



St Dunstan's

An independent future for blind
ex-Service men and women

May 2009

St Dunstan's **Review**



Met Cadets take challenge on HMS Belfast

St Dunstan's Review

an independent future for blind ex-Service Men and Women

May 2009

No 990

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New readers start here:

Large print

St Dunstan's Review is available in a variety of accessible formats. The text in this large print copy is published using 16pt Myriad Pro on 20pt lead.

Braille

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

Compact Disc

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

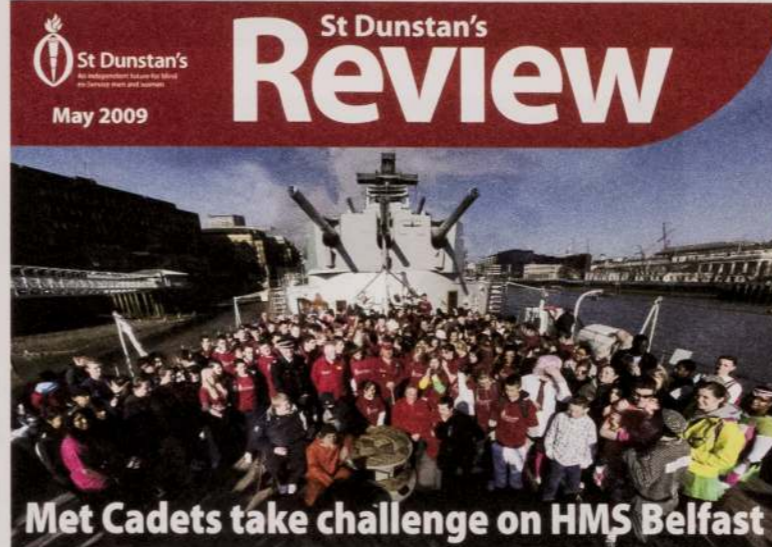
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Cover Story



Around 200 Metropolitan Police Volunteer Police Cadets gathered on the deck of the historic HMS *Belfast* to take part in St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge. Amongst the crowd, are Deputy Assistant Commissioner Rod Jarman, St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan, and St Dunstaners Simon Brown, Billy Baxter and Colin Williamson. The 13.1 mile sponsored walk ahead of them demanded that they cross the Thames at each bridge. Heading west, they crossed eight bridges in turn - London Bridge, Southwark Bridge, Blackfriars Bridge, Golden Jubilee Bridge, Westminster Bridge, Lambeth Bridge, and Vauxhall Bridge - and again for the return walk to HMS *Belfast*. For the full story, cross over to the feature on page 18.



St Dunstan's Calendar

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
Archery Club (II)	23-31

JUNE

Bisley Shooting Contest	3
Writers Forum	6
Ladies' Week	14-20
50 Year Badge Holders	18-21
London to Brighton Bike Ride	21
National Armed Forces Day	27
Golf Invitation Day	28

JULY

Writers Forum Weekend	2-5
History Week	12-18
Royal Marines Concert	15
Golf (III)	18-19
HMS <i>Sultan</i>	31-8 Aug

AUGUST

HMS <i>Sultan</i>	Until 8 Aug
Writers Forum	1
London Triathlon	1-2
Race Week	2-8
VJ Day	15
Golf (IV) (Captain's Day)	15-16
Sports & Activities Week	23-29
Archery Club (III)	29-Sept 6

Your message from St Dunstan's Chairman, Andrew Keeling

From the Chairman

My wife Woppy and I had the very good fortune to be invited recently to the St Dunstan's Prisoners of War Reunion at Ovingdean. What an inspiring evening it was. In my military life, from the Sixties through to the Nineties, very, very few British Servicemen or women were captured by the enemy, and I find it impossible to comprehend what it must have been like to be "in the bag". But as we all know, being a POW in Germany or in the Far East in WWII was far from a pleasant experience, and for many people it was a life-changing one too.

Life in the camps took a heavy toll in all sorts of ways, and those that lived to tell the tale found it difficult to re-adjust to normal life after the war. The deprivation and the cruelty they had experienced left deep scars on bodies and minds. Yet the example set by this remarkable collection of survivors is humbling to those of us on the sidelines; their normality, their totally understated courage, their calmness, their forgiveness, their humility and their wonderful sense of humour are all so very inspirational.



Photograph: Simon Rogers

The Chairman meets up with Ex-POW St Dunstaner Sydney Tavender.

Thank you, Gentlemen, for an evening to remember.

With the clocks turned forward and the evenings drawing out the Reunion season is now upon us around the country. I do hope as many of you as possible will get to your local Reunion for they are always happy gatherings where old friends meet up and new friends are made – and I hope you will thoroughly enjoy the experience.

Noticeboard

ST DUNSTAN'S FOUNDER'S DAY

IN MEMORY OF OUR FOUNDER, SIR ARTHUR PEARSON: In November last year, and in March this year, we held the first of our annual Founder's Days. We want to pay homage to St Dunstan's past and the pioneering approach to visual impairment which we still embody today.

We celebrate our Founder and our heritage in two ways:

1) ANNUAL MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT GRAVESIDE OF SIR ARTHUR PEARSON

Our Founder is buried in Hampstead Cemetery, London. We hold a short ceremony annually at Sir Arthur's graveside and lay a wreath. This will be carried out on the morning of the day before Remembrance Sunday. This year's ceremony will be limited to those St Dunstaners already committed to staying at the hotel in London on Friday 6 November for Remembrance Weekend or anyone prepared to make their own way at their own expense. Please contact either Ray Hazan or Barbara Sweeney at St Dunstan's Headquarters if you wish to attend.

2) ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY

To celebrate the achievements of St Dunstaners, other members of St Dunstan's Family, and volunteers, awards will be made in seven categories. Certificates of merit will be presented on or near to 26 March each year. This celebrates the date in 1915 on which the first 16 war blinded Servicemen entered the new training centre at St Dunstan's Lodge in London's Regents Park.

The Awards will also honour staff and other individuals who have contributed significantly to St Dunstan's – i.e. via development of some innovative technology, etc.

The award ceremony takes place in rotation around the country at one of our four main locations – London, Brighton, Llandudno and Sheffield. The 2009 Awards were presented to the winning individuals at St Dunstan's Sheffield earlier this year and a full report featured in the April issue of St Dunstan's Review.

The 2010 presentations will take place at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on Friday 26 March 2010.

FOUNDER'S DAY AWARDS

CATEGORIES

There are seven categories in which awards will be given:

i) Community Award

This will be bestowed for best contribution to their local community or the family of St Dunstan's by a St Dunstaner, spouse, widow or widower;

ii) Training Achievement Award

This will be bestowed on the best novice on learning new skills - St Dunstaner only;

iii) Award for Creative Art

The Award for Creative Art will recognise endeavour in a creative activity and encompass art, handicrafts, sculpture, and music, etc - St Dunstaner only;

iv) Sports Person of the Year Award

This award will celebrate the outstanding achievement of a sporting St Dunstaner - St Dunstaner only;

v) Volunteer of the Year Award

This award recognises the outstanding voluntary contribution of an individual to St Dunstan's family;

vi) Innovator of the Year Award

The Innovator of the Year Award will honour a person or organisation

which has successfully introduced to St Dunstan's a beneficial device or idea;

vii) Chairman's Commendation

The Chairman's Commendation is for outstanding dedication and contribution by a St Dunstan's Staff member (Nominations to be made by line manager).

PROCEDURE

a) The award year will run from 1 January to 30 November each year.

b) Nominations must be in writing on the appropriate proposal form, available from the President's Office at St Dunstan's Headquarters in London.

c) Each nominee must have a Proposer, who need not necessarily be connected with St Dunstan's.

d) The Proposer will provide in writing on the proposal form comprehensive reasons and examples as to why the nominee has been put forward. Brief notes may jeopardise the nominee's chances.

e) Nominations must be received by 30 November 2009 for the award ceremony taking place in March 2010.

f) Nominees for the Creative Arts Award should send the work they wish to enter to be judged by a selection panel made up of

independent referees. If not practical, a photograph of the submission would suffice.

g) Nominees may be put forward for more than one category, but each nomination must have a proposal form.

h) Winners may not be nominated for the same category for two years following their win but may, of course, be entered for other categories.

i) A selection Committee made up of representatives from all facets of the organisation will be the adjudicators.

j) Results will be promulgated in St Dunstan's Review.

Please support this scheme by sending in a proposal! Apply to the President's Office for a nomination form, by telephone on 020 7723 5021, or by writing to Ray Hazan, President, St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

A WEEK EARLIER FOR KENT

REUNION DATE CHANGE: Please note that the Kent Reunion will now be held roughly a week earlier than previously advertised. It will now take place in Biddenden on 8 September. Full details will be sent with invitations in due course.

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND A ST DUNSTAN'S FUNCTION

CANCELLATIONS: Illness or unanticipated emergency appointments may sometimes prevent St Dunstaners from attending reunions or events at Ovingdean. Because many such events are free of charge to St Dunstaners, participants are unaware that St Dunstan's still has to pay for previously ordered meals if they are not cancelled. This can be the cause of quite unnecessary expense to our charity. Would you please help us by telephoning as far ahead as circumstances permit, your Welfare Officer, in the case of a reunion, or lounge desk or reception at St Dunstan's Ovingdean and Sheffield, if you are unable to attend, whatever the reason.

BAND OF THE ROYAL MARINES RETURN TO OIVINGDEAN

CONCERT CONFIRMED FOR 15 JULY: The Band of The Royal Marines (Portsmouth) have confirmed their much-anticipated return to St Dunstan's Ovingdean. They will perform in concert in the Inner Garden on the afternoon of 15 July. Seats will be limited. If you wish to apply for a ticket, please contact Linda Starr on 01273 391412.

ARE YOU SATISFIED?

BIENNIAL SATISFACTION SURVEY:

Once again, St Dunstan's has commissioned an independent survey to monitor our services and to seek views and comments from St Dunstaners and widows. Clariant Research will carry out the survey by telephone, asking a series of questions with each interviewee, which should last from 15-20 minutes.

Those who might be contacted will have received a letter notifying them to that effect. Clariant researchers will select interviewees at random. All information gathered will be confidential to St Dunstan's and no comments will be attributable to individuals. Your co-operation is appreciated. Results will be published in the autumn.

SUPPORT OUR MARINES

SWEETS AND DVDS WANTED: The Chaplaincy supporting Royal Marines stationed in Afghanistan is asking those of us in Blighty to donate a few home comforts. Old DVDs or sweets (preferably individually wrapped like boiled sweets) are very welcome. Packets under 2kg can be posted free from any UK Post Office. If you can help, send any item to Rev Peter Scott, Chaplain, Cdo Log Regt Royal Marines, Bastion, BFPO792. (Do not write Afghanistan anywhere on the address.)

REVIEW DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

LAST CHANCE TO ENTER: The Epsom Vodafone Derby will be held on 6 June. As usual, the Review is running its annual Sweepstake. The draw is open to all St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows and widowers. Tickets remain 30p each and will be issued consecutively to a maximum of 25 (costing £7.50). Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered. We are unable to take orders by telephone. The closing date is 3 June and the draw will be made that day.

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

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

MARINES COMMANDO CHALLENGE 2009

WHO SAID ROLLING AROUND IN THE MUD IS FOR CHILDREN? The Sports and Recreation department would like to invite St. Dunstaners to take part in the Commando Challenge on the weekend of the 10-11 October. There are two events which each St. Dunstaner may enter, the 4km "Fun Challenge" or the 10km "Marine Challenge". The really brave can enter both challenges. For those who do, beware the merriment Friday and Saturday evening! If you wish to take part in this extremely entertaining event, call the Sports and Recreations department on 01273 39 1463 and ask for Will. Alternatively, send an e-mail to will.martire@st-dunstans.org.uk. All entries must be in by 15 August; however, places are limited so get in touch as soon as possible.

CORGI HAS BEEN PUT DOWN BY GAS SAFE REGISTER

PUBLIC SAFETY TOP PRIORITY FOR NEW GAS SAFE REGISTER: The new Gas Safe Register replaced CORGI on 1 April as the UK's gas safety authority. By law, only Gas Safe registered engineers should be employed to carry out work on gas installations or appliances, CORGI gas registration is no longer valid. The 120,000 engineers

previously verified under the CORGI scheme have been asked to sign up with Gas Safe Register so they can continue to work legally.

Keeping the public safe is Gas Safe Register's top priority. If someone other than a Gas Safe registered engineer carries out gas work at your home, you could be risking the safety of your family and your property.

You can find a Gas Safe Register engineer in your area by calling 0800 408 5500 or online at www.gassaferegister.co.uk. Registered engineers will be identified with a new triangular yellow Gas Safe Register logo, and every engineer will carry a Gas Safe Register ID card with their own unique licence number.

MOBILE SIGHT LOSS UNIT

BACK ON THE ROAD: Action for Blind People's Mobile Sight Loss Information Service will be in Ilkley, West Yorkshire on Thursday 7 May. Then from 11 May they will be in West Sussex, Wigan and Greater Manchester areas. In the week starting 18 May, they move to Lincoln, Lindsey, Exeter, Lancaster Eye Hospital and North Yorkshire. Full details for each location can be found on the AFB website www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk or by checking with their National Helpline Number 0800 915 4666 nearer the time.

STATE PENSION AGE FOR WOMEN IS CHANGING

PENSIONABLE AGE TO RISE TO 65: The age at which women can receive the State Pension will increase gradually starting next year, on 6 April 2010. The move is intended to bring it inline with the 65 year retirement age for men.

Over the next three years, The Department for Works and Pensions will be writing to nearly two million women to tell them when they will be entitled to receive their State Pension. Women born before 2 April 1950 will still receive their pension on reaching the age of 60. Those born after that date will receive their pension later, for example, a woman born on 8 April 1952 will reach pensionable age after 62 years and 28 days. Finally, all women born after 5 April 1955 will receive their State Pension when 65. These changes do not apply to work or private pensions.

The number of "qualifying years" of paid or credited National Insurance contributions required for a full basic State pension will be reduced to 30 years for both men and women.

The qualifying age for Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, or Employment and Support Allowance will increase in line with the State Pension age, as will the minimum age for claiming benefits such as Pension Credit and Winter Fuel Payments.

HEROES RETURN 2

BIG LOTTERY SUPPORT OVERSEAS PILGRIMAGES FOR VETERANS: The Big Lottery Fund has announced the opening of its funding initiative, Heroes Return 2, pledging funding for veterans, spouses, widows and carers wishing to mark overseas anniversaries throughout 2009 and 2010.

Second World War veterans across the country can sign up for a new multi-million pound commemorative funding scheme that will provide Lottery support for anniversary trips to the places where they saw action.

Applicants can apply for a fixed amount grant of between £150 and £5,500 depending on the number of people taking part and the destination. Grants should be requested between 1 April 2009 and the deadline for applications, which is 31 January 2011.

The Big Lottery Fund will make grants towards the costs of commemorative visits. A fixed amount of money will be available for each veteran and their spouse or carer towards the cost of their visit. There will be five levels of funding according to the destination. These fixed amounts have been set so that there is enough money to cover the cost of travel and insurance. The Fund has opened up a Heroes Return 2 hotline for all veterans to ring for further information. They can be telephoned on 0845 00 00 121.

STAFF CHANGES

Stephen Chambers



Stephen Chambers left St Dunstan's last month after four years as the Charity's Head of Estates. He has been responsible for buying and

managing St Dunstaners' homes. "I have really enjoyed my time with St Dunstan's, it has been very satisfying. I have also enjoyed working with some great professionals. St Dunstan's has a very good team of surveyors and it has been a pleasure working with them," said Stephen. His next venture is with Crosswater Realty Advisors, dealing with troubled property investments for American pension funds.

Michael Reinhold

Michael Reinhold retired last month after nearly 15 years in St Dunstan's Estates department. He joined the Charity having managed large rural estates for private landowners,



the Crown, and the Nation Trust. He described himself as "a green-wellied, Barber-coated Land Agent." At St Dunstan's, he harnessed those business skills to ensure that many St Dunstaners

were properly housed with all appropriate facilities. Having served in the Royal Navy Reserve, he also acted as an escort on Remembrance Sunday. In his spare time, he spent 20 years as a volunteer on Oxford Hospital Radio, helping to put patients at ease with a positive spin on life. We wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

David Arthur



David Arthur joined the Charity last month as Head of Estates and is relishing the opportunity to work for St Dunstan's. David, who is a Surveyor, previously worked for Segro, a property investment and development company. He spent much of his time there managing the 500 acre trading estate in Slough. Latterly, he was Head of Group Performance Management responsible for valuations across the UK and Europe, overseeing customer service. A father of three and a keen tennis player, he admits to taking DIY to its extreme and built his own house. "I did also build a car," he said. "It was a kit car, a replica of an AC Cobra."

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.

E-mail shines new light on Pen Pals

Many times I switch on my computer hoping that someone has sent me an e-mail, only to find nothing. I look forward to using the e-mail system, as it provides a chance to practice my typing skills and moreover it gives me pleasure when I am able to correspond with other users. It helps to while away the time and provides an interest that is quite rewarding.

It has crossed my mind that maybe other St Dunstaners may feel the same, and perhaps would welcome the opportunity to correspond with their fellow members in a similar way for their own reasons. A Club would be of benefit to the people who have a computer, but who are not making

as much use of it as they would like to. I think of those who have similar interests or those who might have served in the same branch of Military Service, or even on the same ship or airfield, or those who may have shared some other close military connection together. Maybe they simply have a shared interest in something else, maybe they would welcome an opportunity to just have the chance to make friends with someone else!

I look back to my time at St Dunstan's Ovingdean and the interest many of the attendees showed in each others lives and, of course, their mutual eyesight problems. It made me notice how much their conversations with each other appeared

to reduce their anxiety about their eye problems. It was very noticeable how they were eager to exchange their most inner thoughts about many other things of common interest.

If you are interested in joining the Pen Pal Club, then please send an e-mail to me at roy.lakin@ntlworld.com. I shall then reply and ask you for profile details to enter onto a directory, which I will then circulate and update as new members join. You can then choose for yourself the person/s with whom you would like to communicate. Your e-mail address will not be included in the directory details, but will be passed to the Pen Pal you choose.

Roy Lakin
Volunteer Coordinator,
St Dunstan's Pen Pal Club

Worst Talking Book Machine ever?

Am I alone in thinking that the latest version of the Talking Book Machine is the worst design ever? It comes without a handle and you have to use five buttons for two different functions – that's three too many. You can be trying to change the volume and the speed changes. That's like having a car where you put your foot on the accelerator and the breaks come on. The fact that I can listen to a book is one of those things that makes life worth living, but I'm sure there is an easier way to do it.

Brian Hincliffe,
Sheffield,
South Yorkshire

Ready to put my new culinary skills to the test

Recently, I spent a very happy week at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. Accompanied by my wife, Eileen, and sharing accommodation at Port Hall with Peter Warren, I did a training week learning independent

living skills and IT. The weather was mostly kind to us, and an escape from the snow and icy roads of Swindon.

Back home, I am now waiting to put my culinary skills to the test. I passed the course on peeling and chopping vegetables - I still have five digits on each hand - but some of the results of cooking occasioned ribald remarks! I ate (or drank) both portions of cottage pie, and the rock cakes were more like pebbles, though they tasted alright. I baked a birthday cake for Eileen's 81st birthday too. Everyone who tried it agreed that it was just like Mother's Old-Fashioned Bread Pudding!

Thanks to Beccy for her encouragement and patience, and to Ian for stepping in as necessary. As for the IT input, I found it overwhelming, trying to remember keystrokes and avoiding the use of the mouse. I'm very grateful for the hardware and

software and all the notes prepared for me by Teresa. All is now installed and up and running. My thanks to all the staff, who work so hard to make us happy.

John Glynn,
Covingham,
Swindon, Wiltshire

Appeal to the public

St Dunstan's, I have found, really do a grand job for ex-Forces men, not only for the Second World War but men remaining from the First World War through to the lads of the present. The general public seem unaware of the good works of St Dunstan's, mainly because it is not presented to them as most charities are. I feel the work of St Dunstan's should be brought to their attention and an appeal be raised by the spot on Television and Radio. If animals and rich politicians can ease money from our pockets, St Dunstan's are definitely worth a lot more.

George Hewitt,
Upwell, Wisbech,
Cambridgeshire

Balancing the Books

Ted Bunting reads an appreciation of Prince Albert

King Without A Crown

Author: Daphne Bennett

Reader: Garard Green

Catalogue No 3232

Duration: 18 hours, 57 minutes

In her foreword the author confesses that her enthusiasm to undertake this book was blunted by a preconceived notion that Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg was proud pedantic and prudish. Her researches, she says, made her realise that this was a misconception, and the fact that she warmed to her subject is obvious from the text. Personally, I can't pretend to have "warmed" to him to nearly the same extent, feeling more pity for the poor fellow than affection.

As something of a polymath, when he married Victoria in 1840 he must have been appalled to discover how uneducated his bride was, and also how completely she had fallen under the domination of Fraulein Lehzen, her supposedly devoted governess, who Albert blamed for Victoria's ignorance. However, once Lehzen was packed off, Albert was able to begin to mould and shape his young wife's character and tastes, and this

she was happy to let him do. Victoria though, had inherited much of the temperament of her father and her uncles, including a strong sexuality which Albert was called upon to satisfy. Prude or otherwise, Albert's high moral standards precluded any extramarital activity of the kind heavily indulged by his father and his brother, both notorious womanisers. In any case performing his duty with Victoria seems to have been a full time job. But apart from procreation what were his duties?

He came to Britain anxious to serve, but quickly began to feel like a spare spade at a garden party. Although he often advised Victoria to be above politics, he never seems to have cottoned onto the idea himself that in a constitutional monarchy royal opinion is neither really welcome nor relevant. So whilst it is undoubtedly true that Victoria did allow Albert to be *de facto* king, the power of government was always safely in the hands of Parliament.

How different the course of history might have been if their grandson, "Kaiser Bill" had been subject to a similar control.

Ten questions on...

The subject of fictional characters

A novel quiz from **Harry Beevers**

- 1) Who was known as the Fat Owl of the Remove?
- 2) Which characters are associated with the motto, "One for all, all for one"?
- 3) Whose father was put into a pie after trespassing in Mr McGregor's garden?
- 4) Who led the group which met at St Aldhelm's Church?
- 5) What was the damned elusive identity of Sir Percy Blakeney, as chronicled in a series of novels by Baroness Orczy?
- 6) John Nettles plays DCI Tom Barnaby in which television series?
- 7) Who served in 266 Squadron, RFC during the First World War?
- 8) *The Happy Return* published 1937 was the first of 11 novels by C.S. Forester relating the adventures of which naval hero?
- 9) Which fictional character graduated in medicine at the University of London in 1878, then took the course for army surgeons at Nettley, joined the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers at Kandahar in the 2nd Afghan War where he was injured and repatriated?
- 10) Who supplied the filling for Mrs Lovett's meat pies? And for a bonus point, where was his real life inspiration arrested?

Answers can be found on page 41.

South Downs named as new National Park

HILARY BENN, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has declared that a new National Park will be created for the South Downs. The announcement on 31 March is a formal recognition of the South Downs special qualities in terms of natural beauty and opportunities for open-air recreation. The park, which will stretch from Winchester to Eastbourne, was first proposed 60 years ago. The South Downs has been described as a "Green Lung for Millions" and the park will be established in 2010. St Dunstan's Ovingdean is located within the area designated for the park.

Will speeding Ben be Record's hero?

BEN SHAW, blinded while serving in Iraq, has been nominated for recognition in The Daily Record's Our Heroes awards. The Scottish newspaper will announce the 2009 winners this month. Ben also has another record on his mind, he hopes to break the Blind Land Speed Record later this year.

Bus named after St Dunstaner



St Dunstaner Henry Allingham, aged 112, has had a bus named after him. Roger French, Managing Director of Brighton & Hove Bus and Coach Company introduced the open top double-decker which is now in service.

Bernard encourages young to steam ahead



Photograph copyright: Derek Hayward

St Dunstaner Bernard Holden, who celebrated his 101st birthday on 15 March, has been encouraging future generations to take an active interest

in steam railways. He is pictured with members of the Bluebell Railway's 9F Club. Bernard himself worked the trains in the army and as a civilian.

Great support from MOD staff

STAFF AT THE Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) have helped to raise over £11,000 for St Dunstan's and Help for Heroes. The monies were raised by staff from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and EDS, an HP Company, during a recent charity week at SPVA's four main UK offices in Gosport, Blackpool, Innsworth and Glasgow.

Photograph copyright: SPVA



Eric Sayce expresses our gratitude when thanking the MOD and EDS staff for their support.

They organised a variety of innovative fund raising activities including a bowling competition, prize draws, a lunchtime quiz, a dress down day, a "trolley dollies raffle", "frightful culinary show", cake and book stalls, a tombola and much more. With a £5,000 contribution from SPVA's strategic partner, EDS Ltd, the nominated charities received a total of £11,000 between them.

At the SPVA national conference held in Coventry on 23 March,

Kathy Barnes, SPVA Chief Executive and EDS Account Director Kevin Large presented a cheque to Eric Sayce on behalf of St Dunstan's.

One of the fund raisers, Mick Monaghan, EDS SPVA Change Manager, said: "The amount we raised was fantastic and it was a real pleasure to see the final cheques presented to the charities. All the staff across the Agency really pulled together to support these very deserving causes."

SPVA provides a range of support direct to around 900,000 serving and ex-Service personnel from four main sites in Glasgow, Norcross near Blackpool, Imjin Barracks near Gloucester and Gosport, Hampshire. Services include HR support for the Armed Forces, the Armed Forces Pension Schemes, compensation schemes for those injured or bereaved through Service, casualty repatriation and issue of medals to Service and Ex-Service personnel.

We'll cross that bridge as we get to it, say Police Cadets



St Dunstaner Simon Brown with Police Cadets from Bexleyheath and Lewisham on the South Bank of the Thames as the tide recedes for the afternoon.

AROUND 200 Metropolitan Police Cadets from across London gave up their Sunday to fly the flag for St Dunstan's on 29 March. They were taking part in St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge and over a 13.1 mile route they crossed every bridge

they came to, eight in all. The cadets were drawn from Metropolitan Police Volunteer Police Cadet units based in Bexley, Barking and Dagenham, Croydon, Harrow, Highbury, Hillingdon, Lewisham, and Redbridge. They teamed up with St Dunstaners Ray Hazan, Simon Brown,

Colin Williamson, and Billy Baxter on the deck of HMS *Belfast* before setting off on their march. Starter's orders came from the Met's Deputy Assistant Commissioner Rod Jarman. Some went south, others north, but each team was obliged to cross the Thames when they came to a bridge.

Ray Hazan, President of St Dunstan's who was blinded in 1973 by an IRA parcel bomb, followed one group over London Bridge. Making their way past Cannon Street to Southwark Bridge, they were met by another group coming from the other side. This set a crisscross pattern for the rest of the day.

"The challenge that the police cadets and St Dunstaners set themselves, involved stamina and teamwork," said Ray. "It helps create awareness of the invaluable, lifelong support St Dunstan's provides to blind ex-Service men and women.



On the north side, Ray and Roberta Hazan crossed London Bridge with cadets from Hillingdon.

The Police Cadets are a credit to their Units and should be very proud of their achievements."

Jeff Moorey, event organiser and Police Cadet Coordinator for Bexley Volunteer

Cadet Unit added: "The St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge provides an excellent opportunity for young cadets to give something back to the ex-Service men and women suffering from a lifelong loss or damage to their eyesight. The challenge encourages cadets to question their perceptions of blindness and helps to promote an inter-generational understanding and respect for such inspiring individuals. We were very impressed with the performance of all the cadets here today and with their excellent efforts for such a worthy cause."



Cadets Harry, Hasika and Kris on Westminster Bridge.

Lily adds grace to garden

"SHE'S A QUIET lass that one," said a St Dunstaner about the graceful figure sitting at the side of the pond in the Inner Garden at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. You will find her out there in most weathers,

a statue created by a team of St Dunstaners attending the centre's Craft Workshop.

Already a point of conversation, Lily, as she was subsequently christened, was originally

made in clay and then cast in concrete. When the project started last year, it grew from discussions amongst the Craft Workshop and Resident St Dunstaners.

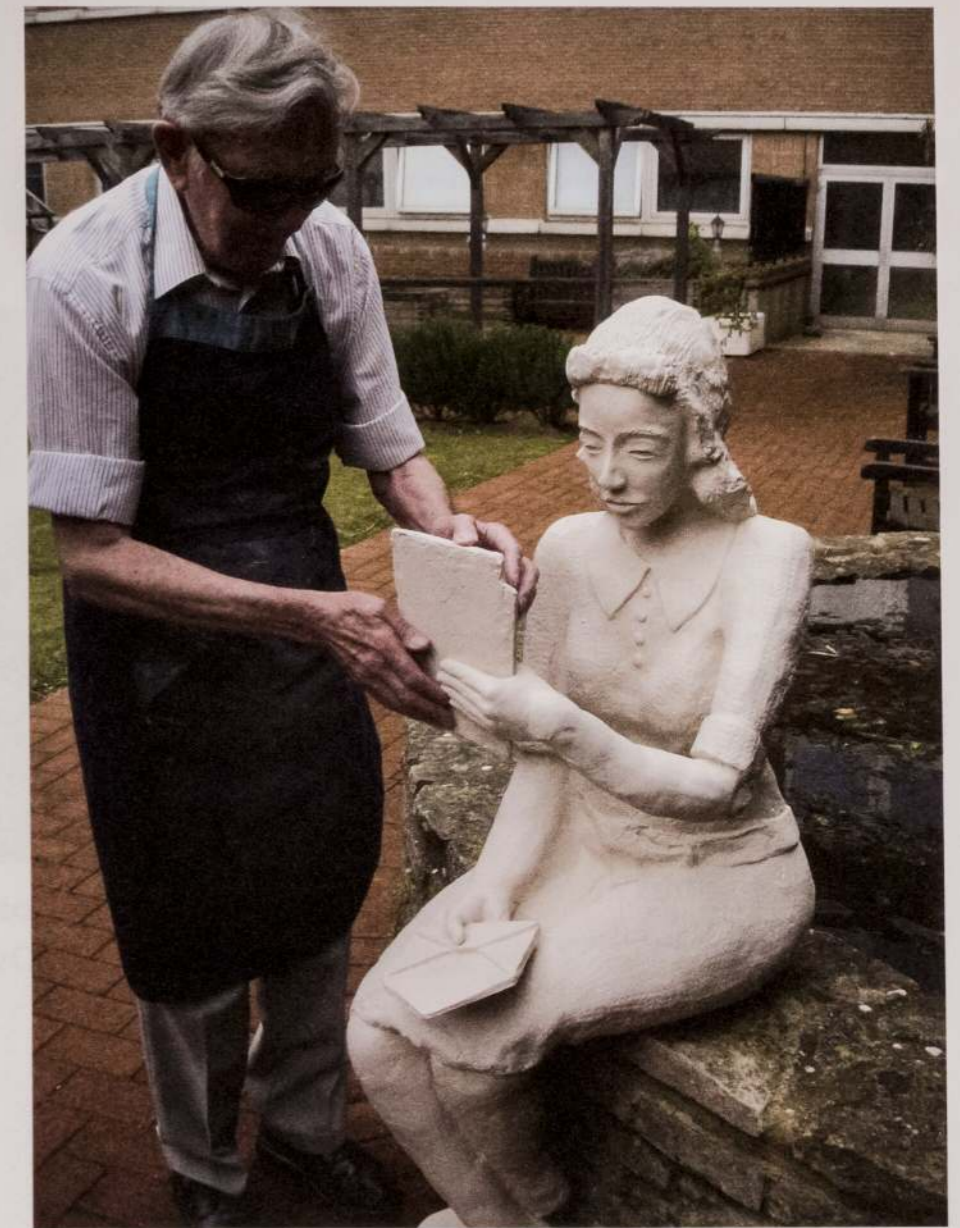
The most popular theme for the sculpture was to attempt a life size, figurative (preferably female), traditionally lifelike sculpture that could become a part of, and belong to, the Inner Garden. Avoiding a statuesque, monumental representation of a famous individual, the team decided to create a character that could be known or related to anybody. Drawings and maquettes (small models) were produced and the plans for the sculpture were agreed and discussed at the residents meeting.

An armature was constructed from wood and aluminium wire. A group of St Dunstaners then began to build

the figure with clay. The clay was kept damp and worked on for several months with St Dunstaners working both individually and in groups of two or three.

The St Dunstaners who worked on the clay figure were Norman Perry, John Gaston, John Watts, Eddie O'Brien, Pat Feeney, David Weltman, Wallace Burnet-Smith, Arthur Beard, Morris Dixon and Maurice Bowley. The lantern, envelope and letter were also made from clay ready for casting by John Nunney and Joyce Charlton.

Once the model was ready the figure was coated in sections of plaster to make a mould ready for casting. The clay was removed from the plaster moulds which were reconstructed ready for casting. The cast was made from white ciment fondu with aluminium rods to strengthen the limbs. The final finish is coated with a pale sandstone masonry paint and concrete sealer.



Frank Tinsley adds the final touch to Lily.

Frank then came up with the name "Lily" as his entry in a naming competition. She sits on the edge of the fish pond, her knees together and her ankles crossed. She holds an open envelope in her right hand which rests on her lap. Her left hand holds up a letter in front of her ambiguous

stare. Her expression is neither happy nor sad, just reading the letter which has no text, adding to ambiguity of what the content of the letter might be. She is wearing a 1940's style dress with a collar and buttons up the front with a belt tied in a bow and elbow length sleeves.



St Dunstaners Norman Perry and Wallace Burnet-Smith work on the original clay Lily.

Syd gets his own book of Wisdom on the shelf

AS AN eight-year-old, Syd Wisdom was left on the steps of a boys home in South East London. No warning, no explanation, dressed in his Sunday best, he was just left there. This is just one experience from his formative years that features in an autobiography penned by REME St Dunstaner Syd Wisdom.

Now nearing his 93rd birthday, Syd has recently seen the publication



Syd Wisdom limbers up for a game of dominoes with fellow St Dunstan's Ovingdean residents.

of a 300 page memoir charting his life from his birth at St Thomas' Hospital in London to the day he joined St Dunstan's Bowling Club. "It's not just my Army life," said Syd. "I have written about everything else as well."

It was a project that Syd took on because he wanted something to do. Early chapters gained encouraging responses from friends, spurring him on to develop the account of his life.

Entitled *An Adventurous Life*, the cover pictures the uniformed figure of a young Syd over the byline Herbert Wisdom. Syd chuckles as he points out that he was into his mid-teens before he knew that his name was Herbert. "My mother always called me Bun, everyone else called me Wiz or Wiz Bang, then a friend started to call me Syd and that stuck. It was only when I applied for a birth certificate that I found out my name."

Syd adds that he is a great believer in fate. "It is something that has been very kind to me, everything has fitted into place." He recounts how having trained him in refrigeration, the Army posted him to a base that had no need of the technology. However, it became a useful skill when he returned to civilian life and set up in business making domestic refrigerators for post-War Britain.

This philosophy is expounded further in the pages of Syd's book as he details the family dynamics that found him placed with boys home, the experiences that followed, moving through his early working years, army life, and more. The book is dedicated to his late wife Grace.

An Adventurous Life can be purchased online from www.authorhouse.co.uk or www.amazon.co.uk. It can also be ordered from booksellers such as Waterstones and Borders. Price may vary.

Crossing plea rejected

A ST DUNSTANER campaigning for a zebra crossing to help him get across a busy road has been disappointed by plans to install a pedestrian refuge. Fred Crossley, aged 70, of Walton-le-Dale, Preston Lancashire has been calling for the pedestrian crossing for over two years. However, Lancashire County Council has opted for the cheaper option of a refuge, which will be built in the middle of the road. Fred fears it will not be of much help. "It is definitely more safe for me to get over in one go," said Fred. "It is far better for other elderly folk as well." Lancashire County Council have said that use of the refuge will be monitored and if it was well used it would be upgraded to a full zebra crossing.

200 happy returns

Special birthday congratulations are due to Army St Dunstaner Alfred Burrell of Haddenham, Buckinghamshire who was 100 on 26 January. Alfred first joined the Hertfordshire Regiment in 1927, but was a WOII in the Gordon

Highlanders when discharged in 1946. We also send our heartiest congratulations to May Rogers of Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire who celebrated her 100th birthday on 15 March. May is the widow of RAF St Dunstaner Clarence Rogers.

Laker's Progress

Ges Laker was walking along the Lincolnshire coast as the Review went to press. He is walking around the UK's coastline as a sponsored event in support of St Dunstan's. Having been on the road for around 70 days, he has covered almost 1,500 miles.

Ex-Prisoners of War hold free spirited reunion

Simon Rogers reports on the St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War Association meeting in April

ST DUNSTAN'S EX-PRISONERS of War held their annual reunion at Ovingdean on April 3-6. The weekend began with an informal get-together in the Blue Room on the Friday evening, allowing old acquaintances to be renewed and new ones to be established.

The group unites St Dunstaners who have been captured by enemy forces in various conflicts, most during the Second World War, but some from the Korean War. Stories of the bad old days were mixed with hopes for a better tomorrow. The Annual General Meeting next

morning was notable by the absence of the group's President Sir John Gingell. He was recovering from a spell of illness and the EX-POWs wished him a speedy recovery. St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan stepped in as Master of Ceremonies.

There was a moment of silence for fallen comrades such as Jim Fraser and Sydney Gwillim.

Minutes for the previous year were accepted. The standing committee was re-elected for another term, though Alf Lockhart announced his intention to stand down as Treasurer. Angie Blake later volunteered her



services to fill the gap. The meeting closed as it was agreed to resume payment of a £5 annual subscription from members of the group.

As usual, there was great expectation for the annual dinner in the Winter Garden where the group welcomed guests such as St Dunstan's Chairman, Major-General Andrew Keeling, Chief Executive

St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War met in the Blue Room for their AGM. Standing: Peter Bryce, Bruce Mackenzie, Norman Kerslake, Joseph Hirsh, Charles Blockley, Norman Wagstaff, Richard Tavener and Tom Hart. Seated: Gerald Barnard, Billy Orr, Alf Lockhart, Sydney Tavender, and Bill Griffiths, MBE.



Father Martin Morgan celebrates the lives of St Dunstan's POW community.



Sir Freddie Viggers was presented with a memento of his previous visit - a reminder that he had hit the target, though Peter Hammond's score was higher.

Robert Leader, Manager Secretariat Richard McCrow, Admissions Officer David Habershon and St Dunstan's Padre Father Martin Morgan. The guest of honour was former Adjutant-General Sir Freddie Viggers, KCB, CMG, MBE, DL on his second visit to St Dunstan's Ovingdean. Sir Freddie spoke of his pleasure on recent announcements that Ex-Servicemen would receive priority treatment when looking for housing and health care.

He also revealed that he would be following in Sir John's footsteps as he was due to take up the role of Black Rod on 30 April this year.

The evening advanced with a few words from Bill Griffiths, MBE and presentations from Tom Hart. Alice Griffiths had a unique gift for Archivist Roberta Hazan, she presented a mug made from old tins that had been crafted by a POW during his captivity in Europe during the

Second World War. Painted yellow, the tin mug had the legend "Klim" written in red on one side, a cryptic clue that it should hold the POW's milk ration.

Sunday's Service of Remembrance was conducted in St Dunstan's Chapel by Father Martin Morgan. He spoke of an emotional visit to Auschwitz where he was stunned by the neatness and tidiness of the railway lines, belaying the carnage that would occur in the factories at the end of the line. He added he feared if we forgot the freedoms that the WWII generation had won for us, the horrors of Auschwitz might return.



Alice had been given a cherished artefact by a German POW.

St Dunstan's dominate BBS 2009 Indoor Archery contest

Patrick Sidnell reports on the Lilleshall Championship

THE BBS Indoor Archery Championships took place on 4-5 April 2009 at Lilleshall National Sports Centre. Eleven St Dunstaners travelled to the Championships, though Harry Docherty of Lancaster, Lancashire shot for John O'Gaunt Archery Club and John Bower of Sheffield, South Yorkshire shot for SRSB.

St Dunstaner Doug Rogers of Colchester, Essex attended for the first time, even though he had just had surgery to remove the top of one finger. Naturally, his new nickname is "Fingers".

We were all also pleased to see Peter Hammond of Rottingdean, East Sussex back shooting after surgery to his shoulder last year. His score of 790 was amazing as he had

not shot in competition since late last year.

The Championships started on the Saturday with a Double Portsmouth round, that is five dozen arrows in the morning and five dozen in the afternoon.

Once again St Dunstan's Archery Club had great success at the contest.

RESULTS

Gents B1 Compound

1st Peter Hammond
3rd Clive Jones

Gents B1 Recurve

2nd Harry Docherty

Gents B2/3 Compound

1st David Poyner

Gents B2/3 Recurve

1st Patrick Sidnell

Patrick also won the Trophy for the Highest

Improved Score by 173 points on last year.

Gents Novice Recurve

1st Doug Rogers
2nd John Bower

Gent VI Open Recurve

2nd Tom Roddy

Lady B2/3 Recurve

2nd Marjorie Scott

On the Sunday, a FITA 25 was shot in two categories, Blacked Out and Non Blacked Out.

Blacked Out

2nd Harry Docherty

Non Blacked Out

1st David Poyner

Once again we must thank our Coaching staff, spotters and driver/spotter for the hard work they put in to ensure a successful Championship for St Dunstan's Archers.

Acoustic snipers go hunting

Peter Hammond reports on a sound shooting session



Photograph copyright: Kathrine Goddon

Bill Goddon listens for the tell-tale change in pitch.

FIVE ST DUNSTENERS from the Acoustic Rifle Shooting Club were off to Chippenham on 20 March for a long awaited competition against Wiltshire Acoustic Shooting Club. They are also a visually impaired club. We last shot against them in 2005 when they came down to St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

Our party consisted of St Dunstaners Peter Hammond, Arthur Walton, Bill Goddon,

Dave Weltman and Cliff Ford. Two other St Dunstaners were supposed to travel with us, John Watts, who was in hospital with pneumonia, and George Oliver who had bronchitis. We wish them both a speedy recovery. Our volunteers for the weekend were Zilla and Roger McMullen and Lynn Walton along with our driver Brian.

After we were all booked into our rooms and

unpacked, we were met by fellow St Dunstaner Patrick Sidnell who was shooting for the enemy (we will let him off as they are his home club). We all went off for a really enjoyable meal.

The following morning we were off to the village of Box for the competition. We were met by the members of the Wiltshire Acoustic Shooting Club who were Karen Price, Nicky Morris, Patrick Sidnell and Mike Curtis, along with Ralph Bellamy who was to be the adjudicator.

Introductions were made for the newer members of both clubs followed by a welcome cup of tea, and then we were off. The St Dunstan's team were allowed ten shots to warm up and get used to the different sounds as it was a different range to the one that

we were used too. Each member of both teams shot four cards with five shots to each card, all the cards were then totalled up and the top four members of both teams were added together to give the team totals.

It was then results time, Ralph Bellamy the adjudicator had scrutinised all the cards and did the totals and we had lost, Wiltshire acoustic rifle club had beaten us by 35 points. It had been a lot closer than it was last time we had met at St Dunstan's, they had beaten us by over 200 points then. Ralph then presented the awards. Wiltshire won the cup and the St Dunstan's team were presented



Shooting St Dunstaners! Patrick Sidnell on his home turf in contest with Peter Hammond.

with a lovely paper weight as a memento of the visit.

That evening we all met up together again to go out for a meal and a thoroughly good time was had by all. The following morning we had an individual competition which was a nominated score round. Each person nominates what score they think they will score over two cards and the winner is

the one that selects the exact score or the nearest one to their nominated score. Nicky Morris and Bill Godden scored their exact nominated scores so they had to have a shoot off between themselves. Nicky won and was awarded a bottle of wine. Unlucky Bill!

That was the end of a lovely weekend, Peter Hammond, Chairman of the St Dunstan's Acoustic Rifle Shooting Club has invited Wiltshire to a rematch early in October at St Dunstan's Ovingdean which they have accepted.

On a final note, we would like to thank all the volunteers and Brian. Without their help we would not have been able to go away for this match.



Photographs copyright: Zilla McMullen

Bill Goddon tied with Nicky Morris prompting a make or break acoustic shoot-off.

The fob on the Tyne will now trigger an audio sign

St Dunstaner **Gordon Forster** reveals how Newcastle-upon-Tyne is reacting to demands for accesible signs

TALKING LAMPPOSTS are helping blind and partially sighted people find their way around Newcastle City Centre. Known as REACT, the scheme, pioneered by the RNIB, was launched with much fanfare on 11 March by Newcastle City Council's Deputy Leader. Councillor David Faulkner said: "React is a very good system and I think people will find it a very helpful navigational tool. This is just one of the extensions to our services to help visually impaired people."

RNIB REACT is an audio sign system consisting of a black box unit which is given a recoded audio message and mounted at a suitable location.

A blind or partially sighted person approaching the unit and carrying a small REACT fob will trigger the unit to announce the message through the fixed units own loud speaker.

Messages will usually convey the position of that unit as well as useful orientation information to help a

blind or partially sighted person with directions and onward to further destinations and so on around an area giving them more independence and confidence. It is also possible to include further details such as points of interest or temporary street hazards.

The fixed unit requires and electricity supply so local authorities need to establish practical locations whilst taking advice to determine routes by working with a local user group.

The RNIB REACT system has been around in earlier forms for some years, but the Newcastle system has many new advantages such as additional language channels, the installer can control units with a hand-held computer to recover logged usage data, to change messages, adjust volume levels and ranges. Further components can be developed to provide more user facilities.

Units can also be connected to public transport "real time" information

display screens to give users on location up to date audio travel information as at Brighton and Hove.

How did it come about?

This all started in 2002. Newcastle Disability Forum, a long established pan-disability organisation in the city, published a report "Pathway Hazards", campaigning for a more inclusive city which was directed to the local council and police. The report highlighted the need for accessible signage offering REACT as one solution and hoping to convince the council they should invest in the needs of people with disabilities. Newcastle City Council obtained grants from the EU and the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund for a pilot route of 17 units in this city centre covering the main shopping centres, eye clinic and one hospital. The Passenger Transport Authority, Nexus, collaborated by including 20 units in two underground Metro stations, and the hospital provided three units. Local volunteers, most of whom had a visual impairment, were consulted and helped decide where the REACT units should be located and their messages.

The launch

The scheme was launched by the Deputy Council Leader on 11 March with much enthusiasm. So it is now available for city residents and college students as well as those many folk

from the surrounding areas who work in Newcastle or have to travel into the Eye Clinic. The next task is to explore funding sources to extend the network by incorporating an audio real time public transport information system.

How do people get to use it?

Blind and partially sighted people who live in or work in Newcastle may be able to get a fob on loan from The Council Sensory Support Team, telephone 0191 2788100.

Visitors may hire a fob from various centres such as Metro Newcastle Central Station Travel Shop, telephone 0191 2033426, Central Arcade Tourist Information, Grainger Street, telephone 0191 277 8000, Shopmobility, Eldon Gardens Mall, Percy Street, telephone 0191 2616176, and the Civic Centre Customers Service, Haymarket, on 0191 2328520.

Anyone can purchase a fob directly from RNIB – helpline is 0303 123 9999.

For more general information about the Newcastle system contact Newcastle City Council Accessible Services on 0191 277 7528.

For more information about REACT and ideas of how to get it, telephone RNIB at 01733 375385 or go to www.rnib.org.uk/react.

The first of an occasional series, throwing the spotlight on members of St Dunstan's Staff

A Top-notch Tech Trio!

St Dunstan's Sheffield's team of IT Instructor's reveal a little of their life before they became an elite team of educators.

Dave Hickey

I left school at 15, well I say left, I was shown the door and gently pointed to towards it with the headmaster's size 11 upon my rear. The steel works were preferable to going down the pit, but the company I worked for went bankrupt when the owner ran away with the takings. I then became a welding and fabrication contractor, working around the country for many years.

Later, I ended up back in engineering, working for a large steel manufacturer, just before the steel and miners strikes started. I ended being made redundant once again.

I bought a sandwich shop but when Sheffield decided to build a tram system no one could pass the shop for about a year. So I had to sell up. I enrolled onto an HND Computer sciences course, passed that and got a job working for Tarmac Homes on their computer system, just before Black Wednesday and the Eighties' slump.

I then got a job at the college where I had taken my HND as a technical assistant. I clawed my way to the top in only three years. I also started teaching students how to use these new fangled computer thingies. Then, my department offered to pay for me to take a Masters Degree in computing, so I took them up on their offer and passed my MSc in computing. I then went

on to take my teaching qualifications (PGCE) and finally, made my mum the proud parent she had always wanted to be and my wife smile like a Cheshire cat, by becoming a fully qualified university lecturer. Then I came to St Dunstan's, and the rest as they say, is history.

Gaye Staff

I started working in IT whilst at Express Newspapers, publishers of the Daily and Sunday Express, Daily Star, and other publications. Initially, I was secretary to the Data Processing Manager. When Desk Top Computers were introduced to the organisation, having learnt how to use them myself I was asked to show other secretaries how to operate them. Soon instructing and

support was becoming a full time job so my position was changed to Training Instructor and a new secretary was recruited. I had worked for the Express for 13 years when I was made redundant.

I worked for SCI, a funeral Service Company. I operated a helpdesk on bespoke systems as well as delivering training to Reception and Accounts staff throughout the UK. Also, the company took over some cemeteries and I was involved in delivering training on their systems. The first office I worked in was at the mortuary in Seaford, where I learnt a lot about the Funeral business from beginning to end! Since then I have worked for St Dunstan's for over eight years.

Russell Price

Being rubbish at sport, my childhood was spent embracing the arts – well music really. I sorely wished to be the next Maynard Ferguson (he played trumpet by the



St Dunstan's Sheffield's finest on parade: IT team David Hickey, Gaye Staff, and Russell Price.

way) but soon discovered that being first class in Pembrokeshire was the same as second class in Wales and about tenth class in London.

University beckoned and a degree in Biochemistry at Manchester was the result. My first job (if you discount the bread round and semi-pro trumpet player) was as a systems analyst at British Leyland. That was in Longbridge and at the time of Derek "Red Robbo" Robinson. After a brief spell at GKN came an 18 year stint (ultimately as a business analyst) at the snappily-titled London & Scandinavian

Metallurgical Co Ltd in (of course) Rotherham.

After being "let go", I re-trained as a teacher. So began the annus horribilis training for my PGCE at Derby. I well remember sitting in a park on a lovely sunny day reading my copy of the Sheffield Star and being surprised to read the headline "Arsonist strikes at Rotherham school". Yes, my first job as a teacher was at that school. Luckily, my "baptism of fire" as a proper teacher was not literal. Sometime later my wife spotted a job advert for St Dunstan's - and the rest as they say is history.

Sad start for spring bowls

ST DUNSTAN'S Bowlers were back in the McKinley Sports Hall from March 15-28. We began our tournament on a sad note when we learnt that Alan Mitchell had died a few days earlier. He had bowled with us for almost 20 years and will be sadly missed.



St Dunstan's Chairman presents Joan Osborne with the Founder's Day Special Achievement award.

We were pleased to welcome two new members, Ken Haigh, Chris Spellacy, which made 27 bowlers taking part. We missed our regular helpers, Jack and Roger from Saltdean bowling club who are both suffering ill health, but hope they will soon feel better.

Once again John Mугan worked very hard together with Frank Smith and Ron Jones who helped with calling games. Joan Arnold and Kathy Sullivan looked after our "needs" with tea and coffee. What would we do without them all.

RESULTS SINGLES

1st Ted Arnold
2nd Alan Gibson
Joint 3rd Norman Perry and James Poole

PAIRS

1st Alan Gibson and Colwyn Lloyd
2nd Frank Smith and Pete Bradshaw
3rd Ron Thorpe and Chris Spellacy

TRIPLES

1st Alan Gibson, Syd Bowden and Wallace Burnet-Smith

2nd Ken Haigh, Norman Perry and Ron Jones

I would like to thank all the staff at St Dunstan's Ovingdean who helped us and I look forward to meeting you all for the next tournament on 25 October – 7 November.

Joan adds that she would like to thank everyone who congratulated her on receiving the Founder's Day Award. She was overwhelmed by your kind words.

Bob Osborne, Chairman

Cricket plot is a winner for Joan



SARAH HARRISON, author of over 20 novels such as *Rose Petal Soup*, *A Spell of Swallows*, and *The Nightingale's Nest* was the judge of the latest Review story contest. She also wrote the self help guide *How to Write a Blockbuster* as well as several children's books. Her third choice of story was *The Tea Break* by Joan Beevers who impressed Sarah with her plotting skills. Joan won £20 with her entry which you can now read here...

The Tea Break

by Joan Beevers

The summer before Robert and I were married was the best that England can offer. Long periods of warm summer days were interspersed with just enough rain to keep the grass green and the roses in bloom. Rob, being a cricket enthusiast, loved it. He spent every Saturday afternoon playing for his village team and I had no objection to watching him from a shady deck-chair on whichever village green was the venue for that week. At tea-time, wearing a floaty little summer dress I would wander into the pavilion to partake of cups of tea, dainty sandwiches, fluffy cream cakes and the admiring glances of Rob's team-mates.

After the end of the cricket season Rob and I were married and spent a lovely winter settling into our new life

together. As spring approached the old and ailing captain of the village cricket team died. After the shock and the mourning a new captain had to be found. The position went automatically to a member of the local aristocracy who owned the cricket ground, one Tarquin Kent-Brinkley.

The new captain called all his players and their wives to a planning meeting before the start of the season. That was when we first met Tarquin's lovely wife Georgina. She was tall, curvy in all the right places and expensively dressed. Her hair was elegantly styled and her long nails perfectly manicured.

The meeting began and I was proud when Rob was elected as vice-captain. The last item on the agenda was the matter of "Cricket Teas". Tarquin

proposed to leave it to the ladies and all the men wandered off to the bar. The more experienced cricket wives declared that teas were traditionally the responsibility of the captain's wife. All eyes turned to the lovely Georgina who laughed gaily and said, "Darlings, I don't do that sort of thing! I mean, do I look as if I do?" We had to agree that it did not look likely. "Don't worry about it darlings. Claire and I have it all in hand."

Glad to be let off the hook the others went to join their husbands at the bar. "Now Claire," said Georgina, her smile fading and her tone turning brisk. "I can't possibly do the teas. At home I have a little woman to do that sort of thing for me, - someone just like you."

"But I've never done anything like that before," I protested. "You look bright enough to learn how to make a few cakes and sandwiches," snapped Georgina. "Now this is the deal. I tell you what I want done and you do it. Tarquin thinks I'm a domestic goddess and I don't want him finding out the truth. So you do the work and I collect the accolades. Understood?"

"Y-Yes" I stammered, "but why should I?"

"Why? I'll tell you why. I can wrap Tarquin round my little finger so if I tell him to drop Robert from the team he'll do it. Oh, and don't go bleating to the other wives or else their husbands get the chop too!"

After me, cricket is Robert's greatest passion in life so I decided to accept the situation and started to practise the art of cake baking. I discovered that I had a talent for it and soon began to enjoy it. However I did not enjoy Georgina's bitchy, condescending manner and resented every demand she made on me, and every compliment she simperingly received for my handiwork.

Week after week I arrived at the pavilion early enough to do most of the work before the match began, so that I could watch at least some of the play. The other wives never realised how much I was doing, but sharing an intense dislike of Georgina they kept out of the way. Georgina herself usually appeared just before the tea break and donned her little lacy apron in time to supervise the proceedings and collect the compliments.

One week in midsummer I had instructions from Georgina to make a special effort as we were playing a team captained by one of dear Tarquin's best friends. He was a police Chief-Inspector who no doubt got him off speeding fines and parking tickets. Anyway, I was to pull out all the stops and impress the visitors.

It was a beautiful day and I could not bear to be indoors for longer than necessary. So, having plated the sandwiches, made the mayonnaise and whipped the cream I put everything in

the fridge and went out to watch Rob's innings. As I left the pavilion I saw all the players looking above my head so I looked up too. It all happened so quickly. Rob had hit the ball for a six and as I looked up it made its descent directly onto my head. Apparently I dropped like a stone, was unconscious for a minute and came round in the shade of the pavilion surrounded by the wives. Getting their priorities right they had sent Rob back to the wicket. They wanted me to go to hospital but I was so befuddled that all I could think of was that I had to finish the teas. After a few minutes I felt more or less alright again. The others suggested that Georgina could manage on her own as usual but I knew differently.

I staggered into the pavilion kitchen just as Georgina parked her Lotus by the back door and came in snapping, "Come on now Claire, this won't do. There is nothing on the table yet and they'll be coming in soon."

I took the bowls out of the fridge, flavoured the mayonnaise with crushed garlic and sweetened the cream with icing sugar. I filled the chocolate cakes and put the mayonnaise next to the salad just as the umpire took off the bails for the tea break.

First into the pavilion was Tarquin and his policeman friend. "I say," enthused the Chief-Inspector, "you always do us proud here." Tarquin, visibly pleased,

informed him, "Georgina does it all by herself you know. Isn't she wonderful?". The wonderful woman simpered and muttered modestly that it was nothing.

Tarquin's friend piled a large dollop of mayonnaise on top of his salad and began to fork it into his mouth. His smile faded, he began to look somewhat puzzled and he chewed less enthusiastically. Putting his plate down he asked, "Is this the sort of thing they are eating in London these days Tarquin? I'm a plain man when it comes to food." Tarquin frowned and tasted the mayonnaise. "Ugh, it tastes like sweet cream. Slipped up with that darling", he said, forcing a smile at Georgina who looked daggers at me. "Never mind old mate, try the chocolate cake, that's always mouth-watering." He passed a piece to his friend and took one for himself. He smiled in anticipation as he took a healthy bite. The smile turned into a look of disgust at the taste of garlic mixed with chocolate in his mouth. He spat out the offending cake and bawled, "Georgina, what are you playing at!"

"Don't look at me," she retorted, "I didn't make it."

"Of course you did," yelled Tarquin, "you told me you always do it yourself. If it wasn't you, who was it?"

I could do nothing but take the blame. "It was me," my voice was small and apologetic, "it's always my job."

"Claire? What do you mean," said Tarquin, "it's Georgina's job as captain's wife!"

"Sorry Tarquin, she always makes me do it -but I really don't mind."

By this time Rob had found me and quickly took in the situation. "Claire, it's not your fault. After that knock on your head I'm not surprised you were confused. Have a cup of tea then I'll take you home. They'll have to manage without me."

As Rob led me to a chair I heard Tarquin telling Georgina "I'm disappointed in you, I know it's only cricket to you, but this sort of thing is your duty as my wife and is important in families like mine. Go home now, we'll talk about this later." As Georgina tore off her apron and flounced out, Tarquin turned to me. "You must excuse her please Claire. It's the way she was brought up, but she'll learn. I apologise to you all for my wife's behaviour and if you permit me to resign as captain in deference to Rob, I'd like to take up his current position as vice-captain."

A round of applause showed the team's approval and there was a good deal of back-slapping.

As we drove home Rob turned hesitantly to me, "Of course, as captain's wife I'm afraid you'll have to do the cricket teas!"

"Delighted" I said.

REUNION 09

The Brighton (II) Reunion at St Dunstan's Ovingdean united 21 St Dunstaners and four widows on 24 March. President Ray Hazan represented St Dunstan's Council and St Dunstaner Nigel Whiteley responded for those present.

There were 34 St Dunstaners and one widow at the Derby Reunion on 25 March. St Dunstan's Chairman Major General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE presided at The Midland Hotel, Derby, Derbyshire. St Dunstaner Colin Green of Barnsley responded on behalf of those present. Guests included Keith Meakin of BLESMA.

The Middlesbrough Reunion held at the Thistle Hotel, Middlesbrough on 2 April united 34 St Dunstaners and two widows. Major General David Jolliffe, CB, FRCP was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding. St Dunstaner Cecil Green gave the response. Four lucky winners also went home with a bottle of wine which had been donated by Walter Scott of Hartlepool.

There were 31 St Dunstaners and five widows at the Cambridge Reunion on 8 April at The Cambridge Belfry Hotel, Cambourne, Cambridge. Iain Lumsden was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding while St Dunstaner Billy Baxter replied on behalf of those present.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

Reverend Philip Addison of Beverley, North Humberside served in the Royal Artillery from 1947 to 1949.

Arthur Askin of Blackpool, Lancashire served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1945.

Norman Bates of Exeter, Devon served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Warwickshire Regiment between 1943 and 1947.

George Bensley of Yateley, Hampshire served as Corporal in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Sydney Bond of Swindon, Wiltshire served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 to 1946 and again from 1950 to 1951.

Robert Booth of Middlesbrough, Cleveland served in the General Service Corps, Green Howards, North Staffordshire Regiment, and the South Staffordshire Regiment between 1944 and 1947.

William Brown of Manchester served in the Home Guard from 1940 to 1945.

William Burke of Truro, Cornwall served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1969.

William Cantwell of Southport, Merseyside served in the Merchant Navy from 1943 to 1968.

Anthony Chapman of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire served in Royal Army Medical Corps from 1940 to 1944.

Charles Clarkson of Houghton, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Christopher Corcoran of Beeston, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1947.

William Crowley of Rhyl, Denbighshire served as Corporal in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

Richard Cuthbertson of Blackpool Lancashire served as Gunner in the Royal Artillery from 1944 to 1948.

Nora Dawson of Peacehaven, East Sussex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1945.

Edith Doolan of Yeadon, Leeds, west Yorkshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

Peter Elyard of Consett, County Durham served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and the Royal Army Service Corps between 1952 and 1958.

William Finney of Rossett, Wrexham served as Gunner in the Royal Artillery from 1941 to 1946.

James Greaves of Stanley, County Durham served in the General Service Corps and Royal Military Police between 1946 and 1948.

Edward Hare of Kingsbridge, Devon served in the Royal Scots Fusiliers and the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) between 1936 and 1946.

Peter Harris of Weston-super-Mare, Avon served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

Clair Hoare of Minehead, Somerset served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1954.

William Hodson of Tunbridge Wells, Kent served in the Royal Air Force Police from 1940 to 1946.

Edward Holmes of Polegate, East Sussex served in the Royal Sussex Regiment and Royal Pioneer Corps between 1950 and 1955.

Brian Kershaw of Hull, North Humberside served in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) from 1974 to 1980.

John Leslie of Ashington, Northumberland served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

Stuart Lewis of Cardiff, South Glamorgan served in the Royal Signals from 1947 to 1949 and the Royal

Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1963 to 1965.

Brian Magnall of Mickleover, Derby, Derbyshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1955.

Stanley Middleton of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

Walter Moorhouse of North Finchley, London served in the Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1940 and 1946.

Colonel Claire Mountford of Porthpean, St Austell, Cornwall is serving with the Royal Army Dental Corps (Volunteers), having joined in 1988.

John Murray of Brinscall, Chorley, Lancashire served in the Royal Artillery from 1932 to 1946.

Edward Nicholas of Hersham, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey served in the General Service Corps, Royal Engineers and Royal Welch Fusiliers between 1943 and 1948.

Alec Palmer of Rustington, Littlehampton, West Sussex served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve from 1939 to 1942.

Joan Poole of Walton, Stone, Staffordshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1945.

John Preston of Penrhyndeudraeth, Gwynedd served as Corporal in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1958 and again from 1966 to 1978.

George Rayment of Barming, Maidstone, Kent served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1948 to 1950.

Leonard Rees of Penlan, Swansea, West Glamorgan served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1942 to 1947.

Ruby Ricketts of Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1943.

Edwin Robinson of Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire served in the Pioneer Corps from 1940 to 1946.

Norman Roden of Chorley, Lancashire served in the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) and the Royal Artillery between 1939 and 1946.

Blanche Sayer of Ramsgate, Kent served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1943 to 1945.

John Thompson of Seaham, County Durham served in the General Service Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1946 to 1948.

Derek Vincent of Worthing, West Sussex served in the General Service Corps, Middlesex Regiment, and Army Air Corps between 1942 to 1947.

Isobel Walter of Portslade, Brighton served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1943 to 1946.

Thomas Weaver of Basildon, Essex served as a Supply Assistant in the Fleet Air Arm from 1942 to 1946.

Douglas Widdowfield of Epsom, Surrey served in the Merchant Navy from 1944 to 1947.

BEER OF THE MONTH

by Colin Williamson

Badger Poacher's Choice

A smooth dark ale from Dorset's Badger Brewery which is enhanced with a touch of liquorice for spicy sweetness and damson for a soft, fruity taste. This is a wonderful beer and packs quite a punch, weighing in at 5.7 per cent ABV. Definitely worth tracking down at Threshers, Tesco or online at www.badgerdirect.com.

Ten Answers

Answers to quiz on page 15.

1) Billy Bunter; 2) The Three Musketeers; 3) Peter Rabbit; 4) Captain Mainwaring in *Dad's Army*; 5) The Scarlet Pimpernel; 6) Midsomer Murders; 7) Biggles; 8) Horatio Hornblower; 9) Dr Watson, companion of Sherlock Holmes; 10) Sweeney Todd. The real life murderer was seized in the crypt beneath St Dunstan's-in-the-West where he left the remains of his victims.

Family News

ENGAGEMENT

Congratulations to:

Ian Graham and Pamela Ronald of Alloa, Clackmannanshire who became engaged on 9 April.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Bob and Violet Crossan of Alexandria, Dunbartonshire on 20 March.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Charles and Jacqui Eastwood of Hartlepool, Cleveland on 14 April.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Iris and Frank Williams of Gillingham, Kent on 28 March.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Victor and Mary Washer of Desborough, Kettering, Northamptonshire on 26 March.

Leslie and Betty Whitmore of Hall Green, Birmingham on 27 March.

Arthur and Mary Hartnell of Saltdean, Brighton on 28 March.

Charles and Joyce Simmons of Northwich, Cheshire on 2 April.

David and Doreen Ash of Westham, Pevensey on 16 April.

Jack and Jean Geddes of Witton Gilbert,

Durham, County Durham on 16 April.

John and Betty Richardson of Luton, Bedfordshire on 16 April.

Arthur and Joy Banton of Maidenhead, Berkshire on 18 April.

Alan and Margaret Gresswell of Cirencester, Gloucestershire on 20 April.

BLUE SAPPHIRE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Jim and Margaret Knowles of Darfield, Barnsley, South Yorkshire on 8 April.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Patricia Woodgate on 12 March. She was the wife of John Woodgate of Firle, Lewes, East Sussex.

Cynthia Lamond on 16 March. She was the wife of Douglas Lamond of Felixstowe, Suffolk.

Elsie Baldasera of Darlington, County Durham on 18 March. She was the widow of Arisilia Baldasera.

Dorothy Collingwood on 30 March. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Frederick Collingwood of Clayton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire.

Winifred Sturgess of Speen, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire on 9 April. She was the widow of Edwin Sturgess.

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.

David Trippett

Royal Artillery

David Trippett of Hingham, Norfolk died on 17 January, aged 89. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939 and served in the UK and overseas. Discharged in 1946, he worked as a manufacturer's rep. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Ted Ashworth

Royal Corps of Signals

Sidney Edward Ashworth of Richmond, North Yorkshire died on 20 March, aged 95. He joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1931 and served in the UK, Malta and other theatres of conflict overseas. Discharged in 1953, he then became a lecturer for the Corps. Our sympathy goes to his widow Amy and all the family.

John Grove

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

John Grove of Shard End, Birmingham, West Midlands died on 20 March, aged 90. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1939 and trained as an armourer. Transferring to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1942, he served in France and the Middle East. Demobbed in 1945, he

was a sheet metal worker, making car bodies for Rover and Jaguar. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Percy Eames

Royal Air Force

Percy Frank Eames of Bromley, Kent died on 22 March, aged 92. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1937, training in Perth. During the war, he was shot down over Europe and taken prisoner. Promoted to Squadron Leader in 1947, he served further in Singapore, Korea and Japan. Discharged in 1957, he then worked for BAA. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Derrick Pinfold

Royal Army Service Corps

Derrick Desmond Pinfold of Hampton on the Hill, Warwick died on 27 March, aged 85. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1944, serving in France and Germany. Demobbed in 1947, he worked for a fruit and vegetable wholesaler and later in the motor trade. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Jack Bleathman

Royal Air Force Police

Edward Jack Bleathman of Allestree, Derby, Derbyshire died on 26 March,

aged 82. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1946 for National Service, but after five months joined the RAF Police as a regular. Serving around the world in Aden, Malta and France, he retired as Sergeant in 1971. In civilian life, he worked for Nat West Bank. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Clarice Franks

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Clarice Franks nee Mee of Felixstowe, Suffolk died on 27 March, aged 93. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1941 and served in Balloon Command. Discharged in 1944, she raised a family and also fostered children. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Ronald Palmer

Royal Marines

Ronald Frederick Palmer of Market Harborough, Leicestershire died on 29 March, aged 84. He joined the Royal Marines in 1942 and served in the Atlantic, Holland, North Sea, and France. After an accident on HMS Trumpeter, he was discharged in 1947. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Joseph Massey

The Life Guards

Joseph Harry Massey of Rowley Regis, West Midlands died on 31 March, aged 87. He joined The Life Guards in 1941, and deployed to Palestine as part of 1 Household Cavalry Regiment. After serving in the Italian Campaign and

Egypt, he was demobbed in 1946, he worked as a van driver. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Nigel Mayo

Royal Air Force

Nigel Harold John Mayo of Ovingdean, Brighton died on 31 March, aged 88. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 and served in airfield control in Egypt, France, Holland, and Germany. Discharged in 1946, he worked for the DHSS. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Philip Plummer

King's Royal Rifle Corps

Philip Plummer of Woodside, London died on 31 March, aged 88. He joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1939, serving in the UK. Discharged in 1946, he worked in publishing and then public relations for an oil firm. Our sympathy goes to his widow Carol and all members of the family.

John Williams

Royal Artillery

John Henry Williams of Liverpool, Merseyside died on 31 March, aged 85. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1942 and served in North Africa, Italy, and Turin. Demobbed in 1946, he worked as an electrician for Liverpool University.

Thomas McNamara

King's Own Royal Regiment (Fusiliers)

Thomas McNamara of Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire died on 1 April, aged 73. He joined the Royal Ulster

Rifles in 1954, later transferring to the King's Own Royal Regiment (Fusiliers) as he deployed to Egypt. Discharged in 1956, he worked as a driver and later in the joiners shop at British Aerospace. Our sympathy goes to his widow Anne and all members of the family.

Sydney Rogers

Royal Artillery (TA)

Sydney Arthur Rogers of Urmston, Manchester died on 1 April, aged 90. He joined the Royal Artillery (TA) in 1939 serving around the UK as a gunner. Discharged in 1946, he remained on reserve until 1959. In civilian life, he worked for the English Sewingcotton Company. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Roy Brewer

Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)

Roy Denis Brewer of Clifton, Bristol died on 2 April, aged 84. He joined the General Service Corps in 1943, then transferred to the Suffolk Regiment to train as a signaller. In 1945, he transferred to the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and was deployed on Operation Market garden. Discharged in 1947, he became a reporter for the *Daily Mirror* and later became Editor of *The British Printer*. He also wrote text books on print buying, design, an introduction to playing the guitar, and a biography of typographer Eric Gill. His interests included fencing. Our sympathy goes to his widow Ingrid and all members of the family.

Bertram Clark

Royal Army Pay Corps

Bertram James Clark of Wellington, Somerset died on 2 April, aged 88. He joined the General Service Corps in 1943, later transferring to the Royal Engineers. He served further in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1945 to 1947. In civilian life, he worked in the steel industry, in Social Services, and later as a lecturer at an adult education college. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Gordon Firth

Royal Air Force

Gordon Firth of Hemingfield, Barnsley, South Yorkshire died on 2 April, aged 89. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941, specialising as an Air Frame Mechanic. Having served in the UK, Bombay, Burma, and Rangoon, he was discharged in 1946 and resumed work as a panel beater. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Ronald Hitchcock

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Ronald Frederick Hitchcock of Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire died on 3 April, aged 87. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1940 and flew in "Johnnie" Johnson's squadron. Serving in the UK, Singapore, Rhodesia and Germany, he was commissioned in 1943 and had been promoted to Flight Lieutenant when demobbed in 1946. Our sympathy goes to his widow Rita and all members of the family.

Stanley Mitchell**Home Guard**

Stanley Mitchell of Great Harwood, Blackburn, Lancashire died on 3 April, aged 85. A miner, he joined the 6th Battalion, Cumberland Home Guard in 1941. Discharged in 1944, he returned to the mines, but later joined the gas board. He also worked in security. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

John Robson**Royal Army Service Corps**

John Swan Robson of Peterlee, County Durham died on 3 April, aged 85. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1947 and served in India, the Far East, and North Africa. Discharged as Corporal in 1962, he became an ambulance driver. Later on, he was a fork lift truck driver. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Senga Cree**Women's Royal Naval Service**

Agnes Clark Cree of Uddingston, Glasgow died on 4 April, aged 94. She joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1942 and served in the UK, Gibraltar, Malta and Beirut. Dealing with food supplies, she was a Petty Officer when discharged in 1947. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Harold Parkin**Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Harold Parkin of Wickersley, Rotherham, South Yorkshire died on 4 April, aged 95. He joined the Border Regiment in 1940,

transferring to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1941 when he deployed to India. He transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1942. Demobbed in 1946, he worked in the textile industry and as a fish-fryer. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Kenneth Murch**Royal Air Force**

Kenneth Angus Murch of Yelverton, Devon died on 5 April, aged 91. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 serving a ground crew at Leconfield and Kenley. Demobbed as Flight Sergeant in 1945, he taught physics and also ran the RAF CCF Unit at Chichester High School. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Frederick Richardson**Royal Artillery**

Frederick Richardson of Boroughbridge, Yorkshire died on 5 April, aged 93. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 serving in the UK and Burma. Demobbed in 1946, he became a publican, managing several establishments in the Ripon area. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Robert Taylor**Staffordshire Regiment**

Robert Taylor of Marton, Blackpool, Lancashire died on 5 April, aged 61. He worked in a scrap-yard from the age of four, then in a local market, before going down the mines as a 15-year-old. In 1967, he joined the Staffordshire Regiment and deployed to Germany

for guard duties at Spandau Prison. Although communication was strictly forbidden, he acquiesced when the prison's sole inmate Rudolph Hess begged a cigarette. Discharged in 1969, he worked as a crane driver, market worker and also briefly returned to the mines. His interests included racing pigeons. Our sympathy goes to his widow Caroline and all the family.

Geoffrey Law**Royal Engineers**

Geoffrey Thomas Law of Barton Seagrave, Kettering, Northamptonshire died on 6 April, aged 84. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1946 and served in the UK and Germany. Discharged in 1948, he worked as a teacher and engineer. Our sympathy goes to his widow Monica and all the family.

George Slynn**Army Catering Corps**

George Slynn of Great Harwood, Lancashire died on 8 April, aged 73. He joined the Army Catering Corps in 1954, serving at Aldershot and York. Discharged in 1956, he worked for the Co-op and Post Office. He became involved in local politics, standing for both Labour and Liberal Democrats. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Cliff Booroff**Royal Signals**

Clifford Robert Booroff of Kingsbury, London died on 12 April, aged 77. He joined the Royal Signals in 1950 and

served in the UK and Egypt. Demobbed in 1952, he became a builder. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joan and all members of the family.

"Mo" Harrison**Royal Navy**

Maurice Arthur Raymond Harrison of Sutton, Surrey died on 12 April, aged 84. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and served as a Signaller. Discharged in 1946, he initially worked for a firm carrying out refurbishment. Later, he joined for a company dealing with patents, and also worked for a heating company, and at Sutton Magistrates Court. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mabel and all members of the family.

Joy Piercy**Women's Auxiliary Air Force**

Joy Patricia Sheereen Piercy of Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex died on 13 April, aged 85. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1941, serving in Morecambe and Blackpool. Discharged in 1946, she worked as a clerical assistant and librarian.

Donald Colloff**Royal Army Ordnance Corps**

Donald Frederick Colloff of Solihull, West Midlands died on 14 April, aged 72. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1955 and served in Bicester. Demobbed in 1957, he worked as a bricklayer and also for Rover. Our sympathy goes to his widow Patricia and all members of the family.

Terry's tribute to Uganda



St Dunstaner Terry Bullingham with fellow patients Roy Bassey and Robert Osborn, reunited with the medics, crew, and P&O volunteers who served on the Hospital Ship *Uganda* during the Falklands War.

ROYAL NAVY St Dunstaner Terry Bullingham paid a heart felt tribute to the medics, crew and P&O volunteers who served on the Hospital Ship *Uganda* during the Falklands War. He was speaking at a reunion of the ship's crew in Southampton on 18 April. Also in the audience were fellow patients Roy Bassey from 3 Para and Robert "Ossie" Osborn of The Scots Guards. Terry recalled how after being strafed on the deck of HMS *Antrim* by an Argentinian MIG in 1982, he woke up on the *Uganda* where

a Sun reporter asked "How do you feel?" The proverbial response was left to the imagination. More formally, he

expressed his gratitude to those who had treated and cared for him on the ship before he was casevaced home.



Uganda's Anaesthetist Peter Bull and Terry Bullingham with contemporary QARNNS Maria Cotton, Marie Batten and Robyn Sargent who have been serving under fire in Afghanistan and Iraq.