's from 1990 to 2000 when he became a Governor of the Charity. He attended the AGM at Headquarters a fortnight before his passing.

He took the welfare of visually handicapped people very seriously. He had a phenomenal memory and guided long and difficult agendas with firmness, skill and diplomacy. It was an education to serve on any of his committees.

"Off duty" he was gregarious and full of quips and jokes. He continued with his work to the very end. He will be sorely missed. We extend our sincere condolences to all members of the family.

Ray Hazan,
President, St Dunstan's

Bill Stone

Bill Stone, reckoned to be the last surviving veteran of both World Wars passed away on 10 January, aged 108. He joined the Royal Navy on his 18th birthday, towards the end of the First World War and sailed round the world on HMS *Hood* during the Twenties. When the Second World War started, he was Chief Stoker on HMS *Salamander* and participated in the Dunkirk evacuation and Sicily landings. In civilian life, he ran a hairdressers and tobacconist shop.

It's an honour to be of help

CONGRATULATIONS are due to several friends of St Dunstan's who were feted amongst the 2009 New Year Honours. One surprised recipient was Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN, awarded the Order of the British Empire for services to visually impaired Service men and women.

"It's a very great honour," said Captain Gordon-Lennox who retired as the Charity's Chairman in October. "It was a total surprise, but it's wonderful for St Dunstan's. I had a very nice e-mail from Mike Brace, Chairman of Vision 2020, telling me it was important for the sector. I hope it raises the profile of St Dunstan's."

"When I came on the scene, we had something like 900 war-blinded veterans decreasing year-by-year and we were about to face our first £3million deficit; we started fundraising again

and opened St Dunstan's to veterans who had lost their sight whatever the cause. Now we have over two-and-a-half thousand beneficiaries, four-and-a-half thousand if you count widows and families.

"That is a terrific change by anybody's standard and it is all due to St Dunstan's staff who have done the hard work. It proves the spirit is there and it is very satisfying to be able to help more people."

There was applause from St Dunstan's Chief Executive Robert Leader. "I know that we would all wish to send our warmest congratulations to Michael. I also know that he feels that his Honour recognises the skill and dedication of all the staff, trustees and volunteers who have made it possible for us to significantly increase the number of blind ex-Service men and women receiving our help."

Also in the spotlight was the founder of the First World War Veterans' Association, Dennis Goodwin of Goring-by-Sea. He was made an MBE having spent over 20 years working closely with veterans of the Great War and their families, organising trips to battlefields. During this time he has also been a staunch friend of Henry Allingham.

Broadcaster Fred Fielder of Aspull, Wigan was also made an MBE. Mancunians will no-doubt recall his programme on local radio, but the former Gunner spends a substantial amount of time supporting a pantheon of charities in his native Salford. With continuing commitment to the Alzheimer's Society, CrimeStoppers, Link Age and other local causes, he has also found time to include events supporting St Dunstan's in his hectic schedule.

The Sapper - The "Jack of all Trades"

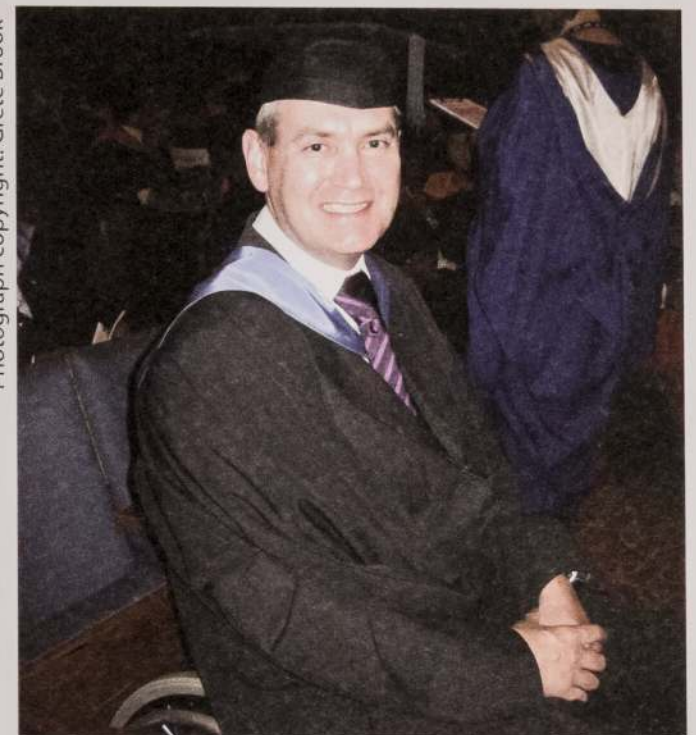
by Mark Brook, MSc, BSc, CEng, MBCS, CITP

AS A BOY, I remember walking around the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess with my father. Occasionally we would meet one of his fellow SNCOs and when they had finished talking, attention would turn to me and I would be told to become a Sapper. This comment would usually be followed by "you will become a Jack of all trades and master of none".

In 1980, I became a Sapper and started to learn all of the trades that I needed to become that rare beast - "the Jack"; mine warfare, water supply, demolitions, bridging, field engineering, Airfield Damage Repair (ADR), etc. This was all part of my combat engineering education, which I supplemented with training as an electrician. But still I could hear the voices from when I was a child; "you will become a Jack of all trades and master of none".

In time, my B2 Combat Engineer became my B1, and my A3 electrician became my A1, and eventually Clerk of Works (Electrical). I then started studying with the Open University and completed a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering, but the voices

Photograph copyright: Grete Brook



Mark Brook waits to receive his MSc degree at the Liverpool Philharmonic.

were still there; "master of none". Finally in 2005 and with the help of St Dunstan's, I embarked on a new educational journey with the University of Liverpool and after three years with them studying information technology, I can finally put the voices to rest after graduating on 8 December as a Master of Science. Twenty-eight years after becoming a Sapper, I can say that I am a "Jack of all trades and Master of Information Technology".

My deepest thanks go to St Dunstan's for making the realisation of a Masters degree possible and to the members of staff and St Dunstaners who helped me with my research project.

New Chairman appointed

Re-introducing Major General Andrew Keeling, RM

AS REPORTED last issue, Major General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE, former Representative Colonel Commandant in the Royal Marines, has been appointed as St Dunstan's Chairman. General Keeling was elected at the Charity's Annual General Meeting following the retirement of Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN, Trustee and St Dunstan's Chairman for the past ten years.



Photograph: Simon Rogers

St Dunstan's Chairman, Mj Gen Andrew Keeling.

General Keeling said of his appointment: "I would like to thank Captain Gordon-Lennox for his outstanding service and dedication over the years. Having been a Member of the St Dunstan's Council since 1995 and Vice Chairman since 2004, I have seen St Dunstan's grow and develop to meet the needs of ever increasing beneficiaries. I am keen to work with

St Dunstan's Executive to build on this success, uphold the values we represent and overcome any challenges ahead."

General Keeling was born in London during World War II. He served in the Royal Marines from

1961-1995, seeing active service in Borneo, Aden, Cyprus, The Falkland Islands, Northern Ireland and Iraq. The majority of his service was in the Commando Brigade, where he commanded at all levels from Troop to Brigade. He was Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Marines from 1997-2001.

After leaving the Royal Marines he became involved with several other charities and voluntary organisations, holding Presidential posts at, among others, The Special Boat Service Association, The Royal Marines Association and The Royal British Legion.

From 1995-1996 he was the Director of Humanitarian Affairs of the AMAR Appeal, a small London-based charity committed to providing humanitarian aid to those living in poverty

and distress, particularly refugees. This role took him to the Balkans, Kuwait, Iran and Romania.

Since 1996 he has run his own consultancy specialising in various aspects of Defence and Crisis Management. This has involved him in numerous activities, including working as a Special Adviser to the House of Commons Defence Select Committee. He has also been the UK Representative of the largest Swedish Defence company, Saab, for several years.

He is a Lay Canon of



Photograph: Simon Rogers

Andrew Keeling has words of encouragement for Craig Lundberg before the London Marathon 2008.

Salisbury Cathedral and a Freeman of the City of London. He and his wife, Woppy, live in West Sussex. They have

seven children and nine grandchildren and two dogs. When time allows they like to walk the Downs and sail their boat.

Winter walk in Sevenoaks



Photograph copyright Barry Duffield

KENT ARMY CADETS from Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Wells braved the early winter chill on 15 November for a hike with St Dunstaner Billy Baxter. They had to do their own cooking and map reading and raised nearly £1,500 to support St Dunstan's blind ex-Service men.

Pilgrimage to Overloon

Dianne Wye reports on a St Dunstaner's mission to honour the memory of an old friend who didn't return

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Ted Ellerton was walking in Hull with his best friend Anthony Touhy sometime in 1942, when they went past the Army Recruiting Office. They didn't go right past, but stopped, went inside and joined up. As they were 'best pals' the recruiting officer told them that they would probably serve together. However, this was not to be. After basic training, Ted joined the Sherwood Foresters (infantry), and Anthony found himself with The Ulster Rifles

Sadly, as was so often the case during those dark days, the pair never met up again. Ted survived the conflict, but Anthony, aged 19, lost his life at the Battle of Overloon, where the heaviest tank battle ever fought on Dutch soil, took place in 1944 between German, and combined American and British forces.

The liberation of the Southern Netherlands is commemorated in the Dutch National War & Resistance Museum, where the Battle of Overloon is given special attention.

For many years, Ted had wanted to visit Holland, not only to witness the site of this great battle, but also to spend a few moments at the grave of his best pal who lost his young life here. Having joined St Dunstan's in 2001, Ted knew this pilgrimage might be difficult to accomplish but didn't reckon on the help of Aaron Buckland, a member of the caring staff at Ovingdean. The pair had a long chat about the possibilities which ended with Aaron agreeing to do the organising and accompany Ted on this



Photograph copyright: Aaron Buckland

Ted stands in silent memory of Anthony.

"once in a lifetime trip". The Review's Simon Rogers did some research, and was able to find the exact location of Anthony Touhy's grave.

Ted and Aaron drove to Dover to board the ferry to Calais. Then followed a car journey through France Belgium and Holland which finally

ended in Eindhoven. After a brief period of R & R, the pair visited Liberty Park where the Dutch National War Museum is located. Field Marshal Montgomery's campaign plan for Operation Market Garden is documented with details of the Arnhem landings and the battles of Overloon and Venray clearly laid out, providing a graphic account of the battles that were fought here.

Ted and Aaron also visited the Marshal Museum. This is huge (10,000 square metres) and houses some 150 historical vehicles, tanks and guns, preserved so that future generations might learn how the battles were fought and the sacrifices made. Ted later described the Museums as "massive" and the displays of armaments and vehicles "incredible".

A visit to the nearby War Cemetery gave Ted a long awaited reunion with his lost but not forgotten best pal. With thoughts and memories of their youth together, Ted laid a poppy wreath at his foreign grave.

Petersfield score again!

ONCE AGAIN Petersfield have held a fundraising event for St Dunstan's. A Challenge Cup football match was held between Petersfield Town FC Select XI and Portsmouth FC Ex-Pros.

Many well known Pompey-players, including Paul Walsh, Alan Knight, Mark Chamberlain and Dave Waterman took part in the game. Petersfield came out on top and so hold the Challenge Cup.

Afterwards St Dunstaner Gerry Jackson presented all the players with a St Dunstan's badge. The visiting team brought the actual FA Cup. A total of £260 was raised



Photograph copyright: Innes Marlow Photographic

Gerry with the FA Cup.

for St Dunstan's. Thanks to Ian Essai, Chairman of Petersfield Town FC, Jim and Alison Gauld, Captain RN and Mrs Barrow and the people of Petersfield, not forgetting Paul Molloy, for their continued support.

IMechE award for Henry

St Dunstaner Henry Allingham was honoured by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) in December. He was granted the President's special award for outstanding contribution to the Engineering profession. Henry served in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force as an engineer and then in the motor industry as a civilian.

Third time lucky for Alan!

WE WERE pleased to welcome five new members to our Bowling club - Marjorie Pendleton, Jim Booth, Peter Bradshaw, Jim Glendenning, and Roy Scudden. They are looking forward to our next tournament. Owing to illness, we missed Marjorie Mills and Doris Callaghan who usually look after our refreshments, but Joan Arnold stepped into the breach and was a great help to Joan O. We hope

that Marjorie and Doris's health will have greatly improved by the time you read this.

I was very pleased to see my old friend Frank Smith who helped on the green together with John Muggan and our regular helpers Jack and Roger from Saltdean bowling club together with everyone else who helped to make the tournament which ran from 26 October to 7 November a success.

RESULTS SINGLES

1st Alan Gibson
(for the 3rd time)
2nd Graham Johnson
Semi-finalists Frank Smith and Lionel James

PAIRS

1st Bob Osborne &
Graham Johnson
2nd Bill Finbow
& Alan Gibson

TRIPLES

1st Colwyn Lloyd, Ron Thorpe & John Powell
2nd Norman Perry,
Bill Finbow &
Graham Johnson

FUN TRIPLES

The winners of the fun triples were drawn by Marjorie Scott. They were Bill Finbow, Bob Osborne & Graham Johnson.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the staff at Ovingdean who supported us. And I look forward to meeting you all in March.

**Bob Osborne,
Chairman**

Archers Norfolk shoot-out!

Patrick Sidnell reports on a win for Charlie's Archers

A TEAM OF five St Dunstan's Archers David Poyner, Doug Rogers, Keith Lanchaster-Harding, Marjorie Scott and Patrick Sidnell travelled to Norwich for the yearly match against Charlie's Archers on the 15 November. The match was organised by Graham Harris, the owner of Clickers Archery shop in Norwich. Having lost to St Dunstan's for the last few years he was determined that his team should win.

Even with David and Patrick both achieving personal best scores, Charlie's Archers won by 353 points. Our heartiest congratulations go to Charlie's Archers.

The Trophy and medals were presented by Lady Paramount Mel Clarke who won a Bronze medal in archery for the GB Team at the Beijing



St Dunstan's Archers Marjorie, Doug, Keith, David, and Patrick with Paralympian Mel Clarke.

Paralympics. Tipped as a World Champion in 2003, Mel was struck down by Lyme's Disease. Now paralysed from the waist down and blind in one eye, she still makes an impact on the sport. David, Keith and Patrick won gold medals in their respective categories.

We wish to thank Graham and his team for making

the match so enjoyable, and we look forward to next year when we will win back the "Trophy". And we also look forward to the outdoor return match at St Dunstan's Ovingdean in May.

Thanks must also go to our spotters and driver Jane, Sue, David, Ron, Colin and Brian who looked after us all so well.

POET'S CORNER

The Darkening World

by Brian Holmes

People believe that when sight leaves your eyes,
The talent you possessed before, also dies.
Dormant, it may be for a little while,
Until you adopt a different style.
St Dunstan's can provide you with the key,
To hone the skills that will set you free.
There are other skills you will probably find,
Within this family of a different kind.
Those who thought they belonged a bygone age,
Come leaping out from inside their cage.
A brand new era for them had begun,
No longer living under that setting sun.

Six dots that lit up the world

Blind people around the world celebrate the birth of a French man who revolutionised communication

THE 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille was celebrated around the world on 4 January. Born in Coupvray near Paris in 1809, an accident in his father's workshop meant he developed an eye infection, which led to total blindness at the age of three. In 1819 he won a scholarship to the Royal Institution for Blind Youth, where he experimented with ways to make an alphabet that could be read with the fingertips.

At the age of 15, he invented the six-dot Braille system, using a military code devised to send messages that could be read on the battlefield at night. Braille died in 1852, and his system, which uses raised dots to represent the letters of the print alphabet, is the standard form of writing and reading used by blind people in virtually every language throughout the world. There are two grades of Braille: Grade I represents each letter as one Braille cell, while Grade II, for experienced users, is a form of shorthand contracting groups of letters into a single cell.

"Even though Braille isn't so commonly used today, as there are many other more convenient ways in which a blind person can 'read' a book or newspaper, the fact that it has survived 200 years is a remarkable testimonial to its inventor, as is the fact that nobody has invented anything better than this dot based system," said St Dunstan's Chief Executive Robert Leader. "If one spends time in meetings with people who cannot see, one realises how important it still is to those who need to follow agendas, with their supporting papers,

and speak in public. The speed and fluency in reading of people such as our President Ray, our Trustee Lord Low, the late Sir John Wall and David Blunkett makes one realise that they would not have been able to reach the heights that they all have if it were not for the inventiveness of a young blind man in France 200 years ago."

St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan added: "I feel it remains an important medium for those able to read it. For marking items, but mainly because it is active reading rather than passively listening to audio output. It may be more readily retained because of active participation. I still admire its universality; the same code is used for numbers, maths, chemistry, music, etc. It is beautiful in the simplicity of its design - so much so that it hasn't really changed over the

past 200 years. It is hard for those who lose their sight later in life to adapt to reading Braille. It is ironic that fewer people are reading Braille at a time, when, thanks to technology, Braille is more readily available than ever!"

ROVI Manager Ian Hebborn offers further perspective. "Braille is often debated in ROVI circles, with discussions as to whether ROVIs should be required to be Grade II standard readers and teach it as part of their range of skills. However, there is no doubt that there is still a place for Braille in many people's lives, offering a valuable means of reading - for work, leisure, labelling household items and keeping in touch.

"It is true that Braille is seldom taught at St Dunstan's nowadays, not through a lack of willing or resources from our part, but from the needs identified when assessing individual's communication requirements and abilities. "There are approximately 18,000 Braille readers

in the UK, two thirds of whom became visually impaired before they were 16. Considering that the majority of St Dunstaners joining today are in their 80s and may still, following assessment and training, be able to read using appropriate magnification equipment and techniques, it becomes easy to see why Braille isn't always pursued.

"Increasingly, there are other ways of receiving information. As cassettes start to become obsolete, CDs, MP3CDs and audio files listened to through a computer or portable MP3 player all add to the possibilities. It's around this time that Braille readers start banging their drum, and quite rightly so, for listening to an audio book isn't the same as being able to absorb oneself in a book that they can read by touch. For those who have the ability and sensitivity to be able to read Braille, it is a valuable skill that can't be replaced by any form of audio alternative. Consider also someone with a combined hearing

and sight loss, for whom Braille may be of even greater importance.

"Louis Braille's original tactile code has stood up to the test of time and is now used around the world, translated into most languages. Into the 21st Century, Braille can now be produced electronically, enabling large documents to be embossed in much the same way as a written document is sent to the printer. Computer users can also read Braille through Braille cell displays, with plastic dots popping up along a line of cells to read a line at a time from the document being read. Various portable computer systems with Braille input and output are also available, as well as the more traditional Perkins Braille machine - like a Braille typewriter.

"St Dunstan's supports the learning of Braille and Moon as tactile forms of reading and writing, with ROVIs in Sheffield and Ovingdean being able to teach up to Grade II standard."

Tartan Army on the march!

Colin Williamson reports on a Scottish Cadet Challenge

A RMY CADETS from Dalbeattie made history on 22 November when they became the first Scottish based unit to take part in the St Dunstan's 'Go the Distance' Cadet Challenge competition.

The cadets, Chris McClellan, Dylan Halliday, Rhys Carson, Wayne Butterworth, Jamie Wishart and Anthony McCrone, are all part of The West Lowland Battalion ACF and used Dalbeattie Forest as the venue for their challenge which featured walking, map-reading and various command tasks; some blindfolded. The military skills they have picked up in the short time that the detachment has been up and running were really put to the test.

The six cadets, under the watchful eye of their instructors Colour Sergeant Derek Ross, Sergeant Scott McKenzie and Colour Sergeant Ross's sisters, Emma and Amy (who both hold the rank of Sergeant in



Dinner-time, but just what is it in that tin?

the battalion), set off from their HQ at 09:45 hours and headed into the woods for the first of their tasks, a test of their first aid skills. The scenario was that they had come across the scene of an accident with three casualties. The cadets had to prioritise which casualty to treat first. There was lots of blood and gore and some great over-acting by Cadet Chris

McClellan's mam who had been volunteered to act as a casualty.

That task completed, the cadets studied the map and set off for their next challenge. This was one of the tasks that required the cadets to be blindfolded. They had to handle some military equipment and decide whether it would be useful for their next challenge. After some deliberation they all agreed what objects to keep and headed off for their next objective, this time a simulated river crossing. There were no mishaps to report and everyone got safely across. Before lunch, just to whet their appetite, the cadets were again blindfolded and fed some tinned meat.

After some serious chewing and a few choice words, the cadets were asked to take of

their blindfolds to reveal the instructors holding what appeared to be two tins of dog-food! The expressions that followed were memorable! After a few minutes they were put out of their misery and told that the tins actually contained stewing steak and that the labels had been replaced by dog-food ones. Cadet Dylan Halliday seemed to enjoy the experience! Down boy!

After lunch the cadets studied the map and set off for their next task, this one involved filling a pipe with water in order to retrieve an object which was in the pipe. Needless to say, everyone got a good soaking. With the temperature dropping, it was time to get a move on.

Another check of the map and they were off to the final task, this time a polythene sheet had been laid on the slope of a hill and the cadets had to run up it and reach the top. It all looked pretty tame until Colour Ross and Sergeant McKenzie



The Dalbeattie Cadets at the Heart Cleft Stane, a monument to the area's granite industries.

produced some washing up liquid which they then sprayed all over the sheet. Add gallons of water to the mix and stand back and watch the fun! Give them their due, all of the cadets made it to the top.

After a change of clothes everyone met back at the Cadet Hut for some much needed hot soup and a delicious buffet. Councillor Davie Stitt was invited along to present the cadets with their

certificates and badges in recognition of their efforts.

This was a great challenge and some seriously hard work had been put into the planning and execution. Many thanks must go to Graham and Susan McClellan for their help and support before, during and after the event and also to Colour Sergeant Ross and his team, not forgetting Suzanne for organising the soup!

Cycling round the serpents

Colin Williamson has hearty praise for Llandudno's finest



Photograph copyright: Fit Lt Julie Jones

AIR CADETS from 418 (Aberconwy) Squadron ATC based in Llandudno braved the cold on 30 November to become the first Welsh cadet force to take part in the St Dunstan's 'Go the Distance' Cadet Challenge. On one of the coldest days of the year, the cadets, supported by their adult instructors, hopped on their bikes and cycled twice around The Great Orme, the large limestone headland on the Creuddyn Peninsula (Welsh name:

Pen-y-Gogarth) which stands at the eastern end of Llandudno Bay, to cover the required 13.1 mile distance necessary to partake in the competition. Orme is a Viking name meaning serpent and the two Ormes, Great Orme and Little Orme, are thought to have reminded early sailors of giant sea serpents.

The ride started at 09:00 from the cadet HQ in the town centre and finished at the site of

St Dunstan's Llandudno at 12:00 where local St Dunstaner Keith Roberts, from Penrhyn Bay, was waiting with his guide dog to welcome them home. "The cadets were marvellous and put in a lot of hard work on a freezing cold day, all credit to them," said Keith.

Thanks go to Flight Lieutenant Julie Jones and her team for organising the event and also to the cadets, who gave up their Sunday to take part. Well done!

DO IT? ASK IT?

IT Help Telephone: 01273 391432 E-mail: rtithelp@st-dunstans.org.uk

YOU ALL KNOW about fishing, but are you aware of Phishing (pronounced the same)? Phishing e-mails attempt to trick recipients into unwittingly handing over usernames, passwords, credit card numbers or banking details to fraudsters by appearing to be a genuine e-mail from a bank or other well-known institution. E-mails appearing to be from HM Revenue & Customs have recently been used in one such scam.

The e-mail will often ask you to verify your account details, update your security information or it might tell you that you have won the lottery. They often contain a link to a website that is a mock-up of a bank's own website

which might attempt to install a virus or spyware onto your computer, or which might ask you to enter personal information, – which will then end up in the hands of fraudsters.

The best course of action should you receive any e-mail like this is simply to delete it. Replying to these e-mails, even with a few choice words, will simply alert the fraudsters to the fact that there is a real person at your e-mail address and increase the likelihood of you receiving more of the same, or other unwanted e-mail in the future.

Just a reminder - we also recommend keeping your computer and anti-virus software up-to-date.

BEER OF THE MONTH by Colin Williamson

Jail Ale

This was an unexpected but welcome pleasure found on a recent visit to Princetown, Devon. Jail Ale is quite superb. It is a full-bodied, caramel coloured ale that is a past Gold Medal winner at the Maltings festival. It weighs in at 4.8 per cent and is very drinkable with a sweet, almost toffeeish taste, but not too sweet to be sickly. It also has traces of fruit,

perhaps orange, and a very pleasant finish. Definitely one to try! It is produced by Dartmoor Breweries who reckon they are the highest brewery in England, being situated 1,400ft above sea level in Dartmoor National Park.

Available in pubs and hotels throughout Dartmoor, it can also be found in Tesco, Waitrose and selected stockists in Southwest England.

ASK ROD

Your queries answered
by the ROVI on Duty

ROVI on Duty Tel: 01273 391447 E-mail: rovi@dunstons.org.uk

Audio Description on Television

Audio Description (AD) is available on some television programmes. It is a commentary that describes things you might not be able to see on the screen to enable you to better follow a programme and enhance your enjoyment in what you are watching. For example the commentary might describe movements and expressions of characters and this information is given between characters speaking.

Audio Description is only available on digital TV and only certain services and equipment can receive it. Therefore if you want to receive Audio Description it must be in one of the following ways:

Freeview

Using a Freeview digital box that can receive Audio Description. Freeview boxes are also sometimes called set-top boxes (although they rarely sit on top of your television). These devices plug into your existing TV and aerial to enable you to receive the digital television signal. Buying one of these is a one-off cost, no regular subscriptions are required. Although there are many Freeview boxes on the market, few can receive Audio Description. The RNIB are currently selling one that does, the

MDR-300 made by TVonics, at a cost of £67.99 (Ref:TV01). Audio Description can be turned on using the dedicated AD button on the remote control. A beep will indicate when a button has been pressed.

Integrated Digital Television

Using an Integrated Digital Television (IDTV) that also has the capability to receive audio description. These are televisions that have the Freeview digital box built into them and can be purchased from major electrical retailers, however not all on the market can receive audio description. A constantly updated list of specific models that can receive audio description is available from the RNIB.

Freesat

Freesat is a digital satellite TV service from the BBC and ITV. Offering High Definition broadcasts, it requires the installation of a satellite dish for reception. Like Freeview, once you have purchased the equipment, there is no contract or monthly subscription to be paid. The service carries some 140 digital TV and radio channels and is available via a range of set-top boxes, recorders, and IDTV sets. All Freesat devices have Audio Description.

Sky and Virgin Media

Receiving your digital TV through a subscription service such as Sky or Virgin Media. Sky requires the installation of a specialised aerial (or dish) to receive signals broadcast from a satellite. Virgin operates a fibre optic cable system, so installation requires a connection to their network. Both firms offer a variety of subscription packages.

Once set up to receive digital TV from one of these companies you are able to switch audio description on and off using the remote control. If you already receive your television from Sky or Virgin Media, you can turn on audio description right away! Instructions on how to do this can be found online at www.tvhelp.org.uk which also carries listings of AD programmes. Set-up guidelines also feature in a booklet from the RNIB, *Audio Description for TV*, available in print, audio CD and braille. It includes telephone numbers of the companies' helplines where representatives can talk you through the process if you are unable to do it yourself.

It is worth knowing that 5-10 per cent of TV aerials cannot receive a digital signal and may need to be upgraded. If you find yourself in this situation, Digital UK (the organisation set up to manage the UK's switch to digital TV) can advise you on registered aerial installers in your area. Their website is www.digitaluk.co.uk.

A small number of areas in the UK are still not able to receive Freeview broadcasts, so before buying a Freeview box or Integrated Digital Television for the first time, use Digital UK's postcode checking service to make sure you can receive it.

Listings of audio described programmes are given in the *Big Print* newspaper from RNIB. This article only talks about Audio Description on television but AD is also available on many DVDs and videos, at some cinema film-showings, theatres, sports venues, museums and galleries.

Useful contacts:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| RNIB Audio Description Helpline | 08456 01 01 81 |
| RNIB Shop | 0845 702 3153 |
| Digital UK | 08456 50 50 50 |

TOP TIP

String

This is good for measuring distances during those DIY tasks around the house and is a lot cheaper and simpler than a talking measuring tape. The string makes it easy to establish a half way point by simply folding the length in half. You could also use it to help identify items by tying a length to the handle of a bottle you want to distinguish – string on the bleach, no string on the floor cleaner, for example.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

Albert Aindow of Liverpool, Merseyside served in the Royal Navy from 1949 to 1961.

Frank Birkett of Blackpool, Lancashire served in the Royal Artillery from 1952 to 1954.

Edgar Bonner of South Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear served in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry from 1946 to 1948.

Peter Butterfield of Brighton served in the York and Lancaster Regiment from 1957 to 1969.

Alan Cade of Scunthorpe, South Humberside served in the Royal Artillery from 1954 to 1956 and then TA until 1960.

Pauline Clarke of Ayr, Ayrshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

Norman Cooper of Breage, Helston, Cornwall served in the Royal Air Force from 1959 to 1962.

Glenn Coull of Camden, London served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1960.

Wilfred Cross of Blackpool, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1945.

David Davies of Barry, South Glamorgan served in the Royal Air Force from 1955 to 1958.

Nigel Davies of Hooton Pagnell, Doncaster, South Yorkshire served in the King's Own Royal Border Regiment from 1976 to 1986.

John Deane of Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1952 to 1954.

Sylvia Dorey of Marton-in-Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Cleveland served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1947 to 1948.

Dorothy Du Boisson of Brighton served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1945.

Yvonne Earle of Brighton served in the Naval Voluntary Aid Detachment from 1942 to 1946 and in the Women's Royal Naval Reserve from 1952 to 1974.

Anthony Eldridge, DSC of Watford, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve from 1942 to 1946.

Victor Evans of North Walsham, Norfolk served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1941 and 1946.

Mansell Everett of Shipdham, Thetford served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1946.

Vincent Flannagan of Worsley, Manchester served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Pay Corps between 1947 and 1949.

Percival Flint of New Ollerton, Newark, Nottinghamshire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Signals between 1944 and 1947.

John Florence of Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex served in the General Service Corps and Royal Artillery between 1947 and 1949.

Robert Glendinning of Brighton served in the Royal Navy in 1960.

Albert Hancock of Brighton served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

Decima Harrison of Worsbrough, Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1946 to 1948.

Walter Hart of Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Scots Fusiliers and Pioneer Corps between 1940 and 1945.

Brian Head of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1955 to 1957.

Thomas Hill of Lewes, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

Thomas Hillesley of Port Erin, Isle of Man served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

Jack Hollinshead of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1959.

Ronald Hornsby of Uckfield, East Sussex served in the North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) and the Leicestershire Regiment between 1940 and 1943.

James Hunt of Lewes, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

Frank Isherwood of Preesall, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps and Army Catering Corps between 1945 and 1948.

Charles Jenkins of South Brent, Devon served in the Royal Engineers from 1941 to 1967.

Brinley Jordan of Newport, Gwent served in the South Wales Borderers from 1940 to 1946.

Jan Krawczyk of Blackpool, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1949.

Arthur Lawson, MBE of St John's Wood, London served in the Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1942 and 1946.

Muriel Leaver of Pevensey, East Sussex served in the Auxiliary Fire Service from 1942 to 1945.

Ernest Leighton of Wirral, Merseyside served in the King's Regiment (Liverpool) from 1940 to 1946.

Joan Lewis of Peacehaven, East Sussex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1938 to 1939.

Alfred Leys of Hadleigh, Ipswich, Suffolk served in the Suffolk Regiment from 1937 to 1946.

John Lord of Lytham St Annes, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1971 to 1972.

John McEwan of Glasgow served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1956.

John McIntosh of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire served in the Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) and Royal Army Service Corps between 1943 and 1946.

John Marcelle of Romford, Essex served in the 14th/20th King's Hussars from 1949 to 1972.

Kenneth Morris of Chipping Sodbury, Bristol served in the Royal Engineers from 1950 to 1952.

Geoffrey Nicholson of Stanley, County Durham served in the Royal Signals from 1957 to 1964.

Oskar Nowak of Hoyland, Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Polish Artillery from 1945 to 1947.

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

Jean Payne of Woolaston, Lydney, Gloucestershire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

Jack Pearce of Dereham, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

George Robertson of Southport, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1944.

Harold Robinson of Farnsfield, Newark, Nottinghamshire served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1942 to 1947.

Peter Rolfe of Daventry, Northamptonshire served in the Army Catering Corps from 1963 to 1972.

John Russell of Maidstone, Kent served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1956.

Charles Simpson of South Milford, Leeds, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1956 to 1962.

Douglas Scott of South Highton, Newhaven, East Sussex served in the General Service Corps and Royal Army Service Corps between 1943 and 1947.

John Short of Broad Oak, Rye, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1955.

Peter Slade of Prestatyn, Denbighshire served in the Royal Fusiliers and Army Air Corps between 1939 and 1946.

Kenneth Smith of Cirencester, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Engineers from 1945 to 1948 and then the Royal Artillery from 1949 to 1951.

William Snead of Yardley, Birmingham served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps between 1942 and 1947.

Christopher Stronge of Chichester, West Sussex served in the Royal Artillery from 1952 to 1954.

John Sutton of Great Ayton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland served in the General Service Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1942 and 1944.

William Taylor of Newhaven, East Sussex served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1948 to 1950.

Dorothy Thompson of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1947 to 1948.

Robert Treasure, MBE of Exeter, Devon served in the Royal Air Force from 1938 to 1973.

Frederick Vinden of Hook, Hampshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1946.

Dorothy Walford of Norton, Stockton-on-Tees, County Durham, served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

Ena Webb of Rustington, Littlehampton, West Sussex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1945.

William Wigglesworth of Heathfield, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1945.

Diane Williams of Leicester, Leicestershire served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1969 to 1971.

William Williams of Baglan, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Toni Wilson of Tredegar, Gwent served in the Royal Artillery from 1962 to 1967.

William Wilson of Rushden, Northamptonshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1956.

Victor Wright of Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1940 to 1946.

For the record:
Ron Edwards of Ringwood, Hampshire joined the Royal Air Force in 1938.

Family News

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Rosaya Olivia Moss on 25 July. She is the grand-daughter of Gary and Lesley Largan of Gosport, Hampshire.

Riley on 12 September. He is the great-grandson of Tony and Lily Boden-Hook of Dronfield, Derbyshire.

Sam James Brennan Milne on 16 September. He is the grandson of Lesley and Leslie Milne of Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire.

Olivia Evington on 6 November. She is the first grandchild of Henry Evington of Saltburn-by-Sea, Cleveland.

Fynn Darkin Ramsay on 9 December. He is the grandson of Roy and Jeanette Ramsay of Harrow Weald, Middlesex.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

George and Margaret Randall of Bangor, Northern Ireland on 28 November.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Sydney and Emma Stevens of Crawley, West Sussex on 7 December.

Olly and Elizabeth Stone of Harrow, Middlesex on 7 December.

Christopher and Sally Redman of Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh on 21 December.

Islwyn and Einir Hughes of Bodedern, Anglesey, Gwynedd on 23 December.

Eric and Maggie Gilmore of Branton, Doncaster, South Yorkshire on 18 January.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

John and Irene Abley of Liverpool, Merseyside on 29 November.

Ken and Sylvia Carr of Alvaston, Derby, Derbyshire on 20 December.

Trevor and Margaret Rose of Spalding, Leicestershire on 26 December.

Keith and Liz Seaward of Seaton, Devon on 31 December.

David and Joan Simmonds of Stourbridge, Worcestershire on 10 January.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Roy and Joan Atkinson of Preston, Lancashire on 3 December.

Fred and June Smith of Ogbourne St George, Marlborough, Wiltshire on 11 December.

George and Joan Whitehouse of Coseley, Wolverhampton on 13 December.

Antoni and Josette Antoniewicz of Lambeth, London on 15 December.

Bernard and Marion Blacker of Saltdean, East Sussex on 18 December.

Charles and Chris Cosby of Abbots Langley, Watford, Hertfordshire on 18 December.

John and Elspeth Douglas of Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire on 18 December.

Wilfred and Martha Smithson of Preston, Lancashire on 18 December.

Leslie and May Hill of Kings Wood, Bristol, Avon on 12 January.

Michael and Alison Jephson of Eastbourne, East Sussex on 14 January.

BLUE SAPPHIRE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Robert and Di Stewart of Downham Market, Norfolk on 24 December.

Frederick and Dorothy Collingwood of Clayton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire on 1 January.

Arthur and Mary Rivers of Tunbridge Wells, Kent on 5 January.

William and Dorothy Smith of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands on 15 January.

Veronica and Maurice Mathe of Felpham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex on 17 January.

Geoffrey and Gladys Jones of Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex on 25 January.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Thomas and Ethel Boulton of Petworth, West Sussex who celebrated 71 years of marriage on 18 December.

Ronald and Kathleen Spathaky of Chesterton, Cambridgeshire who celebrated 71 years of marriage on 21 December.

Charles and Phyllis Thorn of Doddington Park, Lincoln, Lincolnshire who celebrated 72 years of marriage on 23 January.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Alva Walder on 27 September. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Peter Walder of Hailsham, East Sussex.

Kathleen Hogbin on 18 October. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Albert Hogbin of Brighton.

Vera Millington of Emsworth, Hampshire on 24 October. She was the wife of Thomas Millington.

Patricia Padley of Eastbourne, East Sussex on 15 November. She was the widow of James Padley.

Catherine Taylor of West Derby, Liverpool, Merseyside on 22 November. She was the widow of Percy Taylor.

Joyce Palmer on 23 November. She was the wife of Ronald Palmer of Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

Gladys Bailey of Southampton, Hampshire on 28 November. She was the widow of Robert Bailey.

Margery Bragg on 29 November. She was the wife of Leonard Bragg of Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Maxine Purches of Caddington, Luton, Bedfordshire on 29 November. She was the widow of David Purches.

Ivy Dunlop of Seaford, East Sussex on 2 December. She was the widow of St Dunstaner William Dunlop.

Joyce Evedon on 13 December. She was the wife of Miles Evedon of Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire.

Muriel Williams on 13 December. She was the wife of William G. Williams of Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire.

Constance Elgood of Chingford, London on 14 December. She was the widow of William Elgood.

Vera Richardson on 15 December. She was the wife of Albert Richardson of Spennymoor, County Durham.

Dorothy Atkins of Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire on 17 December. She was the widow of Douglas Atkins.

Pat Davis of Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire on 19 December. She was the widow of Harry Davis.

Lilian Williams of Newport, Gwent on 22 December. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Dennis Williams.

Phyllis O'Kelly of Reigate, Surrey on 28 December. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Francis O'Kelly.

Eileen Pacitti on 30 December. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Ralph Pacitti of Weymouth, Dorset.

Ada Hannaford of Heath Hayes, Cannock on 10 January. She was the widow of William Hannaford.

Muriel Baugh of Stafford, Staffordshire on 11 January. She was the widow of Frederick Baugh.

Ten Answers

Answers to quiz on page 13

- 1) January 2nd; 2) Nigella Lawson;
- 3) Guernsey; 4) Lake Victoria;
- 5) Japan; 6) Napoleon Bonaparte;
- 7) Cuba; 8) The British National Anthem; 9) True, the longest is the River Volga; and 10) Ian Botham.

In Memory

It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of the following St Dunstaners and we offer our heartfelt condolences to their widows, family and friends.

Patrick Collins

Royal Australian Engineers

Patrick John Noel Collins of Warri Beach, New South Wales, Australia has died, aged 86. An apprentice plumber, he served in the Royal Australian Engineers from 1942 to 1946. Our sympathy goes to his widow Lorna and all the family.

Gordon Lowden

Australian Infantry Battalion

Gordon Michael Lowden of Australia died on 25 June, aged 88. He joined 36 Australian Infantry Battalion in 1940 serving as private until 1945. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Margaret Doran

Women's Royal Naval Service

Margaret Mary Doran nee Barclay of Thetford, Norfolk died on 9 October, aged 89. She joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1941 and became a driver. Discharged in 1943, she worked for St John's Ambulance. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

William Matthews

Royal Australian Air Force

William Edward Matthews of Boggabri, New South Wales, Australia died on 9 October, aged 94. He joined the

Royal Australian Air Force in 1940. He served as Leading Aircraftman and was discharged in 1945. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doreen and all the family.

Margaret Dunn

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Margaret Dunn of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear died on 15 October, aged 83. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1942 and served as a Wireless Operator. Discharged in 1946, she then worked for the DHSS in Newcastle.

John Swanzy

Royal Artillery

Leonard Rosborough Swanzy of Oxford died on 20 October, aged 88. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939 and served in the Middle East. Discharged in 1945, he resumed studies at Cambridge before serving further from 1953 to 1956. In civilian life, he worked for ICI and in publishing. In recent years, he indulged in publishing his own writing. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Alan Summerbell

Royal Air Force

Alan Summerbell of Bexleyheath, Kent died on 11 November, aged 88.

He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940, serving in the UK, Persia and Iraq. Demobbed in 1946, he worked for the Polish Resettlement Corps, then as a Civil Servant. He was a lay preacher for the Methodist Church, and involved with Victim Support and the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance. Our sympathy goes to his widow Muriel and all the family.

Edward Roberts
Corps of Royal Signals

Edward James Roberts of Broadway, Worcestershire died on 13 November, aged 92. He joined the Corps of Royal Signals in 1940, fighting in the Western Desert and Italy. Demobbed in 1946, he worked as a builder. Our sympathy goes to his widow Nancy and all the family.

Rodney Jones
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Rodney Neil Jones of Kinmel Bay, Rhyl, Clwyd died on 14 November, aged 78. He joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1948, serving in Hong Kong. Discharged in 1950, he worked fairgrounds and also in a garage. He served further in the REME (TA) from 1953 to 1959. In later years, he ran a guest house. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doreen.

George Woodger
Royal Army Service Corps

George Henry Woodger of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire died on 14 November, aged 89. He joined the Royal Army

Service Corps in 1939 and served in the UK and Middle East. Discharged in 1946, he became a horticulturalist. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Victor Brown
Royal Sussex Regiment

Victor George Brown of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire died on 15 November, aged 85. He joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1941, serving in Burma as a Chindit and also in Malaya and India. In 1945, he transferred to the Royal Sussex Regiment. Discharged in 1946, he worked for British Leyland in civilian life. Our sympathy goes to his widow Edna and all the family.

Harold Jackson
Green Howards

Harold Kenneth Jackson of Gravesend, Kent died on 16 November, aged 87. He joined the RAF in 1941, serving in the UK. In 1944, he transferred to the Durham Light Infantry and then to the Green Howards, serving in India and Burma. Demobbed in 1946, he resumed work at a paper mill. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doris and all the family.

Michael McCabe
Coldstream Guards

Michael Joseph McCabe of Hartlepool, Cleveland died on 17 November, aged 79. He joined the Coldstream Guards in 1947, serving in Palestine, Egypt, Libya, Benghazi and Cyprus. Discharged in 1953, he worked in a steel works. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Norman Rogers
Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Norman Rogers of Croxteth, Liverpool died on 17 November, aged 75. He served in the Army Catering Corps and Royal Army Ordnance Corps between 1951 and 1953. He worked for Dunlop, William Harvey, and at a fairground. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

David Middleton
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

David John Middleton of Honiton, Devon died on 20 November, aged 68. He joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1957, serving in the UK and Malaya. Discharged in 1960, he worked in car hire, driving, and for the local council. Our sympathy goes to his widow Janet and all of the family.

George Dixon
Royal Pioneer Corps

George William Dixon of Belmont, Durham died on 21 November, aged 84. He joined the General Service Corps in 1943 and transferred to the Pioneer Corps. He served in the UK and Europe. Demobbed in 1947, he worked as a bricklayer for the National Coal Board. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Eric Aitken
Australian Army

Eric Aitken of Bawley Point, New South Wales, Australia died on 23 November. He served in the Australian army as a driver from 1941 to 1946. In civilian life, he was a pay clerk. Our sympathy goes to his widow Dorothy and all the family.

Henry Sheen
Royal Air Force

Henry Grosvenor Sheen of Magdalen, King's Lynn, Norfolk died on 24 November, aged 90. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 and served around the UK. Discharged in 1942, he worked as a driver, in manufacturing, and as an engraver. Our sympathy goes to his widow Audrey and all the family.

Trevor Walbridge
Royal Air Force

Trevor John Walbridge of Yeovil, Somerset died on 26 November, aged 70. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1960 to 1961, leaving as ACI. Having qualified as a carpenter, he worked in construction. Our sympathy goes to his widow Pat and all the family.

Harold Watts
Royal Sussex Regiment

Harold Watts of Tadworth, Surrey died on 26 November, aged 86. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1942, then transferred to the Royal Sussex Regiment. Discharged in 1946, he later joined British Aerospace. Our sympathy goes to his widow Milly and all the family.

Stanley Bartholomew
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Stanley James Bartholomew of Ongar, Essex has died, aged 92. He joined the North Staffordshire Regiment in 1940, transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1941, and then to the Royal

Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1942. Having served in the UK and Iceland, he was discharged in 1946. In civilian life, he was a postman. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Stanley Bakewell
Dorsetshire Regiment

Stanley Austin Bakewell of Batchley, Redditch died on 1 December, aged 85. He was a butcher before joining the Dorsetshire Regiment in 1940. Posted to Burma, he was leading a night patrol in Arakan when it was ambushed in 1944. He suffered injuries to both eyes from a grenade blast that left shrapnel in his face and forehead. In civilian life, he worked as a maintenance man for Brook Green Motors and also in a hospital kitchen. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Cecily Lulham
Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Cecily Mabel Lulham nee Brook of Eastbourne, East Sussex died on 3 December, aged 88. She served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Brian Jefferson
Royal Air Force

Brian Jefferson-Loveday of Camberley, Surrey died on 6 December, aged 77. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1949 and served in the UK. Discharged in 1951, he worked as a draughtsman, ran his own engineering company, and also worked as a Boilerman at RMA Sandhurst.

Ronald Bratby
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Ronald Bratby of Belper, Derbyshire died on 7 December, aged 80. He served in the General Service Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1946 and 1949. He became a milkman and then an Ambulance driver. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Dick Beaumont
Pretoria Highlanders

Richard Lewis Beaumont of Meursault, Cote d'Or, France died on 8 December, aged 95. A bank clerk, he enlisted with the Pretoria Highlanders in 1940 and was deployed to Tobruk where he was taken prisoner of war. After his release in 1945, he resumed work in banking. After losing his sight, he worked closely with St Dunstaner Walter Thornton in the development of the ultrasonic spectacles mobility project. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

John Henry, BEM
Royal Australian Artillery

John Joseph Henry, BEM of Willoughby, New South Wales, Australia died on 8 December, aged 94. He joined the Royal Australian Artillery in 1940, serving as Sergeant. Discharged in 1948, he became a music teacher specialising in percussion and trumpet. He also served as Secretary, Treasurer and President of the Blinded Soldiers of St Dunstan's, Australia. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joyce and all the family.

Paul Lawrence
Royal Air Force

Paul Edwin George Lawrence of Gillingham, Dorset died on 8 December, aged 86. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 serving in the UK, America and Africa. Discharged in 1946, he worked around the world for British Airways. Our sympathy goes to his widow Pat and all the family.

Stephen Robinson
Merchant Navy

Stephen Robinson of Alverstoke, Gosport died on 11 December, aged 80. An apprentice marine engineer, he joined the Merchant Navy for National Service in 1949. He served in South America and the Far East. Discharged in 1952, he worked in shipyards and on oil rigs around the world. He later ran a hotel in Gosport for ten years. Our sympathy goes to his widow Denise and all the family.

Thomas McLoughlin
Royal Army Medical Corps

Thomas Albert McLoughlin of Spital, Wirral, Merseyside died on 13 December, aged 84. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1942, training in Brecon. He served in Burma and Africa, before discharge in 1947. In civilian life, he worked for Plessey and Meccano. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Jim Penny
Merchant Navy

William James Penny of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire died on 14 December,

aged 89. Having served in the Merchant Navy since he was 14, he joined the Royal Navy in 1936, serving on merchant vessels converted to aircraft carriers. In 1946, he returned to the Merchant Service until 1971. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

John Allen
Royal Navy

John Malcolm Allen of Paignton, Devon died on 15 December, aged 75. He joined the Royal Navy in 1955 and served in Cyprus, Gibraltar and Malta. Discharged in 1956, he worked as an engineer, ironmonger, in fish wholesale and for Bass Brewery. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

William Dixon
Merchant Navy

William Dixon of Blackpool, Lancashire died on 17 December, aged 84. He joined the Merchant Navy as a cook in 1942, serving on Atlantic convoys. Discharged in 1946, he worked for an ice cream company. Working as a cook, he also taught cookery, and started his own garden contracting business. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Mary Money
Auxiliary Territorial Service

Mary Money nee Hall of Orpington, Kent died on 17 December, aged 86. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial service in 1940, serving in Northern Ireland. Discharged in 1942, she worked for the GPO. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Noel Wharf**Royal Engineers**

Noel Henry Wharf of Stourport on Severn, Worcestershire died on 17 December, aged 89. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1939 and later took part in the Normandy landings. Demobbed in 1946, he maintained arcade machines and then became a telephonist with BT. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Anthony Woodworth**Middlesex Regiment**

Anthony Woodworth of Blackburn, Lancashire died on 17 December, aged 80. He joined the General Service Corps in 1946, transferring to the East Lancashire Regiment and then the Middlesex Regiment. Discharged in 1948, he worked as an engineer. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mary and all the family.

Alan Naylor**Royal Air Force**

Alan Naylor of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire died on 20 December, aged 73. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1976. He was a storeman in a stocking factory before joining the Royal Air Force in 1953. He was Aircraftman I when discharged in 1956. In civilian life, he was a stream press operator for Remploy. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret and all the family.

Dennis Power**Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers**

Dennis Power of Walsall, West Midlands died on 22 December, aged 89. He joined the TA in 1939 and was posted

to the South Staffordshire Battalion. He transferred to the South Wales Borderers in 1942 before landing in Algiers. In 1943, he joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and served in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Austria. Discharged in 1946, he worked in retail and also ran a boarding house. Our sympathy goes to his widow Sarah and all the family.

Albert Brooks**Royal Army Pay Corps**

Albert William Brooks of Winchester, Hampshire died on 23 December, aged 70. He joined the Northumberland fusiliers in 1956 and later transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps. Discharged as WOII in 1985, he became a financial adviser. Our sympathy goes to his widow Isabel and all the family.

John Thatcher**Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)**

Edward John Thatcher of South Nutfield, Redhill, Surrey died on 23 December, aged 86. He joined the General Service Corps in 1945 and transferred to The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) the following year. Demobbed in 1949, he worked in engineering and later joined the GPO as a telephone engineer. Our sympathy goes to his widow Kathleen and all the family.

Albert Hope**Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment**

Albert Edward Hope of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands died on 24 December, aged 93. He joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1940,

later transferring to the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. He served in North Africa and as a Chindit. Discharged in 1946, and later became a company representative. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Daphne Ingram**Queen Alexandra Imperial****Military Nursing Service**

Daphne Anne Ingram nee Van Wart of Winchester, Hampshire died on 24 December, aged 94. She joined the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service in 1939 and became Staff Nurse the following year. Commissioned in 1941, she was posted to Hong Kong where she was taken prisoner by the Japanese. Repatriated in 1945, she was discharged in 1947. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

John Swaffer**Royal Navy**

John Swaffer of Luton, Bedfordshire died on 24 December, aged 88. He joined the Royal Navy in 1941 and trained as a mechanic, sailing to South Africa, Mombassa, Bombay, Ceylon and Australia. Discharged in 1946, he worked in printing producing titles such as *TV Times* and *Woman's Own*. He was also an avid football fan following Watford FC through all weathers. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Beverley and all the family.

George Watt**Royal Air Force**

George Edmund Lindsay Watt of Welshpool, Powys died on 25

December, aged 91. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940, working on Lancasters. Demobbed in 1946, he set up a hairdressing business in Swindon. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Neville Lefroy**The Queen's Own****Royal West Kent Regiment**

Charles Jeffrey Nevill Lefroy of Horam, East Sussex died on 26 December, aged 88. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940, serving with an anti-aircraft unit. In 1944, he transferred to the Royal West Kents. Discharged in 1946, he resumed work in farming. Our sympathy goes to his widow Shirley and all the family.

Arthur Roberts**Royal Air Force**

Arthur Roberts of Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan died on 27 December, aged 94. Joining the Royal Air Force in 1941, he served at RAF Colerne near Bath. Discharged in 1945, he returned to work in the colliery. Our sympathy goes to his widow Ethel and all the family.

Gordon Long**Royal Navy**

Gordon Stuart Long of Birmingham, West Midlands died on 29 December, aged 57. He joined the Royal Navy in 1970, serving in the UK and Trinidad. Our sympathy goes to his widow Diane and all the family.

Herbert Buckley**Fleet Air Arm**

Herbert Buckley of Moore, Cheshire died on 30 December, aged 82. He

joined the Royal Navy in 1944 and became an Air Mechanic in the Fleet Air Arm. Discharged in 1946, he joined Manchester Docks Police, later moving to the Lancashire Constabulary. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Alfred Timms

Royal Army Medical Corps (TA)

Alfred Herbert Timms of Abingdon, Oxfordshire died on 31 December, aged 88. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (TA) in 1939, serving in France, Egypt, Sudan, and Palestine. Discharged in 1946, he worked as a glove cutter and in the motor industry. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Arthur Harman

Royal Air Force

Arthur Harold Harman of Brighton died on 1 January, aged 87. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939, serving in the Middle East, North Africa and Italy. Discharged in 1946, he worked for social and health services in the Brighton area. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Marjorie Whitaker

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Marjorie Ellen Holwill Whitaker of Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset died on 1 January, aged 87. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1942 serving in India as a signaller. Discharged in 1946, she studied art at Slade college in Camden and was also active in Girl Guiding. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Cecil Wilson

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Cecil William Wilson of Coventry, West Midlands died on 1 January, aged 91. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1940, transferring to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1942. Having served in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, he was demobbed in 1946. In civilian life, he worked in the motor industry. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Kenneth Buchanan

Royal Marines

Kenneth Douglas Buchanan of Aveton Gifford, Kingsbridge, Devon died on 2 January, aged 81. He joined the Royal Marines in 1947 and was discharged as Lieutenant in 1965. Our sympathy goes to his widow Audrey and all the family.

Lt Col Nick Carter, OBE, MC

Royal Marines

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Ponsonby Carter, OBE, MC of Effingham, Surrey died on 2 January, aged 88. He joined the Royal Marines in 1939, serving on Russian convoys, the Malta run, and the Normandy landings. In 1951, he was awarded the Military Cross for actions in Malaya. In the 1960's, he took command of 41 Commando which deployed to East Africa during the mutinies. Awarded the OBE in 1966, resigned his commission and worked for BAC until 1985. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

William Lowerson

Royal Navy

William Stanley Lowerson of East Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne died on 2 January, aged 86. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940, serving in the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans and the Normandy beachhead. Discharged in 1946, he returned to the Merchant Navy, specialising as a caterer. Our sympathy goes to his widow Irene and all the family.

Colin Campbell

Royal Air Force Police

Colin Campbell of Dalby Way, Coulby Newham died on 5 January, aged 97. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1942 and was posted to Casablanca as a Corporal in the RAF Police. Discharged in 1946, he worked for Dorman Long as an employment officer. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Gordon Hulme

Royal Signals

Gordon Hudson Hulme of Stafford, Staffordshire died on 8 January, aged 82. He joined the Royal Signals in 1944 and served in the UK and India. Discharged in 1948, he then worked for General Electric. Our sympathy goes to his widow Lucy and all the family.

Frank Hard-Robinson

Royal Air Force

Frank William Hard-Robinson of Eastbourne, East Sussex died on 9 January, aged 88. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and served in the UK

and North Africa. Demobbed in 1946, he worked in a grocery store and later opened two shops. Our sympathy goes to his widow Iris and all the family.

Arthur Turner

King's Regiment

George Arthur Turner of Mold, Flintshire died on 9 January, aged 80. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1944, but was called up for National Service in 1947. After a short spell with the General Service Corps, he joined the King's Regiment in Cyprus and Palestine. Discharged in 1948, he returned to the Merchant Navy then joined the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Andrew Adie

Royal Air Force

Andrew Adie of Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire died on 11 January, aged 87. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946. In civilian life, he was a joiner and welder. Our sympathy goes to his widow Lillian and all the family.

Doris Ward-Best

Auxiliary Territorial Service

Doris Irene Ward-Best of Hove, East Sussex died on 14 January, aged 93. She served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1939 to 1940. In civilian life, she worked for the Post Office and as a secretary. She was also the widow of St Dunstaner John Ward-Best. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

DANCING IN THE DARK!



Melinda takes Patrick Murphy for a spin.



St Dunstaner David Thomas and his wife Brenda dance to the music of the Band of the Army Air Corps.



Arthur Turner and Jean Rowe head the formation.



A lively spirit filled the lounge at St Dunstan's Ovingdean as the dancers took to the floor.

THE BAND OF the Army Air Corps provided a lifting soundtrack for a grand gala finish to the Dance Week at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 28 November. Their popular performance allowed our assembled dancers to demonstrate their moves after several days of lessons. It was

an informal night, but a lively and joyful spirit filled the air. There was a snappy succession of rumba, waltz, and cha-cha-chas. St Dunstaners Jim Booth of Barnet and Joan Morgan of Rottingdean exemplified the enthusiasm that characterised a most enjoyable evening.



St Dunstaners Joan Morgan and Jim Booth.

Photographs: Simon Rogers