

St Dunstan's

August 2009

Review



Photograph: courtesy and copyright Bill Lyth

Kate Adie at Church Stretton

St Dunstan's Review

August 2009

No 993

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Cover Story



Elegant Kay Brereton, widow of Top Ten crooning St Dunstaner Gerry Brereton, presents famed news correspondent Kate Adie with a delightful bouquet of flowers. Known for her frontline despatches in troubled areas around the globe, the BBC broadcaster was guest speaker at the 50-Year-Badge Holders Reunion at St Dunstan's wartime home in Church Stretton. **Full story on page 28.**

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Calendar

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

Writers Forum	5
Ovingdean Fun Fete	12
English Heritage Open Day	12
Golf (V)	12-13
RMA Lymptone	26-27
Physiotherapist Weekend	25-28
Computer Club (II)	30-Oct 1

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

Writers Forum	7
Founder's Memorial Day	7
Remembrance Sunday	8

Your message from St Dunstan's Chairman, Andrew Keeling

From the Chairman

I am sure that the 50-Year-Badge-Holders Reunion at Church Stretton, Shropshire will be covered in some detail in this month's Review, but never having been to Church Stretton before, let alone to the Reunion, I would just like to record that I found it a hugely enjoyable and educational experience. The town and the Longmynd Hotel in particular clearly feel they still have a strong and important link with St Dunstan's, and those of you that were there, proudly wearing your 50-Year badges, clearly feel that this is an event not to be missed. The gathering had a lovely, happy, friendly buzz about it – very noticeable to the newcomer – and very welcoming too. Woppy and I thoroughly enjoyed our time with you – thank you all.

Last week I represented St Dunstan's at a splendid evening reception given by the RNIB to mark Lord Colin Low's retirement as their Chairman after nine years in post. Colin's leadership has been inspiring and tremendously effective, and a lot of people there wanted to express their thanks to him for all he has done for the visually impaired in this country. Luckily for us he has agreed to serve on as a member



The Chairman at Church Stretton with St Dunstaner Norman Hopkins.

of the St Dunstan's Council – we are very lucky to have him with us.

With the height of summer bearing down on us I'm off on a sailing trip very soon, taking passage with a few friends on a yacht from Plymouth to the Azores. The map seems to indicate that the route is all downhill – it remains to be seen if it's going to be as easy as that.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Andrew Keeling'.

Noticeboard

FESTIVE SEASON BOOKINGS

ACCOMMODATION AT ST DUNSTAN'S OIVINGDEAN OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR: As in previous years, there is likely to be insufficient accommodation at St Dunstan's Ovingdean to meet everybody's requirements. Usually holiday (non-care-needs) bookings can be booked provisionally six months in advance directly with Jackie Castle, the Bookings Coordinator (01273 391422) and confirmed at three months. However, for the Christmas and New Year period bookings can only be accepted via Welfare Officers, that is in the same way as Respite Care bookings, and need to be with Welfare Officers for processing by 25 September. Because of the degree of uncertainty associated with the period, particularly issues about appropriate care packages being available in local communities, accommodation will not be confirmed until mid-November though provisional bookings will be announced to Welfare Officers by 16 October. Some may feel that this is late in the day, but to do things any earlier is impractical given the amount of change that always takes place.

Because of the likely demand, it is necessary to split the period into

Christmas, 20–27 December, and New Year, 28 December–3 January, and to limit most bookings to one or the other. For a very limited number of people, a stay over the whole Christmas and New Year period may be possible. The actual dates will depend upon factors like transport schedules for those wishing to use St Dunstan's vehicles. It will be possible to be placed on a waiting list for the other periods (including the week before the Christmas week and the week after the New Year week though they are training weeks at St Dunstan's Ovingdean) but there can be no guarantee that space will become available. As in previous years, a surcharge will be applied to those who come into Ovingdean over the Christmas and New Year period which reflects the significant cost of the extra food, drink and activities which are put on. The surcharge per head will be in the region of £40 for the Christmas period and £30 for New Year.

In order to make the most of the accommodation available, some principles and priorities need to be applied. Firstly, we need to make full use of our fully en suite, off-site premises at Port Hall. It is accepted that there are limitations associated

with this property which is within walking distance but it must be utilised especially by those who are fit and able to do so. The accommodation charge is less than for staying in-house. A care-need that requires staff support is the factor that determines who must be in St Dunstan's Ovingdean itself as opposed to being offered accommodation at Port Hall. There will be a presumption that people taking care of themselves in the community can, in most circumstances, use Port Hall though some may need to be downstairs if their own home is configured that way. The final arbiter for a care-need will be Jackie Greer as Head of Care in discussion with the relevant Welfare Officer, backed, if necessary, by a doctor's written opinion. In addition, there will be occasions when sharing a room either in-house or at Port Hall would create extra space and this will be considered as an option, with those sharing in these circumstances receiving a reduction in the room charge.

In determining the overall priority for those staying at St Dunstan's Ovingdean over the Christmas and New Year period, the first call goes to those St Dunstaners with a genuine care-need, particularly as a result of insufficient care in the community over the holiday period. This includes Respite Care requirements. Second priority will be the spouses or immediate family of those living

permanently at St Dunstan's Ovingdean and who do not live locally. Thereafter, the priority is to St Dunstaners as determined by their needs and their requests, with those living independently in the Ovingdean area only being considered after those who cannot participate on Daily Visitor basis. When accommodation has been allocated on the above basis, a waiting list will be established. Ideally, applications for accommodation should be made on the basis of the above principles, particularly by offering to accept Port Hall or agreeing to share. We will do our best to give people what they desire but, in the final analysis, the offer of accommodation may have to be based on an assessment of need and upon balancing the requirements of all concerned. Due to the size of the main dining room, we will almost certainly also have to restrict the numbers who come in for the day over the Christmas and New Year peaks, and for whom a surcharge will also apply. Application for a Day Visitor place should be made to the Lounge Desk at St Dunstan's Ovingdean by Friday 4 December and, as with those staying in-house over the period, the relevant Welfare Officers will be consulted if we have to prioritise the places available.

We look forward to seeing many of you over the festive period.

**Helen Emmerson,
Ovingdean Manager**

COME TO A FUN FETE AT ST DUNSTAN'S OIVINGDEAN

NOON START ON 12 SEPTEMBER: A fabulous fun fete will fill the grounds at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 12 September. Between 12:00 and 16:00, the green will be a forum for entertainment with the Geoff Masters Band, and demonstrations from Jive Dancers and a Military team. There will be stalls selling crafts and gifts, bric-a-brac, plus plenty of fun to appeal to all ages. Tombolas, raffles, and old favourites like Hook-a-Duck and Tin Can Alley. You won't starve either as we will have refreshments, tea, coffee, and cake on the day too.

We are hoping to attract plenty of people to come down, meet everyone, have fun spend their pennies and learn about our wonderful organisation. The day is very much about enjoyment but will also aim to raise awareness of visual impairment. We would love your assistance to make this a success and welcome any help offered (thanks to those who have already come forward). Time is also something we are in need of too! If you are interested in hearing more and would like to know how you can get involved please get in touch with Melinda Dixon on 01273 391493 or e-mail melinda.dixon@st-dunstans.org.uk. Melinda works in St Dunstan's Human Resources department and is coordinating the team of volunteers.

CULTURAL CELEBRATION AT ST DUNSTAN'S OIVINGDEAN

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS: St Dunstan's Ovingdean will open itself to the public on 12 September as part of the national Heritage Open Days scheme. Heritage Open Days celebrates England's architecture and culture by offering free access to properties usually closed to the public. Running 10-13 September, it embraces castles, factories, tithe barns, town halls, parish churches, and Buddhist temples.

It is possible to book in advance online at www.heritageopendays.org.uk. St Dunstan's Ovingdean will only be participating on 12 September with four possible tours led by St Dunstaners on that day. Tours will start at 10:30, 12:00, 14:00, and 15:30.

WRITERS FORUM MEETINGS

EVERY MONTH: The St Dunstan's Writers Forum takes place on the first Saturday of each month, between 10:30am and 12:30pm in the Blue Room at St Dunstan's Ovingdean with tutor Alan Morrison. Guidance with prose and poetry is provided in a supportive informal atmosphere, and all St Dunstaners are welcome to attend – particularly any budding poets or story writers. Contact Alan on 01273 693527 or therecusant@yahoo.co.uk.

CAPTAIN'S DAY ON 16 AUGUST

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CAPTAIN: The Captain's Day is on 16 August and will be played at Rusper Golf Club. Please support your Captain, John Powell.

The St Dunstan's Golf Club AGM will be at Sim Lounge, formerly known as Golf Addiction at Brighton Marina on 18 October, and will follow the same format as last year with the October Festival. Main items on the agenda will be to elect a new Secretary and organiser. Items for the AGM should be handed in before 14 October.

We have been invited to play a golf match at Northwood Golf Club in Middlesex. Those wishing to play please contact the Treasurer on 02392 582698. This year we have had other invites, but as yet no-one has volunteered to attend on behalf of the Golf Club. Does anyone want to play at Northwood? If not, we shall have to decline.

Les Trout, Secretary

RNA BADGE FOUND

LOST ITEM AT BIRMINGHAM REUNION: A Royal Naval Association badge was found at the Birmingham Reunion held at the Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston on 21 April. If you think the badge might belong to you, please contact Welfare Officer Angela Jones at St Dunstan's Derbyshire office.

WERE YOU A CRAFTY KNITTER?

RECOLLECTIONS WANTED: Did you do any knitting, stitch-craft or embroidery when serving in the Second World War? A textiles student is researching embroidery and stitch-craft in the Forces during WWII. This interest was sparked by finding an embroidery pattern produced by HM Briggs & Co for HM Forces for education purposes and for diversional therapy in Service and civilian hospitals and convalescence homes.

Craft kits were also distributed by the Red Cross to Service personnel and to Prisoners of War. Stories so far: thanks to an Army Education Officer, each of the 50 London gun sites had a needlework teacher from a local school assigned to it as embroidery was useful for keeping the personnel awake and alert and at the same time calming to the nerves. She has heard from a GI bride who stitched a map of England while sheltering from the Blitz in Brixton and also the story of a WAAF who embroidered in the Ops Room at Biggin Hill to relax during quiet periods – knitting apparently was not allowed due to the noise of the knitting needles which irritated some crew members.

If you have any recollections please contact Roberta Hazan at St Dunstan's on 020 7723 5021 or e-mail archives@st-dunstans.org.uk.

MOBILE SIGHT LOSS UNIT

ON THE ROAD: Action for Blind People's Mobile Sight Loss Information Service will be in Macclesfield and Southend during the week commencing 3 August. Then from 10 August, they move to Durham, Wakefield and West Riding of Yorkshire. In the week starting 17 August, they will be in Forfarshire, Brecon and Merthyr, followed by Accrington, North Yorkshire and Leicestershire after 24 August. Each location can be confirmed online at www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk or by calling their helpline on 0800 915 4666 nearer the time.

Lena Brookes

Mrs Lena May Brookes nee Arnold passed away on 23 June. She was the Lounge Sister at West House, Brighton until 1956. She married Donald George Brookes, the son of a First World War St Dunstaner on 21 July, 1956. We offer our sincere condolences to her children Ian and Wendy.

Earl Haig

George Alexander Eugene Douglas Haig, 2nd Earl Haig, OBE, RSA, DL died on 10 July, aged 91. He was the son of British World War I commander Field Marshal Douglas Haig, founder of The Royal British Legion.

From The Craft Workshop

About a year ago, St Dunstaner Frank Tinsley turned his carpentry skills to making children's rocking horses. Frank thoroughly enjoys making these horses and puts many hours of dedicated work into each one. They have been purchased for grandchildren by many St Dunstaners and staff alike, including our Chairman, Andrew Keeling, who bought a horse for his grand-daughter Maya. Here is a copy of the lovely thank you letter which Maya sent to Frank, one of many messages of thanks received from happy customers.



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.



Len Moules was one of several St Dunstaners taking part in our first flag day for over a decade.

Proud to do my bit

I disagree with the remarks of Billy Baxter in last month's Review. I was only too pleased to have the opportunity to collect for St Dunstan's who have done so much for me. It is great that over £2,000 was collected that day and I hope to be able to do it again.

Leonard Moules,
Selsey, Sussex

Fond memories of Thirties Flag Days

I don't suppose many people remember this, but St Dunstan's used to have flag days all the time. It was an annual event, quite popular back in the Thirties and I have fond memories of them. My father, George Fallowfield, was a deaf and blind St Dunstaner so had to have someone

accompany him. That was me and I recall going with him to Lancing. He had his collecting tin and a sash to wear and we stood out on the street rattling tins. Actually, I can't recall if we shook the tins or not, I know that's not politically correct these days, but I think we did very well.

Marjorie Scott,
Peacehaven, East Sussex

Feeling good

I volunteered as a street collector for the St Dunstan's Charity. I was a bit apprehensive because of the anti-this and anti-that rallies one encounters in Brighton these days. Nevertheless, I stood at my post in North Street and prepared myself for any possible confrontation.

Not a bit of it. What a revelation. From the initial minutes, I was subjected

to smiles, gestures of goodwill and most importantly, generous donations from people of all ages and all walks of life, with not one note of dissent.

Citizens and visitors to Brighton I'm proud of you. I'm sure your contributions will add to the quality of life at St Dunstan's. Thank you one and all for the restoration of the "feel good factor".

**Roy Hillman,
Hove, East Sussex**

Give something back to Brighton

I listened with interest to the letter in last month's Review from Billy Baxter. I have to say that I totally agree with the sentiments and thoughts he expressed and the reasoning behind them. I am sure that many of the longer serving St Dunstaners will also concur. I thought it worth mentioning that when I became a member of this illustrious Club in 1972, it was the tradition that the Grocers of Brighton held an annual dinner and those St Dunstaners at IFH and Pearson House

would be invited as guests and also receive some small gift. Billy's idea of holding an open day would be, in a way, reciprocating those ideals and giving something back to the Brighton and local community. I realise that to several fortunate St Dunstaners, IFH is their home and privacy of their private room is a must but they more than any of us should be proud and willing to allow the public view the privileges they enjoy on a daily basis; the training rooms in particular are a marvellous example of what St Dunstan's has provided for all of us lucky people.

**Gerry Jones,
St Agnes, Cornwall**

Continued support

To a certain extent, I agree with Billy Baxter and his comments last month; but I do realise that times are difficult and that fundraising is of vital importance, and am prepared to do what I can to help as, I am sure, are many other wives, husbands, families and friends. However, I do find it hard to believe that

we require £24 million a year. Is this accurate and ongoing or just because we need extra funds to refurbish Llandudno?

Even so, it is also very important to continue to raise awareness of St Dunstan's, whilst some ex-military blind are managing very well, there are some that are not – and need our help.

Military shows, events and the Cadet Challenges do serve the dual purpose of fundraising and awareness, with a mixture of St Dunstaners and volunteers. Volunteers are fine for fundraising, selling raffle tickets and holding collecting tins, but the awareness side of things should not be left in their hands. No matter how willing, without training, they cannot possibly provide accurate and up-to-date information about St Dunstan's and the work it does. Fundraising staff do have some training, but cannot possibly put forward the first hand knowledge proffered by St Dunstaners.

Until asked to stop I shall continue to turn out at

weekends and evenings, trying to find village halls for talks on dark and rainy winter nights, and getting sunburned at the military shows.

**Jax Whiteley,
Peacehaven, East Sussex**

The figures speak for themselves writes Chief Executive Robert Leader.

Just over nine years ago St Dunstan's was supporting around 1,000 beneficiaries. It now has an ongoing commitment to over 5,000 individuals. The Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009, during which we welcomed 560 new St Dunstaners, will show that we spent £27 million against income of £19.9 million.

A number of measures were taken, in the latter part of last year, to reduce expenditure and as a result, we have budgeted for expenditure of £23.7 million against income of £17.6 million in the current year, during which we expect to welcome a further 550 new St Dunstaners. It will I'm sure be recognised that investment income has already been drastically

affected by low interest rates, which will also have an adverse effect on legacy income and will result in an increasing annual deficit. Income is always extremely difficult to predict and this annual deficit must not be allowed to continue into a downward spiral.

In order to finance our running costs and capital commitments, it is vital that we do all we can to maximise our income, in these very difficult times.

Please keep us informed

I find it amazing that once again St Dunstan's have made a change without formally telling St Dunstaners in advance in the Review. The latest change is when we are in transit to or from St Dunstan's establishments in St Dunstan's transport we must take sandwiches or money for food if required on route.

Personally I do not have any problem in paying for my own food, except that I now need to know in advance the estimated

journey time, so I can make enough sandwiches or plan when I need to stop for a meal. As a diabetic this is important to me.

The St Dunstan's drivers are very professional in looking after us but have been put in an impossible position. It opens up a minefield of problems: If some St Dunstaners in the car wish to stop for food and some wish to eat sandwiches (you cannot take your own food into a service station) who does he look after?

This will no doubt increase journey times, as the St Dunstaners have to get their own meals. In the past the driver sat everyone down and brought the food to the table. He cannot handle a member's money so he has to take them to get the food and then see them pay and get them safely to the table with the food. If anyone in the group he is not looking after has an accident who will be held responsible?

I would also like to know how we get sandwiches for the return trip? If we miss the evening meal because we are late arriving at St Dunstan's will we get a refund for the missed meal?

I would like to remind you that we are all affected by the worldwide economic crisis. We cannot just increase our pensions, wages or benefits to overcome the problems. And please inform us in advance of any changes.

**Patrick Sidnell,
Chippenham,
Wiltshire**

• Although a formal announcement was not made in the Review, all St Dunstaners are being informed of the change in their Accommodation Booking Confirmation Letter prior to their journeys. As many St Dunstaners only visit sporadically, a letter is a safer way to ensure the message is conveyed.

As Chief Executive Robert Leader has pointed out, St Dunstan's is not immune to the worldwide economic downturn and

the efficient use of our resources to support St Dunstaners has never been of greater importance. By being prudent, we intend to meet our promise of lifelong support and commitment for all St Dunstaners. I would like to highlight that the transport itself for all St Dunstaners continues to be completely free of charge and that this recent change to the meals was decided after a consultation period in which the Transport department were fully involved.

All of our drivers are professional in looking after St Dunstaners during their journeys, and there is no reason why drivers cannot handle St Dunstaners' money to assist as people choose. It is estimated that this change will have little to no impact on the overall journey time as drivers will still be assisting people to sit down and get their meals as was done in the past.

Journey times can vary greatly due to many variables. The time spent at Services usually has

very little effect on the overall duration. If buses do happen to arrive at our centres after a meal time, staff will always endeavour to provide either a meal or a snack. Sandwiches will also be available to order from our kitchens for your return journey at the price of £3.50.

I hope this has explained not only the need for the change but has also reassured you that processes are in place to ensure a smooth transition for all involved.

**Helen Emmerson,
Centre Manager,
St Dunstan's Ovingdean**

An amazing day

My brother and I would like to thank St Dunstan's for an amazing and emotional day at the Trooping of the Colour. The impressive display of pageantry made us proud. My nephew was marching for the first time as a Grenadier Guard and this added to our delight.

**Janet Heyes,
Northfield,
Birmingham**

Inspiring company

Thank you for inviting the Town Clerk and myself to your Reunion at the Longmynd Hotel. It is always inspiring to be in the company of those who display such resilience and cheerfulness in spite of their disabilities and to see, at first hand, the thoughtful care that St Dunstan's provides. The town is proud to have such a long association with St Dunstan's and we hope it will continue to thrive for many years.

**Cllr Bob Welch,
Chairman and Mayor,
Town Council,
Church Stretton,
Shropshire**

A motto for living

At the Church Stretton event I, along with a number of St Dunstaners and other staff, met Professor Bob Scott who was running a stall at the Church Stretton "Summerfest". Bob was a great admirer of his Uncle Billy and made particular mention of this motto which he

felt was very fitting and reflective of the attitude of St Dunstaners.

**Barry Porter,
St Dunstan's, London**

• William Scott was an 18-year-old serving in the Machine Gun Corps when blinded during the First World War. After training at St Dunstan's, he enjoyed a 40-year career as a physiotherapist. And as for that motto ...

Life's Motto

" If you have to wait a while - relax,
Turn your frown into a smile,
Do not fidget, fuss or fret,
Waste no time in vain regret,
Be content with what you get,
& Relax "

It was a privilege

I was touched by the happiness the St Dunstan's 50-Year-Badge Holders Reunion brought to all who attended, shared memories and had a great love for and pride

in the organisation itself. It was a privilege to be with you all.

**Sylvia Pagan,
Stockport, Cheshire**

• Our thanks go to all who wrote to say they enjoyed the reunion.

Englishman goes up mountain, comes down hill

We congratulate the Chairman, Andrew Keeling, on his wonderful day on Snowdon (July Review). However, we feel obliged to point out that, although higher than anything else in England or Wales, Snowdon is actually far from being the UK's second highest mountain. It actually lies in the lowly position of 57th. The number two spot is held by Ben Macdui in the heart of the Cairngorms, and we look forward to reading Andrew's report from its summit in due course.

**Richard Hellewell,
Chief Executive,
Royal Blind and
Scottish War Blinded,
Edinburgh**

Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

James Herriot's Favourite Dog Stories

Author: James Herriot

Reader: Daniel Philpott

Catalogue No 11584

Duration: 3 hours, 15 Minutes

One always knows what to expect from this famous vet's stories; there'll be humour, a little pathos, and an assortment of characters (both animal and human) that townsfolk can feel superior to. When he writes about dogs, however, he enters a new dimension altogether. Dogs aren't animals, they are individual personalities with their own virtues, vices and foibles. Mr Herriot describes these with such gushing sentimentality that one could easily believe he was writing about members of his family. He tells us all sorts of things about his beloved dogs, even what they are thinking, but what he does not divulge (though present day pet owners could probably hazard a guess) is what he charged for his professional services. Is there any wonder that all vets are very fond of dogs?

Ten questions on...

The subject of Communications

Telegraph teasers from **Harry Beevers**

- 1) The first private telephone call in England was received by Thomas Biddulf in 1878 at Osborne House, in the Isle of Wight. Who made the call?
- 2) And in 1958, the first STD call in this country was made from Bristol to Edinburgh. Who made this call?
- 3) Which form of telecommunication system was introduced into Britain on 1 January 1985 with comedian Ernie Wise making the first call?
- 4) In which visual signalling code do the relative positions of two movable pointers or hand-held flags stand for different letters or numbers?
- 5) Whitehall 1212 was the old telephone number of which London establishment?
- 6) When trying to contact the emergency services in the UK, what number is the alternative to 999?
- 7) Which British city has the letters BT as the first two of its postal code?
- 8) Who was the first actress, an Oscar winner in the film *The Country Girl*, to appear on a European postage stamp?
- 9) A golden stamp went on sale in Britain in April 1997 to commemorate what?
- 10) Postage stamps depicting Count Dracula were issued in Ireland in 1997 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of which writer?

Answers can be found on page 47.

Final sunset for Henry

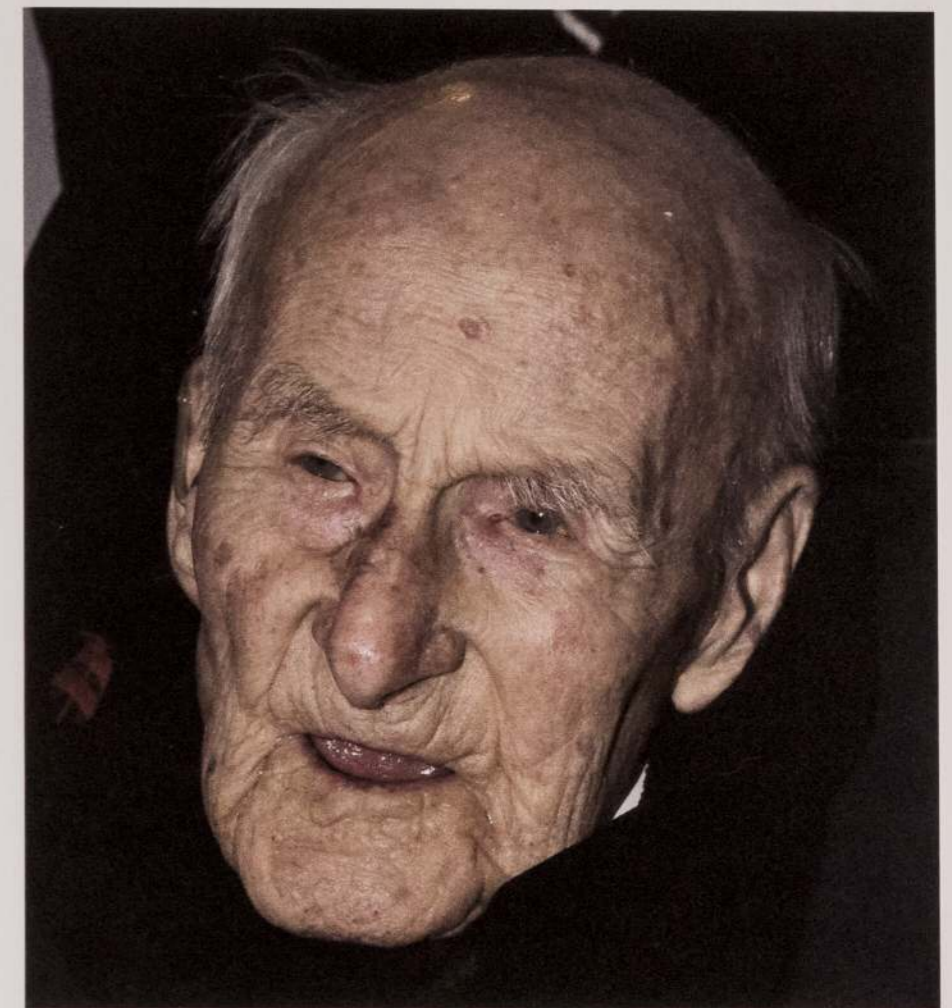
Henry Allingham, 113, passes away peacefully in his sleep

FIRST WORLD WAR veteran St Dunstaner Henry Allingham – who officially became the World's Oldest Man in June – has died at the age of 113 and 42 days. He passed away peacefully in his sleep on 18 July at 3:10am.

Born on 6 June 1896, Henry served with the Royal Naval Air Service during the First World War, later transferring to the Royal Air Force and serving at Ypres. Henry was one of only two surviving Servicemen from WWI in the UK.

He became a St Dunstaner in January 2005, having lost his sight as a result of macular degeneration, and has been a resident at St Dunstan's Ovingdean since April 2006.

St Dunstan's Patron Her Majesty The Queen led tributes to Henry. "The Queen was saddened to hear of the death of Henry Allingham," a Buckingham



Palace spokesman said. "He was one of the unique generation who sacrificed so much for us all. Her thoughts are with his family during this time."

Sympathy also came from The Prince of Wales who previously described Henry as "one of our nation's historic treasures". Prime Minister Gordon Brown added: "I had the privilege of meeting

Henry many times. He was a tremendous character, one of the last representatives of a generation of tremendous characters. My thoughts are with his family as they mourn his passing but celebrate his life."

Veterans Minister Kevan Jones said he was "greatly saddened" to hear of Henry's death. "For one of his age, his vigour for

life was extraordinary," he said. "I was humbled to meet somebody who had led such an amazing life and we owe such a huge debt of gratitude to him and his generation."

First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Jonathon Band said: "Henry will be remembered with great fondness for his strong sense of humour and joy of life, and he was an inspiration for all those serving in the Royal Navy." Henry's RAF service was also recognised. Air Chief Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy, Chief of the Air Staff, said his passing was a "milestone in history".

"Henry was an inspiration to many and his thirst for life, cheery disposition and a desire to help others was his mark."

Speaking from the Chapel at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, Chief Executive Robert Leader offered condolences from all within the charity. "Everybody at St Dunstan's is saddened by Henry's loss and our sympathy goes out to his family," said Robert. "He was very active right up to his final days, having recently celebrated his 113th birthday on HMS *President* surrounded by family. As well as possessing a great spirit of fun, he represented the last of a generation who gave a very great deal for us. Henry made many friends among the residents and staff at St Dunstan's. He was a great character and will be missed."

Dennis Goodwin, founder of the First

World War Veterans' Association, also paid tribute to Henry. "Henry was truly a gentleman - his strength of character, his purpose. He left quite a legacy to the nation of memories of what it was like to have been in WWI."

There was a minute of silence observed for Henry at Lords Cricket Ground before play began on the Ashes.

Henry Allingham was born in Clapton in the East End of London while Queen Victoria was still on the throne. Brought up by his mother and grandparents after his father died when he was three years old, he attended the London County Council School in South Lambeth Road.

His first job was at a surgical instrument maker called Arnolds who sent him to St Bart's Hospital for training. He then joined a coachbuilders specialising in car bodies.

Henry joined the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) in 1915 and was drafted to the RNAS Air Station at Great Yarmouth as an aircraft mechanic. He

acted as an observer and gunner searching for U-boats, Zeppelins and mines over the North Sea.

He later confessed that he did not realise what war meant when he signed up, but his experiences at the Third Battle of Ypres, widely known as Passchendaele, turned enthusiasm for battle and glory into a passion for peace.

He once told the BBC: "War's stupid. Nobody wins. You might as well talk first, you have to talk last anyway."

The scenes he witnessed of soldiers waiting to go over the top at Ypres have stayed with him ever since. "They would just stand there in 2ft of water in mud-filled trenches, waiting to go forward," he said. "They knew what was coming. It was pathetic to see those men like that. I don't think they have ever got the admiration and respect they deserved."

In May 1916, he was ordered aboard HMT *Kingfisher* as it set out to join the British Battle Fleet, to help launch a



Henry as a baby.

Sopwith Schneider seaplane to look for the German Battle Fleet. It was night when they met up with the fleet and Henry witnessed the Battle of Jutland.

In 1917, he was sent to France with 12 Squadron RNAS to support the Royal Flying Corps. Henry's job as a mechanic was to service aircraft and recover parts from downed planes. Pilots would often ask their mechanics to fly with them, and Henry would sit behind his pilot and drop bombs or operate the Lewis machine gun. He saw service in Flanders at the Somme and Ypres then moved to the Aircraft Depot at Dunkirk where he stayed until the end of the war.

On 1 April 1918 the Royal Naval Air Service and

the Royal Flying Corps merged to form the Royal Air Force. Henry was transferred into the newly formed RAF as Rigger Aero (Aircraft Mechanic Second Class). Henry married his wife Dorothy on 21 March 1918 and left the RAF in April 1919.

During the Second World War Henry was in a reserved occupation. In 1939, he was called away from Christmas lunch to lead a team in finding a solution to the menace of magnetic mines dropped in the harbour at Harwich. The team devised an effective system which was then fitted to every ship to neutralise magnetic mines.

Henry and his wife Dorothy were married for almost 53 years before her death in 1970. They had two daughters, Jean and Betty, six grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, 21 great, great grandchildren and one great, great, great grandchild. After the war he went into the motor industry, eventually joining the design department at Ford before retiring in 1961.



Henry at his old school in the East End of London.

When asked how he had lived so long, Henry often used his stock reply that it was due to "cigarettes, whisky and wild, wild women." In a more serious tone, he added: "I don't know if there is a secret, but keeping within your capacity is vital. I've had two major breakdowns, one during the war and one after but both when I was trying to do the work of three men."

Photograph: Simon Rogers



First World War veteran Henry nears the Cenotaph on the 90th Anniversary of the Armistice.

In 2003, Henry was awarded as Chevalier, Légion d'Honneur and after the unveiling of the British Air Services Memorial at St Omer Aerodrome, France was made a freeman of St Omer in 2004. He was also a freeman of Eastbourne and more recently of Brighton and Hove.

On 11 November 2008, Henry was in Whitehall along with two other First World War veterans, Harry Patch and the late William Stone, at a service to mark the 90th Anniversary of the Armistice. The nation held its breath as Henry, accompanied by Flt Lt Michelle Goodman, DFC,

tried unsuccessfully to stand and place a wreath at the Cenotaph. On 16 March this year, Henry was promoted to Officier, Légion d'Honneur for his part in protecting France during the World Wars. In the same month, he was made the first honorary lifetime member of the Royal Naval Association.

On 6 June, he celebrated his 113th birthday with a party held by the Royal Navy at HMS *President* in London. It was attended by members of Henry's family, most of whom reside in the USA, as

well as close friends and members of the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

On 19 June, Henry became the world's oldest man after Tomoji Tanabe died at his home in southern Japan at the age of 113.

Henry was always determined to ensure that today's generation does not forget the sacrifice of those who died on the Western Front. He regularly visited schools and attended Service related events as an ambassador for his generation.

Princess Royal makes case for older deafblind

A DEAFBLIND St Dunstaner met HRH The Princess Royal at a special reception organised by Sense on 27 May. The Princess is patron of the charity for deafblind people.

Sense - the National Deafblind and Rubella Association - had organised the function at the Birmingham Hippodrome to highlight the needs of older deafblind people. Her Royal Highness met individuals supported by Sense in the Midlands, including Royal Navy St Dunstaner Ken Barrett, MBE, 85, a deafblind man who travelled from Leasingham near Sleaford in Lincolnshire.

"I go to Sense events and have come into touch with other people who have also experienced sight and hearing loss,"



Photographs copyright and courtesy Rowland Rowley

HRH The Princess Royal with Ken Barrett, MBE.

said Ken. "Today was another opportunity to do so and meet people working in this field. Sense has shown me that with the right support and adaptations older deafblind people can carry on living their lives."

Peter Cheer, Regional Director at Sense, said: "It is estimated that there are over 200,000 older deafblind people in the UK, and that their

numbers will grow significantly in the future.

"The difficulties they experience can be acute: increasing isolation, difficulty in maintaining independence and often poor health. It is vital that their needs should be recognised more widely, and that more services are provided to help older deafblind people maintain their health and independence."

Chindits lay up Standard

ST DUNSTANER Ben Gascoigne joined fellow Chindits at a Service of Thanksgiving and the laying up of their national Standard at Lichfield Cathedral, Staffordshire on 19 June.

Ben and other members of the Chindits Old Comrades Association were joined by HRH The Prince of Wales who paid tribute to the courage and dedication of British troops past and present.

The Service marked the 65th anniversary of the Chindits' second expedition behind enemy lines in Burma.

The Chindits were an 18,000-strong division of troops, specially trained in Commando methods to infiltrate behind Japanese lines in Burma during the Second World War. "It was amazing how the lads adapted to life there," said Ben, now aged 93. "But some

Photograph copyright Barry Batchelor/PA



The Prince of Wales with the Chindits in Lichfield.

of them did suffer. I was a Transport Sergeant and went from a load of armoured cars to a few mules." He also recalled an occasion when a night attack wiped out most of his column.

Ben added that although security was strict, the Prince was very relaxed as he cut a cake that had been made for the occasion. He also spoke with everyone present.

Thanking them for their "extraordinary service", The Prince said: "All I can tell you is that the same

incredible gallantry, courage and dedication to duty is being shown and displayed as we speak, by your successors who are now serving in the Armed Forces."

During the hour-long thanksgiving service at Lichfield Cathedral, the Chindits' Standard was handed to the Dean of Lichfield, The Very Rev Adrian Dorber. Although the Standard has been laid up, members of the Chindits Old Comrades Association will continue to meet as long as possible.

Sizzling show from Royal Band

THE BAND of HM Royal Marines Portsmouth, The Royal Band made a triumphant return to St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 15 July. It may have been breezy, blustery even, but the clouds held off as the Band, supported by the Corps of Drums, moved from the martial march of *Thunderbirds* to big band style jazz. There was even some dancing as they emulated the sound of Glenn Miller.

New Director of Music Captain Richard Long conducted, laying firm



Norman Walton enjoys a quick dance with Pam.



The Corps of Drums march off to a round of applause.

ground for an obo solo from Sarah Jones, who had only joined six weeks before, and some electric guitar from Musician Skidmore. One number entitled *Daedalus* celebrated 100 years of naval aviation and had only been played three days earlier at Walmer Green during a memorial concert for 11 Royal Marines killed by the IRA in Deal 20 years ago.

An emotional chord was also struck when it was revealed that six of the Marines had recently returned from duty in Afghanistan where they had been supporting medics. A round of

applause erupted from the audience prompting a tear from one Marine.

The afternoon advanced with music from *West Side Story*, followed by some marches, and a double rendition of *Rule Britannia* which inspired some St Dunstaners to wave their hands in the air with Proms-style enthusiasm.

Guests included the High Sheriff of East Sussex Bill Shelford, veterans from the Queen Alexandra Home, and St Dunstan's supporters. Vice Chairman Tim Bacon thanked the Band for an excellent performance.

Pétanque is winning game for Brian and Margaret

A ST DUNSTANER and his wife have proved a winning pair in local Pétanque competitions. Also known as Boules, the French game can be played anywhere with players trying to get their boule close to the Jack. While it costs next to nothing to get started, it has been a profitable endeavour for Brian and Margaret Eldridge of Gotherington, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Photograph copyright Brian and Margaret Eldridge



Brian has twice won the Village Shield and he and Margaret also won the silver platter in Hereford.

"We are fortunate to have a Pétanque piste in our village and are able to join friends and neighbours two or three times a week to play this simple and sociable game," said Margaret. "We have approximately 50 members in our club and hold various competitions throughout the year. Brian has won the Singles for the last two years and together

we have won the Pairs twice." Brian and Margaret have also travelled in and around the country playing in a Cotswold League and other competitions including one at Hereford where they won a silver platter. The couple generously donated almost £200 in winnings to St Dunstan's to help other blind ex-Service men and women.

Brian served in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps from 1966 to 1975. Later, he developed Retinitis Pigmentosa, but considers himself fortunate to retain a little central vision. He is the only visually impaired player at the Pétanque club but adds that he is made to feel equal. "I find most people are helpful if they know you have a problem," he said.

England Blind Football Squad reach Euro Final

A ST DUNSTANER and his team mates came close to winning the European Blind Football Championships in France last month. However, a Roy of the Rovers moment came for their French opponents who scored two goals in the last five minutes claiming sudden victory.

It was a thrilling final to a six day tournament that pitched blind football players from European countries into vigorous competition. The IBSA (International Blind Sport Federation) Football European Championships took place in Nantes from 26 June to 5 July.

Blind football with five players is called Cécifoot in France. Teams entered in the championships played in B1 and B2/B3 categories at different

venues around Nantes. The B1 footballers play with ocular patches or blindfolds over their eyes.

Liverpool St Dunstaner Craig Lundberg played in the number five shirt and made his debut in the left back position during a match against Germany on 29 June. It was a good start for Craig and his team mates as they won 4-1.

The winning streak continued next day when the team played against Italy, this time winning 2-0. However, Craig suffered a head injury in the next game, bravely persevering with a bandaged wound. This time the team lost 3-1 to France.

The team was back on form on 3 July, winning 3-2 against Spain. This was a significant match since Spain have beaten

the England team in previous semi-finals. This win put them forward for the final against France.

As a result, Craig celebrated his 24th birthday on the pitch. With an audience of thousands, the England team led 2-1 for most of the match. With five minutes to go, a French player scored an equaliser then quickly followed through with the winning goal just before the final whistle.

Although the football season is over, any rest for Craig and his team mates may be short-lived. Preparations are underway for The Blind World Cup which will be held in Hereford next year. Also, despite being an accredited "Red", Craig is also committed to working with the Everton Blind Team and Everton Foundation. Go Blues!

Saluting the Armed Forces

Thousands turn out for first Armed Forces Day on 27 June

Photographs Simon Rogers



THE FIRST Armed Forces Day was marked by hundreds of events around the country on 27 June. An estimated 30,000 people flocked to Medway for the national event at the Historic Dockyard Chatham where HRH The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester led proceedings with Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Veterans Minister Kevan Jones, and Chief of the Defence Staff Sir Jock Stirrup. A message of good will came from Her Majesty The Queen. "I am delighted to send all Servicemen and women,

Veterans, and Service families, my warm good wishes." She added that events registered the deep and enduring gratitude that the nation has for all those who serve their country. The 2010 Armed Forces Day will be held in Cardiff.

HRH The Duke of Gloucester with St Dunstan's Stephen Pendleton, injured while serving with the Royal Green Jackets.



Above: Veterans Minister Kevan Jones and Nigel Whiteley.

Photograph copyright Barry Turner



Armed Forces Day was celebrated in style at the National Memorial Arboretum. There were large crowds to applaud the Veterans on parade. The St Dunstan's Standard was carried by Arthur Carter, accompanied by Major Adrian Golland. The salute was taken by Colonel Mike Beatty, CBE, TD, DL, the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire. Behind Arthur is Alan Holmes, a veteran of Anzio and Cassino.

Photograph copyright Hazel Humphrey



St Dunstan's Chris Humphrey was on duty in Cromer on Armed Forces Day. This family friendly event included displays of vehicles and uniforms. One visitor to St Dunstan's stand was the Lady Mayor Hilary Thompson who had opened the local show.



St Dunstan's Les Peploe, Ted Williams, Bill Burrows, David Jones, and others attended an Armed Forces Day show in Seaford which included a display of military vehicles. The Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Peter Field took the salute with Seaford's Mayor Carolyn Lambert.

Family tee at Cottesmore

Clash of the clans on the golf course at Invitation Day

Photographs Simon Rogers



Team Powell. St Dunstaner John Powell with his daughter, grand-daughters and son-in-law.

IT WAS VERY much a family affair at St Dunstan's Golf Club's Invitation Day on 28 June. The day was a clash of the clans so far as some of the teams playing at Cottesmore Golf Club in Pease Pottage were concerned.

Club Captain St Dunstaner John Powell was playing with son-in-law Bob and grand-daughters Antonia and Alex; St Dunstaner Geoff Collins tackled the course with wife Val and son Steve; while St Dunstaner Des



There is no stopping St Dunstaner Mike Mayo.

Steve Finnieston joined St Dunstaner Graham Johnson on the green. He also got roped in to present prizes when the shots had all been tallied. Steve spoke of his continuing admiration for the St Dunstaners he had met in recent years.

St Dunstaner John Powell emerged as the champion for the year, closely followed by EBGGA player Mike Loten, with Graham Johnson in third place.

The top team called themselves Blind Speed Junkies, not surprisingly

Chandler had his daughter Tanya spotting and setting up shots for him.

There was celebrity support for the day as legendary Chelsea striker

because ski champ St Dunstaner Kevin Alderton was at the helm. In second place was John Nunney's team the Wellow Wanderers followed by Mike Mayo's The Sultan of Swings.

Mike was also nearest the pin on the eighth hole and John Powell cracked the 13th. Kevin Alderton and Des Chandler managed to tie on being

nearest the line and the putting competition was won by Andy Lane.

Many thanks must go to the caddies and guides for their assistance and also to those who have given their time and help over this last year to make this event happen.

Our thanks go to the sponsors of this year's event for prizes

and other donations. They were Mizuno Corporation, Calloway Golf, Lyle & Scott, Golf Elite, American Golf, Sherpashaw Golf, John Sawyer, Donald Oliver, Middlesex, Hampshire and IOW Masonic Golf Societies, Jon New South Coast Taxis (Sussex Ltd), and last but by no means least, Marked & Sparkling who engraved the trophies.

St Dunstaner Derek Roden takes a swing. Right: Des and Tanya. Below: Steve Finnieston congratulates Kevin.



Despatches from the Wire

Ray Hazan is embedded at the 50-Year-Badge Holders Reunion which returned to St Dunstan's wartime home

THE STEEP SLOPE up to the Longmynd Hotel, Church Stretton beckoned once again. The 13 St Dunstaners, 19 widows, plus their spouses or escorts and staff climbed the hill eagerly, though it has to be admitted the journey was by vehicle rather than by "wire" – to be explained later.

The 50-Year-Badge Holders Reunion was held in Church Stretton from 18-21 June. This special reunion is a mark of respect to those who have been St Dunstaners for 50 years or more as much as an opportunity for those who trained there during the war years, to revisit where it all began for them. For although our building at Ovingdean was ready for occupation in 1938, it was deemed too dangerous a location on the South Coast. So, St Dunstan's "invaded" the quiet Shropshire town of Church Stretton, taking over many of the buildings, which became accommodation

or training rooms. It was here that many St Dunstaners met their wives, some of whom were members of the VAD – Voluntary Aid Detachment – or carers as they are known today.

Thanks to detailed arrangements made by Barbara Sweeney, David Vinall and many other members of staff, guests were quickly and efficiently settled into rooms they had mostly occupied the previous year. It was heart warming to hear the chatter, ebullience and pleasure of greetings made between such long standing friends. We were sad that Bill

and Alice Griffiths, Bob and Joan Osborne and Joy Walters were unable to join us and we send them our best wishes.

The Longmynd Hotel is a family run business. Rooms have changed little since they were occupied by St Dunstaners those many years ago! It was fascinating to learn that one of the upstairs rooms had been converted into an operating theatre during the war. What would Health and Safety have to say about that today? Staff had undergone quite a change but the standard of service, their politeness, friendliness and helpfulness all contributed to the enjoyment and appreciation of our stay.

On the Friday almost everyone undertook the outing to nearby Shrewsbury to the Quarry



Photograph copyright John Corfield

St Dunstaners Norman Hopkins, Reg Goding, and Ted Higgs tell Kate Adie how they achieved victory over blindness at Church Stretton during World War II.

Gardens, recommended by Tom Hart, who had visited there before with the Gardening Club. Opposite the Gardens was the church where Reg Goding was first married; an emotional moment for him. It was pleasant to stroll through well tended plots, interspersed with statues and fountains. The sun shone in an effort to show off the flora at their best. We then satisfied the inner soul by partaking

of sandwiches and ale at a nearby pub, the Boathouse, which also served an assortment of local brews.

That evening, we were very privileged to have the BBC Correspondent Kate Adie, OBE address the gathering. She is very much in demand as a speaker and we were indebted that she gave us her time freely and with a genuine interest in our St Dunstaners.

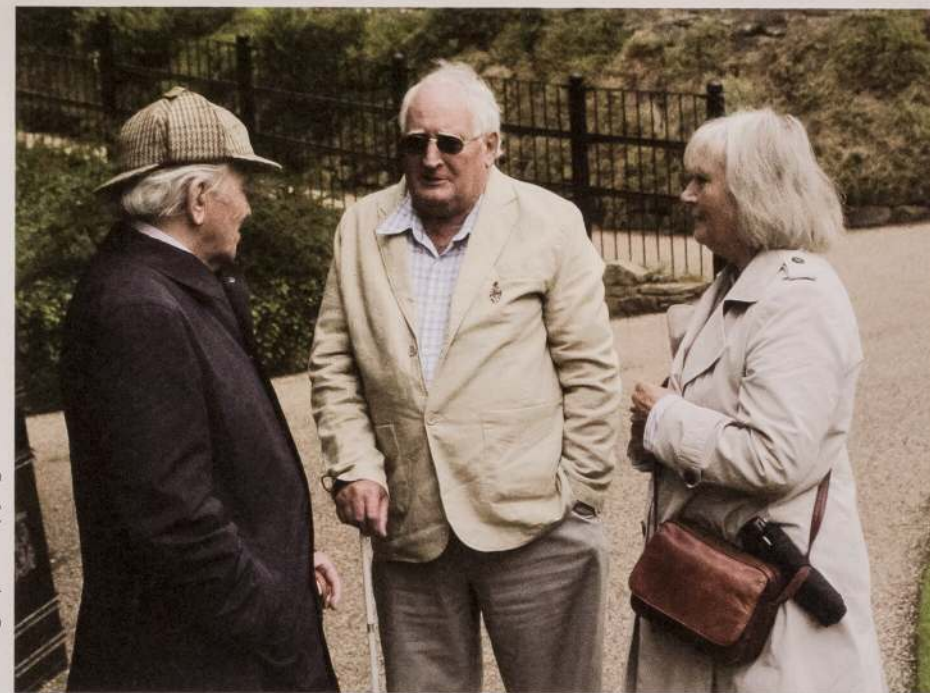
Before introducing Kate Adie, Chief Executive Robert Leader led the room in singing Happy Birthday to Dorothy Docton. He then went on to quote: "Kate's *piece de resistance* has to be when three Chinese policemen tried to stop her getting her tape out of Tiananmen Square. She said, 'I kicked the first one in the groin, punched the second with my left hand, and body charged the third!' I give you Kate Adie."



Photographs copyright Paul James

The Town Crier looms over Tom Hart.

Kate talked about her school days and university, with her rare claim to have a degree in Swedish and Ancient Icelandic! "I look forward to being a national treasure when the Vikings next invade!" Kate spoke of her beginnings in local radio, which itself was in its infancy. "The whole business of voices is the magic of radio. It makes you conjure up pictures in your mind. Local radio taught me to listen to everyday people, who spoke from the heart rather than celebrities, who are coached by their



Professor Maurice Aldridge and John and Sue Lilley meet up during a stroll in the Avery Garden.

PR advisors." Kate started, amongst other duties, as a "weather girl", which consisted of looking out of the window before broadcasting the report!

Kate went on to describe her change to television and having to learn about military matters. She described her experiences in the first Gulf War. "A middle aged woman who did not like camping and therefore most unsuitable for military service!" But what impressed her most of all, listening to the conversations around her on the eve of battle, was the feeling

of camaraderie, loyalty and friendship. Kate concluded by saying she had heard these qualities in the room tonight and "Long may they endure."

Her speech was a mixture of humour, history, and the role of women, especially in the war years. A true professional, her crafting of words, her delivery and clarity of speech confirmed all we know and respect of the familiar voice we hear on television and radio.

Our widow Joan Revis delivered the vote of thanks and put well into

words the sincerity of our gratitude. A bouquet of flowers was presented to our guest speaker by Kay Brereton. Kate then went on to talk to as many St Dunstaners as she could; it was a truly wonderful evening.

Not to be outdone, Saturday proved to be a fun day. Church Stretton was holding a Summerfest. Streets were closed as stalls were set up. Steam traction engines puffed their way through the town, vying with the sounds of the many jazz and marching bands. The usual aromas of burgers, bangers and suckling pig wafted through the air.

Most interesting was the re-enactment of the wire. This was a single strand which led from the Longmynd at the top of the hill down towards the town. This was how St Dunstaners would find their way to the pubs and tea-rooms by themselves. The climb back uphill would have kept them very fit! A local BBC news

team filmed Norman Hopkins and Gwen Obern walking down the wire – most appropriate as they both trained at Church Stretton. Many visited nearby Ludlow during the afternoon and some even returned to the Summerfest after dinner.

Our final evening meal was followed by a very much appreciated address from the Chairman, Major General Andy Keeling, Royal Marines, CB, CBE. He appreciated that the amendment in constitution had made great changes to St Dunstan's but he

doubted whether the Charity would still exist had not this particular nettle been grasped.

After some very amusing stories, the Chairman went on to talk about local history. By his reckoning, some eight St Dunstaners and 11 of the widows present had been at Church Stretton. The first arrivals had been men blinded during WWI. One had joined the Home Guard as an instructor and another, a South African, had joined the Medical Corps as a physiotherapist. He also referred to civilians, blinded in raids, who



Photograph copyright Paul James

Nancy Bickley, Anne Moore and Marie Blacker make a new friend in a garden designed by Percy Thrower.



Reg Goding, Barry Porter and Elsie Aldred.

had been admitted to Church Stretton. After thanking all the staff who had been involved in organising the reunion, the Chairman quoted from Lord Fraser's book:

"What do I think of St Dunstan's? I suppose I am hardly an impartial or objective witness. But I think it is a wonderful organisation, which has done more materially and spiritually than any other body of its kind in any part of the world. Not only for its members, but it has by its members' activities, inspired and encouraged work for the blind generally

and a hopeful attitude amongst the blind themselves. It has been, and still is, a proud part of Britain's story, which has exemplified some of our people's finest characteristics: courage, doggedness and adaptability amongst our St Dunstaners, and kindness amongst our staff. Some good comes out of evil. Britain and the world is better for the existence of St Dunstan's." The Chairman closed by saying that he considered the word "hero" had become overused and undervalued these days. He had felt uncomfortable at all the "heroes" parades following the Falklands campaign, in which he had served. "I was a professional and that was my business. The dictionary describes a hero as someone who is a man or a woman of superhuman qualities or a man or a woman admired for achievements and noble qualities. So, to my mind, you war blind St Dunstaners or those of long standing are

real heroes and I salute you. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do." He drew rapturous applause.

On the Sunday morning, the gathering departed towards Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and many destinations in England. The staff had played their part in a great team effort. The warmth of friendship and the feeling of family which had permeated throughout the weekend personified the true spirit of St Dunstan's.

A recording of the speeches may be heard at the end of the MP3CD version of the Review.



Photograph copyright Bill Lyth

Happy Birthday Dorothy.

Fighting for the future of St Dunstan's Blind Heroes

Laura Mitchell declares that the first St Dunstan's Blind Heroes Week - 22-28 June - was a runaway success



Photograph copyright Jim Holden

Angela Rippon joins St Dunstaners Roy King, Charles Rance, and Stan Grimsey in sampling a few cakes made to raise support for blind ex-Service men and women.

ST DUNSTAN'S LAUNCHED its inaugural "Blind Heroes Week" on 22 June. The week was conceived to honour St Dunstaners, who have served their country and won a greater battle – that of living full and self-sufficient lives after losing their sight. The

aim of the week was to create appreciation for St Dunstan's work and to raise funds to enable us to support blind ex-Service men and women in their journey to a positive, independent future.

To test the potential of the concept in its first year, it was decided that

activity should focus on Brighton and the South East, an area of existing support and St Dunstan's presence. The Fundraising and Communications Team, supported by staff, St Dunstaners and volunteers, led events and initiatives during the week 22-28 June.



St Dunstaner Arthur Newlove with Angela Rippon.

Broadcaster Angela Rippon, OBE, one of the best known faces and voices in British broadcasting, also showed her support for the week. Angela spent the day at our Ovingdean centre, experiencing first hand what it is like to live without sight.

Wearing a sleep shade to simulate total blindness, Angela was guided through

independent living skills by St Dunstan's Rehabilitation and Training staff. She was taught basic techniques to help carry out some everyday tasks those of us with sight take for granted, such as making a cup of tea, navigating stairs and doors and using IT equipment.

Angela was impressed by the level of care and expertise shown by the staff and moved by many

of the St Dunstaners' stories, saying she had a "fantastic day" meeting "truly inspirational" St Dunstaners.

Angela also joined an afternoon tea dance, dancing with several St Dunstaners and showing her famous skills! She took the time to speak with many individuals and made everyone feel welcome. We had good comments from St Dunstaners who thoroughly enjoyed themselves on the day!

A whole host of fundraising initiatives took place prior to and during the week:

Street Collection

A team of 64 volunteers were out in force on 25 June for our first major flag day in over a decade.

These are just some of the volunteers who took to the streets to support St Dunstan's on its first flag day in over a decade. We thank them all.



The sun shone on our band of happy volunteers, which included seven St Dunstaners and their spouses, who all came back with heavy collection tins and positive feedback from the public.

Direct Mail

Mailings were sent to households prior to the week to increase awareness of the campaign and recruit new donors were recruited, taking our grand total of supporters to 180,000. The highest response to the mailings was seen during St Dunstan's Blind Heroes Week.

The Great Cake Bake

This enterprise, launched in June, was supported by celebrity chef Phil Vickery, who donated cake recipes and allowed us to use his image and quotes for publicity. People all over the UK were encouraged to bake cakes and raise funds. Staff at St Dunstan's showed off their baking skills and community cake bakers, including many St Dunstaners, also held events to raise funds.

Armed Forces Day

St Dunstaners and staff attended key Armed Forces Day events and

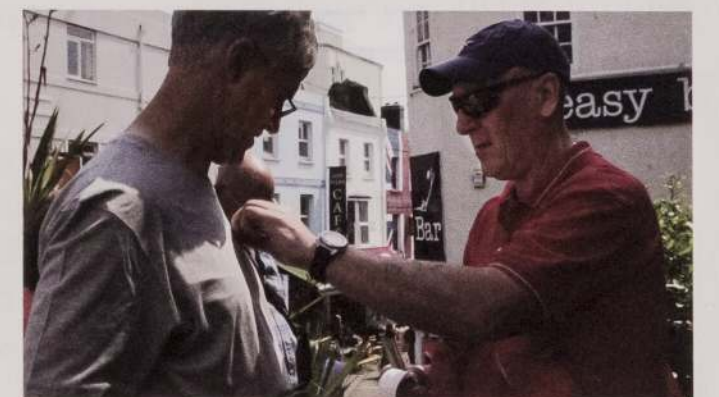
other military shows: Swanage (Nigel and Jacquie Whiteley), Stirling (Ian and Pamela Graham), Bognor Regis (Gerry and Maureen Jackson), Shrewsbury (Dave and Dot Stuttard) and the national event at Chatham where staff had the St Dunstan's trailer on display. Visitors were invited to try games and low vision equipment, often making a donation.

Advertising

The campaign launched on 15 June provided a huge amount of support for all the fundraising promotions. St Dunstan's Blind Heroes Week



St Dunstaners Wallace and Jean were near the Clocktower in Brighton.



St Dunstaner Billy Black was in town.



appeared on local radio stations, newspapers, magazines, online, on lamp-post banners, outdoor posters and promotion bikes in the Brighton area. The campaign, featuring



Kozy Haskey flies the flag for St Dunstan's.

St Dunstaners Mansel Lewis, Matt Rhodes and Kerry Reed was designed to convey a bold and upbeat image of St Dunstan's. It contained information encouraging supporters to call our donation line and visit the website. The St Dunstan's website received a record amount of visits and donations to the site during June

Gifts in Wills Event

A group of long-standing supporters who had previously enquired about leaving a gift in their will to St Dunstan's attended a tour of our Ovingdean centre. They met with

staff and St Dunstaners and saw first hand some of the inspiring work we do. Attendees were very moved by their experience and commented on the high level of empathy shown by staff. An amazing 70 per cent of those who attended the event have pledged a gift to St Dunstan's. A very successful day, laying the foundations for similar events in the future

Media activity

The activity began with the Argus, Brighton's local paper, including a double page feature containing strong messaging and uplifting

personal stories of several St Dunstaners. With the support received by Angela Rippon we achieved some very strong coverage among a very large audience, including ITV Meridian (1.75 million viewers) who ran a two minute feature on 25 June during both their 18:00 and 22:00 bulletins. The piece included interviews with Angela, ROVI Grant Smith and St Dunstaner Arthur Lowe. Additional coverage appeared in The Argus and Heart FM radio ran an interview with Angela. All coverage helped drive support for St Dunstan's Week.

St Dunstan's would like to say a big thank you to all those who were involved and helped with making this campaign a success.

Springboard for the future

The Fundraising and Communications team is undertaking a full evaluation of the week's outcomes and will make recommendations regarding future events. Early indications show that the first Blind Heroes Week has been a very positive and successful programme. Though funds are still coming in, through generous donations, the total amount raised to date

for the campaign is over a staggering £80,000. Funds raised will help us continue to honour our commitment in caring for blind ex-Service men and women.



Photograph copyright Bill Lyth

Angela dances with St Dunstan's elder statesman Terry Walker.



St Dunstaner Ernie Bignell did well.



Well done St Dunstaner John Creaton.



Snowdrops on patrol at the Station.

Supporter Vera Mason did her bit for St Dunstan's, noting that she received a better response when wearing dark glasses.

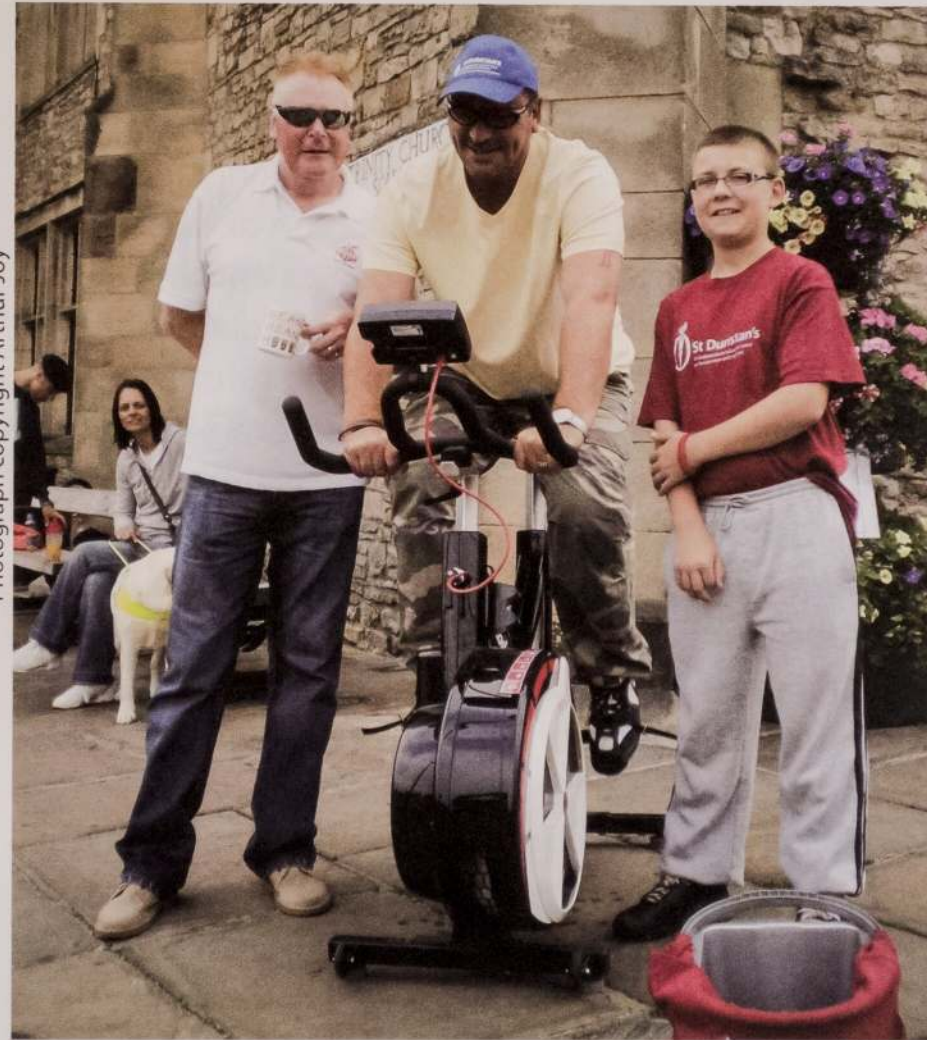


The Richmond Riders!

Colin Williamson reports on some Yorkshire cadets who went the distance and a little bit more on top

ARMY CADETS from Catterick Detachment, Yorkshire (N&W) ACF pedalled 146 miles in support of St Dunstan's on 27 June. Ten cadets and two adult instructors from the Yorkshire market town used exercise bikes kindly loaned to them from the gymnasium in Catterick Garrison to cover the distance. It was the second time this year that the intrepid cadets have entered the 2009 St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge Competition.

Photograph copyright Arthur Joy



Gary Tomlinson powers up with Colin and Kevin.

Under the watchful eye of a physical training instructor from the Royal Army Medical Corps, the cadets took it in turns to pedal for 15 minutes to raise funds and awareness for St Dunstan's.

RAF St Dunstaner Gary Tomlinson of Wetherby, his wife Dawn and guide dog Harry joined in the event. After some

furious pedalling Gary, aged 45, ended up a little saddle sore!

The challenge took place outside of The Green Howards Regimental Museum which very kindly allowed the group to use the facilities and

kept supplies of tea and coffee flowing. It was a great day and the cadets really enjoyed themselves! Many thanks to 2nd Lt Jonathan Holmes and to Sergeant Arthur Joy and to Cooky the PTI for ensuring everything went smoothly.

One thing that really stuck in my mind from the day was a comment from Cadet Kevin Naylor who said "What I lack in stamina I make up for in determination." I thought that was fantastic.

The cadets raised a marvellous £445 for St Dunstan's as a result of their challenge. Well done to all concerned.

Photograph copyright Arthur Joy



They never moved from the market square, but the Catterick Cadets pedalled 146 miles for St Dunstan's.

100 years in the air

Photograph copyright Maddy Powell



Eric and Paul the Dog draw the public in to our stand.

RNAS Yeovilton celebrated a century of Naval Aviation on 11 July. St Dunstaners Eric Powell and Gerry Jackson (who served at Yeovilton) and their wives manned St Dunstan's stand at the event which attracted 40,000 people. An extensive flying and static display included rare naval aircraft such as the Swordfish, Sea Fury, Seafire and Sea Vixen.

Photograph copyright Jax Whiteley



St Dunstaners Bob Strickland (above) and Gerry Jackson participated in the Airborne Forces Parade during the Portsmouth Armed Forces Weekend on Southsea Common over the weekend of 4-5 July. Nigel Whiteley paraded the St Dunstan's Standard twice and Bob also laid a wreath on behalf of St Dunstan's.

ASK ROD

Your queries answered
by the ROVI on Duty

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

Audio Description at Sporting Events

You can get Audio Description for your television. You can get it at the theatre, the cinema and on your DVDs. But what about when you attend your favourite football team's big promotion match, or if like my team, the regular relegation battle? You want to know when an English batsman hits the ball over the bowler's head for a six, or when a try is scored at the rugby. To make these great sporting events more accessible Audio Description is becoming more available at sporting venues.

Firstly, a brief reminder of what Audio Description is. In the context of watching a television programme, DVD or film, it is speech that describes what is going on visually. It is inserted between the actors' voices and could, for example; say that a character is picking up a mug of tea, or that there is a fight in the background. If you want more information about Audio Description, then the RNIB have compiled a comprehensive leaflet. This is available from the Rehabilitation and Training department. Contact ROVI on Duty or RNIB direct to get a copy.

So back to hearing about that winning goal. Audio Description is becoming increasingly available at league football grounds. At present 25 grounds around England carry a service called Soccer Sight. Some non-league clubs also provide the service. It started out as a project which involved 17 English and 12 Scottish clubs. The long term aim is to provide this at every professional club. Coordinated by the RNIB, Soccer Sight aims to bring specialised commentary for blind and partially sighted fans.

The commentators are volunteers who have been trained to provide specialist commentary. They trained alongside professional BBC broadcasters and presenters. RNIB provided the training. So we have information providers in place, but how do you receive the special commentary? Participating clubs have a kit that includes a receiver and headphones. That is because the commentary is broadcast locally in the ground through a radio signal. The fan simply books the service before the match and when they get to the ground they collect the equipment. The receivers only have the necessary functions, on/off switch, volume control and a simple plug input for headphones.

They are small handheld devices with the club logo attached to them.

And it is easy as that. Of course, if your club does not provide the service there is still your local BBC or commercial radio station or for big games, national stations like BBC Radio 5 Live. Additional games are broadcast on BBC 5 Live Sports Extra which is available only via digital radios. For more information about Soccer Sight ring your local club to see if they are involved or the RNIB.

They have also written a guide about making football grounds more accessible for blind and partially sighted people. You can get more assistance and information about access and facilities in individual football grounds from the National Association of Disabled Supporters.

If you love the sound of leather against willow, then Audio Description is available at Lord's Cricket Ground in London. Again, the system is similar to the football one, with headsets and receivers receiving the specialist commentary. They have called this Ball By Ball. Trained commentators describe all the action including all the sixes, LBWs and catches. According to the Lord's website this facility is in place for all matches not covered by BBC local and national radio. For all Test cricket the place to go is still Radio 4 Long Wave 198m or 5 Live

Sports Extra on Digital Radio. The RNIB hope to roll this service out to more county and test match grounds.

The other sport offering Audio Description is Rugby. A few clubs offer commentary. Please ask at your club if they provide this service. And who knows, when we win lots of gold medals in the London 2012 Olympics Audio Description may be the norm at all the important venues.

Contact details

RNIB Soccer Sight

Telephone: 01792 36 67 56

Website: www.rnib.org.uk/soccersight

National Association of Disabled Supporters

Telephone: 0845 230 6237

Website: www.nads.org.uk

Lord's MCC

Telephone: 020 7616 8500

Website: www.lords.org

UNUSED EQUIPMENT

Do you have any equipment that was issued to you by St Dunstan's ROVIs that you no longer use? Whether you need some assistance, instruction or simply no longer have a need for any items that we issued to you, contact ROD on 01273 391447 and we'll see if we can help. Many items can be reissued to another St Dunstaner if you no longer use them, but we'd like to make sure your needs are still being met as well

A Commonality of Language

Alan Morrison reports on the Writers Forum Weekend

JUDGING BY ATTENDEE feedback which was positive and enthusiastic, it's not hyperbole to say that this year's annual Writers Forum Weekend held 3-4 July was well received. St Dunstaner Roy Casterton, said "My only criticism would be that it isn't long enough – it should be three or four days at least."

Heatwaves aside, there was a warm glow this year, with St Dunstaners Roy Casterton, Bob Glendinning, Jeanette Goodman, Patrick Murphy, Sid Wisdom, Ken Waugh and his wife Joan, as well as Harry Beevers and his wife Joan.

Joan Beevers read out some beautifully written metaphorical prose entitled *A Bridge Through Time* to the integral accompaniment of her chalky Yorkshire accent.

The St Dunstaner scribes each had an hour to share some of their writings and we were entertained by Harry Beevers' wittily cryptic work, including a page composed without using the letter

"e" anywhere in it. We also explored the possibilities of descriptively fleshing out Bob Glendinning's first stab at autobiography. Bob surprised himself most of all by being the source for most of this, something which he didn't think he had a knack for, but which proved only just beneath his amiable surface. He brilliantly described the "smells of damp clothes" and the "red hairy seats" of his first ever ride on a double-decker bus as a boy, his earliest memory. Part of the magic of such workshops is to witness attendees suddenly wake to their own unknowing creative powers. It was disappointing that we did not get the chance to hear some of

Jeanette Goodman's epic autobiography; though I find it hard to believe that anyone's writing could tell as much as her exquisitely crafted French features – almost reminiscent of van Gogh's striking sitter, Madame Ginoux – and enchantingly demure voice.

The St Dunstaners were delighted to explore the dynamics of prose and poetry in lively workshops with three of Brighton's most community-orientated writers. The first session was with novelist Bridget Whelan, an experienced community writing tutor. Her workshop at the Brighton Unemployed Centre's Families Project entered into local legend through its 2007 anthology, *Salt & Vinegar*. Bridget took the group through a series of exercises focusing on description and life writing, including an epicurean ice-breaker during which we sampled

dried confectionary and fruits on plates of sheeted paper, trying to describe what the flavours evoked to us. Memories and their small details, particularly of domestic descriptions, came to the fore. Beguiling recollections were sewn together with beautiful juxtapositions of images, as in Joan Waugh's olfactory memory of growing up in a mining town in Northumberland, where the odour of "socks drying over the fireplace" and "pudding baking in the oven" intermingled tantalisingly. As a bonus, we had the pleasure of hearing extracts from Bridget's debut novel *A Good Confession*.

Prolific spoken word performer and poet Bernadette Cremin, brought her inimitable talents to the afternoon with a series of quirky exercises based around the theme of a character named Elaine, soon-to-be immortalised in the poetry collection, *Miming Silence*. We were given the rare opportunity to fill in some blanks in Bernadette's

poem of that name, having a taste of shaping a character through missing descriptions. A later exercise involved forensic packages of motley objects excavated from "Elaine's" Brighton bedsit, which the workshopers were asked to elucidate using their own very fertile imaginations. Particularly revelatory were some allusions offered by some St Dunstaners as to the type of scent Elaine wore, strategically sprayed from an aerosol by Bernadette. I'll leave those allusions to your imaginations.

Saturday morning, we set to work constructing similes and metaphors. All involved came up with some truly delightful examples, including "night dark as a raven's wing", "birdsong soft as a violin in a maestro's hands", "fields swaying greenly as a mermaid's hair", and "waves of the sea slowly moving like molasses", to name but a few. Such deeply poetic responses from those involved spurred me to proclaim that "language

belongs to all of us, poetry belongs to all of us, not just to an elite few." It was an epiphany, that language and literature is the common province of the people, transcending all barriers of class, background and education, if we choose to mine it and experiment with it in all its rich varieties. This seemed to strike a chord. These insights were exemplified in some wonderful descriptive images and aphorisms effortlessly produced by those present, particularly the more regionally and domestically rooted ones. Debates erupted around the table on the nature of landscape in shaping language, dialect, idiom and accent. Fascinating stuff, and frequently fuelled by flashes of insight from the ever-ruminating Roy Casterton.

The CD player didn't wish to recognise a recording of Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*, read by the late, great, granite-voiced Richard Burton, so in a flash of dubious

inspiration, I decided to read out the extract myself in the style of Burton (my favourite actor whom I have been known to mimic in the privacy of my own home). I don't know how convincing this improvisation sounded, but as soon as I grated the back of my throat, intoning "To begin at the beginning..." in my best rasp, a badly-stifled laugh from Bob Glendinning issued from the back of the room. Once the spirit of Burton had left the room – and my sore vocal cords – it was decided by Roy that we had been privy to a visitation by one "Roger Burton", Richard's lesser known cousin.

The St Dunstaners seemed truly riveted by the final tutor, prize-winning novelist Xelís de Toro, whose earthy Galician tones brought them into the magical allegory of *The Fishfinder*, a story (only a paragraph long) of a boy who "steals the glints from everybody's eyes" one night so they see next day, through blurry vision,

what appear to be scores of fish shimmering in the sea. This beautiful fable of the illusion of faith echoes similar sentiments to *The Country of the Blind* by H.G. Wells. A series of exercises focusing on building up characters followed, with some wonderfully imaginative ideas coming from the workshoppers. What Xelís also tapped into, was again the commonality of language as something which binds and unites us. Xelís illustrated this by emphasising how his story ideas, their various characters and narratives were almost always inspired by other people's lives, by tales "of friends of friends of friends", showing how language and literature link us all in an infinite episcopacy of common experiences. He also read from a poem by Thomas Wolfe on General John Moore, motif of Xelís's novel *The Corunna Boats*, underscoring that had a poem not been written in tribute to this soldier of the Napoleonic Wars, his memory may have faded

away. Xelís also used the case of Moore to focus on how the circumstance of a death inevitably determines how that person is perceived historically. Moore's demise while retreating from Napoleon's forces on the shores of Galicia, meant that in British history he has been largely forgotten, whereas in Galician chronicles, he is remembered as a hero of the Peninsula conflict.

So the uplifting theme of creativity as a sharing process threaded through the weekend, giving a sense of solidarity to what proved a thoroughly enjoyable and illuminating time for all involved; most importantly, for the St Dunstaner writers, some of whom have only just started out in creative writing.

They came away with a glow of renewed confidence in their own innate abilities to put down their thoughts and ideas on the page. And that's what it's all about.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

George Able of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps during WWII.

Kenneth Alexander of Hastings, East Sussex served in the Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1945, again from 1950 to 1951, and in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1951 to 1952.

Wallace Armstrong of Reigate, Surrey served in the General Service Corps, Royal Army Service Corps, and Royal Army Pay Corps between 1947 and 1949.

Leslie Baker of Calcot, Reading served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Kenneth Barrett, MBE of Leasingham, Sleaford, Lincolnshire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Cyril Bedford of Exeter, Devon served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

Hubert Birch of Handbridge, Chester served as Corporal in the Royal Air Force from 1938 to 1949.

Kathleen Braybrook of Snettisham, King's Lynn served in the Royal Observer Corps from 1942 to 1945.

Roy Cavill of Rotherham, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

Evelyn Collinge of Mickleover, Derby served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1946.

Hugh Davies of Penmaenmawr, Gwynedd served in the Royal Engineers from 1943 to 1947.

Reginald Dodd of Worcester Park, Surrey served in the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1946.

Yvonne Doherty of Altrincham, Cheshire served in the Voluntary Aid Detachment, St John's Ambulance from 1945 to 1947.

Ernest Frobisher of Prestatyn, Clwyd served as Acting Sergeant in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Albert Griffin of Polegate, East Sussex served in the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1946.

Peter Griffiths of Winterbourne Earls, Salisbury, Wiltshire served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1968.

George Haines of Chidham, Chichester, West Sussex served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1940 and 1946.

Charles Hall of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served on submarines in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1947.

Michael Harewood of Buckingham, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1956.

Royston Hester of Redhill, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1949.

John Humphrey of Long Eaton, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire served in the Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) from 1941 to 1946.

John Hunt of Walbottle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne served in the Royal Air Force from 1955 to 1957.

James Keat of St Austell, Cornwall served as Petty Officer in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1946.

William Laycock of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1945.

Alan Lee of Reeth, Richmond, North Yorkshire served in the Army Catering Corps from 1969 to 1979.

Trevor Lewis of Pontprennau, Cardiff, South Glamorgan served in the Home Guard during the Second World War.

Irene McCullough of Beckenham, Kent served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1944.

Marjory May of Bognor Regis, West Sussex served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

Vincent Murphy of Tamworth, Staffordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1947.

Lucy Nelson of Rainham, Essex served as Leading Aircraftwoman in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Patricia Nuttall of Preston, Lancashire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

Alfred Parker of Felixstowe, Suffolk served as Able Seaman in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

Barbara Poole of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1944 to 1946.

Sally Preston of Tynemouth, North Shields, Tyne and Wear served as Leading Wren in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1946.

Francis Smith of Wallasey, Merseyside served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and King's Regiment (Liverpool) between 1939 and 1946.

Marguerite Sones of Lancing, West Sussex served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1941 to 1946.

William Stone of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Army Medical Corps and Royal Artillery between 1952 and 1958.

Andrew Thatcher of Brighton served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1949.

Douglas Tindall of Bognor Regis, West Sussex served in the Home Guard during the Second World War.

Peter Wakefield of Cupar, Fife served as Flight Lieutenant in the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1971.

Geoffrey Walker of Chepstow, Gwent served in the General Service Corps, Intelligence Corps, and Royal Army Education Corps between 1945 and 1949.

Kenneth Warren of Wheatley, Retford, Nottinghamshire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1948 to 1950.

Kenneth Willats of Tonbridge, Kent served in the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) and Royal Engineers between 1940 and 1946.

Raymond Woolven of Henfield, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1947.

Thomas Young of Port Talbot, West Glamorgan served in the General Service Corps, Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's), and Royal Army Ordnance Corps between 1943 and 1947.

Ten Answers

Answers to quiz on page 14.

- 1) Queen Victoria;
- 2) Queen Elizabeth II;
- 3) Mobile or Cell Phone;
- 4) Semaphore;
- 5) New Scotland Yard. Although the old Whitehall code is consigned to history, many London police stations still use telephone numbers that end with 1212;
- 6) 112, used in the countries of the European Union;
- 7) Belfast;
- 8) Grace Kelly in Monaco;
- 9) The Queen's Golden Wedding Anniversary; and
- 10) Bram Stoker.

Family News

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Ray and Harry Davy on 24 June. The twin boys are the grandchildren of Les and Jenny Davy of Romford, Essex.

Cameron Joseph Perfect on 4 July. He is the great-grandson of John and Audrey Perfect of Yealmpton, Devon.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Josephine Brazier of Painswick, Stroud, Gloucestershire who married John Beard on 6 May.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Frank and Kathleen Martin of Cliftonville, Margate, Kent on 26 June.

Paul and Beverley Francis of Washington, Tyne & Wear on 4 July.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Raymond and Joan Thomas of Dersingham, Kings Lynn, Norfolk on 26 July.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Roy and Phyllis Long of Exeter, Devon on 27 June.

John and Christine Reedy of Drayton, Portsmouth, Hampshire on 27 June.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Eric and Gweneth Bradshaw of Northampton, Northamptonshire on 2 July.

Verney and Barbara Gilbert of Neath, West Glamorgan on 2 July.

Jim and Pat Johnson of Brigg, North Lincolnshire on 2 July.

Arthur and Audrey Reynolds of Lea, Preston, Lancashire on 2 July.

Ronald and Joyce Hill of Hatherley, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire on 16 July.

Fred and Christina Stevenson of Moreton, Wirral on 23 July.

BLUE SAPPHIRE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Charles and Rose Vincent of Loughton, Essex on 16 July.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Vic and Margaret Morgan of Stalmine, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire who celebrated 73 years of marriage on 25 July.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

George Whitley who won the Essex Under 16 Longbow Championships. He is the grandson of Mary Whitley of Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire and the late Thomas Whitley.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mary Hill on 11 June. She was the wife of Leslie Hill of Bristol, Avon.

Mary Walker of Andover Hampshire on 20 June. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Kenneth Walker.

Iris Hardy on 23 June. She was the wife of Joseph Hardy of Springwell, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear.

Enoch Humphries on 1 July. He was the husband of Margaret Humphries of Cambuslang, Glasgow, Lanarkshire.

Joan Hedges of Bexley, Kent died on 2 July. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Kenneth Hedges.

Helen Bowles on 7 July. She was the wife of Jim Bowles of Evanton, Ross-shire.

Russell Berwick on 8 July. He was the husband of Kathleen Berwick of Norwich, Norfolk.

Dorothy Jameson of Darlington, County Durham on 8 July. She was the widow of Frank Jameson.

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.

Harry Taylor

Royal Navy

Harry Taylor of Billingham, Cleveland died on 4 April, aged 95. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and served on HMS *Cardiff*. Discharged as Petty Officer in 1946, he worked as a clerk for an engineering firm but later became a teacher. Our sympathy goes to his widow Peggy and all the family.

Eric Sennitt

Royal Marines

George Eric Sennitt of Exeter, Devon died on 1 May, aged 92. He joined the Royal Marines in 1940, serving in the UK and overseas before being demobbed in 1946. Our sympathy goes to his son and all the family.

Donald Williams

Royal Pioneer Corps

Donald Alexander Williams of Boverton, Llantwit Major, South Glamorgan died on 6 June, aged 84. He joined the Pioneer Corps in 1943. Demobbed in 1947, he worked as a builder. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Audrey Morrow

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Audrey Patricia Morrow of Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincolnshire died on 13 June, aged 86. She joined the Women's

Auxiliary Air Force in 1941 and trained as a teleprinter operator. Discharged in 1946, she then worked for Aer Lingus. Our sympathy goes to her sister and all members of the family.

Gwynfor Mogg

Royal Horse Guards

Gwynfor Albert Mogg of Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan died on 15 June, aged 70. He joined the Household Cavalry in 1959. Serving with the Royal Horse Guards in Cyprus and Germany, he was regimental welterweight boxing champion for three years. Discharged in 1965, he became a coach driver. Our sympathy goes to his widow Alice and all the family.

Ian Hogarth

Royal Engineers

Ian Bertram Hogarth of Kendal, Cumbria died on 17 June, aged 93. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1939 and served around the UK. He then worked in a civilian role installing radar equipment for the Royal Air Force. He also worked for a firm supplying equipment to hospitals. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Jimmy Anderson, MM

King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster)

James Anderson, MM of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria died on 21 June, aged 94. He joined the King's Own

Royal Regiment (Lancaster) in 1934 and was posted to India. In 1941, he was deployed to Iraq to defend the oil wells. Later, during the Italian campaign he was taken prisoner and held until 1944. In March 1945, he was awarded the Military Medal for distinguished and gallant conduct in the field. Demobbed in 1946, he worked in the shipyard. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Leslie Smith
Intelligence Corps

Leslie Gordon Smith of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire died on 21 June, aged 91. He joined the Army in 1940 before transferring to the Intelligence Corps in 1942. Demobbed in 1946, he worked as an accountant. Our sympathy goes to his widow Gwen and all the family.

Ernie Parsons
Royal Air Force

Ernest Edward Parsons of Lancing, West Sussex died on 22 June, aged 80. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1948 and served as an Equipment Assistant. Discharged in 1949, he joined his father's business and later worked in the carpet trade. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Tom Webb
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Thomas William Webb of Hull, North Humberside died on 22 June, aged 88. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1940 and trained at RAF Padgate. He later deployed to Italy and Austria. Demobbed in 1945, he then worked as a crane operator. Our sympathy goes to his son and all the family.

Wilfred Buckroyd
Royal Air Force
Wilfred Buckroyd of Blackpool, Lancashire died on 25 June, aged 88. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 and trained as a Flight Mechanic. Having served in Rhodesia, Belgium and Germany, he was discharged in 1946. In civilian life, he worked as a gold and copper miner and later in the building trade.

Geoffrey Wade
Royal Air Force
Geoffrey Maurice Wade of Hove, East Sussex died on 26 June, aged 86. He volunteered for the Royal Air Force in 1941 and served on bombers in the Middle East and Italy. Commissioned in 1944, he went on to serve in Singapore and Malaya. Discharged as Flight Lieutenant in 1962, he became an administrator and accountant. Our sympathy goes to his partner Douglas.

Allen Vickers
Royal Navy
Allen John Vickers of East Looe, Cornwall died on 29 June, aged 77. He joined the Royal Navy in 1949 and trained as an electrical mechanic. Discharged in 1954, he worked as an electrician. Our sympathy goes to his widow Sheila and all the family.

Ernest Alford
Royal Army Medical Corps
Ernest Crispin Alford of Crawley, West Sussex died on 1 July, aged 90. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1940. Evacuated from Dunkirk, come D-Day, he landed on Sword Beach advancing on to Holland. Discharged in 1946, he worked as a cake decorator,

printer and photographer. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Thomas Smith
Royal Artillery
Thomas William Smith of Ipswich, Suffolk died on 8 July, aged 88. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939 and served in North Africa and Italy. He was captured on three occasions but escaped each time. Discharged in 1946, he became a bricklayer. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Fred Smith
Household Cavalry
Frederick James Smith of Ogbourne St George, Marlborough, Wiltshire died on 11 July, aged 87. He joined the Household Cavalry in 1942 and served in France, Germany and Egypt. Demobbed in 1946, he worked at the Woolwich Arsenal as a Scientific Officer. Our sympathy goes to his widow June and all the family.

Margaret Voce
Women's Royal Naval Service
Margaret Isobel Voce nee Beatty of Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire died on 12 July, aged 84. She joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1943 and trained as an Air Mechanic. Discharged in 1946, she worked as a welfare officer and receptionist and later lived in the Far East. Our sympathy goes to her son Brent.

Douglas Grimwood
Royal Navy
Douglas Grimwood of Brantham, nr Manningtree, Essex died on 14 July, aged 80. He joined the Royal Navy in 1946 and trained as a Stoker Mechanic. Discharged in 1954, he worked on boiler

plant maintenance. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doreen and all the family.

James Lumsden
Royal Air Force
James Lumsden of Norwich, Norfolk died on 14 July, aged 88. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941, flying around the globe on bombers and transport. Discharged in 1964, he ran a pub in Plymouth. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Arthur Albrow
Fleet Air Arm
Arthur Albrow of Brighton died on 17 July, aged 89. He joined the Fleet Air Arm in 1943. Training at HMS *Daedalus*, he then served as an Air Mechanic. Demobbed in 1946, he became a builder (and worked on the plumbing at St Dunstan's Ovingdean). Our sympathy goes to his widow Violet and all members of the family.

Henry Allingham
Royal Air Force
Henry William Roy Allingham of Brighton died on 18 July, aged 113. He served in the RNAS and RAF. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

St Dunstaner Legacy Gifts

We are very grateful to the following St Dunstaners who left bequests to the charity in their Wills:

Benjamin Edward Dyer
27 January 2009

Charles Jeffrey Neville Lefroy
26 December 2008

Only 54-miles to Brighton



David Cranson and Andrew Seivewright ride through Nutfield.

Photographs: Simon Rogers

THREE ST DUNSTANERS were amongst an estimated 35,000 people taking part in the annual London to Brighton Bicycle Ride on 21 June. St Dunstaners Sue Eyles of Bristol,

Avon, David Cranson of Deaf Hill, County Durham, and John Taylor of Findon, West Sussex, respectively Royal Navy, Army and RAF, set off from Clapham Common with their Gym team

co-riders. Parts of the 54-mile route were frustratingly slow as crowds maintained a high density. However, all riders reached the Brighton seafront in around six hours.



Sue Eyles and Alex White kept a steady pace.



The final yards for John Taylor and Will Martire.