

St Dunstan's

November 2009

# Review



Photograph: Donna Clifford, Lancashire Evening Post

A fare deal for blind travellers?

# St Dunstan's Review

November 2009

No 996

Editor: Ray Hazan

E-mail: ray.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk

Tel: 020 7723 5021

## Cover Story

When the government increased free travel concessions on buses throughout England in 2008, visually impaired travellers in some boroughs found their options suddenly curtailed, restricting them to set hours. Some of those blind travellers, such as St Dunstaner Maria Pikulski, took their grievance to the Local Government Ombudsman. We report on his findings on page 18



St Dunstan's Review is available in large print, braille, MP3CD, via e-mail and on floppy-disc. If you wish to change Review format, or combinations thereof, contact Simon Rogers on 020 7616 7934 or e-mail [simon.rogers@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:simon.rogers@st-dunstans.org.uk).

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# Calendar

## NOVEMBER

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

## DECEMBER

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

## JANUARY 2010

Fishing Club (I)	11-15
Archery (I)	16-24

## FEBRUARY

Writers Forum (I)	6
Dance Club (I)	7-13
Computer Club (I)	24-25
Amateur Radio (I)	26-6 Mar

## MARCH

Writers Forum (II)	6
Fishing Club (I)	8-12
Bowling Club (I)	14-27
Widows Week (I)	31- 7 Apr

## APRIL

Writers Forum (III)	3
Golf Club (I)	17-18

Your message from St Dunstan's Chairman, Andrew Keeling

# From the Chairman

In spite of the worldwide financial turmoil, St Dunstan's continues to respond to the needs of those who come to us for help following their loss of sight. During the last financial year we welcomed a further 560 new St Dunstaners to the organisation and our total numbers of beneficiaries, including spouses, widows and dependants, now approaches 5,000.

In common with many other organisations, the economic situation has had a severe and adverse impact on both our reserves and our investment income. However, in spite of the financial doom and gloom, last financial year we managed to exceed our fundraising target by £1.5 million and we are striving to meet projected income targets this year. This is a great credit to the loyalty of our supporters who clearly recognise the value of the work we do.

Last year we drew £7.1 million from our reserves to enable us to maintain the high level of service and support that St Dunstaners need and deserve. We are expecting a similar deficit this year, as we continue to respond to this demand and increase the efficiency of the services we deliver. Whilst we have

been fortunate in having reserves to fall back on, it is very clear that, if we are to continue to meet the ongoing need for our services into the future and fulfil our lifelong commitment, we cannot continue to deplete them at the current rate and we shall need to bridge the gap between income and expenditure.

Our centre in Llandudno has been the subject of much detailed planning work in order to convert it to meet the growing demand. Planning consent has now been granted and we have recently been given the green light by Cadw, the Welsh Heritage Organisation. The next stage is to shortlist contractors who will be invited to submit tenders and we hope to be able to start work on the centre by Spring next year.

The development of the new centre and continued growth to extend our services to more in need of our help will inevitably represent significant expenditure. In order to meet this challenge, we must substantially increase our voluntary income by evolving to place fundraising at the forefront of all that we do. If we can sufficiently increase our voluntary income, we will be in a position to improve and extend the services which



Photograph Simon Rogers

The Chairman and his wife Woppy joined a group of St Dunstaners on the 2009 Dartmoor Yomp which attracted over 250 people to Princetown in support of Service Charities including St Dunstan's. The group are pausing at South Hessary Tor towards the end of their hike. We have more on the Yomp itself on page 24 and hope to spill the beans on Simon Brown's canine friend next month.

are so valued by St Dunstaners. The Fundraising and Communications Team are working hard leading new fundraising initiatives, involving not only their team but staff from across the organisation.

service to more people like you. These contributions are recognised in helping us to weather this storm and secure the future of St Dunstan's. Many more of you, I know, are keen to help in your own ways and we are grateful to any of you willing to make that commitment.

I am immensely grateful for the continuing generosity of those who support us and make our work possible. I am especially impressed by the efforts of St Dunstaners who give back to the organisation so generously in terms of their time and effort. Many of you have already undertaken challenges, attended events, or organised your own events to help us extend our

There is no doubt that we are living through extremely difficult times but with careful planning and the support of the St Dunstan's family, we will be in a position to meet the challenges ahead.

# Noticeboard

## THE SPIRIT OF ST DUNSTAN'S

IN MEMORY OF OUR FOUNDER, SIR ARTHUR PEARSON: We want to pay homage to St Dunstan's past and the pioneering approach to visual impairment which we still embody today. We celebrate our Founder and our heritage in two ways:

### 1) ANNUAL MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT GRAVESIDE OF SIR ARTHUR PEARSON

Our Founder is buried in Hampstead Cemetery, London. We hold a short ceremony annually at Sir Arthur's graveside and lay a wreath. This will be carried out on the morning of the day before Remembrance Sunday. This year's ceremony will be limited to those St Dunstaners already committed to staying for Remembrance Weekend.

### 2) ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY

This month is also the last chance to make nominations for the 2010 Founder's Awards. To celebrate the achievements of St Dunstaners, other members of St Dunstan's Family, and volunteers, awards will be made in seven categories. Certificates of merit will be presented on or near to 26

March each year. This celebrates the date in 1915 on which the first 16 war blinded Servicemen entered the new training centre at St Dunstan's Lodge in London's Regents Park. The Awards will also honour staff and other individuals who have contributed significantly to St Dunstan's – such as the development of some innovative technology.

The Award Ceremony takes place in rotation around the country. The 2010 presentations will be held at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on Friday 26 March 2010.

Nomination forms are available from the President's Office at St Dunstan's Headquarters and should be submitted by 30 November at the latest. Contact details follow at the end of this item.

### FOUNDER'S DAY AWARDS

#### CATEGORIES

There are seven categories in which awards will be given:

#### i) Community Award

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

**ii) Training Achievement Award**

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

**iii) Award for Creative Art**

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

**iv) Sports Person of the Year Award**

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

**v) Volunteer of the Year Award**

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

**vi) Innovator of the Year Award**

The Innovator of the Year Award will honour a person or organisation which has successfully introduced to St Dunstan's a beneficial device or idea;

**vii) Chairman's Commendation**

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

**PROCEDURE**

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

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

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

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

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

f) Nominees for the Creative Arts Award should send the work they wish to enter to be judged by a selection panel made up of independent referees. If not practical, a photograph of the submission would suffice.

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

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

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

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

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

**TELL US YOUR TERRIFIC TALE IN A THOUSAND**

ENTER THE 2010 STORY CONTEST: We are asking budding authors to demonstrate their creative skills in a millennium round of the St Dunstan's Review annual story contest - the winners will have their work published in the thousandth issue of the Review which will be out in April.

Some extra special prizes will be on offer for entrants to this grand competition which will be revealed in a forthcoming issue. We hope to have a few surprises ready for the occasion.

The subject and title are yours to decide. The story can be fact or fiction.

With our millennial issue in mind, what does a thousand mean to you? Were you part of some exotic chiliad? Or were you tempted to place a cool thousand on the ponies? Does it

conjure thoughts of Arabian nights or vast forests? Does it make you think of the way things were a thousand days ago, or how they will be in a thousand day's time? The answers lie with you...

Wartime biography, reportage, tragic romance, prophetic speculation, pyrrhic victories, great wonders, domestic delights, sporting trials, corporate conundrums, political satire, historic exploration, and the daily grind are all rich subjects to mine in a maximum of 1,500 words.

Submissions can be works of fiction, or factual, but should be an original work and not previously published. The competition is open to St Dunstaners or members of the Diana Gubbay Trust, their wives, husbands, widows or widowers. The judge's decision will be final.

Please follow these steps when submitting entries for the competition:

- 1) Entries should be typewritten and should not exceed 1,500 words.
- 2) Only one submission per person. Multiple entries will be disqualified.
- 3) Entries must be received by the Editor, St Dunstan's Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD by 5 January 2010.

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

DO YOU HAVE A SONG IN YOUR HEART: Come along and support St Dunstan's at a Christmas Carol singing event at Brighton's Churchill Square Shopping Centre on Thursday, 17 December. Are you part of a choir local to Brighton who would like to volunteer a couple of hours? E-mail fundraising@st-dunstans.org.uk or call 020 7616 7965 for more information.

## VIP LARGE PRINT DIARIES

Easy to use,  
large print  
diaries.



AVAILABLE FROM REHAB & TRAINING: Large print 2010 diaries can be ordered via Stephen Miles at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. The A6 pocket diaries cost £3.60 while an A4 desk diaries cost £6.50. Write to Stephen at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton BN2 7BS, including a cheque for your order. Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's. Regrettably, orders cannot be taken by telephone.

## HEALING FOR THE NATIONS

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2009 BRITISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP CONCERT: America's VA-National Medical Musical Group (MMG) will be performing in an Armistice Day concert in London. Subtitled "*Hands Across The Sea - For Humanity*" it follows a concert in Washington DC. The London "*Healing for the Nations*" concert celebrates British-American friendship and its contributions to humanity. The event is sponsored by the MMG, the British-American Parliamentary Group, and the Royal British Legion. Members from the British Parliament Choir Group and the European Doctors and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras will also participate.

Broadcaster Andrew Neil and actress Jane Asher co-host the evening, while actor Michael York and Members of Parliament contribute readings.

The event will honour the memories of fallen heroes from both nations. The concert will be held at Central Hall, Westminster, Storey's Gate, London on 11 November. Doors open at 18:30 for a 19:30 start. Tickets are available for £10, £15, and £20. A booking fee may apply.

Tickets can be purchased from See Tickets by telephone on 0871 220 0260 (calls charged at 6p per minute) or online at their website at <http://tinyurl.com/mce9ak>.

## COLD WEATHER PAYMENTS

AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS: Cold Weather Payments this winter will be paid at the higher rate again this year of £25 per week, up from £8.50, announced Work and Pensions Secretary Yvette Cooper. The payments were increased last year at a time of higher fuel bills and will be maintained in order to support some of the most vulnerable families when they need it most.

Cold Weather Payments are paid out when the average temperature where the recipient lives is recorded as, or forecast to be, zero degrees Celsius or below over seven consecutive days during the period from 1 November to 31 March. Payments are made automatically to those who qualify. Every residential postcode in Great Britain is linked to a local weather stations used in the scheme.

All those on Pension Credit are eligible as are those on Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and have a child under five or get one of the following: a pensioner premium, higher pensioner premium, or enhanced pensioner premium; a disability premium or severe disability premium; a disabled child premium; or Child Tax Credit that includes an individual element for a child or qualifying young person who is disabled or severely disabled.

## MOBILE SIGHT LOSS UNIT

ON THE ROAD: Action for Blind People's Mobile Sight Loss Information Service will be in Market Square, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire on 3 November. Then they will be outside West View Leisure Centre, Preston and also at the rear of Asda, Hatfield Hertfordshire on 4 November.

They move to the Aughton Village Hall Car Park on 5 November, and will also be out in Stevenage in the Exhibition Area next to McDonalds.

Then from 9 November they cover Saffron Walden, York, and Selby areas. From 16 November, they move to Richmondshire and Surrey, and from 23 November, Wessex. Finally, in the week starting 30 November they will be in Oxford and possibly Wigan.

Each location can be confirmed at the Action for Blind People website on <http://tinyurl.com/ntp523> or by calling their helpline on 0800 915 4666 for details nearer the time.

## TANGLED TRANSMISSION

DATE SHIFTED: Last month we published an incorrect date for the next meeting of St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society. The first meeting of 2010 will be held 26 February to 6 March.

## RNIB PUSH FOR MORE AD

**OFCOM TO DECIDE ON NEW LEVELS OF AUDIO DESCRIPTION ON TV:** The Royal National Institute of Blind People hopes that a review of audio description services by broadcasting regulator Ofcom will be an opportunity to increase TV AD levels to 20 per cent across all channels. The move could improve the accessibility of TV programmes for thousands of blind and partially sighted people if given the go ahead. The RNIB are asking blind members of the public to contact Ofcom outlining why they benefit from AD and why more is needed. This consultation is open until 5pm on 12 November.

Audio Description (AD) is like a narrator telling a story, an additional commentary that describes body language, expressions, movements and other details that someone with sight loss would not see, making the story clearer through sound.

Currently the Communications Act (2003) only requires 10 per cent of television programmes to be audio described, limiting access understanding, and enjoyment of television for people with sight loss. "Sky has voluntarily agreed to audio describe 20 per cent of their programmes," say the RNIB. "The remainder of broadcasters average around 15 percent." Ofcom

is consulting on three options for the future: Option 1 is no change in existing provision; Option 2 is an increase to 20 per cent for all channels required to provide access; Option 3 is an increase to 20 per cent for the ten statutory Public Broadcasters with 48 other channels obliged to provide ten per cent. The RNIB strongly supports Option 2, to increase AD to 20 per cent for all channels.

The RNIB want individuals to tell Ofcom they favour Option 2, telling them about personal experience of AD on TV, why they use it, how important it is, and why more is needed. They are also asking people to write to their MP to encourage them to respond to Ofcom.

Responses can be sent to Ofcom by telephone on 020 7783 4124. A member of the Access Service Review Consultation Response team will complete the consultation response form on your behalf. Another option is filling out an online form at <http://tinyurl.com/yfjfpxt>, or by post, writing to Sara Winter, Ofcom, Riverside House, 2A Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA or by e-mail at [2009accessservicesreview@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:2009accessservicesreview@ofcom.org.uk). If writing or responding by e-mail, please include a "consultation coversheet which can be downloaded at <http://tinyurl.com/yk9ulad>. There is a suggested template letter available on the RNIB website at <http://tinyurl.com/yk9wfgb>.

## GOLF DATES FOR 2010

**SULTAN SWING INTO ACTION FOR INVITATION DAY:** St Dunstan's Golf Club have set their fixtures for next year. The dates for club contests are:

17-18 April  
15-16 May  
19-20 June  
25-26 July  
21-22 August  
18-19 September  
16-17 October  
20-21 November

The good news is that the Royal Navy at HMS Sultan have agreed to organise the Invitation and Celebrity Golf Day in the future, subject to the approval of the Club members.

## IT'S STILL IN THE POST ...

**INDUSTRIAL ACTION CONTINUES:** We would like to apologise to everyone who received their copy of St Dunstan's Review later than expected last month. Our usual delivery pattern was disrupted by continuing industrial action within Royal Mail, and our CD readers suffered the brunt of this with delivery taking up to ten days in some cases. We hope normal service will be resumed this month, though this may remain beyond our control.

## VOLUNTEER READER

**CONTACT RAY HAZAN:** I have received an offer from a former Talking Newspaper volunteer who is willing to record any material. This service is offered freely and can be provided on either tape or CD. Anyone wishing to benefit from the offer should please send the material to be recorded to Ray Hazan at St Dunstan's Headquarters, stating the desired audio format.

## STAFF CHANGES

### Linda Starr

Linda Starr retired on 25 September after 11 years with the Charity. During that time, she kept three managers of St Dunstan's Ovingdean on the straight and narrow as their PA. Linda married her husband Tony, also a former staff member, in the Ovingdean Chapel in 2005. The couple are now off to Cyprus to soak up some sun and we wish them all the very best for the future.

### Paul Harbord

ROVI Group Manager Paul Harbord left St Dunstan's on 25 September. He has become CEO of Jerry Green Dog Rescue, a charity based in Lincolnshire, which provides shelter and a re-homing service for rescued dogs. We wish him every success in his new role.

# Balancing the Books

## Ted Bunting on the assassination of John F Kennedy

### The Death of a President

Author: William Raymond Manchester

Reader: David Broomfield

Category: Adult Non-Fiction:

Biography: True Crime

Catalogue no: 1375

Duration: 36 hours

It is often said that all adults who were around in November 1963 remember how they heard of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, an event described as the most significant in US history since the attack on Pearl Harbour. On that early Dallas afternoon, 46 years ago this month, the President's death touched the lives of millions around the globe. The media coverage was vast, comprehensive, and endured for weeks on end, but until I heard this splendid book I had no conception of how little we were really told at the time.

Researching the book, William Manchester went everywhere and was given access to sources like no other writer, including access to members of the Kennedy family themselves. The task must have been a very difficult one but the result is a masterpiece. It is true that at times I

thought I was being bombarded by facts and statistics but this is not just an interesting story well told, but a kind of textbook too, and I have no doubt it will be used by history students for generations to come. For history to be really enjoyable of course it must be "brought to life" and this is done brilliantly too; quite early on, for example, Lee Harvey Oswald's immediate family is described with quite brutal clarity. I'll bet his mother could stop a clock by looking at it!

This is a long book as one might expect given the personality and the international stature of JFK, the speculation that was rife at the time, the shooting of Oswald by Jack Ruby, and the subsequent enquiry, etc, etc. However, the author's enthusiasm is unflagging from beginning to end — and so was my interest in his work.

*The Death of a President* is available on DAISY discs for loan and sale from RNIB Talking Books and can also be borrowed in 19 volumes of grade 2 braille. Call the RNIB Customer Services on 0303 123 9999 or e-mail [helpline@rnib.org.uk](mailto:helpline@rnib.org.uk) for details. It is not currently available on the BookStream service.

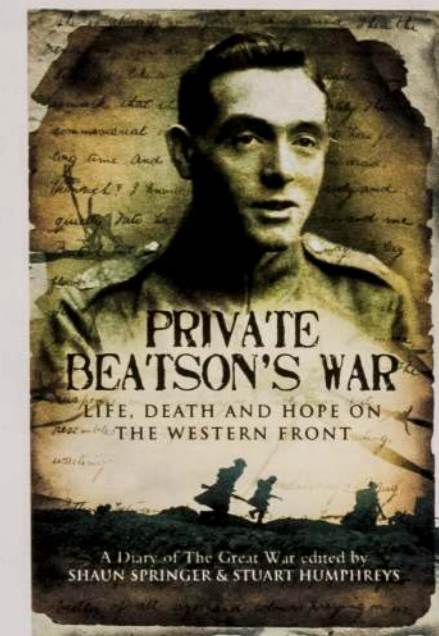
# Life on the Western Front

TWO BOOKS shed new light on life in the trenches during the First World War. Until recently James Beatson was one of the millions of forgotten soldiers of the Great War. But after 90 years his diary has been rediscovered, perfectly preserved. It is a moving, intensely personal and beautifully written narrative by an extraordinary young man who witnessed one of the darkest episodes in European history. His experience gives telling insight into the thoughts and reactions of a self- educated,

patriotic and religious individual confronted by the horrors of warfare on the Western Front. The diary is also the record of a gifted writer whose potential was tragically curtailed. For, shortly after marrying his childhood sweetheart, he was killed in action at the Battle of the Somme in one of the many failed attacks on High Wood.

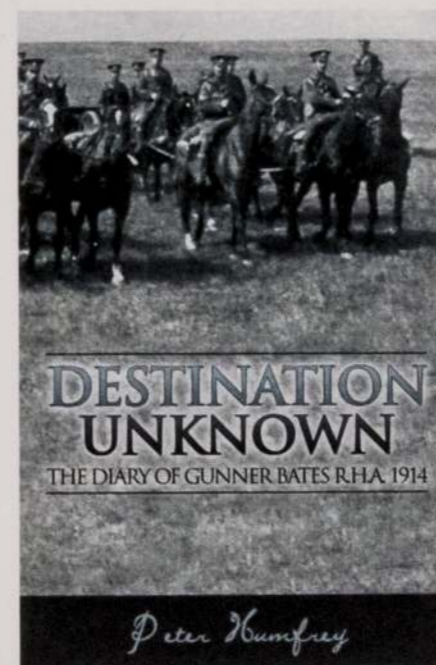
In *Private Beatson's War: Life, Death and Hope on the Western Front*, Shaun Springer and Stuart Humphreys have edited and illustrated the text and provided an introduction, describing Beatson's family background and the campaign on the Western Front in which he took part. Priced £15.99 and published by Pen & Sword, a proportion of the book's royalties are being donated to St Dunstan's.

In *Destination Unknown: The Diary of Gunner Bates*



*RHA 1914*, Peter Humfrey follows his grandfather's progress through the battlefields of Mons, Marne, and Ypres. In his diary Ted describes the events of each day, in retreat, in advance, in defence, and in the heat of battle. Ted Bates was shot and blinded in Ypres on 21 October 1914 and became an early admission to the nascent St Dunstan's. Training in braille and typing, he went on to become a physiotherapist.

Published by Authorhouse, the book costs £6.80.



# 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.

## We could be heroes...

Having finished listening to the latest copy of the Review I find myself wanting to comment on a few matters. First of all, I have now been a St Dunstaner for a year now and have nothing but praise for the way St Dunstan's, along with the RNIB and Guide Dogs, have put me back on my feet. I lost a lot of my sight due to Macular Dystrophy and a stroke. All that I have left now is shadow.

I was extremely nervous thinking about my introduction week. What was ahead of me? Chris collected me from Anglesey (a good 7-8 hour journey) and made me laugh all the way to Ovingdean. We had a few pit stops on the way for refreshment as well as letting my guide dog out for a bit to do what doggies normally do! I have nothing but praise for the drivers

considering the long journeys they have to make and look after us also. The patience they have is marvellous.

St Dunstan's have helped within the home making life that bit easier and safer and have taught me how to use the computer which I cannot see. David Dent is a saint and deserves a medal. With CLAiT under my belt, David is now undertaking the enormous task of putting me through the advanced course. Everyone who works at St Dunstan's does a wonderful job and in my mind they are the heroes.

After reading the letter from Mr C. J. Hannaway and the response from Andrew Jones I find I can see things from both perspectives. I was told on becoming a St Dunstaner that we were heroes after overcoming the obstacle of blindness.

This would be the same for anyone overcoming any disability in any walk of life. We have all given our time to the Services whether in war, National Service, or choice and though the word hero has a broader spectrum now, blindness is a tough battle to fight. Though nothing should detract the meaning from war hero, a confidence boost for those who need it is not such a bad thing. I do not see myself as a hero but it is an uphill struggle coping with blindness. It is a battle I did not ever think I would have to fight but thanks to St Dunstan's and my family, it is one that I am winning.

A massive thank you to all at St Dunstan's who have helped me and my family on the journey so far. As I said before, you are the real heroes.

**Kerry Reed**  
Caergeiliog, Anglesey

## Deich ceist ar...

Éire/Tuaisceait (n ah) Éireann

**Harry Beevers** kisses the Blarney Stone for this month's round

- 1) Which musical instrument appears on the cover of passports issued by the Republic of Ireland?
- 2) On what date in March is St Patrick's Day celebrated?
- 3) What is the name of the largest island completely surrounded by the Irish Sea?
- 4) Which England Soccer World Cup winner, one of two famous footballing brothers, was granted honorary citizenship of Ireland in 1993?
- 5) Which Irish river, flowing into the Atlantic Ocean, is the longest in the British Isles?
- 6) Which English Christian name is the equivalent of the Irish Seamus?
- 7) Which shipping area lies to the south of Ireland and shares its name with a rock?
- 8) Which English county is nearest Ireland?
- 9) The George Best Airport is in which city, Belfast or Dublin?
- 10) Which famous Irish author who died in Paris in 1900 was christened Fingal O'Flaherty Wills?

**Answers can be found on page 37.**

## Jean McDonald

Jean Mc Donald, only child of Lord and Lady Fraser, died peacefully in her sleep on 15 October at her home in Helderberg, South Africa. She was 89. Lord Fraser was Chairman of St Dunstan's from 1921 to 1974. We extend our sincere condolences to Jean's son Neil and all members of the family.

## Dai's garden gets high praise

Dai Jones of Talybont, Barmouth, Gwynedd has been praised for his green fingers. The RAF St Dunstaner received a "Highly Recommended" commendation in the 2009 Thrive Blind Gardeners of the Year Competition's Over 18 category. The winner was Jeremy Scott from East Sussex, while Jack Barnes from Nottingham won the Under 18 prize. The group prize was won by the Swaile Pottage Group in Surrey.

## Scotland win

Scotland retained the Auld Enemy Cup at Hamilton Golf Club on 8-10 September. St Dunstaners Ally Reid and Mike Mayo were part of the winning team.



# Millions tune in for Wounded

THE TRIALS of a soldier blinded by an explosive device in Afghanistan was watched by nearly five million people at the end of September. Royal Irish Ranger Andrew Allen featured in the BBC1 documentary *Wounded*, which followed him from the battlefield, arriving home and starting treatment and rehabilitation. The programme averaged

2.9 million viewers, a 13 per cent share, between 9pm and 10pm. Another 3.4 million viewers, 25 per cent of the audience, returned for the conclusion of *Wounded* after the 22:00 News between 22:35 and 23:15.

The second part of *Wounded* beat a repeat of ITV1's *Cops With Cameras*, which had 1.6 million viewers, 13 per cent of

the audience, between 22:35 and 23:35. There were two further broadcasts of *Wounded* on BBC3 and BBC1 with audio description and sign language.

The courage and determination of 19-year-old Andy Allen and 24-year-old Paratrooper Tom Neathway were widely feted in the nation's newspapers.

• Family News - page 40

# Iraq veterans remembered

UK Armed Forces and civilian personnel who served in Iraq from 2003 to 2009 were commemorated in a service at St Paul's Cathedral on 9 October.

More than 2,000 current Service personnel and veterans who had been awarded the Iraq Medal and families of those who served and who lost their lives attended the service at the cathedral in London. They included

St Dunstaner Simon Brown, wounded in Basra.

They were joined by 13 members of the Royal Family, including HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, and Prince William. Also in attendance were Prime Minister Gordon Brown, President Talabani of Iraq, former Prime Minister Tony Blair, Defence Secretary Bob Ainsworth

and Chief of the Defence Staff Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup.

The service gave thanks to the servicemen, women and civilians deployed on Operation TELIC, the name given to UK involvement from the initial invasion in 2003 until the end of UK operations in April. It also remembered the 179 UK personnel who gave their lives over the six years.

# 146 Squadron support St Dunstan's

A GROUP of 19 Cadets from 146 (Northwich) Squadron Air Training Corps raised £700 for St Dunstan's by completing a sponsored walk of the Whitegate Way. A delighted David Stuttard accepted the cheque for the Charity.



Copyright Flt Lt Paul Thompson RAFVR(T)

# Arrows fly in for Holidays for Heroes



Photograph copyright TonyPike

ST DUNSTANERS John Lilley, Brian Lang and Billy Orr were amongst a group of veterans treated to a display by the Red Arrows while they were in Jersey for the International Air Display. They were staying in Jersey courtesy of Holidays for Heroes Jersey, which helps injured Servicemen to enjoy a holiday on the Island.

# An afternoon not to be forgotten

ST DUNSTANERS Richard Tavener, Peter William, and Alma Weeden met up with a trio of Chelsea Pensioners attending a Not Forgotten Association concert and sing-along held in the Queen's Room at the Star and Garter home in Richmond, Surrey on 15 October.



Photograph copyright Deborah Williams

# Local councils rapped over loss of travel for blind

**A**ST DUNSTANER has received compensation after her subsidised bus fare went up without consultation. Maria Pikulski of Preston, Lancashire was awarded £100 after complaining to the Local Government Ombudsman. Her 50p fare shot up to £3 a day after the sudden change.

Seven local councils have been criticised by the Local Government Ombudsman over failure to consider their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act when they replaced their existing concessionary travel schemes for disabled people with the minimum requirements of a new national scheme. Havant, Ribble Valley, South Ribble and Chorley Borough Councils, East Dorset and Mid Devon District Councils, and Medway Council all failed to consider their duties under the DDA when they replaced existing schemes for disabled people with the minimum requirements of the new national scheme,

according to a report published in October. "None of the councils I have investigated has been able to demonstrate that they took into account all relevant considerations at the time they made the decision not to continue with the local scheme," said Local Government Ombudsman, Jerry White.

The RNIB complained on behalf of several passengers, including Maria, all of whom are blind, partially sighted or deafblind, about the loss of concessionary travel schemes which enabled them to travel free at any time of day, and the loss of the companion

pass which allows a companion to travel free with the disabled person.

All the councils investigated operated local concessionary travel schemes prior to 1 April 2008, when the Government introduced a new national scheme entitling disabled people and those over 60 to free bus travel between 9:30am and 11pm on weekdays and at any time during weekends and public holidays.

Local authorities were permitted to offer more generous schemes provided they met any additional cost. The councils investigated decided to operate only the statutory minimum. "They were taking our independence off us, the only way we can travel is by bus," said Maria. "I catch a Fishwick or Stagecoach bus every day and it would cost up to £3."

The Ombudsman concluded that when the councils decided not to offer local additions to the national scheme they failed to consider their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, and this was maladministration.

The Ombudsman felt that, while councils have a right to establish a policy to determine how they will confer benefits of this kind, policies must be implemented in a way that allows for individual circumstances to be taken into account.

"There must be a mechanism that enables the Council to consider why, in special circumstances, the policy should be varied to meet the needs of individuals affected by it. None of the councils here had such a mechanism," he said. He found this to be maladministration.

Several of the councils also failed to comply with their own policies by not consulting service users,

giving them adequate notification, or observing their own disability equality schemes.

As a result, the Ombudsman considered that the complainants were left with a justified sense of outrage and may have been put to unnecessary expense and inconvenience. He found maladministration causing injustice by all seven councils who have agreed to pay each complainant £100 compensation. Concessionary schemes have since been reinstated in the areas concerned.

Councillor Margaret Smith, Leader of South Ribble Borough Council, said: "The nationwide concessionary travel scheme costs our council more than £1million a year. When the Government announced the scheme it failed to provide enough cash to fund it and councils were forced to plug a significant deficit.

"Together with all the councils in Lancashire,

we laboured long and hard about how we could meet the shortfall, and felt that we had no choice but to remove some non-statutory benefits and discounts that we were not legally required to provide. This was a very difficult decision and one that was not taken lightly. We went to great efforts at the time to publicise our dilemma, and the reasons for our decision."

"This was a no-win situation that was beyond our control. We note the findings and will implement any measures necessary to further improve our approach to fairness and equality."

"The Ombudsman thought it was not right just to do it without telling us," added Maria. "It is good, it is a victory. They will have to discuss things and tell people without just doing it. It is a big achievement."

Maria has shared her compensation between three charities helping blind people.

# BBS win for St Dunstaners

Patrick Sidnell reports on some top toxophily trials

THE BRITISH BLIND SPORT National Archery Outdoor Championships took place at Lilleshall National Sports Centre on 12 September 2009. Ten St Dunstaners competed in the Championships.

Once again Lilleshall arranged good sunny weather for us, which lasted all weekend. In the competition St Dunstan's archers did well, winning six Gold, three Silver and one Bronze medals, setting two National records.

## National Champions Gold Medals

**Gents B1 Recurve**  
Harry Docherty 342

**Gents B1 Compound**  
Peter Hammond 713

**Gents B2/3 Recurve**  
Patrick Sidnell 885  
National Record

**Gents B2/3 Compound**  
David Poyner 718  
National Record

**Gents Novice**  
Adrian Neat 722

**Ladies Novice**  
Eileen Thompson 210

## Silver Medals

**Gents B1 Recurve**  
John Bower 263

**Gents B2/3 Compound**  
Terry Ottewell 563

**Ladies B2/3 Recurve**  
Marjorie Scott 296

On Sunday, two contests took place, one for blacked out archers and the other for non-blacked out archers. In the blacked out contest, the winner was Peter Hammond with an impressive score of 370. St Dunstan's Archery Club Chairman David Poyner later stated that it's the last time he will loan Peter his spotter, if Jane gets him to shoot that well.

In the non-blacked out contest, Eileen Thompson won the Blinkie's Handicap Trophy. On return to Ovingdean we were not sure if Eileen was going to sleep with the Trophy or in it (My ankle is still sore from that remark).

Well done both archers. Once again we have to thank our coaching staff, spotters and Brian, our driver, for looking after us.

## Powerful

St Dunstan's Honorary Treasurer has been dubbed one of the most powerful people in sport. John Varley was ranked 15 between Malcolm Glazer and Roman Abramovich in Sport Magazine's list of the top 50 influential people in sport. Barclay's sponsorship of the Premier League and Scottish Open were the deciding factors.

# Blind archer selected for GB Archery Squad



St Dunstaner Keith Lanchester-Harding takes aim.

David Poyner reports

DESPITE BEING registered blind, Keith Lanchester-Harding has been selected to be part of the Great Britain Disabled Archery team.

St Dunstaner Keith, from Heath, Cardiff, served in the Staffordshire Regiment for nearly ten years before losing his sight. He has tunnel vision and consequently is able to use a bowsight. Keith attended a talent identification weekend at

Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Shropshire. The selection involved a shoot at a distance of 70 metres, a distance that Keith had not shot to before the trial.

The Great Britain Disabled Archery squad only takes an archer's physical impairment into consideration, so Keith will be competing against fully sighted archers. This is a fantastic achievement for Keith, who has been shooting for almost three years.

# Great run for Joe and Mike

TWO St Dunstaners had cause to celebrate after successfully completing the Great North Run on 20 September. Around 54,000 people entered the 13-mile event. For St Dunstaner Joe Elsander, aged 70, of Chester-le-Street, Durham it was the 21st time he has made the run from Newcastle to South Shields. Guided by Paul Wright, he revelled in the friendly atmosphere after they completed their run in 2 hours 35 minutes and 22 seconds.

St Dunstaner Mike Scholes, aged 56, of Haywards Heath, West Sussex was also delighted with his time. Guided by Michael Drinnan of Alnwick Harriers, he finished the run in 1 hour, 27 minutes and 14 seconds.

# Radio Society go back on air

Photograph copyright Paul James



ST DUNSTAN'S Amateur Radio Society were back on the air during their meeting held 2-9 October. There were ten St Dunstaners, including Stuart Middleton, Ray Peart, and Ray Hazan, manning the mikes in the Radio Shack at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. They were also joined by about six widows of St Dunstan's operators such as Jane Taylor, Audrey Gaygan, Elsie Cole, and Daisy Higgins, as well as St Dunstaner Marjorie Scott. Edna McGoff who recently became a qualified licence holder in her own right was feted for doing an excellent job as log-keeper for the Society which notched up 144 contacts during the week.

Members of Worthing Radio Society came in to help the St Dunstaners with the CW

## Top crew from the Wells



Army Cadets from Tunbridge Wells, Kent presented St Dunstaner Colin Williamson with £800 on 25 September. The funds were raised through sponsorship when they took part in St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge in July. Well done to all concerned.

side, while guests at the formal lunch included SDARS President Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, OBE, RN. Society Secretary, St Dunstaner Ted John, pictured above in mid-speech, paid tribute to the memory of members Bill Shea, Colin Denton, and Alec Scott who had gone "silent key" during the last year.

SDARS return to Ovingdean for another week from 26 February to 6 March next year.

# REUNION 09

The Bristol Reunion on 17 September was held at the Arnos Manor Hotel, Bristol uniting 21 St Dunstaners and five widows. Timothy Bacon was the member of St Dunstan's Council presiding and the response was made by St Dunstaner John Woodham.

There were 21 St Dunstaners and three widows attending the Aylesbury Reunion on 24 September at Holiday Inn, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. St Dunstaner David Stuttard was the member of St Dunstan's Council presiding, while the response was given by Joan Revis, widow of Royal Engineer St Dunstaner Ken Revis. She said St Dunstan's have the most helpful and polite staff that anyone could possibly wish for!

It was the turn of Chief Executive Robert Leader to take the chair for the Lanhydrock (Cornwall & Plymouth) Reunion at Lanhydrock Hotel & Golf Club, Lanhydrock, Bodmin, Cornwall on 30 September. There were 19 St Dunstaners and four widows attending. The response was given by St Dunstaner Hugh Wynter of Redruth, Cornwall.

The Worcester Reunion brought together 28 St Dunstaners and nine widows at the Whitehouse Hotel, Worcester on 6 October. Lord Low of Dalston, CBE was the member of St Dunstan's Council presiding. St Dunstaner Ron Jones made the response on behalf of everyone present. St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan presided at the final reunion of 2009. He took the chair to

pile on some dubious jokes at the first Sheffield Reunion held at the Kenwood Hall Hotel, Sheffield on 14 October. There were 33 St Dunstaners and one widow at the gathering with guide dogs Gemma and Gregg becoming something of a double act after getting St Dunstaners Dennis Cook and Eileen Thompson to the venue. The response was made by St Dunstaner Ron Skidmore who said that he had developed a perception that he couldn't do things after losing his sight. He added that after becoming a St Dunstaner the support he received helped restore a tremendous "can do" attitude. He felt this feeling was shared by all the St Dunstaners he had met.

# Walking for a good cause

## Stan Bowers legs it over the landscape of Dartmoor

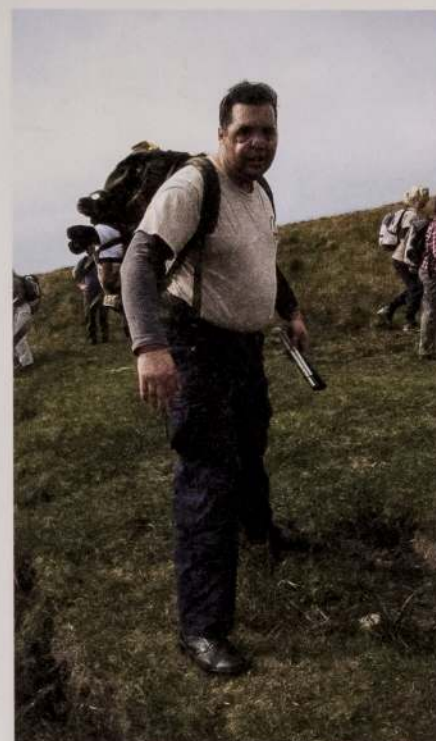
**H**AVING WAITED all year for September to come around again, the great Dartmoor Yomp was once more upon us. To join the old and bold of the Royal Marines, from [www.onceamarinealwaysamarine.co.uk](http://www.onceamarinealwaysamarine.co.uk) they came in their droves. The young and not so young invaded the quiet town of Princetown to take part in a charity yomp covering 12 miles across the moors.

Around 250 of the bravest set off on 19 September, some with prosthetic limbs and bits missing, two members

in wheelchairs, and from St Dunstan's, the happy volunteers, Colin Williamson and his lovely wife Brenda, with

Mark Threadgold, Steve Sparkes, Tony and Kozy Haskey, Simon Brown and bringing up the rear (as always) Gerry Jones and his escort Gabby Wright. Trying to keep them out of trouble was Geraldine Plaw and myself. Also making a very welcome appearance was our Chairman, Andrew Keeling and his wife Woppy, both far too fit to be in our company. I know many of Andrew's former colleagues were very surprised, but very happy to see their old boss. The Review's Simon Rogers completed the mix.

The morning started well with a good hearty breakfast and then transport to the start line, not really a race, more of a forced march. Anyone who has walked on Dartmoor will remember the hills which I'm sure get longer and higher. Or my legs are getting shorter.



Simon Brown is ready for action on the yomp.



Tony Haskey takes the weight off his feet.



Gabby and Gerry head off over vale and hill.



Mark Threadgold acts as the group's trailfinder.

The weather was just right and the scenery was stunning, with shadows from light clouds rolling over the moors, and with good friends as company, what more could you ask for? The jokes were sometimes blue and the banter was rife, the smiles were huge and the pain (what pain?) faded quickly.

We took about five hours to complete the course and met many new friends on the way. After a beer and a good bath, we got ready for the evening. Much alcohol

was passed over the bar and a huge dinner of hog roast followed by Spotted Dick, washed down with more alcohol and so many belly laughs, we settled down to a night of leg pulling and laughing. A wonderful time.

We drank a toast of Pusser's Rum to absent friends, many thinking of the current problems and colleagues who won't come back, but will always be remembered. The organisation for the weekend was amazing, and while I know they

had many helpers, a huge great chuck up and a massive thank you must go to Bernie and Oonagh Reffell, for their tireless work. Some of the proceeds will come to St Dunstan's when the pot has been counted; another good thing to come out of this. We hope to be going again next year, 2010, so any of you younger, fitter members who fancy your chances, get in touch with me at St Dunstan's Ovingdean or with Colin Williamson at Headquarters. Come along, it's only pain, and a good laugh.

# Belinda Bat does Zagreb

**Billy Baxter** finds an emotional undercurrent when he returns to a land he knew as a NATO peacekeeper

**T**WELVE YEARS AGO I was serving in war torn Yugoslavia with the British Army as part of the NATO forces, witnessing first hand the horrors of conflict and the suffering and trauma caused by war. So if someone had told me back then, that in 2009 I would return to this country, totally blind and touring with four beautiful ladies as part of a blind theatre group, performing with them in drag, I would have thought them to have taken leave of their senses. Well how wrong I was, because that is exactly what happened.

On 1 October, I flew out to Croatia with four lovely ladies from a blind theatre company called Extant as part of the gathering of blind and visually impaired actors performing at the sixth Blind in Theatre Festival hosted by Croatia.

Having only worked with Maria and the girls once before I had no idea what I had let myself in for, as I am new to the acting profession. Also, I had no idea of how I would feel being back in the Balkans. I had lost my sight there about ten

years ago, while carrying out my duties as a peacekeeping soldier.

My fears were totally unfounded as on arrival at Zagreb International Airport we were greeted by our two gorgeous Festival representatives, Lucija and Irena, who were to be our allocated personal guides, interpreters, and helpers. Lucija and Irena were initially confused as they were expecting five ladies but quickly realised that one of us was a part-time girl. They had no

problems identifying the owner of the leopard print suitcase. On the way to our hotel, we chatted, got to know our hostesses and were briefed about the planned events.

Having checked in, we were escorted to the theatre. The Festival is an international affair, with blind and visually impaired actors from several countries present. The atmosphere was lovely. Soon we were talking to people from many parts of the world and making new friends. Everyone was made to feel welcome, though it was humbling to meet so many visually impaired and blind actors like ourselves who were to inspire and entertain us.

The Festival was opened by the President of the Croatian Society of



Photograph copyright Extant

**Belinda Bat** does her thing with the girls from Extant's Burlesque troupe.

the Blind, himself an outstanding professional blind actor. Numerous greetings were made on stage by various officials and ministers from the Croatian government. Croatia started the festival with a marvellous play. The performances were brought to life by our access worker Susan, an actress herself, along with our escorts, who described action and costumes during the performances.

The language was interpreted by Lucija and Irena. All the countries present had interpreters allocated to them, bridging the gap of blindness and the language problem. It was strange to hear voices gently whispering all around the auditorium but it did not hamper the enjoyment or atmosphere of the performances. In fact, it added to the unique qualities of the festival.

I soon realised that the actors, actresses and performances were of a very professional standard. To anyone who watched a show, they would not guess that the performers were blind or sight impaired in anyway.

With the opening night over, the scene was set for the rest of the festival, with two shows a day, one being at three pm, and another at eight. Every morning we gathered in

the blind centre adjoining the theatre for an around the table discussion about the performances, speaking to the actors and actresses and exchanging ideas and thoughts. A couple of workshops were organised, teaching different performance techniques. The wealth of knowledge from the actors was immense, enabling me to pick up many tips and advice.

It was not all work though, as we took the opportunity to look around the beautiful city of Zagreb, taking advantage of the two ladies assigned to us, namely Lucija and Irena, who know the city well. They escorted us around places of interest, giving us a potted history of Zagreb. To our delight, they also knew all the best shops, cafes and bars. We learned about local customs, and phrases. The people were lovely and warm and made us feel welcome.

Time was marching on and soon it was the

Saturday we were to perform our work in progress, a performance based on the art of Burlesque. There was limited rehearsal space and we rehearsed our act in Maria's room, finding an area amongst cuttings of bubble wrap and sticky tape, materials used for the girls' costumes. So armed with our costumes, we set up and prepared the performance area which was to be held in the conference room adjoining the theatre. Susan got to grips with the sound system, Maria put Amelia, Heather and myself through our paces by running a rehearsal, ironing out last minute hitches. We were ready and set for our show. I think word got out about two beautiful ladies who were to be semi-naked and dancing in an intimately small performance area. Extra chairs were being brought in the room with quite a few more people turning up. I was that nervous I was drilling holes in the floor

with my high heels as I was shaking that much. Rather like a woodpecker on steroids. Our show went well and was well received. We had great fun performing and we managed to involve all nationalities present engaging with all the audience, sighted and unsighted alike.

After our performance we went straight into our question and answer session with our peers and the audience, fielded by our director Maria. She was presented with an award from the festival organisers for her commitment and work with the festival, richly deserved in my opinion. It was an amazing privilege to perform with two very talented actresses who gave me advice, help and support. Maria's hard work had paid off and showed what could be achieved with a good team.

A special mention should go to our pocket rocket Susan, who was press ganged by Maria in London to accompany us as our access worker.

So to summarise my first Blind Drama Festival, I would like to say it has been an excellent experience, one I shall never forget for many reasons. I have made new friends and worked with some brilliant people and talented performers. I have laughed, cried, and received an exceptional education, learning from so many blind and visually impaired performers who have totally inspired me. I have exorcised my demons by returning to a country that changed my life when I had sight, and now it has taught me what can be achieved without sight in the form of the Blind in Theatre Festival.

Watch out Brighton! Extant will be performing Burlesque in the Brighton Dome for the International Day of Disabled People event which runs workshops from 15:30-20:30 on 3 December. Billy and the girls will be on stage between 19:00-20:30 with Liz Carr and Mat Fraser. Admission to all events is free.



SUSSEX SINGERS staged a musical tribute to the life of Henry Allingham in support of St Dunstan's at St Nicholas' Church, Brighton on 18 October. An audience of around 100 people was captivated by renditions of *We'll Meet Again*, music from *West Side Story*, and choral works by Elgar and Parry. St Dunstaner Mike Scholes spoke of losing his sight and the turnaround in confidence he experienced after training at St Dunstan's.



## Many happy returns to Joan

Former Wren, St Dunstaner Joan Trench celebrated her 102nd birthday at Ovingdean on 16 October. A special cake prepared by PBK was unveiled by Manager Helen Emmerson.

## Laker's Progress

At press time, Ges Laker and his dogs were heading south on their round the coast walk, having come through Liverpool they had reached Mersey Park in Birkenhead. So far, they have walked 4,198 miles and despite an impromptu stop for a dental appointment, are still going strong.

# Have you ever thought of having a Guide Cat or a Snow Leopard?

Ray Hazan on the Computer Club gathering held at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 30 September to 1 October

WHEN WRITING an account of a gathering one has organised, the temptation is to say how well it went! But since no one volunteered to do the write-up and "porkies" are not in my vocabulary, "It is the truth, Gov!" Again, the sense of comradeship, cheery banter and mutual support, all contributed towards a really enjoyable and beneficial two days.

It was great to meet up with old friends again. Regrettably, new faces were unable to attend due to illness. So it was left up to Ernie Bignall, Bob Waller, Laurence and Rebeka Hardy, Ken Seaman, Edwin Ashworth, Albert and Maureen Southerden, Norman Chidler, Peter and Kathleen Lennon, Harry and Joan Beevers, Mark Threadgold and Ray Hazan.

A popular session now is "Ask a ROVI". Brian Kilburn drew the short straw and brought us up to date with the "Penfriend". This device,

literally like a very large pen, records your message which is linked to a specific label. This label can be attached to clothing, CDs, food tins, etc. Then, whenever you point the pen at the label, it will read out your message, telling you of the contents of a CD or colour of clothing – whatever you have recorded about that item. The cost of £54.99 includes 127 labels and a further 350 can be purchased for £10. The memory stored in the Penfriend itself is sufficient for many hours of recording. This

is available via the RNIB Resource Centre.

A reminder came from Harry Beevers that several stationery items, including batteries, blank CDs, etc can be purchased via the Procurement department at St Dunstan's Ovingdean at very reasonable prices. Either e-mail [nathan.clements@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:nathan.clements@st-dunstans.org.uk) or telephone 01273 307811.

We were delighted, as always, to host Brad Croshaw in the afternoon, and we still have not been able to catch him out with a question to which he does not know the answer. He advised looking into OpenOffice, a freely available Office suite from [www.openoffice.com](http://www.openoffice.com).

A very enjoyable evening was spent in the Winter Garden thanks both to PBK and the general conviviality of those present. The atmosphere only degenerated a little as stories and jokes were related in lieu of after dinner speeches! As always, we could not have managed without Janis, Brad and Joan. Many thanks to them.

We were very pleased to receive a visit from a new speaker, Steve Plumpton from the British Computer Association of the Blind (BCAB). He told of how it all started in the late 1960s and the efforts by the Association to organise opportunities for visually impaired people to lay hands onto a computer or to lead training sessions. Local groups need to organise venue and food, BCAB will do the rest including providing PCs. This is all voluntary work and one has to admire their enthusiasm and devotion.

Steve also mentioned a freely available screen reader – NVDA (Non Visual Desk Top Access),

available from [www.nvda-project.org](http://www.nvda-project.org).

One way in which you can support BCAB is to become a member at £21 for full membership (eligible to vote) or associate membership at £10.50. Their website is at [www.bcab.org.uk](http://www.bcab.org.uk) or telephone 0845 430 8628.

In order to raise funds towards their work, they have also produced some very amusing CDs. Comic verse read by celebrities provide wonderful listening and an excellent idea for a Christmas present.

The CD, *Guide Cats Vol 4: CatNav*, can be purchased via the BCAB website or by telephone. Please call Proper Music during office hours on 020 8676 5141 to make a purchase by credit card over the telephone. Also, please note that prices may vary from those shown on the BCAB or other websites.

Mike Crawford rounded the morning off with more explanations, hints, help and information.

There is one very good way of ending the gathering and that is by holding a quiz. It gathers people together and the spirit of competition adds hilarity and excitement. Harry Beevers posed 66 cryptic questions and made life a little simpler by lining up the answers on computer terminology in alphabetic order. One team, who shall be nameless, thought Burke and Hare were a pair of comedians, rather than tomb robbers! Better they stuck to computing!

As always, these sessions could not be successful without the contribution of Janis Sharp, Mike Crawford and Donna Vaughan in particular, and the Ovingdean staff, especially the drivers, not forgetting those St Dunstaners who make the long journeys to attend.

**PS** The latest Apple Mac screen reader is called Snow Leopard!

The next Computer Club takes place on Wed-Thu 24-25 February 2010.



# POETS' CORNER

## World War II in someone else's life

by Rhiannon Jones

I found this crimson diary sitting here,  
I opened it up it was very clear  
In the pages a story told,  
I'll tell you how as the story unfolds

A family of three, Mom, dad and me  
September 1939, Our soldiers stood in line  
The last time I saw my dad he wept,  
"Goodbye my dearest, loveliest lass!"

For the second, worst time he waved  
goodbyes to us especially me  
He sailed across the big blue sea  
When my brave yet handsome dad  
went out to fight  
I missed his hugs and kisses every night

Days turn into months, months into years,  
We haven't heard, we had endless fears  
Then the dreaded letter came it read,  
bad news  
Dad was dead. I fought back the tears  
that stung my eyes,  
Gazing instead in to the crimson sky

Soon after that war was done,  
Germany defeated we had won  
Not many of the soldiers came home,  
but the ones who did looked alone  
They were tired and hungry yet proud  
to call Canada their home  
I looked up into the jet black sky as the

shining stars shone  
I knew my dad was always with me and  
I will never be alone

After months of sleepless nights,  
He wrote a letter that gave me frights  
He wrote about the upsetting, terrible  
and pointless fights  
He also wrote that even though it made  
him sick, it made him ill  
To not be able to stop the killing at will

As days went by and winter came,  
Things never seemed quite the same  
Early next year a letter arrived  
Hurray my dad had survived  
He wrote of sounds and sights,  
Descriptions which gave me  
terrible frights

We should remember Remembrance Day  
For those who fought and those who  
still lay  
Now we recognise the many brave folk  
on this day in November  
For long in the future their actions we  
will remember  
We should all buy and wear our  
poppies with pride  
To support the families and folk of so  
many that died  
But the poppy also is a symbol of the  
many that gave  
So that we could live free and our  
country was saved

Rhiannon was ten-and-a-half years old when she wrote this poem last year and won a Veterans Day competition in Canada. She is the grand-daughter of REME St Dunstaner Ron Jones of Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

## Soldiers

by Harry Howarth

In my dreams  
I see them marching  
Into Marathon  
Bloody, indomitable,  
To save the civilised world  
I see the Old Guard  
Marching through the snow  
Indomitable in defeat  
In my dream I weep

And then they materialise at Waterloo  
Marching with steadfast discipline  
Into the bayonets of the British square  
Each unconquerable each immortal

My dream changes  
To a dusty road on the Bangkok plain  
I am surprised these are coolies  
A rabble, demoralised, beaten  
Down each leg runs a bloody stream

I see a tall figure  
at the head of this column  
A wraith like figure who  
reminds me of Moses.  
I am wrong he is a soldier  
He gives the word of command  
March to attention the 5th

I see a metamorphosis  
I was wrong they are soldiers  
Indomitable in defeat as in victory  
They give an eyes right to the Jap  
Guard room with a conscious arrogance  
And sink to the ground on the padang  
Exhausted but undefeated  
The padang has become  
strangely English  
After this we loved Colonel Flower.  
I stir in my sleep and dry my tears.

## Cricket

by Andy Allott

Cricket in my day was great  
With ball delivered at a decent rate.  
On village green with lots of time  
Especially when the weather's fine.

Now the game is worldly played  
The batsmen often are afraid  
But take to the crease and know  
The bowler goes all out to show  
That he can make the wickets flow.

To see the crowd with breathless face  
It's not a game it's just a race.  
To bat and run is how its done.  
How's That - just cricket and still great.  
Can even change a county's fate.

Cricket in the time of Grace  
Was much nicer then with lesser pace.  
Today the game continues bright  
Though to me it's not quite right.

# Golden summer for archers

**Patrick Sidnell** reports direct from the shooting line

St Dunstan's Archery Club were out on the green once more at St Dunstan's Ovingdean for another week running 29 August to 5 September. The opening Saturday was spent checking equipment and practice. On the Sunday five members attended The Sussex Championships held at Falmar School.

## Gold Medals

Compound  
Keith Lanchester-Harding  
Recurve Pat Sidnell  
Ladies Marjorie Scott

## Silver Medals

Compound  
Peter Hammond  
Recurve Doug Rogers

## Bronze Medals

Compound David Poyner  
Team Marjorie Scott,  
Doug Rogers  
and Pat Sidnell

Monday 31 August, the round shoot was a junior western, four dozen arrows at 40 yards and three yards.

## Handicap

### adjusted scores

Gold Doug Rogers  
Silver Carole Sharp  
Bronze Pat Sidnell

The Club Championships took place on Tuesday 1 September. The match was a Bristol IV six dozen arrows at 40 yards, four dozen arrows at 30 yards and two dozen arrows at 20 yards.

## Handicap adjusted scores

Gold Doug Rogers  
Silver Carole Sharpe  
Bronze Pat Sidnell

## Tactile

B1  
Gold Peter Hammond

## B2/3

Gold Pat Sidnell  
Silver David Poyner  
Bronze Doug Rogers

## Bowsight Compound

Gold  
Keith Lanchester-Harding

## Bowsight Recurve

Gold Adrian Neat

## Ladies

Gold Carol Sharpe  
Silver Marjorie Scott  
Bronze  
Eileen Thompson

## Short Junior National

Gold Leslie George  
Silver  
Willoughby Dampier

## Best Gold

B1 Carole Sharpe  
Tactile David Poyner

## Worst White

B1 Leslie George  
Tactile Marjorie Scott

## Toro Trophy (Worst Red)

Pat Sidnell

Wednesday was a rest day with everyone taking the day off from shooting, coaching and spotting. On Thursday 3 September a match took place between the Greenways Archery Club (Staff Club) and St Dunstan's Archery Club.

Due to the bad weather the match was six dozen arrows at 40 yards and I am pleased to report that St Dunstan's Archery Club won by 16 points, thanks to our Chairman David Poyner who shot well with his long bow. We look forward to the re-match next year.

Friday 4 September the competition was a Burntwood York, six dozen arrows at a 60cm face, four dozen at an 80cm face and two dozen at a 122cm face, all at 30 meters.

## Handicap

### adjusted scores

Gold Adrian Neat  
Silver Pat Sidnell  
Bronze Peter Hammond

Everyone shoot well during the week, five club records were broken two each by Keith and Pat and one by Peter.

On Friday evening the Archery Club presentations took place in The Winter Gardens. The Lady Paramount was to be Centre Manager

Helen Emmerson but she was unwell and could not attend, we all wish her a speedy recovery. Our Club President Major(Rtd) Wendy Le Gassick, MBE stood in at the last minute to present the Trophy's and prizes. We wish to thank Wendy her for support.

For the first time it had been decided to run a League during the year. We were pleased to have Clickers Archery Ltd as the sponsor. We are very grateful to and thank them for their support.

First Pat Sidnell

Second

Keith Lanchester-Harding

Third Norman Perry

Fourth David Poyner

The final presentation, "The Silly Ass Award" was presented by last year's winner John Gaunt. This Trophy is presented to the person he feels did or said the silliest thing during the year. The Trophy was handed on to Pat Sidnell.

On the final Saturday,

we were visited by three local clubs. Ditchling Archery Club, Newhaven Archery Club and the Hellingly Archery Club. It was great to see the archery field with so many archers shooting.

The competition was won by St Dunstan's Archery Club Team, with a score of 5,950. Ditchling Archery Club came second, with a score of 5,827. Hellingly Archery Club with only two archers scored 2,871.

We would all like to thank all the Clubs members for coming along to our Club presentation evening and shoot and we look forwards to seeing them all in 2010. Thanks must also go to Wendy for supplying the buffet at the end of the shoot.

The week was very successful due to the efforts of our coaching staff, spotters, records officer and other members of the organizing team, the staff of St Dunstan's and PPK. We thank you all.

# ASK ROD

Your queries answered  
by the ROVI on Duty

ROVI on Duty Tel: 01273 391447 E-mail: rovianduty@st-dunstans.org.uk

## Making information accessible for people with a vision impairment

Providing information in a format that is accessible to all St Dunstaners irrespective of his or her vision impairment plays a vital part in facilitating a sense of independence which lies at the heart of St Dunstan's Mission Statement.

This article sets out what St Dunstan's aims to offer to ensure that information produced is accessible to all. You may find the guidelines below useful to explain to other people what format you need information in.

### Large print

The R&T department follows guidelines set out by RNIB's *See it Right* booklet, which includes:

- Simple and clear typeface such as Arial
- Type size is 16 point or ideally 18 point but it is always advisable to ask the individual for their preferred font size.
- Text is left aligned
- Layout is consistent and logical
- Words are not split between lines

- No large blocks of capital letters
- No italics
- No words are underlined
- No text is laid over the top of an image or texture
- Paper is not glossy
- Good contrast between the text and the background
- Line space between paragraphs

In addition, many of you may read through the use of a text scanner or Electronic Magnifier (CCTV).

The Copyright (Visually Impaired Persons) Act 2002 introduced exceptions to copyright law, which remove the need for anyone to obtain permission from the rights holder to produce an accessible copy.

### Braille

There are two types of Braille to consider:

- Grade 1 Braille produces letter-by-letter translation
- Grade 2 Braille has dot combinations to represent common letter groups

Grade 2 tends to be the option that is used mostly as it uses less space and is generally quicker to read. Again we

would always ask the individual for their preference.

### Electronic format and e-mail

Most documents can be made available electronically by

- E-mail
- Audio CD

Documents need to be clear and simple in their presentation. Emails can be accessed using a screen reader such as Supernova, guide or JAWS, allowing the information to be magnified onto the screen or spoken out with a synthesised speech.

### Audio tape

The use of audio tape continues to decline in preference for CDs. However, it is still the preferred option for many St Dunstaners and so we will produce information on tape where possible.

CDs and Audio tapes can be easier to follow if:

- They are labelled appropriately
- They start with full details of the contents
- The start of each section is marked
- They are proof listened to, ensuring that the content is clear

If you would like further information on receiving information in an accessible format or you are currently not receiving information from St Dunstan's in your preferred format please contact ROVI on Duty on 01273 391447.

## BEER OF THE MONTH

by Colin Williamson

### Brewdog Tokyo

This is the strongest beer in the UK and should carry a health warning. This beauty weighs in at a staggering 18.2 per cent and is one of the best beers I have ever tasted. It is described as an imperial stout brewed with cranberries and jasmine added to the kettle, but this doesn't do it justice. Definitely a brew to be shared; it's certainly not a "sit and sup" beer. I detected biscuit, fruit, malt and spices and a richness often found in fruitcake. Very similar to strong Belgian beers, this drink should be handled with care. There is some debate whether to chill or not but I prefer my ale cold so a couple of hours in the fridge was sufficient for me. Available in some supermarkets and direct from the brewery via [www.brewdog.com](http://www.brewdog.com).



## Ten Answers

Answers to quiz on page 15.

- 1) Harp; 2) 17 March; 3) Isle of Man; 4) Jack Charlton; 5) River Shannon; 6) James; 7) Fastnet; 8) Cumbria, St Bees Head; 9) Belfast; and 10) Oscar Wilde.

# Welcome to St Dunstan's

**Edna Banister** of Tring, Hertfordshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

**Jean Bassett** of Orpington, Kent served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1948 to 1950 and the Women's Royal Army Corps until 1951.

**Alfred Clauson** of Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Bedfordshire served in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1941 and 1946.

**Charles Clements** of Connor Downs, Hayle, Cornwall served in the Royal Engineers from 1942 to 1943.

**Harold Collett** of Bermondsey, London served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1945.

**William Coulthard** of Morpeth, Northumberland served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1955.

**Gordon Dangerfield** of Barrowby, Grantham, Lincolnshire served in the General Service Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1943 and 1947.

**Carol Davies** of Trowbridge, Wiltshire

served in the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1968 to 1969.

**Donald Ferguson** of Fochabers, Morayshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Engineers between 1941 and 1947.

**Christopher Fitzsimons** of Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**Major Leonard Foulds** of Southport, Merseyside served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1939 and 1945.

**Tony Gilbert** of Upton, Norwich served in the Royal Air Force from 1955 to 1957.

**Elizabeth Granville** of Willington, Crook, County Durham served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service during the Second World War.

**Stephen Griffin** of Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the General Service Corps and Royal Engineers between 1946 and 1952.

**Russell Hart** of Sudbury, Suffolk served in the Queen's Division and Royal Anglian Regiment between 1992 and 1996.

**Hilda Hauck** of Worthing, West Sussex served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Dennis Heeley** of Stone, Staffordshire served in the General Service Corps and North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) between 1945 and 1948.

**Eric Jones** of Stonehouse, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1942.

**Eric Kendall** of Dalton-in-Furness, Cumbria served in the Royal Navy in 1946.

**Charles McNally** of Bromley, Kent served in the Royal Marines from 1943 to 1946.

**James Malcolm** of Perth served in the Black Watch from 1967 to 1978.

**John Maxwell** of Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Artillery from 1947 to 1949.

**John Mercer** of Broadway, Worcestershire served in the Gloucestershire Regiment from 1942 to 1946.

**Margaret Morrow** of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1945.

**William Moulford** of Worthing, West Sussex served in the Royal Engineers from 1937 to 1946.

**Eric Platt** of Watton, Thetford, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

**John Robinson** of Deeside, Clwyd served in the Parachute Regiment from 1982 to 1992.

**Alexander Rogers** of Newtown, Powys served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1947.

**Michael Saunders** of Lowestoft, Suffolk served in the Royal Navy from 1957 to 1969.

**Raymond Sharp** of Boston, Lincolnshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1944 to 1948.

**Dorothy Shepherd** of Swindon served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1943 to 1945.

**David Sloan** of Andover, Hampshire served in the Royal Irish Fusiliers and then the London Irish Rifles between 1958 and 1963.

**Eric Stenhouse** of Luddendenfoot, Halifax, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**Richard Townsend** of Sidmouth, Devon served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1941 to 1945.

**Arthur Vardy** of Darton, Barnsley, South Yorkshire served as a Private in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1944 to 1947.

**Christina Viles** of Lepton,

Huddersfield served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1945.

**John Walshe** of Accrington, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**Alexander Whitelock** of Wymondham, Norfolk served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1943 to 1947.

**Robert Wood** of Uxbridge, Middlesex served in the Royal Army Medical Corps between 1940 and 1946.

**Benjamin Yeomans** of Litchfield, Staffordshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1952 to 1955.

**Kenneth Young** of Towcester, Northamptonshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

# Family News

## BIRTHS

### Congratulations on the birth of:

Olivia Mary Sennett on 8 September. Her mother, Lance Corporal Kara Sennet, serving in the Royal Logistic Corps, is the niece of Maria Pikulski of Preston, Lancashire.



Holly Rose on 17 September, weighing 9lb, 11oz. She is the grand-daughter of Michael and Pearl James of Havant, Hampshire and was born to their youngest daughter Rebecca and her husband, Ross New.

Joe Cranson on 23 September. He is the first grandson of St Dunstaner David Cranson of Deaf Hill, County Durham.

Kimberley on 26 September. She is the second grand-daughter of Nigel and Jax Whiteley of Peacehaven, East Sussex.

## WEDDINGS

### Congratulations to:

Andy and Natalie Allen of Belfast who married on 17 October.

## SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

### Congratulations to:

William and Jean Finnemore of Richmond, Surrey on 24 September.

## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

### Congratulations to:

Peter and Gwen Boorman of Hythe, Kent on 3 October.

Archie and Ann Clarke of Gillingham, Dorset on 3 October.

Wesley and Marjery Kilpin of Droxford, Southampton, Hampshire on 7 October.

## DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

### Congratulations to:

Frederick and Kathleen Appleyard of Middlesbrough, Cleveland on 24 September.

Denis and Joan Lewis of Williton, Taunton, Somerset on 24 September.

Edward and Dot Holland of West Wittering, Chichester, West Sussex on 1 October.

Eric and Audrey Tancred of Middleton, Manchester on 8 October.

Alexander and Julie Lawson of Kensington, London on 10 October.

## BLUE SAPPHIRE ANNIVERSARIES

### Congratulations to:

Laurie and Queenie Johnson of Romford Essex on 15 October.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Congratulations to:

St Dunstaner Kerry Reed of Caergeiliog, Anglesey has recently earned the OCR Level 1 Certificate for IT Users (New CLAiT). This achievement is made more remarkable by the fact that Kerry only began her CLAiT course in May of this year. With the aim of developing high-level skills that will benefit her in the workplace, Kerry will commence studies for the advanced, Level 2 CLAiT course in November.

St Dunstaner Joe Elsender of Chester-le-Street, Durham, County Durham who passed a further section of his Level 2 Coaching certificate. This time he covered athletics events that involve throwing such as javelin, shot, and discus. Additionally, Joe has been tutoring three other coaches, all sighted, who are studying for the same certificate. And if that isn't enough, Joe also coaches a group of 26 8-10 year olds who have an interest in track events.

## DEATHS

### We regret to announce the death of:

Yvonne Jackson of Stratton, Western Australia on 5 September. She was the widow of Phillip Jackson.

Doris Ginn of Eastbourne, East Sussex on 14 September. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Eddie Ginn.

Betty Clark on 20 September. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Leonard Clark of Polegate, East Sussex.

Audrey Page of Thorney Close, Sunderland on 6 October. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Reg Page.

Margaret Andrews of Combe Martin, North Devon on 9 October. She was the widow of Graham Andrews.

Grace Renshaw of Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire on 13 October. She was the widow of Thomas Renshaw.

Wendy Wessely on 16 October. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Rudolf Wessely of Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

# 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.**

## **John Bevan**

### **Royal Engineers**

John Caldwell Bevan of Barton-on-Sea, New Milton, Hampshire died on 16 August, aged 85. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1942 and was commissioned the following year. Having served in East Africa and Madagascar, he was discharged as Captain in 1947. He then taught mathematics. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

## **Ken Morris**

### **Royal Engineers**

Kenneth Morris of Chipping Sodbury, Bristol died on 5 September, aged 79. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1950 and served in Egypt. Discharged in 1952, he worked for British Rail and later for Gloucester Council. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

## **George Allan**

### **Parachute Regiment**

George Allan of Grundisburgh, Suffolk died on 9 September, aged 90. He joined the Royal Fusiliers in 1939 and transferred to the Parachute Regiment in 1941. Having served in North Africa, Sicily, Taranto, and Arnhem, he was

demobbed in 1946. He returned to work as a gardener, later specialising in tree husbandry. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margery and all the family.

## **Joan Prime**

### **Women's Royal Army Corps**

Joan Muriel Prime of Acocks Green, Birmingham, West Midlands died on 18 September, aged 87. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1943. She served further as a Pay Clerk in the Women's Royal Army Corps before discharge in 1951. Subsequently, she worked for the Inland Revenue.

## **David John**

### **Royal Navy**

David Russell John of Uttoxeter, Staffordshire died on 20 September, aged 82. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and served in the Far East as a Stoker Mechanic. Discharged in 1948, he joined the Constabulary in Bristol, rising to Superintendent. Our sympathy goes to his widow Phyllis and all the family.

## **Bill Grady**

### **Household Cavalry**

William Grady of Haywards Heath, West

Sussex died on 21 September, aged 91. He enlisted in the Army in 1936, joining the Household Cavalry. He served in Palestine, North Africa and Crete with 8 Commando and Middle East Commando before joining the SAS for the attempt to reclaim the Aegean Islands. Demobbed in 1946, he joined the Civil Service, but later became a banker. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

## **Kenneth Denning-Duke**

### **Royal Army Service Corps**

Kenneth Denning-Duke of Penzance, Cornwall died on 22 September, aged 91. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1939 and served in the UK and overseas. Discharged in 1946, he went into the nursing profession. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

## **Verna Elliott**

### **Women's Auxiliary Air Force**

Verna Elliott nee Bawn of Morecambe, Lancashire died on 22 September. She served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1946 to 1947. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

## **James Lowman**

### **Army Catering Corps**

James Harold Lowman of New Barnet, Hertfordshire died on 28 September, aged 93. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940. In 1945, he transferred to the Army Catering Corps before discharge in 1946. In civilian life, he ran an upholstery business. Our sympathy goes to his widow Audrey and all the family.

## **Sidney Holder**

### **Royal Artillery**

Sidney Arthur Holder of Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire died on 29 September, aged 91. He initially joined the Gloucester Regiment but was discharged in 1939 with an injured hand. Come 1940, he joined the Royal Artillery serving in Ack-Ack units. Discharged in 1943, he was a farm worker. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

## **Peter Logan**

### **Royal Navy**

Peter Logan of Wallsend, Newcastle-upon-Tyne died on 29 September, aged 76. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1968. He enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1950, serving as a cook in the Home Fleet and Far East on HMS *Victorious*. During this time, he contracted Eales' Disease and suffered haemorrhages in his eyes. Discharged as Petty Officer in 1961, he worked as a chef and later as a publican. His interests included sports and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret and all the family.

## **Arthur Hatfield**

### **Royal Air Force**

Arthur Harold Hatfield of Brockworth, Gloucester, Gloucestershire died on 1 October, aged 81. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1946 and served in Bicester, Norfolk, and Sutton Coldfield. Demobbed in 1948, he worked in the motor trade. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Norman Kerslake****Royal Navy**

Norman Alexander Kerslake of Shawford, Winchester, Hampshire died on 1 October, aged 88. He joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1938, then transferred to the Royal Navy in 1940 spending two years as an Engineer on an armed Merchant cruiser sailing the North Atlantic. He was later posted to Malaya and Singapore where his ship was taken by Japanese forces. After a year in Changi Gaol alongside late St Dunstaner Ken Walker, he was moved to other camps, spending three and a half years as a Far East Prisoner of War. Demobbed in 1946, he set up a business repairing diesel engines, before joining with a Canadian group to set up a marine business in London and Southampton. Sailing remained a major interest and after losing his sight, he sailed round Croatia. He was a member of St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War Group. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doreen and all the family.

**Donald Lorenz****Cheshire Regiment**

Donald Robert Lorenz of Blofield, Norwich, Norfolk died on 1 October, aged 92. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1945. He was an electrician before joining the Cheshire Regiment in 1939. Posted to their 7 Battalion, he was deployed to Ypres with the British Expeditionary Force. Following evacuation from Dunkirk, he was redeployed on the Sicily Landings,

moving through Sangro, Garigliano, Anzio and Rome. In 1945, while serving in Germany, he was accidentally shot. After training at St Dunstan's Church Stretton, he became a capstan lathe operator with Wolf & Co, an engineering firm in Ealing. Later, he ran a grocery store, moving on to a tobacconist and confectionary outlet in Norwich. Trade was a successful venture, though it took an explosive turn when one customer inadvertently ignited a stock of fireworks. A keen gardener, he also enjoyed tape recording, music, and rug-making. Our sympathy goes to his widow Betty and all members of the family.

**Arfon Parry****Royal Welch Fusiliers**

Arfon Wyn Parry of Caernarfon, Gwynedd died on 2 October, aged 65. He joined the Royal Welch Fusiliers in 1978 and served in Germany, Wiltshire, Portsmouth, Browndown and the Falkland Islands. He resigned his commission as Lieutenant in 1990. A photographer with North Wales Police, he retired due to loss of eyesight. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Jimmy Insch****Royal Air Force**

James Insch of Corby, Northamptonshire died on 5 October, aged 90. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 and served in Singapore, Sumatra, Australia, Ceylon and Burma. Discharged in 1946, he became a building engineer and retired

as Clerk of Works in Perthshire. Our sympathy goes to his widow Peggy and all members of the family.

**Douglas Scott****Royal Army Service Corps**

Douglas James Scott of South Highton, Newhaven, East Sussex died on 5 October, aged 83. He joined the General Service Corps in 1943, transferring shortly to the Royal Army Service Corps, serving in Italy and Palestine. Demobbed in 1947, he worked in Kuwait as an engineer. Our sympathy goes to his partner Margaret and all members of the family.

**Cyril Vickers****Royal Marines**

Cyril John Vickers of West Allington, Bridport, Dorset died on 5 October, aged 84. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1991. He joined the Royal Marines as a boy musician in 1939 and completed training at Deal. Posted to HMS *Sussex*, he sailed around Africa, India, Sumatra, and Australia. During this time, he had an operation on his nose which would eventually lead to a loss of sight in his left eye. Towards the end of the war, he transferred to HMS *Vanguard* but subsequently suffered a gunshot wound while on leave in South Africa. This blinded him in the right eye. Discharged in 1947, he worked as a labourer on Dorset roads and later set up business making concrete garden figures and was an adept woodworker. He enjoyed writing

short stories and poems. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret and all members of the family.

**Tom Lukes****Royal Canadian Engineers**

Thomas Owen Lukes of Old Colwyn, Clwyd died on 7 October, aged 91. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1945. Born and raised in Canada, he had been studying civil engineering at Toronto University when he joined the Royal Canadian Engineers in 1941. Serving in the UK and Europe, he was blinded by a mine in Holland. While training at St Dunstan's, his ambition was to become a personnel manager, eventually though, he turned to physiotherapy as a career. Like many other St Dunstaners, he mixed work at a local hospital with private practice and a three year contract at Colwyn Bay Hospital quickly became 30 years. He enjoyed walking, was fond of the Welsh mountains, and was one of St Dunstan's "Rockers", scaling Tryfan, Cader Idris and parts of Offa's Dyke with the Rhinog Mountain Rescue Team. Our sympathy goes to his widow Peggy and all members of the family.

**Lawrence Hindle****Royal Signals**

Lawrence Hindle of Colwyn Bay, Denbighshire died on 9 October, aged 87. He joined the Royal Signals in 1942 and served in Algiers, Italy, Venice, and Greece. Demobbed in 1947, he trained briefly to become a Catholic priest, but

then went into local government. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Arthur Jacobs**

**Australian Army**

Arthur Gordon Jacobs of Plumpton, New South Wales, Australia died on 9 October, aged 85. Born in Wilcannia, NSW, he joined the Australian Army in 1942 and served with 2 Corps Mobile Laundry and Forward Decontamination Unit. Discharged in 1943, he then worked as a geriatric nurse and security officer. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mary and all the family.

**Joyce Holland**

**First Aid Nursing Yeomanry**

Joyce Irene Stuart Holland nee Fade of Worthing, West Sussex died on 10 October, aged 86. She served in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry from 1945 to 1946. In civilian life, she raised a family and worked for the Civil Service. Our sympathy goes to her widower Don and all members of the family.

**Jan Webb**

**Auxiliary Territorial Service**

Ena Janet Webb nee Constable of Rustington, Littlehampton, West Sussex died on 10 October, aged 95. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1942 working as a clerk with the RASC in Oxted. Demobbed in 1945, she worked as a secretary and raised a family. She emigrated to Australia, returning to the UK after the death of her husband. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Edgar Gilert**

**Royal Air Force**

Edgar Gilert of Askern, Doncaster died on 13 October, aged 87. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 and served in the Middle East and Italy with 55 Squadron. Demobbed in 1946, he worked as a civil servant and also a miner, eventually becoming an Overman. Our sympathy goes to his widow Ellen and all of the family.

**Walter Rosser, DFC**

**Royal Air Force**

Walter James Rosser, DFC of Lovedean, Waterlooville, Hampshire died on 13 October, aged 92. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1938 and became a Spitfire pilot with No 130 Squadron. Commissioned in 1941, he was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for engaging the enemy over Northern France, destroying two aircraft and damaging four others. He was later shot down himself over Arnhem. Discharged in 1946, he re-enlisted in 1951, serving with the RAF until 1972. In civilian life, he worked as an estate agent and office manager. Our sympathy goes to his widow Denise and all the family.

**James Wilson**

**Royal Navy**

James Huddlestone Wilson of Millom, Cumbria died on 14 October, aged 85. Having worked as a laboratory assistant at the local ironworks, he joined Vickers

Armstrong as a fitter installing guns on ships in the Clyde. Enlisting in the Royal Navy in 1943, he served on HMS *Belfast* in the Pacific Ocean. Demobbed in 1946, he returned to Vickers, but later went to work in Sellafield. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Stanley Gimber**

**Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Stanley Gimber of Hounslow, Middlesex died on 15 October, aged 91. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1946. A motor-fitter with Rootes, he enlisted in the Army in 1939 and served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the UK and Europe. While serving in Germany, he was poisoned after drinking a spirit doped with wood alcohol which ravaged his nervous system. While at St Dunstan's, he decided to study to become a physiotherapist. After qualifying, he took up an appointment at a hospital in Epping, though it took a while to set up private practice. His interests included carpentry, gardening, Braille, talking books, radio, and computers. Our sympathy goes to his son George, daughter Susan and all the family.

**Frank Wilmore**

**Royal Army Service Corps**

Frank Wilmore of Blackwater, Surrey died on 16 October, aged 96. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1940

and was posted to Greece the following year. After being wounded by machine gun fire during the German invasion, he was evacuated to Crete. Discharged in 1942, he became director of the textile company William Reed. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**James Muir**

**Royal Signals**

James Muir of Hove, East Sussex has died, aged 89. He joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in 1940, serving in the West Indies, Middle East and North Africa. Wounded by shrapnel at Monte Cassino, he was later deployed to Greece and Austria. Demobbed in 1946, he worked for the Post Office as a driver, but also served in the Royal Army Service Corps (TA) from 1947 to 1957. He served further with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (TA) from 1961 to 1962, then in the Royal Signals from 1963 to 1965. Later, he worked at the forensics department at Glasgow University. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Roy Groves**

**Royal Navy**

Roy Hewart Groves of Woodley, Stockport, Cheshire died on 27 September, aged 85. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942 and served as a Stoker on North Atlantic convoys and in the Mediterranean. Invalided out in 1946, he worked as a signalman for British Rail. Our sympathy goes to his widow Winnie and all the family.



# Now that's a Long stroke

St Dunstaner **Garth Long** is preparing to become the first blind swimmer to cross the English Channel

Photograph copyright James Hudson



Garth Long races through the Cobh Harbour waters.

**A** ST DUNSTANER was one of 40 swimmers who braved the icy waters of Cobh Harbour on behalf of Irish Guide Dogs on 22 September. Garth Long, who is totally blind, took part in the third Irish Open Water Swim, dubbed "Escape from Spike Island" by some.

Garth lost his sight in 1977 when he was caught in a rocket attack while serving in the Rhodesia Colonial Police Force.

If the temperature wasn't encouragement enough, Garth and the other swimmers needed to cross one nautical mile in under an hour - Cobh Harbour is a commercial port, so no time could be wasted before ships returned to the waters.

"I am privileged to have had Ned Denison to support me and a whistle blower in a Kayak," said Garth, aged 56. "I just squeaked in time. Sandy Murphy, who is my regular swimming

partner, made it in a comfortable 45 minutes."

"The local crowd were amazing," he added. "There must have been over 400 cheering Cobhvites to welcome us home!"

Despite the cold, Garth did not wear a wet-suit because he is planning to swim the English Channel in July next year. Rules for the Channel swim preclude the use of a wet-suit. He also has a vigorous training programme ahead.

"A whole host of sea conditioning swims are still to come," he said. "A ten kilometre night swim, a 10km surf swim, and a daunting six days in Gozo in Malta."

Going to Malta has an advantage for training that Garth will relish. "The sea water will be a cosy 22 degrees. What a brilliant thought!"