



Editor: Ray Hazan Tel: 020 7723 5021 Fax: 020 7262 6199 E-mail: ray.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk

SEASONS GREETINGS PEACE AND GOODWILL TO ALL

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

PLEASE REMEMBER - There will be no edition of St Dunstan's Review published in January. We will be back at the start of February 2010.

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

St Dunstan's Review is published monthly by St Dunstan's an independent future for blind ex-Service men and women, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. Website: www.st-dunstans.org.uk. A company limited by guarantee No. 189648, registered in England. Registered Charity No. 216227 (England & Wales) and SCO39411 (Scotland). ISSN 0036-2808. Unless otherwise stated all photographs are copyright of St Dunstan's. Printed by Newnorth.

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.

No 997

We shall remember them Cover Story

St Dunstan's Vice Patron Sir Peter de la Billière stands in Whitehall with RAF St Dunstaner Wallace Burnet-Smith who carried the first of our wreaths on the **Remembrance Sunday** parade. More on page 26.

A few words from St Dunstan's President, Raymond Hazan From the President



The past year has seen the St Dunstan's family continue to grow. But some matters remain constant: I refer to the gratitude and cheerfulness I hear expressed when going down to St Dunstan's Ovingdean and the high level of satisfaction borne out

Your message from St Dunstan's Chairman, Andrew Keeling

From the Chairman

I am writing this the day after Remembrance Sunday and I want to convey how very content I am with the way it all went for us; a serious and thoughtful act of Remembrance by a large, representative St Dunstan's contingent on parade at the Cenotaph, and a wonderful friendly family atmosphere in the hotel, especially

by the various surveys set specifically to monitor the services delivered throughout the country.

As St Dunstan's enters the year in which we celebrate the 95th anniversary of our foundation, let us give thanks, as always, to Sir Arthur Pearson who left us such a great legacy. May we continue to break boundaries of achievement and novelty and be ready to support those who join our ranks as a result of conflict, age or accident.

Happy Christmas and may the New Year be healthy, active and peaceful.

Ray May cy cm

at lunch on Sunday. My thanks are due to all who contributed, either as organisers or as attendees.

The weekend has also served to make me think carefully about our whole annual act of Remembrance, and what it really means. My principal conclusion is that it is essentially a



The Chairman on Remembrance Sunday escorting St Dunstan's President Raymond Hazan and St Dunstaner Bob Waller.

very personal thing. At the moment of truth some will be thinking of lost close family loved ones while others will be thinking of friends who didn't make it back. Some of us will have flash-backs to times when we too faced danger, uncertainty and fear, and we may even feel a bit guilty that we were lucky enough to survive when others did not. Many of us will be trying, in my case in quite a confused way, to comprehend the on-going casualties and loss of life by young people in faraway places who, we are told, have risked and lost their lives for us. All this is really difficult stuff, yet in spite of the stiff upper lip that we are all supposed to have and our reputation as a nation of being a little on the insensitive side, we still insist on sharing these very private moments with each other and in public each year in November. For me it is really about demonstrating my huge respect for and thanks to those

that have fallen in the service of this country, for those that do return but do so having to live with their physical or mental scars, and also for those that have risked all yet have had the good fortune to return home unscathed when the job was done.

We were joined on parade by two very distinguished senior retired officers, General Sir Peter de la Billière and Air Chief Marshal Sir Roger Palin. Both are Vice-Patrons of St Dunstan's and we much appreciate their support. I am also very pleased to tell you that Admiral Sir Jonathon Band and General Sir Richard Dannatt, recently retired as Heads of the Navy and Army respectively, have recently joined us as Vice-Patrons. We could not be better supported by today's senior retired officers and I am most grateful to them all for their encouragement.

Well, Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat. I hope the holiday brings all that you hope for, whether it may be some special and precious moments with your family, a riotous party with friends, or a bulging stocking full of surprises at the foot of your bed! I hope, too, that it will be a safe, peaceful and restful time for you all.

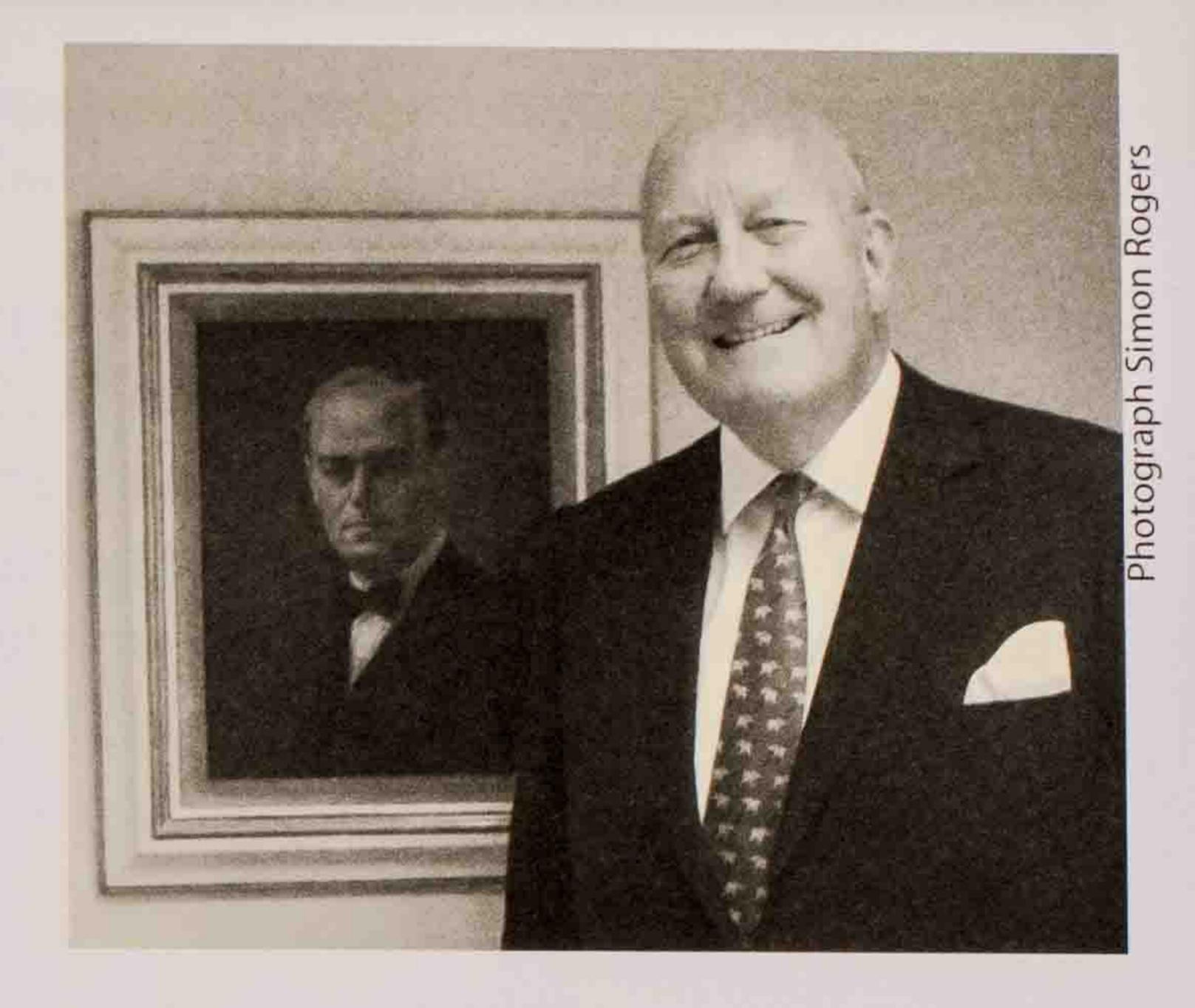
(noty leel.

An end of year missive from St Dunstan's CEO, Robert Leader From the Chief Executive

Two Thousand and Nine has been the most difficult year that I have experienced since I became Chief Executive nine years ago and 2010 is likely to be even harder, as we continue to increase St Dunstaner numbers at the same time as controlling our costs in the face of the worldwide financial crisis and recession.

You will probably know that our expenditure has exceeded our income for a number of years now and the current financial climate means that this cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely.

For the past fifteen months we have had a moratorium in place on staff recruitment except for key posts. This has made a significant contribution to controlling costs but has inevitably led to a number of changes in the services that we are able to provide, and I'm sorry if these changes sometimes lead to some of you not receiving as high a standard of service as you have come to expect from us. I ask you to bear with us please as we work to ensure a strong St Dunstan's for present and future generations who need our help.



The challenge of balancing income and expenditure is not one for St Dunstan's alone and is something that faces us all at Christmas time!

The pleasure that we get however, from the giving and receiving of presents, makes it all worthwhile and even if it has not been a good year for some of us I hope that we shall all have a very festive time and that the memories of celebration with friends and family will stay with us as we enter the New Year.

With every good wish to you all for a very happy and blessed Christmas.

How July

WHAT'S ON IN THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

A WIDE CHOICE OF ACTIVITIES: These are just some of the events and activities that make up St Dunstan's 2010 calendar. Details of other meetings and activities will appear in future issues when arrangements have been confirmed. For events at St Dunstan's Ovingdean the dates quoted are usually the day of arrival and departure, but arrangements will be made to maximise use of Ovingdean vehicles. All holiday and club activity bookings should be made via Jackie Castle, Bookings Coordinator on 01273 307811 ext 1422 or e-mail jackie.castle@st-dunstans.org.uk. Events marked tbc are to be confirmed.

DECEMBER 2009

Christmas Craft Week	Until 5
Writers Forum	5
St Dunstan's Day	9
Christmas Carols at Chur	chill Square 17
Christmas Week	19/20-27
New Year Week	27-4 Jan 2010

2010

JANUARY

No St Dunstan's Review this me	onth
World Braille Day	4-5
Archery (I)	16-24
Skiing (Italy)	16-23

FEBRUARY

Writers Forum (I) 6 Dance Club (I) 7-13 **Brighton Half Marathon** 21



Computer Club (I)	24-25
Amateur Radio (I)	26-6 Mar
MARCH	
Amateur Radio (I)	Until 6
Writers Forum (II)	6
Brighton Reunion (I)	9
Bowling Club (I)	14-27
Brighton Reunion (II)	17
Derby Reunion	24
Founder's Day	26
Founder's Awards Presentation	n 26
Clocks go forward	28
Middlesbrough Reunion	31
Widows Week (I)	31-7 Apr
APRIL	
Widows Week	Until 7
St Dunstan's Review No 1,000	1
Easter	2-5

Writers Forum (III)

Cambridge Reunion	7
Birmingham Reunion	13
Swimathon	16-18
Golf Club (I)	17-18
Brighton Marathon	18
Central London Reunion	22
Masonic Weekend	23-26
Anzac Day	25
Virgin London Marathon	25
Ex-POW Reunion	30-2 May

MAY

Ex-POW Reunion	Until 2
Writers Forum (IV)	1
Blind & Handless Reunion	5-11
Leeds Reunion	6
VE Day	8
Edinburgh Reunion	10
Gardening Week	9-15
Eastbourne Reunion (I)	12
Cardiff Reunion	13
Golf Club (II)	15-16
Feast of St Dunstan	19
Burley Reunion (I)	25
Burley Reunion (II)	26
Archery (II)	29-6 June

JUNE

Archery (II)	til 6
Chichester Reunion	2
Writers Forum (V)	5
Bisley Fundraising Shooting Event	9
Exeter Reunion	9
Eastbourne Reunion (II)	10

Surrey Reunion	15
50-Year-Badge Holders Reunion	17-20
Golf Club (III)	19-20
BHF London to Brighton Bike Rid	e 20
Ladies Week	20-26
Blind Heroes Week	21-27
Liverpool Reunion	22
Llandudno Reunion	23
North London Reunion	24
Brighton Street Collection	24
Armed Forces Day	26
Barrow Reunion	30
JULY	
Writers Forum Weekend	1-4
Newcastle Reunion	6

New Castle neumon	0
Durham Reunion	7
British 10k	11
Eastbourne Reunion (III)	13
Royal Marines Band Concert	14
History Week (I)	18-24
Golf Club (IV)	25-26
Hook Reunion	26
HMS Sultan Summer Camp	30-7 Aug

AUGUST

HMS Sultan	Until 7
Writers Forum (VI)	1
Race Week	1-7
Mazda London Triathlon	7-8
Inverness Reunion	11
VJ Day	15
Golf Club (V)	21-22
Activity Week	22-28
Archery (III)	28-5 Sep

SEPTEMBER		NOVEMBER	
Archery (III)	Until 5	Bowling Club (II)	Until 13
Northern Ireland Reunion	1	Writers Forum (IX)	6
Writers Forum (VII)	4	Armistice Day	11
Blackpool Reunion	7	Founder's Memorial Serv	ice 13
Chorley Reunion	8	Remembrance Sunday	14
History Week (II)	12-18	Golf Club (VIII)	20-21
Kent Reunion	14	Dance Club (II)	21-27
Norwich Reunion	15	Music Week	28-4 Dec
Bristol Reunion	16		
Golf Club (VI)	18-19	DECEMBER	
RMA Lympstone	18-19	Music Week	Until 4
BUPA Great North Run	19	Writers Forum (X)	4
Physiotherapists Weekend	24-27	St Dunstan's Day	9
Lanhydrock (Cornwall		Christmas Week	20/21-28
& Plymouth) Reunion	22	New Year Week	28-3 Jan 2011
Aylesbury Reunion	23		
		Bookings will be confirme	owt be

OCTOBER

Writers Forum (VIII)	2
Worcester Reunion	5
Royal Marine	
Commando Challenge	9-10
Widows Week (II)	10-16
Sheffield Reunion	13
In Touch with Art	13-14
World Sight Day	14
Golf Club (VII)	16-17
Computer Club (II)	20-21
Trafalgar Day	21
Amateur Radio (II)	22-30
BUPA Great South Run	24
Clocks go back	31
Bowling Club (II)	31-13 Nov

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

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

ST DUNSTAN'S DAY

IN MEMORY OF SIR ARTHUR: St Dunstan's Day on 9 December will mark 88 years since the death of our founder Sir Cyril Arthur Pearson. It was his determination and inspiration that laid the foundation for the organisation that continues to help visually impaired ex-Servicemen and women achieve independent lives.

CHRISTMAS 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.

VIP LARGE PRINT DIARIES

AVAILABLE FROM PROCUREMENT: Large print 2010 diaries can be ordered via Nathan Clements in Procurement at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. The A6 pocket diaries cost £3.60 while an A4 desk diary cost £6.50. Call Nathan on 01273 391441 to place an order or write to him 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.

TELL US YOUR TERRIFIC TALE IN A THOUSAND

ENTER THE 2010 STORY CONTEST: We are asking budding authors to demonstrate their creative skills in the St Dunstan's Review annual story contest – the winners will have their work published in the thousandth issue. We hope to have a few surprise prizes finalised in time for the judge's decision. The subject and title are yours to decide.

With our millennial issue in mind, what does a thousand mean to you?

While submissions can be works of fiction, or factual, they 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.

POPPY CALLS HELP PEOPLE STAY INDEPENDENT

NEW SCHEME: The Royal British Legion runs a scheme called 'Poppy Call'. Volunteers will call at your home to carry out small repairs and minor adaptions such as putting up shelves and grab rails, changing light bulbs and tap washers, fitting door and window locks, and fitting and testing home smoke detectors.

You must have served for a minimum of seven days or in the case of widows, widowers and partners, have been dependent on someone who had served for that time.

The work is done free of charge and all volunteers have identification. They will telephone you in advance to tell you when they are coming. So far the scheme has people in Cornwall, Lincolnshire, Lancashire, Northampton, Birmingham, Suffolk, Leicestershire, Wales and West Yorkshire. Norfolk, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire are coming on line soon. Unfortunately, they are not yet operating in the London area.

If interested, please contact the scheme on 01480 478031, via e-mail at homesupportadmin@britishlegion. org.uk, or write to Poppy Calls Centre, Royal British Legion, Suite 2, Nelson House, Alington Road, Little Barford, St Neots, Bedfordshire PE196YH.

MOBILE SIGHT LOSS UNIT

NEW DATES FOR DECEMBER: Action for Blind People's Mobile Sight Loss Information Service will be visiting Banbury on 1 December outside HMV in the Castle Quay Shopping Centre. They move outside Thame Town Hall on 2 December, and will be near the Community and Leisure Centre, Willowbrook, Bowmont Water, Didcot on 3 December. All days 10:00-16:00.

The week after, they will be parked outside the Lewisham Centre, Lewisham Market Place, near the entrance to Marks and Spencer on 8 December from 10:00 - 15:00.

Then on 9 December they will be near the B&Q in Brookfield Street, Preston, moving to Longridge Civic Hall, Longridge, Preston on 10 December. Both days 10:00-16:00.

Final details 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 information nearer the time.

ACHIEVEMENT

Haley Upton, granddaughter of Mrs Dorothy Upton and the late William Upton of Swadlincote, has just passed her nursing exams to become RGN. More Family News is on page 40.

KEEP WARM THIS WINTER

YOUR TOP FIVE TIPS FOR KEEPING WARM AND WELL: These top tips are some of the best ways to keep your home warm, keep on top of bills, and keep healthy. Some may seem obvious, but they could help you stay warmer throughout winter.

1. Heat your home well

By setting your heating to the right temperature (between 18–21°C or 64– 70°F), you can still keep your home warm and lower your bills. If you feel cold at night, use a hot water bottle or electric blanket – but never use both together.

2. Get financial support

There are grants, benefits and sources of advice available to make your home more energy efficient, improve your heating or help with bills. It's worthwhile claiming all of the benefits you are entitled to.

3. Eat well

Food is a vital source of energy, which helps to keep your body warm. Try to make sure you have hot meals and drinks regularly throughout the day.

4. Get a flu jab

You can get a free jab to protect against seasonal flu from your GP if you are over 65 or if you have a long-term health condition.

5. Look after yourself and others

On cold days try to avoid going outside; however, if you do need to, remember to wrap up warm. If you have an older neighbour or relative, look out for them during winter to make sure they are safe and well.

Help and advice

Age Concern and Help the Aged

The newly merged Age Concern and Help the Aged offers a range of services for older people, including benefit checks, advice on help with heating, day centres and lunch clubs. Call 0800 00 99 66 (8am–7pm, 7 days a week) or SeniorLine on 0808 800 6565 (9am– 4pm Mon–Fri), or find your local branch in the phone book. Alternatively, visit www.ageconcern.org.uk or www. helptheaged.org.uk.

WRVS

WRVS helps older people get more out of life through a range of services at home, in hospitals and throughout the community. Call 029 2073 9000 (9am– 5pm Mon–Fri), visit www.wrvs.org.uk or write to WRVS Customer Service Centre, Beck Court, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff CF23 8RP.

The Home Heat Helpline

Call the Home Heat Helpline for access to reduced or 'social' tariffs, grants for free home insulation and advice on managing your energy bills. Call 0800 33 66 99 (9am–8pm Mon–Fri and 10am– 2pm Sat, minicom 0800 027 2122) or visit www.homeheathelpline.org.uk.

Further advice can be found in the Government booklet, *Keep Warm, Keep Well* available from doctor's surgeries and local health and community centres. It may not be available in audio or Braille formats.

RETURN OF THE PHANTOM

AUDIO DESCRIPTION FOR THE MASKED MENACE: Andrew Lloyd Webber's new musical Love Never Dies, opens in March 2010. Interest has already reached fever pitch for this £5.5 million sequel which will hit the stage at London's Adelphi Theatre. It follows on Lloyd Webber's multi-award winning production The Phantom of the Opera and picks up the story ten years later. From Paris, the tale crosses the Atlantic to America where the Phantom (played by Ramin Karimloo) has found success at the fairgrounds of New York's Coney Island, but still yearns for the love of his life, singer Christine Daaé.

Despite the spring debut, Love Never Dies has its first audio described performances on Tuesday 31 August at 19:30 and Wednesday 1 September at 14:30. Irene Richards will describe actions, costume, stage design and other details for blind members of the audience.

The Adelphi's best stalls seats are reduced from £67.50 to £40 for AD customers. Call the box office on 0844 412 4648 or e-mail customer.relations@ seetickets.com. The show is expected to last two-and-a half-hours. The recommended audience age is 10 years plus. There will be advance CDs of the introduction, sent to direct to bookers by the organisers. Large print cast lists will be available free of charge along with Williams headsets on the day.

Irene will also be describing Sister Act at the London Palladium on 2 March at 19:30 and 3 March at 15:00. Patina Miller takes on the roll of a disco singer given protection by nuns. Tickets are £19.50. Irene will also provide AD for Jason Donovan in Priscilla, Queen of the Desert at London's Palace Theatre which has AD on 20 January at 19:30 and 21 January at 14:30. The performance has occasional coarse language and adult themes. Tickets are £30 reduced from £59. Box office details for both shows are the same as Love Never Dies.

DESCRIBING THE SILVER SCREEN

AUDIO DESCRIPTION FOR CINEMA: Most major cinemas now have facilities to screen the latest films with audio description (a narrated soundtrack) for visually impaired people and most popular films are available with audio description. Accessible shows are now a regular feature in hundreds of cinemas nationwide. Listings of films screened with audio description can be found at www.yourlocalcinema.com/ad.html. The website has an option to search by town and lists films being shown in the current week with updates being made each Thursday.

There is also a section dedicated to DVD releases with audio description. A selection of your comments drawn from The Editor's postbag Letters to the Editor

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

A poignant weekend

We would like to express our very sincere thanks to all the members of staff involved in organising and helping on the Remembrance Weekend in London. There must be a tremendous amount of work involved but the care and consideration was, as always, superb. This is always a poignant weekend, even more so this year, but this was balanced with the fun and comradeship of everyone there: staff, escorts and families. Once again, many thanks to you all.

> **Robert and** Margaret Waller, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire

Merry Christmas

Can I offer all St Dunstaners, their families, and all St Dunstan's staff my very best wishes for a

most happy Christmas and good health and happiness in 2010. It was good to meet up with so many of you again on Remembrance Sunday. Elspeth Grant, MBE, Saffron Walden, Essex

The impact of heroes

The correspondence concerning the use of the word "heroes", as published in the October Review raised my pulse rate on two counts.

I heartily agree that the use of the word "heroes" when collectively applied (if only by implication) to St Dunstaners is likely to be highly embarrassing. I am sure there are many St Dunstaners who merit such a description but whose innate modesty causes them to shrink from such a fulsome description. Surely a

more tactful epithet can be devised to meet the needs of our enthusiastic Fundraising department?

I would not attempt to define the word "hero", but might observe that the acquisition of blindness may or may not take place in heroic circumstances. While many sufferers may demonstrate great heroism during the recovery process, these uses of the word illustrate interesting nuances of meaning.

On the question of the development of the English language, my blood pressure rose another couple of notches.

The facile argument that language is always evolving is frequently used as a convenient fig-leaf to cover the unpleasant fact that so many linguistic changes

are detrimental to the purity of the English tongue and arise from mental laziness. As an example may I quote the use of the word "impactful"? I imagine that it may appear in a reputable dictionary somewhere, but in all of my 71 years I have, thankfully, never met it before, nor do I wish to do so again.

> F. R. H. Elgood, Saltburn-by-Sea, Cleveland

No more heroes

Having recently heard the Review disc, I am writing in support of C.J. Hannaway's comments in his letter regarding the use of the word "heroes" and for a slightly different reason. Some weeks ago some of my local WRNS Association friends drew my attention to the fact that a photograph of myself as a young Wren was being featured on a leaflet being issued with St Dunstan's raffle tickets.

To say that I was embarrassed is putting mildly. There is no way

that I could possibly fit the description "heroes". Of course, I did my duty as an Air Mechanic in the Royal Naval Air Service in 1944-46, but so did many thousands of us, as Mr Hannaway rightly points out in his letter. I would therefore like to assure all other St Dunstaners, particularly those men and women who were very much in the thick of it and perhaps suffered much because of it, that I was completely unaware that I was being depicted in this manner and think that perhaps it was not such a good idea, before others might be quick to protest and rightly so, in my humble opinion. Sheila Rodman, Dore, Sheffield, South Yorkshire

We have also heard from:

Kath Wiles of Quintrell Downs, Newquay congratulated the Review for being well-written and informative. She was especially pleased to see the picture of Andrew Allen on the front page

after watching the documentary on BBC1. She found Andy's tale very humbling.

Gordon Coldrick of Bungay, Suffolk who wondered why bus companies in his area issue a ticket when a concessionary pass holder boards a bus?

Vaughan Rees of Leamington Spa was also interested in November's report on the Local Ombudsman's judgment on seven local authorities who failed to consult blind travellers on changes to concessionary travel. He has been lobbying his local authority after the pass he received as a blind person was withdrawn in favour of one supplied generally to the Over-60s.

Brian Hinchliffe of Sheffield, South Yorkshire told us how much he enjoys the opening music at the start of each Talking Review, usually a military band. Is this music available on CD he asked? More on that next issue in February 2010.

Balancing the Books

Was it murder or self-defence? Ted Bunting delves into the strange and superstitious world of Savannah

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil: A Savannah Story Author: John Berendt Reader: William Roberts Category: Adult Fiction: Crime Fiction Catalogue no: 11415 Duration: 13 hours, 11 minutes

Provided one overlooks a few obscene words and the occasional earthy phrase, this is a delightful book, based on a true story, abounding in gentle humour and Southern charm. The narrator introduces himself as a writer from New York who has decided to spend part of his year in Savannah, Georgia and as he explores his new environment we accompany him and overhear his conversations. It is a cross between a travel guide and a Who's Who, an attractive hybrid because Savannah emerges from it not as an impersonal bustling city port but almost as a rural village where superstition is still alive and well in both black and white sections of society and gossip is a major pastime. So the natives, by and large, are ready and willing to tell the newcomer all he wishes to know and thus we learn

the proud history and some ridiculous customs of the population. However, all of this does not mean that apart from local rivalries harmony prevails.

Far from it, one of the binding themes of the narrative concerns a man tried on the same charge of murder for a record four times. Was it murder or self-defence? You may be sure it keeps the gossips and the tittletattle merchants busy for years. Yet in other parts of the state, in Atlanta for instance, there isn't the slightest interest in the case. It seems that outsiders care little for Savannah. Certainly the converse is true, to so many of the unforgettable characters described here Savannah is the centre of the world. It is a strange notion perhaps, but why not arrange to meet them?

A Braille edition of Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil is not currently available in the UK. Apart from the Daisy CD Talking Book, it can also be obtained through the **RNIB BookStream service.** Call RNIB Customer Services on 0303 123 9999 or e-mail helpline@rnib.org.uk for details.

Ten questions on...

Christmas during the Second World War Harry Beevers swaps the turkey and stuffing for some snoek casserole

- How many times was Christmas celebrated during World War II?
- 2) Shortly after Christmas 1939, what were the first three food items to be rationed?
- On Christmas Day 1939, Brentford won 4-0 3) against which current Premier League club?
- What two-word term was used to describe 4) the war situation in Britain between September and Christmas 1939?
- Which member of the peerage and his pals 5) began their fight against German spies in the Beano at Christmas 1940?
- 6) A great fan of this type of clothing used in the Blitz, what did Winston Churchill buy as a Christmas present for King George VI in 1940?
- Which two sisters played the characters 7) Gert and Daisy on the radio on Christmas Day 1940 and who was their actor brother?
- The cheese ration in Britain at Christmas 8) 1941 was 3 ounces per person but who were allowed 12 ounces extra?
- The top hit song at Christmas 1942 was 9) White Christmas; in which Bing Crosby film had it appeared?
- 10) In December 1944, King George VI took the salute as 7,000 members staged a march past in London to mark the disbanding of which organisation?

Answers can be found on page 37.

Stella Heath

A key founder of the Torch Trust for the Blind has passed away. Stella Heath died on 29 September, aged 89, in the fiftieth anniversary year of the Christian charity of which she helped establish. Stella and her late husband Ron, opened their Surrey home in the 1950s to young blind people from a nearby training centre. They were inspired to learn braille and recruited volunteers to make braille and giant print books, and later audio recordings. Today, the Torch Trust sends out Christian literature in accessible formats to blind people in 100 countries.

NVQ for Stephen

A REME St Dunstaner has passed an ITQ Level 2 qualification at Derby College. Studying hard paid off for Stephen Shepherd of Netherfield, Nottingham who now has the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) for Information Technology. The course required him to demonstrate his skills in using the internet and intranet, e-mail, word processing, handling spreadsheets and database work, simple website design, and operate a computer.

Queen congratulates Bill for his dedication to Lyme Regis people

ST DUNSTANER has been feted for years of selfless dedication to his local community. William Reed was made an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for being a stalwart of a whole host of organisations in Lyme Regis, Dorset until his sight deteriorated over a year ago.

Now 87 years old, he lost an eye in the Normandy landings while serving in the Dorsetshire Regiment. Moving to Dorset after his discharge, he worked for over 30 years at a local store, Coleby's of Lyme. However, he also dedicated his free time to fundraising for the Royal British Legion, Lyme Regis Parish Church and the Joseph Weld Hospice, as well as the local football club, the sports centre and the Get Together Club, which offers a chance for older people to socialise. "It's easier to name the organisations I wasn't involved with," said Bill. "There's not so many to list that way."

He added that he was overwhelmed by the number of people who had nominated him for the award. "I'm absolutely over the moon," said Bill. "I've been involved with so many organisations over the years, but I enjoyed it all, being able to help others in those organisations."





William Reed is made an MBE by The Queen at Buckingham Palace.

Bill attended his investiture as an MBE at Buckingham Palace on 13 November. "It was marvellous just being in the Palace," he said. "Everyone was so helpful. The Queen was very kind; rather than me going up to the dais, she came down to me and pinned the medal on. She asked me about my war wounds and also my work with different community groups."

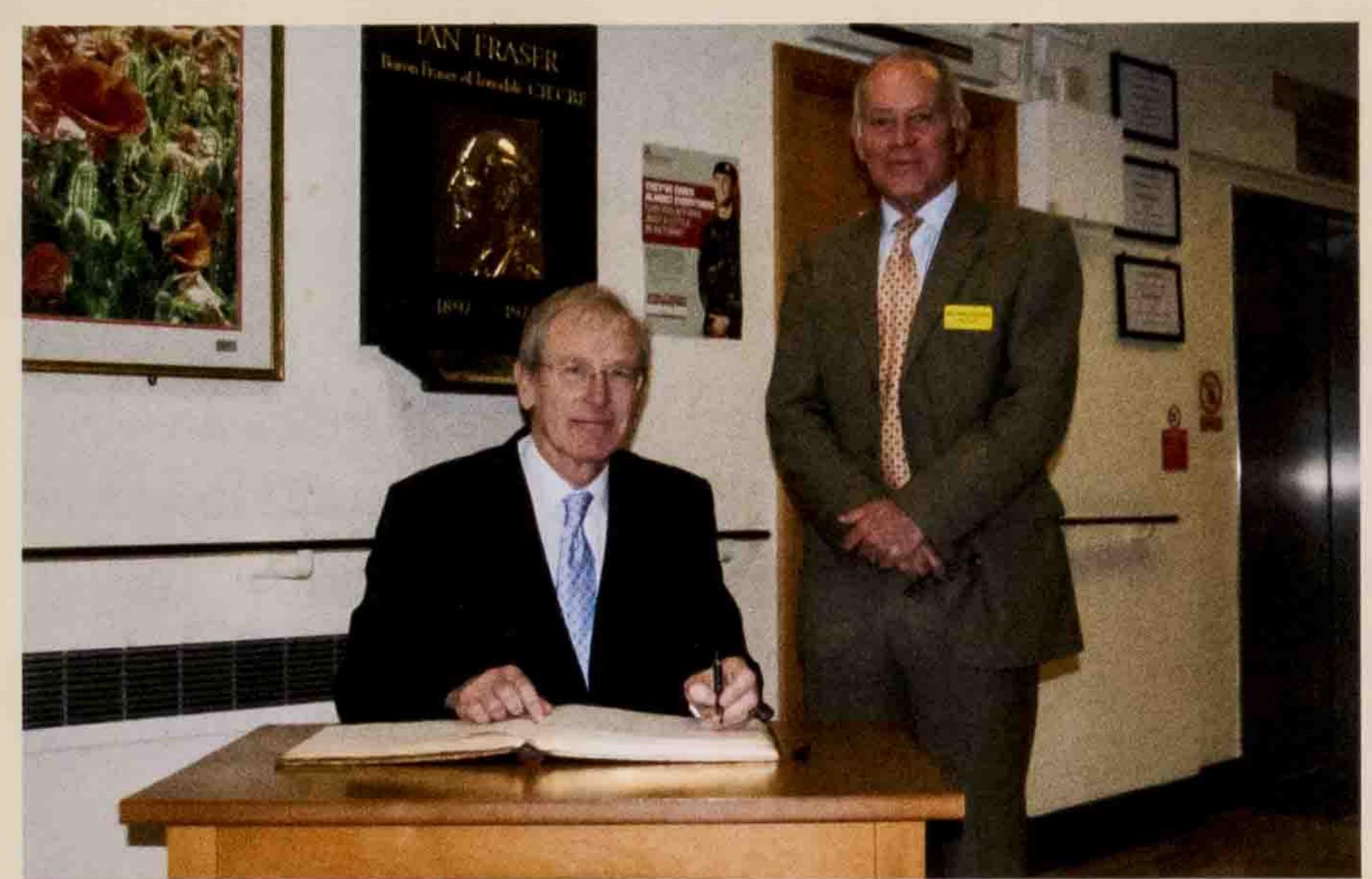
A win for Bowling Bradshaw

WENTY-EIGHT Bowlers met in the Sports Hall at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 25 October for a two week tournament testing our skills on the green. We were pleased to welcome four new members, Frank Kay (and his wife Sylvia), Harold Robinson, Brian Taylor, and Lionel Williams.

As usual, Joan Osborne ran the competition which was played with an electric enthusiasm by all participants. We would like to thank all the ladies who looked after our tea and coffee needs and all the staff who supported us so well. What would we do without John Mugan? This time we also had two volunteers to help, Daphne and Alan, with St Dunstaners Frank Smith and Ron Jones.

Congratulations are due to Pete Bradshaw who has not been bowling very long, but claimed top place in the tournament.

Lord Lieutenant visits



8 Copyrig

> The Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Peter Field, visited St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 17 November. He toured the facilities with the Chairman.

Chris Spellacy was also delighted when he and Ted Arnold won the Pairs.

Results

Singles

1st	Pete Bradshaw
2nd	Ted Arnold
3rd	Frank Smith
4th	Ron Thorpe

Pairs

1st	Ted Arnold and
	Chris Spellacy
2nd	Alan Gibson and
	Colwyn Lloyd
3rd	Graham Johnson
	and Bob Osborne

Triples

1st	Alan Gibson,
ISC	
	Norman Perry
	and Chris Spellacy
2nd	Frank Smith,
	Marjorie Pendleton,
	and James Poole

We are all looking forward to the March tournament and the majority of players have already booked accommodation.

I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with lots of good bowling.

Bob Osborne, Chairman

Craig conquers Kilimanjaro

ST DUNSTANER blinded in Iraq was among a group of severely wounded ex-Service men who scaled Africa's highest mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro. Craig Lundberg, aged 24, of Liverpool was guided to the top by his friend Andrew Larky. The team have high hopes of raising thousands of pounds for the Help for Heroes charity.

They were bedevilled by bad weather and altitude sickness but marched on through the night for a dawn rendezvous on the summit of the 5,896 metre high mountain. With temperatures dropping to zero, sleet, hail, and rain were constant as they made the climb, and two guides were forced down by hypothermia.

An elated Craig said that it was a once in a lifetime experience. The bad weather hadn't



St Dunstaner Craig Lundberg, Page 3 Girl Peta Todd, and the rest of the Help for Heroes crew on the snow-capped summit of Kilimanjaro.

dampened his sense of achievement and he was proud to say they had made it as a team. He added that being blind had not detracted from his enjoyment with colleagues describing the terrain as they walked.

Also on the climb was Stuart Trow, who lost his lower leg after being shot in Afghanistan, and John Sandford Hart who lost his leg earlier this

year. They were joined by Natalie Fellows who was walking in memory of her late husband, Jamie Fellows, killed in December 2008 whilst serving in Afghanistan. She chose to scatter his ashes at the summit.

Help for Heroes provides support to wounded Servicemen and women returning home from the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

JUNIDURED STIVE SPUULS ALC shining in Sheffield museum



St Dunstaner Brian Hinchliffe holds up the St Simon spoon from the full set of Apostle Spoons he donated.

SHEFFIELD St Dunstaner has given his home city a unique collection of silverware, embracing nearly 400 years of history. The city is synonymous with cutlery and metalwork and Brian Hinchliffe feels he has found a fitting home for his collection of spoons at the Metalwork Gallery in Museums Sheffield Millennium Gallery.

The RAF St Dunstaner and his late wife Muriel

assembled a one of a kind collection of antique tableware. Comprising 59 rare silver spoons dating from the 14th-18th century, the collection has been hailed as one of the finest of its type and is now on display for the people of the city to enjoy.

Almost uniquely, it features a full set of Apostle Spoons (12 Apostles and one Master) which were usually given as Christening gifts. Each spoon has the

figure of an Apostle on the handle. Most of the collection was made in London between 1300 and 1704, but some items hail from Leeds, York, Chester, and Wells. Brian's collection also includes exceptionally rare examples of Scottish silverwork.

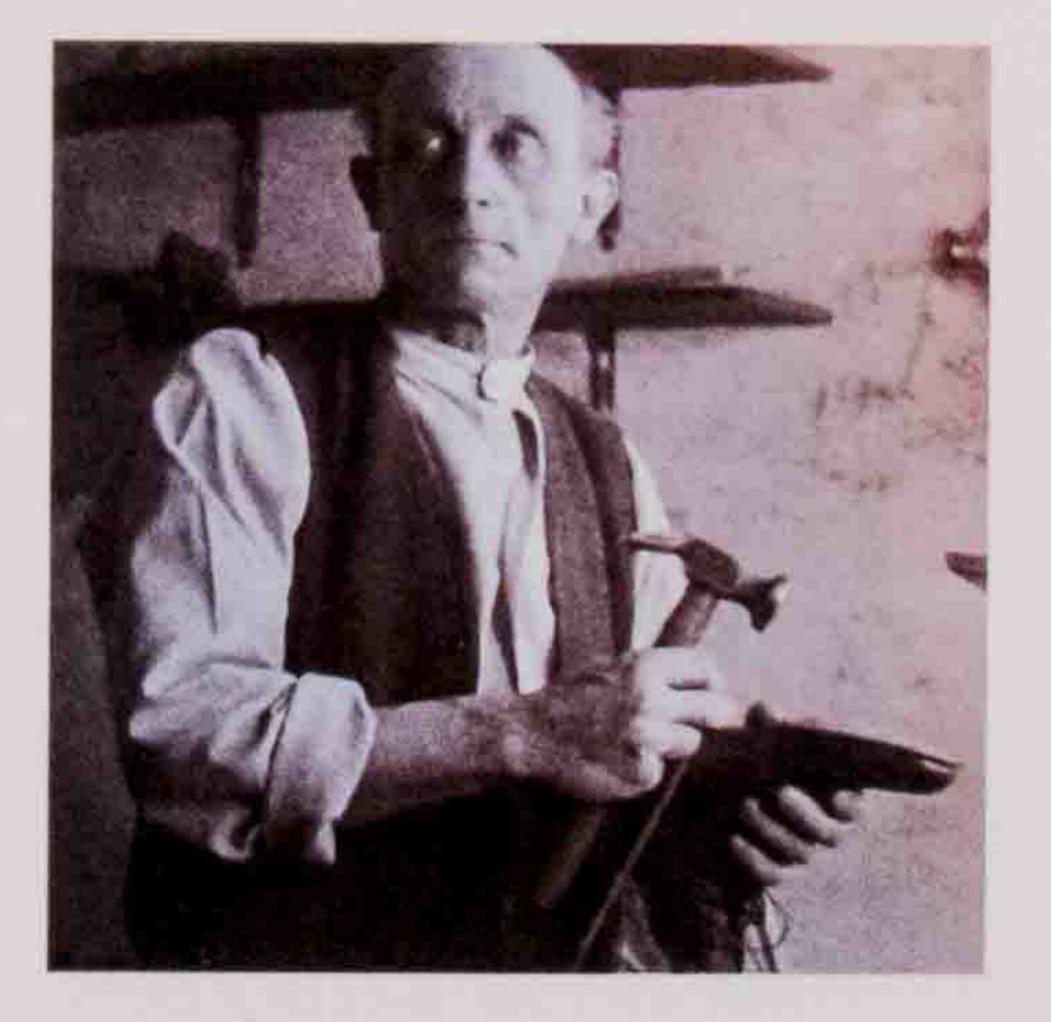
It was a chance visit to an antique fair that led to Brian and his wife starting the collection. Brian also took an interest in the methods used to create the spoons.

"Museums Sheffield is extremely grateful to Mr Hinchliffe for this very generous donation. The pieces are a genuine testament to Mr and Mrs Hinchliffe's enthusiasm and expertise, and are a significant addition to the city's metalwork collection," said Clare Starkie, Senior Curator of Humanities at the Millennium Gallery.

F ANYONE recalls the early days of St Dunstan's, it is Florence Wiltshire who celebrated her 100th birthday on 1 November. "I'm 21 again!" she says with a smile. "I've had a good life, I've nothing to complain about."

The daughter of First World War St Dunstaner George Wiltshire, she recalls going into Brighton lodgings with her mother while her father stayed at West House in Kemp Town (later known as Pearson House).

George originally served in the Royal Navy from



George Wiltshire at work in Muswell Hill.



Happy Birthday, Florrie! St Dunstan's Area Surveyor Jon Gardner and Welfare Officer Alan Hay wish Florrie Wiltshire many happy returns.

1885 to 1899, but was recalled for service in 1914. However, he was blinded after striking the back of his head on a hatchway in 1917. Discharged in 1918, he began training at St Dunstan's in Regent's Park the following year. He then set up shop as a boot repairer in Muswell Hill. She recalls living over the premises with her parents and brother and sister. She still lives a few streets away from her Dad's old shop.

I'm twenty-one again!

Florence - Florrie, to her friends - worked in a newsagent for a while but returned home to care for her father and mother. Her father passed away in 1930 and her mother in 1970.

Florrie received a birthday telegram from Her Majesty The Queen and celebrated with family and friends, one of whom had compiled a book filled with family photographs as a special birthday gift.

take over the world?

FIRST GLANCE they might all look the same, with cool shades, long cane, t-shirt and combat trousers. However, the toy dogs on the settee in the Brown household all have their own identity even though they are all called Dunstan!

It's not quite pup, pup and away for the super dog, so some details remain classified, but the brainchild of St Dunstaner Simon Brown has an adventurous future ahead of him. Simon's mum Wendy and Aunt Sandra have been working hard on producing custom made costumes for the dogs, while his dad Mike has provided logistical support for the operation. Initially, 20 dogs have been dressed with their own numbered dog tags. And



they are not content to sit around. One of the dogs accompanied Simon on the recent Dartmoor Yomp and has since travelled further afield. We hope to have an update on that next issue, but meanwhile over to Gosport...

Going Transglobal St Dunstaner Gerry Jackson escorted three

A trio of Dunstan Dogs are kitted out by Wendy Brown and her sister Sandra. Mike and Simon provide logistical support for the production line.

> Dunstan Dogs to the HQ of Exercise Transglobe located in Mercury Building, Fort Blockhouse in Gosport. There he met up with the Project Team, Sqn Ldr Neil Cottrell, Petty Officer Andrew Scott and Staff Sergeant Clive Cooper.

The objective of the visit was to present a Dunstan Dog to each of the three



^o crews as they prepared to leave, on 2 October, for Cape Town to man the yachts on Leg 4 of a round the world crossing.

Transglobe is a major Tri-Service Adventurous Sail Training Exercise open to all UK Service Personnel, **Regular and Reserve** running until July 2010. Over 500 personnel will experience the highs and lows of ocean crossings, from the heat of the Tropics to the cold of the Southern Ocean.

They are sailing in identical Challenge 67 foot yachts manufactured in the early 1990's for Chay Blythe's "Challenge" ocean race events. The yachts are steel hulled and classic Bermudan sloop rigged. Each yacht has a crew of 14.

Her Majesty's Sail **Training Vessel** (HMSTV) Adventure, is the yacht being crewed by the Royal Navy (the crew includes eight Royal Marines who have recently returned from Afghanistan with 45CDO). Dog 04 was presented to Lt Cdr Vivienne Masson.

HMSTV Challenger, is the yacht being crewed by the Army. Dog 05 was presented to Private Antoni Gabanski. The Army crew have already named their dog Oakley.

HMSTV Discoverer, is the yacht being crewed by the Royal Air Force. Dog 06 was presented to Sqn Ldr Neil Cottrell.

All three dogs will be passed on to the crews



Gerry wished each crew all the best on behalf of everyone at St Dunstan's.

taking over at each leg, so will travel all round the world from Gosport. They stop at Puerto Calero, Lanzarote, then on to Rio de Janeiro, Cape Town, Perth, Sydney, join the Hobart Race, before heading to Auckland, Montevideo, Antigua, Charleston, Boston and back to Gosport.

Anyone wishing to follow the progress of the crews can do so on the project's website at www. exercisetransglobe.com.

The Silence in Sunderland



RTHUR CARTER of Bolton, Lancashire represented St Dunstan's at the largest Remembrance Sunday gathering

outside London. Escorted by Tom Lang, he carried St Dunstan's Standard in a "Festival of Light" at the Seaburn Centre on 7 November, and then in the Memorial Parade on 8 November.

"The Parade which seems to get bigger each year, consisted of troops from The Guards Division, Royal Military Police, The Rifles, Airborne, Army Air Corps, Light

Dragoons, Australian Army, and many others," said Arthur. Over 200 veterans marched with those currently serving in the Armed Forces.

"After the march to the Cenotaph, a Service of Dedication was held, The Last Post sounded for two minutes silence, and Reveille sounded before the wreath laying ceremony commenced."



St Dunstaner Alf Lockhart, pictured with Natasha Cartwright, and staff members from St Dunstan's **Ovingdean** took part in a Service of Remembrance at Bear Road Cemetery in Brighton on 5 November. Conducted by St Dunstan's Chaplain Father Martin Morgan, the Service paid tribute to First World War St Dunstaners such as Samuel Goodwin, Henry Donlan, and Tommy Tonge.

Arthur and Tom laid a St Dunstan's wreath at the War Memorial. "On leaving the Cenotaph, we paraded past the Town Hall where the salute was taken by Air Vice Marshal Hillier with the Mayor, Dennis Richardson, and other dignitaries.

"I cannot thank the good people of Sunderland enough for their very enthusiastic welcome.

Harry marches on



SHEFFIELD ST DUNSTANER Harry Wood made a determined effort to honour former comrades at the Barker's Pool Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. Battling against illness, he joined his grandson Chief Petty Officer Ian Wood on parade. Harry served in the Royal Artillery, while his grandson is currently serving in the Royal Navy as "Gunbuster" aboard HMS Daring, Britain's very latest Destroyer. They marched down Division Street to the War Memorial where the firing of a maroon signalled the two minute silence at 11:00.

Medical Conference

THE SERVICEMAN'S LOT came under the scrutiny of The Royal Society of Medicine at a conference Medicine & Me: Injured in Service on 9 November. Organised with the help of St Dunstan's, Combat Stress, Battle Back, The Army Benevolent Fund and the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association, it brought together patients, doctors, nurses, and others involved in the care of injured Servicemen. Speakers included St Dunstaners L/Cpl Simon Brown and Terry Bullingham. Surgeon General Louis Lillywhite chaired the event and Veterans Minister Kevan Jones also spoke at the opening session.



Honour for generation of WWI

THE PASSING of the First World War generation was marked on Armistice Day with a service at Westminster Abbey in the presence of HM The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. The event recognised the military contribution and the impact the war had on those who remained behind. Around 2,000 people attended, including the grandson and nephew of Henry Allingham, St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan and Vice President Admiral of The Fleet Sir Henry Leach. After the two minute silence at 11:00, a large circular poppy wreath was carried through the Abbey to the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior by Victoria Cross holders Lance Corporal Johnson Beharry and Australian Trooper Mark Donaldson. Her Majesty The Queen then directed it to be laid on the Tomb.

Marching with memories Ray Hazan reports on Remembrance Weekend in London

BLUE SKY and keen breeze greeted the 17 St Dunstaners plus escorts as they arrived at Hampstead Cemetery on the morning of 7 November to pay tribute to our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson. As the group gathered around the grave, St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan said that this year, he wanted to talk about the man rather than the legacy he left behind. He recounted how Sir Arthur had won a place as a journalist on the Tit-Bits magazine by winning a quiz organised by the publication. He went on to found a publishing empire which included the Daily Express, amongst other periodicals.

Ray saw Sir Arthur as a catalyst and instigator who persuaded others to follow his ideas - in this case, the rehabilitation of blind Servicemen



Brian Eldridge drapes St Dunstan's Standard over the grave of our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson.

and women as he saw it should be done. Robbie Hazan, Collections & Archives Manager, was then asked to read two passages. The first, written by Pearson himself, was a timely tribute to those first generation St Dunstaners from the First World War – the true pioneers.

"It is a claim which I am justified in making, that St Dunstan's is one of the most cheerful places in the kingdom.

"To the public I say: Do not pity these blinded men, give them all the sympathy in the world, give them all the help you possibly can, encourage them in their growing spirit of independence; when you walk with them, guide them as little as possible, when you talk with them do not talk to them as men cut off from all the beauty of the world and of the passing interests of the day.

"If they have set

themselves to forget what they have suffered and what they are suffering, is it for you to remind them?

"Do not pity the blinded soldiers, but try to understand them. Let your consolation take the form of encouragement. Of all the handicaps that a man may have to face in his own person, blindness is, in some ways, the most severe; though they rise superior to it, it does not change the fact that these men are blind, without sight of sun, or moon, or star throughout the year, or man, or woman. They can never see again the faces of those they love, they can never see again the homes to which they have returned from the trenches, they can never see again one ray of colour, or one sign of movement. These men are indeed remarkable for their bearing which is so resolute, and for their courage which is so unflagging; they are creating a new interest in the whole world of the blind."

This was written from the heart and with total understanding of what it was like to be without sight. The words moved everyone present. The second passage was written by Pearson's successor as Chairman of St Dunstan's, Lord Fraser of Lonsdale or Sir Ian Fraser as he was at the time, who described Sir Arthur as follows:

"Pearson at first struck me as an old man; which was natural enough, for he was fifty and I was still in my teens. As I got to know him I realised that in fact he was young for his age. He was exceptionally active and vigorous. He was also extremely generous and warm hearted, and warm tempered too, if you were slow on the uptake. He was quick-tempered as well as quick-witted, and if you did not think as fast as he did, or failed to see his point as quickly as he thought you should, he was liable to flare up and blow you out of the room. But the mood quickly passed, and he was never too big to apologise. He was

much too kind a man to be a ruthless tycoon. "He was a good bluffer. One man went to him, having been through the workshops, and said he did not think he could do any of the trades taught. Pearson asked him what he had done before he went into the Army. The man said he had been a butcher. 'Then', said Pearson, 'you have a ready made job. You are accustomed to handling tools, to using saws and knives; carpentering is the very thing for you.' As Pearson said when he told the story, 'Butchering and



Norman Walton laid a wreath in Hampstead.



staners Norman Walton and Steve Nixon are d by our oldest marcher, Vivien Jerome, aged dow of WWI St Dunstaner Samuel Jerome.

ed eerie that, as hop of London d the Service of brance, the wind d and it seemed h up a little. As he had finished, d rose again!

were more crowded than usual in view of current military deployments, no doubt. It was an 'eyes right' to Prince Andrew before stumbling into a very warm bus and the pleasure of sitting down! St Dunstan's received a mention on BBC television and an interview with Simon Brown was screened.

ime we marched had been standing and three quarter o it was good to n limbs. As we t' to the Cenotaph, Burnet-Smith and Brown handed e St Dunstan's s. It was good ght behind a band and the um kept us well The pavements

Lunch was followed

by the customary speeches. The Chairman thanked all involved in organising the events, with special mention of David Habershon, Niki Kokonas and Inderpal Kallah. He paid tribute to



Derek Stead marched with his grandson, Andrew, who is serving in the RAF. Joyce Graham marched despite suffering from a swollen leg. Simon Brown, accompanied by his father, carried a wreath for post-WWII veterans.

escorts and supporters and begged the latter to spread the word about St Dunstan's, as over the past few years we had perhaps not worked as hard attracting attention as we should have. The Chairman concluded by introducing Air Chief Marshal Sir Roger Palin, KCB, OBE, a Vice Patron of St Dunstan's.

Sir Roger felt St Dunstan's had a wonderful story to tell. He had become involved during a time of retraction; now there was expansion. "Then, you were selling buildings, now you have Sheffield, Llandudno is in the offing and the modernisation

of Ovingdean has been completed." He congratulated all involved and praised St Dunstaners for their dogged determination to achieve independent lives, and to the staff for their care and devotion. He concluded with a toast "to St Dunstan's and its people."

Bob Waller was then called upon to respond on behalf of St Dunstaners. He was grateful for all the training and skills taught, though lessons were not always learnt, if his cooking was anything to go by! For Bob, the Remembrance weekend

was the highlight of the year - a chance to meet up with friends. He ended by proposing a toast to St Dunstan's.

And so the hotel fell gradually more silent as participants dispersed. A few St Dunstaners had arrived on the Friday, or stayed on afterwards to make a long weekend of visits to shows, window shopping, or just to feel the vibrant hustle and bustle of London.

But nothing could detract from the homage and thoughts bestowed upon those who had given their lives for their country.

Paved with memory

DUNSTANERS and supporters descended on the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield, Staffordshire to attend a Remembrance and **Dedication Service** held in the chapel by Reverend Vic Van De Burgh on 30 October. The Arboretum was the perfect setting for remembrance, giving guests the chance to wander the grounds, reflect, and admire the spectacular Armed Forces Memorial which was opened in 2007.

Chief Executive Robert Leader thanked guests, explaining what their support means to St Dunstaners who benefit. St Dunstaner Simon Brown talked with guests and celebrated the unveiling and blessing of the newly opened St Dunstan's Memorial Walkway. The path leads from the Visitor's Centre, through a scented



St Dunstaner Simon Brown with Chief Executive Robert Leader and Rev Vic Van De Burgh at the blessing of the St Dunstan's Walkway.

garden, which features a mosaic constructed by St Dunstaners, and past the chapel before descending into the wider area of the Arboretum where guests admired the engraved memorial paviors. Supporters who establish a St Dunstan's Tribute Fund have the opportunity to have an engraved memorial pavior laid in the Memorial Walkway in memory of their loved one once their fund reaches over £1,500. The

Tribute Fund enables them to create a lasting memorial to a loved one at the same time raising vital funds towards the Charity's work.

If you would like to know more about St Dunstan's Tribute Funds or would like to establish a Fund in memory of your loved one, please contact our Tribute Fund **Officer Chenine Bruley** on 020 7616 7953 or e-mail chenine.bruley@ st-dunstans.org.uk.

Blind runners head south

HREE St Dunstaners and their escorts joined 21,000 other runners on Europe's leading ten-mile road race. Army St Dunstaners Don Planner and Billy Black and RAF St Dunstaner lain Millard were out amongst the crowds striving to set the pace at the 20th Great South Run on 25 October.

The route is a fast, flat course that runs through some of Britain's most important naval heritage sites in the Portsmouth area, including HMS Victory and HMS Warrior 1860. St Dunstaners lain and Don are veterans of the run using it as training for the London Marathon. It was a good day for lain who lost much of his eyesight as a result of his service in the Royal Air Force. He completed the route in 1 hour, 53 minutes and 14 seconds.

However, the day had a disappointing finish for Don who was blinded by



Mandi Fermer from St Dunstan's Sports & Recreation team guides Billy Black through the running hoard.

an exploding fuel tank in 1976 while serving in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. A leg injury forced Don out of the run after eight miles. His guide Christopher Moorley went on to finish in 2 hours, 22 minutes and 35 seconds.

The Great South Run was a first time event for Billy Black who served in the Royal Highland Fusiliers and finished in 2 hours, 8

minutes and 31 seconds. "Would you believe me if I said I enjoyed it?" he said. "Well, yes I did. It was a great day and I thoroughly enjoyed it! It was a great feeling of achievement because I had been training for a six-mile run and now I have upped it to ten. Every challenge I have been given I have completed. I'm thinking about the London Marathon now."

POETS' CORNER

CHRISTMAS 39 by Frank Tinsley

I crunched along through wintry air Beneath the moons sad lonely stare And sentried past the silent gun Along that field where war had come Railed against the demon Mars And held my face against the stars Snow clouds blew up from the south But I thought of you and your soft warm mouth

Kick my feet with ache for you And gently wondered if you knew Shivered 'neath my great coat warm And held my heart against the storm With duty done across the floor I tiptoed to my bed of straw And pulled the blankets round my face To shut away the barren place Heard I then the village bell And felt again that magic spell Of childhood joy for Christmas morn And held my dreams against the dawn

Frank was serving as a Bombardier in the Royal Artillery when he wrote this poem 70 years ago on his 20th birthday - Christmas Day 1939. He was stationed in Thaxted, Essex enduring a bitter winter where every breath condensed during rotating sentry duties. There should be a warmer atmosphere when he celebrates his 90th birthday at Ovingdean later this month.

E.W.A (Elves With Attitude) by Shannon Pendleton

Out in a snow storm, There were elves at work, nice and warm! Their hats were pointed, their size was small, The toys tiny, their master tall.

They had buttoned coats with curled up shoes and hurting throats with an attitude! They would talk back to Santa and would still be paid, They would lie on their pillows which they made.

On Christmas Eve they would work till ten, They would make toy bunnies, bears and sometimes a hen. The Elves were stubborn, how small they might be, Most of the time, angry and not full of glee.

Their throats hurt from the freezing air, And would complain, although their hours were fair.

Poor old Santa would get yelled at a lot, The Elves were strong and would give Santa a smack on the bot.

Christmas Eve, was a hard time for them, But on Christmas Day they would go to the pub "The Elves Hen", Drinks all around, the Elves favourite time. But poor old Santa would end up having to pay every dime!

Our 11-year-old poetess Shannon is the daughter of Army St Dunstaner Steve Pendleton of Hoo, Rochester, Kent. Like those Northern toy-producing Elves, Steve has also been known to wear a green jacket.

CHRISTMAS

by June Gilston, Peter and Iris Rolfe, Ron and Sylvia Gerrard and Lil Bate

Smell of turkey cooking, Rubbish of noisy, tacky modern presents, Expectant, excited children crunching paper, Happy, convivial family dinner, eating pudding, Not interested in the Queen's speech. Visitors playing charades, Then sleeping off the alcohol, Woken by banging crackers. Golden sound of nostalgic carols, Awesome organ and silver bells, Morecombe and Wise were wonderful. Red alert- dressed as Father Christmas, Shops ripping me off, Sweet, sickly sauce of commercialism Pickling my brain, It starts earlier every year, Gives a hot punch to my bank balance, I can't stand it! No log on the fire Or sing song around the piano anymore. But it's still lovely for the children.

Talking Fingers, Clouded Minds by William Arthur Morley

Throughout this wide and glorious world, This unbelievable place, Has served to compound our meagre lives, In a million different ways.

A globe of ice, no life in sight, Floating round where it should not, No life of any kind to note, A place that time surely forgot?

Despite whomsoever had placed it there, Among moons and planets and stars, Marooned it for seeming eternity, Gathering carbuncles, ravines and scars.

But slowly, silently, wondrously, This planet grew, filling with life, Impossible things, no plans, no let, But no doubt it would sometimes bring strife.

As our world grew, intelligence, Seeded all kinds of things, All nature developed and multiplied, Some were even given wings.

Mankind itself was created, It learned how to swim and to fly, To crawl from the seas and stand up without aid, And to think and to build and to die. But amid all the miracles came other things, Like illnesses, accidents, doubts, So this mankind was called on to rectify wrongs, Keep despair and despondency out.

It taught man to think and reason and plan, And to illustrate, write, and to read, But along the way it ignored the things, That infected their spirit and need. How can we teach all the deaf souls to hear,

The crippled to walk and to run, Why must the sightless be left far behind, Living life without light from the sun?

So for centuries many were left to get by, Without reading and writing, and sought, After pondering, wondering, at being left out,

They determined an answer be brought.

They learned to use fingers and hands for their needs,

To get on and progress without aid, With raised dots they could touch with their fingertips,

Till the full alphabet was displayed.

A number of persons trod down the same path,

Golfers change guard for 2010

S T DUNSTAN'S GOLFERS held their AGM at Rusper Golf Club in October. St Dunstaner Geoff Collins was reelected as Chairman, Graham Johnson was greeted as Captain for 2010, Pam Crossan became Secretary. The winner of the weekend was St Dunstaner John Nunney, guided by his wife, Jean. In second place was Des Chandler and Graham Johnson came third. The Overall

Shades of Sultan

SAILORS BASED at HMS *Sultan* in Gosport wore dark glasses to block their view for a five-a-side football match in support of St Dunstan's. "We are doing our bit to thank those who have served and now face the difficulties of vision impairment," said organiser WO Bill Bailey.

- But their efforts were destined to fail, Until in the year eighteen hundred and nine,
- A saviour was born, Louis Braille.
- While just a young boy, without sight, but clear mind,
- This young Frenchman knew he must not fail,
- And despite clouded minds, made his mark on the world,
- Though it took many years to prevail.
- As decades and centuries passed, his Braille spread,
- For the blind he'd opened a new world, No longer must they leave their
- reading behind,
- But ride through with their banners unfurled

Winner for the year was John Powell with a total of 83 points, receiving a large salver donated by Andrew Christopher. Player of the Year went to St Dunstaner Graham Johnson with Best Guide going to Pamela Crossan.

Laker's Progress

Ges Laker had reached the Pembroke coast as the Review went to press. As he continues to walk around the extremities of this National Park, we wish him and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Swail group enjoy garden win

WREN St Dunstaner Carole Sharpe was over the moon when the Swail Pottage group won first prize in the group section of Thrives' Blind Gardener of The Year competition. Carole, from Epsom, Surrey received their trophy from St Dunstaner Chris Humphrey at the RNIB's London HQ. The trophies had been wood turned by St Dunstaners.

The Swail Pottage group started in 2007 and Carole became its Coordinator in 2008. They have reclaimed a



Chris presents St Dunstaner Carole Sharpe and Ronnie Laing of the Swail Pottage Group with their trophy. Jeremy Scott was Blind Gardener of the Year.

60 by 20ft plot of land and refurbished an old greenhouse with the help of Community Service Volunteers. They also have a small orchard

The Pride of South East London

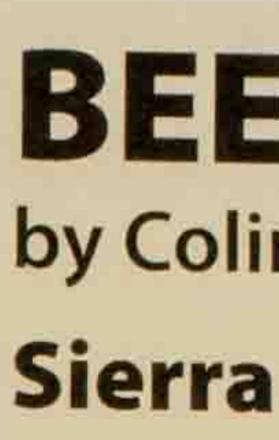


with cooking apples and have started planting soft fruit. "Our visual disability just means we do things in a different way," said Carole.

South East London Army Cadets raised nearly £4,000 for St Dunstan's through sponsored events. They were thanked at their Blackheath HQ by St Dunstaners Steve Finlay and Matthew Rhodes and the Mayor of Greenwich, Councillor Allan MacCarthy.

Ten Answers

Answers to quiz on page 16. 1) Six; 2) Butter, Bacon, Sugar; 3) Portsmouth (who were the FA Cup-holders at the time, holding the trophy until the competition re-started after the war); 4) Phoney War; 5) Lord Snooty; 6) Siren suit; 7) Elsie and Doris Waters, Jack Warner; 8) Vegetarians, whilst miners and farmworkers received an extra pound and a half; 9) Holiday Inn; and 10) The Home Guard.



I've just tried an American beer called Sierra Nevada Celebration Ale which depicts a lovely snow scene on the label. It's a hoppy beer with hints of pine and citrus. It's also a very malty brew but this is balanced well with the piney hops. Pours a lovely copper colour with a nice off-white head. Overall, a very nice beer to sit and sip on a cold winter's night in front of a log fire. Quite a kick to it, it's an impressive 6.8 per cent, but highly enjoyable. You may find it creeping on to the shelves in supermarkets such as Sainsburys, Tesco and Sommerfield.



Harold Aspinall of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1944.

John Bingham of Tring, Hertfordshire served as Sergeant in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

Thomas Birchall of Burscough, Ormskirk, Lancashire served in the Royal Artillery from 1952 to 1956.

Robert Bolton of Walney, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1946 to 1949.

Rev William Chesham of Hindhead, Surrey served as Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1961.

BEER OF THE MONTH

by Colin Williamson

Sierra Nevada Celebration Ale

Christopher Christoff of Ratton, Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Olwen Clark of Neath, West Glamorgan served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1944.

Betty David of Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

William Davis of Normanton, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1941 to 1946.

Thomas Fenton of Peterlee, County Durham served in the General Service Corps and Royal Artillery between 1943 and 1947 and then in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1955 to 1959.

Winifred Gill of Three Crosses, Swansea served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Eric Hargreaves of Livesey, Blackburn, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1947.

Irene Harrington of Bilton, Hull, North Humberside served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1943 to 1944.

Henry Harrison of Abergele, Clwyd served in the UK in the Royal Signals from 1960 to 1961.

Arthur Herron of Denton Burn, Newcastle-upon-Tyne served as Trooper in the Royal Armoured Corps between 1943 and 1947.

Keith Hester of Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire served in the Dorset Regiment and Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) between 1951 and 1957.

Joan Hill of Branksome, Poole, Dorset served in the Voluntary Aid Detachment from 1942 to 1945.

Hilary Hojka of Dodsworth, Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Polish Army from 1945 to 1948.

Jack Holliday of Rugeley, Staffordshire served as Corporal in the Royal Signals from 1942 to 1947.

Ian Jackson of Hull, North Humberside served as Leading Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1950.

Michael Jackson of Birmingham served in the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1956.

Denis Keeble of Kesgrave, Ipswich served in the General Service Corps and Royal Artillery between 1942 and 1947.

Doris King of Poole, Dorset served as Corporal in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

Evan Lewis of Penybontfawr, Owestry, Shropshire served in the General Service Corps and Royal Army Ordnance Corps between 1944 and 1947.

Violet Lockett of Grantham, Lincolnshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1942.

Raymond Lodge of Worthing, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1955.

Matthew McGowan of Girvan, Ayrshire served as Able Seaman in the Royal Navy from 1966 to 1970.

Douglas Mason of Fairwater, Cardiff, South Glamorgan served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1942 to 1946.

Edgar Morris of Castlecroft, Wolverhampton served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946. William Morris of Tilecross, Birmingham served in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry from 1935 to 1947.

Ronald Mowles of Felixstowe, Suffolk served as Gunner in the Royal Artillery from 1938 to 1946.

Harold Norton of Stafford, Staffordshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

Irene Othen of Marden, Tonbridge, Kent served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1947.

Maurice Plumb of North Bersted, Bognor Regis served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

Bryan Reffold of Slinford, Horsham, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1945.

George Richardson of Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1944.

Charles Robinson of Worthing, West Sussex served in the Royal Artillery and then the Royal West Kent Regiment between 1939 and 1946.

Donald Sangster of Dunfermline, Fife served as Corporal in the Royal Signals from 1942 to 1947.

Wilfred Sides of Swinton,

Mexborough, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1945.

Helen Silvester of Bexleyheath, Kent served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1945 to 1947.

Geoffrey Simms of Northampton, Northamptonshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1953 to 1959.

Raymond Snowden of North Elmham, Dereham, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Major Anthony Speller of Newton St Cyres, Exeter, Devon served in the Devonshire Regiment from 1950 to 1953.

Bertie Tooth of Stone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire served as Leading Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1940 to 1946.

John Turner of Maidenhead, Berkshire served as Warrant Sergeant in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

Malcolm Wilding of Maltby, Rotherham, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1952 to 1957.

Frances Wolseley-Wilmsen of Newent, Gloucestershire served around the UK in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1942 to 1945.

William Woodall of Whitfield, Dover, Kent joined the Worcestershire Regiment in 1962 and then served in the merged Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment until 1975.



BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of: Jack and Alfie on 14 May. The twins are great-grandsons of Lilian Bradley of Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire and late Army St Dunstaner Alf Bradley.

CORRECTION

Last issue, we omitted the first name of Finley Joe Cranson. Born on 23 September, he is the grandson of David Cranson of Deaf Hill, County Durham.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to: Tania Chandler who married Justin Hubbard on 1 August. Tania is the daughter of Des and Elizabeth Chandler of Lewes, East Sussex.

Sylvia Clements of Sherborne, Dorset married Bill Heybourne on 1 October.

St Dunstaner Roy Casterton of Burnhamon-Sea, Somerset married Christine Coombe in Bridgewater on 17 November.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Harry and Joan Beevers of Castleford, West Yorkshire on 25 October.

John and Sylvia Adams of Barry, South Glamorgan on 1 November.

Michael and Margaret Rice of Blyth, Northumberland on 1 November.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Arthur and Marjorie Patton of Peterlee, County Durham on 31 October.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES Congratulations to:

Douglas and Eileen Pickering of Mold, Flintshire on 29 October.

Leonard and Sylvia Westley of Market Harborough, Leicestershire on 29 October.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the passing of: Jean Simpson of Barnsley, South Yorkshire on 28 June. She was the widow of George Simpson.

Jean Wood on 10 September. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Peter Wood of Thornley, County Durham.

Brenda Weaver of Birmingham, West Midlands on 25 October. She was the wife of Frederick Weaver.

Stella George on 26 October. She was the wife of Geoffrey George of Brierfield, Nelson, Lancashire.

Sylvia Bamfield of Brighton on 1 November. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Peter Bamfield.

Brenda Morcel of Morris Green, Bolton, Lancashire on 7 November. She was the widow of Richard Morcel

Betty Forbes-Stewart of Sprowston, Norwich, Norfolk on 16 November. She was the widow of James Forbes-Stewart

Joan Stephens on 23 November. She was the wife of Linley Stephens of Billingham, Cleveland.



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.

Albert George Australian Army

Albert Reginald George of East Gresford, New South Wales, Australia died on 3 March, aged 86. He was a butcher before joining the Australian Army in 1942. Having served in 2/16 Australian Infantry Battalion, he was demobbed in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Norah Goodship

Women's Royal Naval Service

Norah Goodship nee Martin of Greenhithe, Kent died on 9 March, aged 88. She joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1942 and trained as a teleprinter operator. Demobbed in 1947, she joined the Post Office and later the Ministry of Defence. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Douglas Sweet Devonshire Regiment

Douglas William Sweet of Tyringham, Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire died on 25 May, aged 91. He joined the Devonshire Regiment in 1938 and was posted to 6 Airborne Brigade. After landing at Sword Beach on D-Day, he advanced through Belgium and Holland until making contact with the Russians. Demobbed in 1946, he worked at a sawmill firm, Stenners until retiring. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Arthur Lousier

Winnipeg Grenadiers

Arthur Maurice Joseph Lousier of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada died on 2 June, aged 92. Having joined the Winnipeg Grenadiers during the Second World War, he was taken prisoner when Hong Kong fell in 1941. The next four years were spent in Japanese POW camps. After returning to Canada, he worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doreen and all members of the family.

George Simpson Royal Air Force

George Simpson of Barnsley, South Yorkshire died on 6 June, aged 93. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 and served in the Middle East. Demobbed in 1946, he became a teacher. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Cyril "Tommy" Handley Royal Navy

Cyril Monckton Handley, known as Tommy, of Barming, Maidstone, Kent died on 23 June, aged 86. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942 and served as Lieutenant on MTBs, LCTs, and minesweepers. Having served around the Mediterranean in Italy, Sicily, and Greece, he was demobbed in 1946. Completing his degree, he worked as an Analytical & Research Chemist and was also a keen Rotarian. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mary and all the family.

Ken Alridge Australian Army

Kevin Edward Alridge of Bass Hill, New South Wales, Australia died on 11 September aged 85. He joined the Australian Army in 1943 and served as a Lance Sergeant in 201 Australian General Transport Company. Discharged in 1946, he was Vice President of the New South Wales Blinded Soldiers' Association and also of St Dunstan's Australia. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Geoffrey Wilkins Royal Engineers

Geoffrey Roland Wilkins of Coleshill, Warwickshire died on 5 October, aged 74. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1953 and specialised in Explosive Ordnance Disposal. Having served in the UK and Germany, he was discharged in 1957 and went on to become a teacher. Our sympathy goes to his widow Julia and all the family.

John Gray

Royal Engineers

John Gray of Bournemouth died on 17 October, aged 93. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1941 and served in the Middle East and North Africa. Demobbed in 1946, he worked for Wimpy as a crane and tower crane operator. Our sympathy goes to his widow Muriel and all the family.

Gerald Kaye Royal Army Service Corps

Gerald Kaye of Littlehampton, West Sussex died on 21 October, aged 93. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1939 and served in France with the British Expeditionary Force. Discharged in 1940, he worked for the BBC, in dry cleaning, and as a horologist. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Donald Brennan

Royal Air Force

Donald Brennan of Daventry, Northamptonshire died on 24 October, aged 90. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1938. Specialising as a medic, he served in the UK and India. Leaving as Chief Technician in 1965, he worked for the MOD and in local government. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Keith Searle

Australian Army

Keith Frederick Searle of Blue Haven, New South Wales, Australia died on 25 October, aged 86. He joined the Australian Army in 1942 and served in 1 Machine Gun Battalion. Demobbed in 1946, he was a clerk in civilian life. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Alan Cook

Australian Army

Alan Alfred Cook of Coffs Harbour, New South Wales, Australia died on 27 October, aged 92. He joined the Australian Army in 1940 and served as Sergeant in the 2/2 Tank Attack Regiment before being demobbed in 1946. Our sympathy goes to his widow Marjorie and all the family.

David Hutchinson Royal Air Force

David Thomas Daniel Hutchinson of Ifield, Crawley, Sussex died on 29 October, aged 75. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1952 and served in Gibraltar, Borneo, Singapore, and North Africa, specialising as a Fireman. Discharged in 1972, he worked in the motor trade. Our sympathy goes to his widow Hilda and all the family.

George Warner

Royal Armoured Corps, RTR

George William Warner of Borehamwood, Hertfordshire died on 31 October, aged 92. He joined the Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Tank Regiment in 1939 and deployed to France. Evacuated through Dunkirk, he served in North Africa and Greece before being taken prisoner of war. Held in Austria and Germany, he was liberated by US Forces. Demobbed in 1946, he worked in stores in London. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Arthur Tate

Northamptonshire Regiment

Arthur Frederick Tate of Norwich, Norfolk died on 1 November, aged 90. He joined the Royal Norfolk Regiment in 1940 and was deployed to Egypt before embarking on the Italian Campaign. Transferring to the Northamptonshire Regiment in May 1944, he was wounded in Italy four months later. Having knelt on a mine, most of his left leg was blown off. Discharged in 1946, he resumed work as a tenant farmer, rearing pigs. Our sympathy goes to his widow Eileen and all members of the family.

Charlie Bailey London Rifle Brigade

Charles Bailey of Rochester, Kent died on 2 November, aged 93. He joined the London Rifle Brigade in 1940 and served with the First Aid Party as a stretcher-bearer in Greece, France, and Germany. Demobbed in 1946, he returned to work as a gardener but later worked for the Ambulance Service in Chatham. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Marian Orley

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Marian Maude Orley nee Hurlow of Kingston, Lewes, East Sussex died on 3 November, aged 93. She joined the ATS shortly before her unit was transferred to the newly formed Women's Auxiliary Air Force. Discharged in 1945, she worked in retail, later buying a village shop and Post Office. Our sympathy goes to her carer Jacqui.

Stan Grimsey Suffolk Regiment

Stanley Frank Grimsey of Ovingdean, Brighton died on 5 November, aged 91. He had been a St Dunstaner since

1977. He worked as a gardener and chauffeur before joining the Suffolk Regiment in 1939. Initially stationed on the Norfolk Broads, he was later posted to Canada, then on to the USA, Rio de Janeiro, South Africa, and India. Whilst in India, he heard that his family home had been hit by a Hurricane – the top half of the building was demolished by a crashing aircraft. However, Stan's division was moved on from Bombay to Singapore. The ship was bombed shortly after they disembarked. Stan later recalled that he was in Raffles Hotel when Singapore capitulated and along with many others he was marched to Changi Gaol. The next six months were spent working a quarry, tormented by red ants and other bugs. Suffering from dysentery, he was moved by rail to Malaya. Over 30 men were crammed into carriages for the transit. After a stop in Thailand, they were marched to a work camp, labouring on the infamous Burma-Siam railway. Malnutrition, cholera, and malaria, were daily features of camp life along with a brutal regime. In later years, he would recall their clothes being reduced to rags, the embarrassment of losing a g-string, and constant improvisation to make everyday household items from anything that became available. A rough cut metal spoon and canteen remained prized possessions. In 1944, he was moved to Bangkok, then a further 500 miles north east where he and fellow FEPOWs were ordered to dig large trenches. The prisoners

believed their captors were planning mass executions, but the capitulation of Japan meant that fear was never realised. Stan returned to the UK in 1946, but continued to be haunted by his experiences as a prisoner of war. The privation and malnutrition he experienced would eventually cause the deterioration of his sight. The last of the Pearson House residents, he found an equilibrium of sorts after moving to St Dunstan's Ovingdean, though his cheerful disposition often covered a lasting melancholy, a realisation that "everyone goes away in the end." He once described St Dunstan's as "my heaven" but added that his experiences in the Far East precluded any belief in an afterlife. However, many will recall an effervescent joy and dapper disposition characterised by a declared love of disco music and dancing. He was very likely the Pet Shop Boys' oldest fan and would usually take to the dance floor even though injuries received during beatings as a FEPOW caused considerable pain and discomfort. For several consecutive years, he was escorted at Remembrance Sunday parades by one time Gunner, Goon and noted tenor Sir Harry Secombe. In 2000, Stan was delighted to be selected to represent the year 1917 in a Millennium photographic exhibition that marked the turn of the century and Brighton's elevation to city status. Another point of pride was completing the Windmill Walk on several occasions,

often in atrocious weather. He revelled in the camaraderie of St Dunstan's Nursing Staff who joined him on the 15-mile hikes and the fact that he was many years senior when compared with most of the participants. He also tackled the Hastings Half-Marathon with Louise Timms in 2003, possibly not expecting a course that went uphill, then uphill, and uphill again. He completed the event with distinction. He was a keen supporter of the FEPOW Association, though conversely vowed that he wouldn't attend a meeting of St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War Group until Japan apologised for its treatment of POWs during the Second World War. As a wish, that apology remains unfulfilled. Our sympathy goes to his widow Iris, daughter Jill, and all the family.

Eileen Black

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Eileen Black nee Haigh of Woodside, Bradford, West Yorkshire died on 6 November, aged 84. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1943 and served as a batwoman to members of the Canadian Air Force. Demobbed in 1945, she raised a family and also worked in a textile mill. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Christopher Attwood Royal Navy

Christopher William Attwood of East Looe, Cornwall died on 7 November, aged 58. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2004. Having joined the Royal Navy as a 15-year-old in 1967, he went on to specialise as a Marine Engineer Artificer. Serving on nuclear submarines for most of his career, he spent much of the time on sea-going duties but was also stationed in the UK and Singapore. He was a Chief Petty Officer when the development of a degenerative disease led to his medical discharge in 1997. He maintained an interest in car engines, mechanics, DIY and computers for as long as possible. Our sympathy goes to his widow Jean and all members of the family.

Thomas Brown Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Thomas Ivan Brown of Stafford, Staffordshire died on 7 November, aged 77. He joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1952 and was embedded with the Royal Artillery in Korea. Discharged in 1955, he became a long distance lorry driver. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret and all members of the family.

Norman Hodgkinson

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve Norman Harry Hodgkinson of Smethwick, West Midlands died on 7 November, aged 94. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1940 and served as Corporal in the UK and Far East. Demobbed in 1946, he worked for British Relay as an area manager and later repaired furnaces. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Dennis Inkpen Royal Navy

Dennis Everett Inkpen of Hove, East Sussex died on 7 November, aged 92. He joined the Royal Navy in 1939 and served in Scarpa Flow, Portsmouth, the Mediterranean and Far East. Discharged in 1946, he became an aerial rigger and later set up his own company. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Charles Hall Royal Navy

Charles Cooper Hall of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died on 8 November, aged 96. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and served on submarines. Demobbed as Sub Lieutenant in 1947, he worked for Sheffield City Council in transport. He examined newly trained drivers before they could take passengers out on tramlines at the the National Tramway Museum. A keen local historian, he wrote *Sheffield Transport*, regarded as a definitive study of buses, trams and trains in the area. He also wrote three volumes on *Rotherham and District Transport*. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Allen Vickers Royal Artillery

Tom Allenby Vickers of Blackpool, Lancashire died on 9 November, aged 91. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1942. Having worked as a clerk for Preston Gas Company, he joined the Royal Artillery in 1939 and was posted to 11 Field Regiment. Deployed to North Africa, he was wounded in action at El Alamein, losing an eye and suffering perforating wounds to the other. He was

initially taken to St Dunstan's Tembani in South Africa where he started training in typewriting, Braille and telephone operating with a view to returning to his former employment. Carpentry formed a welcome diversion and it was suggested he take up the Law as a profession. He furthered his studies with Braille Shorthand and Latin. However, he subsequently abandoned ambitions for a legal career to study physiotherapy on his return to the UK. In 1947, he took up an appointment at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham, mixing NHS work with private practice which continued after he relocated to Blackpool. He retired in 1983. He was a longstanding member of Probus and also played the organ, reading Braille music notation. He maintained an independent life after the death of his wife and enjoyed sport and news on local radio.

Royal Artillery

Ronald Frederick Smith of Reigate, Surrey died on 11 November, aged 87. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1941 and fought in North Africa, Italy, and Monte Cassino. Demobbed in 1947, he worked in retail and became Sales Director for a timber firm. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Army Air Corps

Arthur Noel Windscheffel of Norwich, Norfolk died on 11 November, aged 100. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1941 and served in India, Burma and Sumatra. As part of 656 Squadron, he was involved with the Battle of Imphal. Discharged in 1946, he worked for Norwich County Council for 40 years. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret and all the family.

Kenneth Beresford Royal Air Force

Kenneth George Beresford of Birmingham, West Midlands died on 13 November, aged 84. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1945 and served in France, Belgium, Holland, and Egypt. Discharged in 1948, he worked as a scale maker. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Harold Lyons Dorset Regiment

Harold Lyons of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire died on 13 November, aged 87. A miner, he served around the world in the Royal Artillery, Royal West Kent Regiment, the Royal Berkshire Regiment, and Dorset Regiment between 1944 and 1952. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Royal Signals

Roland Knape of Little Hulton, Salford, Lancashire died on 14 November, aged 86. He joined the Royal Signals in 1942 and served as Lance Corporal in North Africa, Italy, and Palestine. Demobbed in 1947, he worked as an area manager for a security firm. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Joan Garten

Women's Auxiliary Air Force Joan Gertrude Garten nee Goddard of Rottingdean, East Sussex died on 15 November, aged 96. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1942 and dealt with POWs and casualty statistics. Discharged in 1946, she ran a tea shop but later returned to clerical work. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Amy Gordon

Territorial Army Nursing Service Amy Gordon nee Hughes of Warminster, Wiltshire died on 16 November, aged 96. She joined the Territorial Army Nursing Service in 1939 and served as Senior Sister in North and South Africa, India, Persia, and Egypt. Demobbed in 1945, she resumed her nursing career working as a Theatre Sister and in orthopaedics. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

St Dunstaner Legacy Gifts

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

> Robert James Alty 15 March 2009 Joseph King 12 May 2009 Colin Arthur Frank Denton 22 May 2009 Hannah "Ann" Taylor 25 May 2009 Gladys Marjorie Cock 27 May 2009 Peter Victor Lanham 3 September 2009

the Craft Workshop ...

This Autumn, St Dunstaners in the Craft Workshop made some special Christmassy sculptures. These were then made into some limited edition Christmas cards for those involved in this



work. Arthur Walton made two figures: lvy, a chef, and Holly, a maid from special air dried clay. Lots of holly and ivy leaves were made by many St Dunstaners which were assembled to form the words "Holly" and "lvy". A special thank you goes to everyone who contributed to this project.

A craft collaboration created a cracking Christmas card that conjures the prospect of plum pudding and roast turkey for the festive season.

Journey down Big Draw way

THE TRAVELS OF St Dunstaners became the subject of this year's Big Draw project. The nationwide competition encourages the public to take an interest in art and express their own creativity through drawing. St Dunstaners who attended the Craft Workshop at St Dunstan's Ovingdean during October took up the theme of "journeys". Other participants included members of staff and local schools and Brownie groups. Some journeys were taken from fiction, and

our artists made sound recordings of journeys on foot and listened to people describe journeys they remembered. While listening to the recordings, they worked on tactile drawings or drawings that were photocopied and then put through a Zyfuse machine (which raises drawn lines and makes them tactile). The collected drawings will be bound into tactile books, reminiscent of Wainwright's guides. The Craft Workshop would like to thank everyone who got involved with the Big Draw.