

# St Dunstan's Review

February 2010

No 998



## Dawn of a new Decade!

New Year celebrations at St Dunstan's Ovingdean kicked off 2010 in raucous balloon-popping fashion. A report on seasonal activities starts on page 24 ...

## WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR

ALLTHEBESTFOR2010: Members of St Dunstan's staff throughout the country, both serving and retired, wish to thank all St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows, widowers and their families for their cards and kind wishes received over the Christmas period. They wish you all a healthy and happy time in 2010 and the decade ahead.

**Patron: Her Majesty The Queen**

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## Calendar

### FEBRUARY

Dance Club (I)	7-13
Writers Forum (I)	16
Brighton Half Marathon	21
Computer Club (I)	24-25
Amateur Radio (I)	26-6 Mar

### MARCH

Amateur Radio (I)	Until 6
St Dunstan's Review, No 999 out during second week of March	
Bowling Club (I)	14-27
Writers Forum (II)	16
Founder's Awards Presentation	26
Clocks go forward	28
Widows Week (I)	31- 7 Apr

### APRIL

Widows Week	Until 7
St Dunstan's Review No 1,000	1
Easter	2-5
Swimathon	16-18
Golf Club (I)	17-18
Brighton Marathon	18
Writers Forum (III)	20
Masonic Weekend	23-26
Anzac Day	25
Virgin London Marathon	25
Ex-POW Reunion	30-2 May

### MAY

Ex-POW Reunion	Until 2
Blind & Handless Reunion	5-11
VE Day	8
Frogmore House Open Day	20

Your message from St Dunstan's Chairman, Andrew Keeling

## From the Chairman

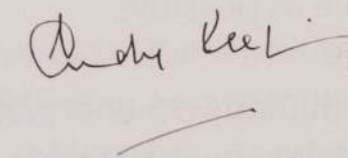
It's a bit late to be wishing you all Happy New Year but I'm doing it anyway. Let's hope this is going to be a good one for the wider St Dunstan's family too, as we forge ahead into the second decade of this new century and millennium. We have our sights firmly set on the new Llandudno Centre and I very much hope that by the end of this year it will look a lot different to now, and that we will be counting the months prior to the official opening. On 22 February we will be launching our new Fundraising Campaign to raise funds for the much needed extension to the Centre with a gathering of key supporters at the Llandudno site, and no doubt we will be reporting on this in the Review in due course.

I spent Christmas in Brighton with my son and his family of three little ones. The day started a little earlier than I had hoped, and it went on a bit, but it was crammed full of excitement and fun and laughter – just right for Christmas. On Boxing Day morning Woppy and I popped in to St Dunstan's Ovingdean for a while and although the average age of the 'children' was considerably older than where we'd been the day before the atmosphere was very similar – lots of chatter,

smiles and happy faces, with everyone clearly completely content to be there, together, with other members of our larger family. So many times we heard those familiar words – "Thank heavens for St Dunstan's".

Now winter has certainly struck with a vengeance already. Is this a freak, or is it a weird and unexpected side of Global Warming? There seems little doubt that our world is getting warmer, and that our climate is gradually changing, but it also seems that the jury is still out as to whether this is a natural phenomenon or caused by the human race. Who knows? I certainly don't. But I must confess I rather like a good dump of snow every now and then, although it has to be said that it's a pity the country has to grind to a somewhat undignified halt every time this happens.

I hope to meet many more of you this year – and look forward to that very much.



# Noticeboard

## FACING THE FUTURE IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES

A MESSAGE FROM ST DUNSTAN'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE: As regular readers of St Dunstan's Review will know, the number of St Dunstaners has been increasing ever since the change in Constitution in the year 2000. At that time there were just over 400 war blinded St Dunstaners and total beneficiary numbers stood at about 1,200. This compares with approximately 3,000 St Dunstaners today (of whom just over 200 are war blinded) and total beneficiary numbers of almost 5,000.

I am in no doubt as to the very real difference that St Dunstan's makes to those ex-Service men and women who have lost their sight, either through their military service or in later life. We also know that there are still many more people who need our help each year and the Trustees are very clear that, even in these economically difficult times, we should continue to provide help and support to as many people as possible.

As with many other organisations, the worldwide financial crisis has had a

severe adverse impact on our finances. St Dunstan's Trustees and the Senior Management Team have taken steps to counter this and have, over the past eighteen months, implemented a number of cost saving measures, whilst ensuring minimum impact on the services we provide to St Dunstaners; these have included a recruitment freeze, a pay freeze for all staff and a number of fairly minor changes in the financial support available to non-war blinded St Dunstaners.

So far we have managed to reduce our annual expenditure by £2.6 million. The Fundraising team has, at the same time, managed to increase income by 16 per cent. Both the reduction in expenditure and the increase in income are significant achievements but we still have further to go in reducing our annual deficit, if we are to open Llandudno in 2011 and continue to provide high quality services to the increasing St Dunstaner numbers.

This means that we have to find ways of doing more with less and as a result, the Senior Management Team is undertaking a review of St Dunstan's operating structure. In any organisation where staff costs make up a substantial amount of total

expenditure a significant contribution must come from a reduction in staff numbers. In order to achieve this and minimise any requirement for compulsory redundancies, at General Staff Meetings held in Ovingdean, London and Sheffield, on 7 January we introduced a Voluntary Redundancy Scheme for our staff.

To say that an organisation sees its staff as its greatest asset has become an over used phrase but the "family ethos" of St Dunstan's means that our staff are indeed highly valued by St Dunstaners, Management and Trustees alike and the process of reducing staff numbers will be handled as sensitively as possible.

It would be unrealistic to expect that all services will remain unchanged in any new structure and I understand that this may feel a little unsettling. I would however reassure St Dunstaners that any changes will be designed to have the minimum impact possible. Our clear intention is to continue to honour our commitment to all St Dunstaners and to be in a position to support the increasing numbers.

This is undoubtedly a challenging time but, with your support, we will emerge from the economic downturn having secured a safe and successful future for our Organisation.

**Robert Leader,**  
Chief Executive

## REUNION DATE CHANGES

BURLEY, BRISTOL AND AYLESBURY: The two Burley Reunions have been merged into a single event on 26 May. This will be held at a new venue in Brockenhurst, Hampshire and becomes the Brockenhurst Reunion.

Meanwhile, Bristol and Aylesbury Reunions have swapped dates. The Aylesbury Reunion will now be earlier, on Thursday 16 September, and the Bristol Reunion will now be held a week later, on Thursday 23 September.

## AREA REUNIONS NOW £10

STARTING THIS YEAR: Reunion lunches continue to be hugely popular and provide a special opportunity for local St Dunstaners to meet. As a result, there are now 35 lunches held each year. Inevitably these events come at a price and after consultation, it has been decided to levy a charge of £10 per head for all those attending. Details will be included in the invitations and separate arrangements will be made for St Dunstan's Ovingdean residents who attend the Brighton reunions.

## OUT SECOND WEEK OF MARCH

The March issue of St Dunstan's Review will be out slightly later next month. It will go in the post during the second week.

## NEW RATES FROM 1 APRIL

ST DUNSTAN'S ACCOMMODATION CHARGES UPDATE 2010: The provision of high quality and suitable accommodation for our beneficiaries remains a priority for St Dunstan's. We are continually striving to build upon our solid foundations and proven track record of excellent services on offer at our Ovingdean Centre. In 2009 our nursing accommodation received the first ever excellent rating in Brighton and Hove from the Primary Care Trust, an accolade we are very proud of as just one reflection of our care and accommodation provision.

In order to ensure that we can continue to achieve these standards, we employ an annual pricing review for our accommodation charges. This review plays a vital role in guaranteeing sustainable overall operating costs for the organisation. The increases have been kept to the absolute minimum and in some cases only reflect the rise in VAT charges. Although VAT returned to 17.5 per cent on 1 January, this has been contained within existing rates until the start of the new financial year.

St Dunstaners' Clubs will be eligible for an accommodation discount in 2010, subject to certain terms and conditions. St Dunstaner Services Manager Ray Hazan will be writing to all Club Presidents with further details of this.

The latest review has concluded that we need to increase the contribution requested for respite, permanent care and holidays. Charges will be increasing from 1 April 2010 as follows:

### St Dunstan's Ovingdean Charges from 1 April 2010

#### Charges for War Blind

##### Permanent Care

	2009	2010
Nursing	£273	£280 (£40 per day)
Residential	£210	£217 (£31 per day)

##### Respite

Nursing	£273	£280 (£40 per day)
Residential	£210	£217 (£31 per day)

##### Holiday

Prices include VAT at the relevant rate.		
Low Season (1 October – 31 March)		
	£175	£178.50 (£25.50 per day)

High Season (1 April – 30 September)		
	£189	£196 (£28 per day)

#### Charges for Non-War Blind

##### Permanent Care

	2009	2010
Nursing	£518	£532 (£76 per day)
Residential	£420	£434 (£62 per day)

#### Respite

Nursing	£462	£476 (£68 per day)
Residential	£336	£350 (£50 per day)

#### Holiday

Prices include VAT at the relevant rate.		
Low Season (1 October – 31 March)		
	£196	£210 (£30 per day)

High Season (1 April – 30 September)		
	£252	£266 (£38 per day)

#### Theme Weeks Surcharge

	2009	2010
	£25	£25
Depending on the event plus the seasonal cost.		

#### Annexes

Port Hall and Beacon Hill		
	£154	£157.50 (£22.50 per day)

#### Introductory Week

St Dunstaners Free	Free	
Spouses		
Ovingdean	£90	£95
Sheffield	£60	£65

#### Training

St Dunstaners Free	Free	
Spouses		
Ovingdean	As per accommodation booked	
Sheffield	£84	£89

## VISIT FROGMORE HOUSE

STOP PRESS! St Dunstan's has just been offered the prestigious opportunity of having a charity day at Frogmore House & Gardens. Set in the private Home Park, Windsor, Frogmore House is renowned for its beautiful landscaped gardens and 18th-century lake. Her Majesty The Queen only selects three charities per year for this highly sought after opportunity.

The date for the St Dunstan's charity day will be Thursday 20 May and tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis. For more information and to purchase your ticket, go to [www.st-dunstans.org.uk/events](http://www.st-dunstans.org.uk/events) or e-mail [fundraising@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@st-dunstans.org.uk) or telephone 020 7616 7965.

## NOTIFY WELFARE AND GRANTS DEPT OF ADDRESS CHANGES

PLEASE KEEP US UP TO DATE: We would like to remind St Dunstaners to let us know of any relevant changes in their circumstances, such as change of address or telephone number.

Any changes should be notified to the Welfare and Grants department at St Dunstan's HQ on 020 7723 5021 or by e-mail sending details of any change to [DataChanges@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:DataChanges@st-dunstans.org.uk).

## SIGN UP FOR ST DUNSTAN'S E-MAIL PEN PALS CLUB

**CORRESPOND WITH NEW FRIENDS:** The St Dunstan's E-mail Pen Pal Club which was formed in July 2009 has made a good start. The aim of the Club is to enable St Dunstaners who have a computer and who would like an opportunity to be introduced to others, to have a Pen Pal to correspond with, and to form a friendship via e-mail.

As a group, the Club thrives on diversity, and benefits from more members to keep it lively. The more we have, the more interesting the Club becomes and the more people we can put in touch with each other. You will be amazed how much you will gain from your correspondence with the Pal you choose, and how much you will have in common. For more details, get in touch with the Club's coordinator, St Dunstaner Roy Lakin by e-mailing him at roylakin27@talktalk.net.

## DANCE AT FORTIES NIGHT

**GALA NIGHT THEME:** St Dunstan's Dance Club will be pulling out the stops with a Forties Night on 13 February. Forties Dress is optional. Club Secretary David Schofield looks forward to meeting everyone and asks all dancers to please wear their name badges on Monday morning.

## TACKLE SOME TOPE IN 2010

**FISHING DATES:** St Dunstan's Fishing Club have three trips planned this year, taking the boat out to sea subject to weather conditions. The first runs 6-11 June. Anglers head out from St Dunstan's Ovingdean to Ilfracombe, Devon for three days of fishing.

Sharks will be the main target for 15-20 August, this time in Looe, Cornwall.

Finally, the anglers will gather at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 17 October, and travel to Exmouth, Devon returning on the 22nd.

Any St Dunstaner wishing to join the club on these sessions should contact St Dunstaner Peter Moore on 01594 560241 or e-mail him on pmka@btinternet.com. Otherwise, telephone Stan Bowers on 07810 504632.

## NEWNORTH PRINT DOUBLES STORY CONTEST PRIZES

**WINNERS TO BE REVEALED IN APRIL:** Newnorth Print of Bedford have generously doubled the prize money for the St Dunstan's Review Story Contest. The entries are in and have been sent for the judge's decision. The three winning tales will be published in the 1,000th issue of St Dunstan's Review which will be out in 2010.

## SIGN UP FOR HMS SULTAN

**THE DOGS ARE BACK:** Anyone wishing to attend the Summer Camp at HMS *Sultan* should contact Organising Secretary Dave Burrows on 02392 550532 or e-mail DCB119399@aol.com. Dates for the Camp are Friday, 30 July to Saturday, 7 August 2010. The closing date for applications is 4 May.

## ST DUNSTAN'S WRITERS FORUM BOOK IN ON NEW DAY

**MEETINGS MOVE TO A WEEK DAY:** The St Dunstan's Writers Forum meetings are shuffling round for the New Year and will now be held on the third Tuesday of each month. There is also a new time of 16:30-17:30 for the meetings in the Blue Room at St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

The new Tuesday dates, replacing those previously published are: 16 February, 16 March, 20 April, 18 May, 15 June, 17 August, 21 September, 19 October, 16 November, and 21 December.

The Writers Forum Weekend will be held July 1-3. After the Thursday evening "meet and greet", all day sessions follow on Friday and Saturday. For details contact Donna Vaughan on 01273 307811 or e-mail her at donna.vaughan@st-dunstans.org.uk.

## RING THE BELL TO SWIM

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR SWIMMERS:** A slight change in the manning of the Swimming Pool has been introduced at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. During periods when there are no swimmers in the pool, the Changing Rooms and Pool Office will now be locked. This will allow the Sports & Recreation Instructors to work in the Gym Office upstairs during quieter periods.

This does not mean that the pool is closed; swimmers should ring the door bell located outside the Pool Office for the attention of a Sports & Recreation Instructor who will open the Changing Rooms immediately.

The Swimming Pool opening hours remain 09:30-18:00, Monday to Friday and I would like to assure everyone that the pool will be manned when required during these times. Please try opening the doors before ringing the bell as the Changing Rooms may already be open. Thank you.

Louise Timms  
Sports & Recreation Manager

## JOCK CARNOCHAN

As we went to press, we heard that St Dunstan's former Mobility Officer Jock Carnochan died on 18 January. A fuller tribute will be published next issue.

## SWIMATHON 2010

**FANCY A SWIMMING CHALLENGE?**  
The latest Swimathon takes place from 16-18 April and comprises several individual challenges. If you are interested in taking part, contact Stephen Murphy in the Sports department at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 391465.

## JOIN US ON THE LONDON TO BRIGHTON BIKE RIDE

**RIDE ON:** This year, the London to Brighton Bike Ride will be held on 20 June. Every year St Dunstaners take part in this exciting event, cycling from the centre of London to the Brighton seafront. For further information on the event, and how to take part, contact Stephen Murphy in the Sports department by phone on 01273 391465.

## TRY OUT FOR TRIATHLON

**SWIM, CYCLE, RUN:** Interested in a new challenge? Then the London Triathlon could be for you! It will be held on 7-8 August at the London Excel Centre. You will be doing just under a mile swim in the Royal Victoria Dock, then straight onto a bike for a 40km cycle and finish off doing a 10km run! Call Mandi Fermer or speak to any of the Sports department on 01273 391465 to sign up.

## ENJOY THE OPEN SEA

**SAILABILITY AT SHOREHAM YACHT CLUB:** St Dunstaners are invited to join others in Shoreham to enjoy the open sea. Sailability will run regularly from April. So if you fancy getting back into sailing or trying it for the first time, call Mandi in the Sports department on 01273 391465 for more details.

## MARINE COMMANDO CHALLENGE 2010

**MUDDY FUN:** The Sports and Recreation department would like to invite St Dunstaners to take part in the Marine Commando Challenge on the weekend of 9-10 October in Exeter, Devon. There are two events which each St Dunstaner may enter, the 4km "Fun Challenge" or the 10km "Marine Challenge". The really brave can enter both challenges. For details call Mandi Fermer on 01273 391463 or e-mail her via [mandi.fermer@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:mandi.fermer@st-dunstans.org.uk).

## IN TOUCH WITH TIME

**BRILLE POCKET WATCH SOUGHT:** If anyone has a Braille pocket watch surplus to requirements and which they are willing to either sell or donate, would they please contact either Ray Hazan or Barbara Sweeney at Harcourt Street on 020 7723 5021.

## THRIVING ON GROWING FOOD

**NEW BOOK PACKED WITH TIPS:**  
Gardening charity Thrive have released *Getting on with Growing Food*, a new 172 page spiral bound book on how to grow fruit and vegetables when you have sight loss. It takes the amateur and more experienced gardener from planning to harvest, with handy hints from other gardeners who have sight loss.

Have you ever wondered, as someone who is blind or partially sighted, how you could distinguish the weed from the crops, or ensure your seeds are evenly spaced in the soil? All through the book, members of Thrive's National Blind Gardeners' Club are on hand with their top tips.

The book is divided into logical chapters, with a section on how to get started – planning your garden, seed sowing, planting and watering – and a comprehensive year planner. It then takes you through each crop, with a chapter on protected growing to ensure a veritable cornucopia all year round. Lastly, it goes through the basics of crop rotation, feeding, composting and pest control, following organic principles. There is also a useful appendix with information on tools, suppliers, contacts and how Thrive can help.

*Getting on with Growing Food* is the latest edition in Thrive's *Getting on with Gardening* series, produced in

partnership with the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and supported by the National Lottery.

The book is available now in large print and Braille, as well as on Daisy CD, audio tape and audio CD. It costs £7.50 or £5 to members of the National Blind Gardener's Club. To order a copy, call Thrive on 0118 988 5688, or e-mail [info@thrive.org.uk](mailto:info@thrive.org.uk).

## GARDENING WEEKENDS 2010

**PRACTICAL FORUMS:** Thrive and the RNIB promise fresh ideas, tips and techniques at two gardening weekends. The Spring Weekend will be 9-11 April at Moulton College near Northampton, and the Summer session runs 16-18 July at Cannington College near Bridgewater.

Attendees will meet other visually impaired gardeners, join in practical workshops and a gardeners' forum, and enjoy a garden tour. Partners or carers are welcome. All bedrooms are en suite. Transport can be arranged from the nearest train or coach station. The cost is £200.

For more information contact The National Blind Gardeners' Club, Thrive, The Geoffrey Udall Centre, Beech Hill, Reading RG7 2AT. Telephone 0118 988 5688, or e-mail [info@thrive.org.uk](mailto:info@thrive.org.uk).

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.

## Remembrance Day at Rottingdean

I was rather surprised to find no mention of the Remembrance Day Parade at Rottingdean. Two coach loads of St Dunstaners who were not able to attend the Cenotaph and other memorials turned out with civic dignitaries, the Royal British Legion, and other groups including Scouts, Cadets, Guides and Brownies to a quiet compact service around the memorial in Rottingdean. A wreath was laid on behalf of St Dunstan's together with many other wreathes. A memorable day by the less mobile St Dunstaners.

**Ron Jones,  
Nuneaton,  
Warwickshire**

• Ron carried St Dunstan's Standard with distinction at the Rottingdean Service on 8 November.

## Patience is the in-word for 2010

I have been a St Dunstaner for just over a year now and have nothing but praise for the staff. I am nearing the end of my advanced CLAIT course and hope to go on to teaching. I could not have done any of this without the excellent help of the staff at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. So I am now looking forward to 2010 and to a brighter future.

I cannot help but notice though, that during my last few visits, I could hear complaints and bad manners around me in the dining hall. As I am sure most people will notice, we all only have one pair of hands and there are lots of St Dunstaners that need looking after. When I am eating any meal the last thing I wish to hear are

others complaining they are not getting served quick enough or they can't have what they would usually eat at home. Would they complain the same way at a hotel? Maybe the in-word this year should be "patience". First of all everyone should remember that they are not the only ones with a requirement and that the staff are not their servants but are there to help. A "please" and "thank you" goes a long way to letting the staff know that they are appreciated.

I know that most St Dunstaners are very appreciative of the staff and the help they receive but it's the minority that spoil it for the rest of us. If you do have a genuine complaint then good manners would go a long way to getting the problem solved.

Thank you to all members of staff for their help last year and I wish you all a very happy 2010. Where has all the time gone?

**Kerry Reed,  
Caergeiliog,  
Holyhead, Gwynedd**

## Ally keeps Claire's picture in the pink

Fellow St Dunstaner and very dear friend Ally Reid was asked by my daughter Claire if he could salvage a print she had and frame it to match her room. Bright pink I may add!

Ally had expressed an interest in picture framing and training which St Dunstan's acted on. He absolutely loved his training. Ally recently had some very important equipment jointly bought by St Dunstan's and the Scottish War Blinded. I picked up Claire's picture and was totally gobsmacked by the sheer professionalism of Ally's work. The picture is truly superb and Claire is over the moon.

**Mike Mayo  
Lesmahagow,  
Lanark**



St Dunstaner Ally Reid completes another frame in his workshop. For details of his Bespoke Framing Services e-mail ally.reid@tiscali.co.uk.

Can I say that this is pure inspiration to others to prove you can enjoy taking up many interests and in Ally's case in a very professional manner. St Dunstan's support is second to none and, in Ally's case, proof that it pays off. I myself have had superb support over the years, but I would like to thank St Dunstan's for supporting Ally and showing him there is a light at the end of the tunnel, even living with a disability such as blindness. Bravo Zulu St Dunstan's!

## Dig for victory

The wartime motto "Dig for Victory" took on a new meaning for the drivers and security staff at Ovingdean on 13 January. A sudden freeze and snowfall turned the driveway and incline into a vast skating rink. Spades and shovels were weapons of the day. The ice was hard to dislodge! Many carers and staff walked miles to keep things ship shape and running smoothly. Inside was peaceful and serene as usual. Well done St Dunstan's, you never close.

**Jean Rowe,  
Goring-By-Sea,  
Worthing, West Sussex**

# Balancing the Books

**Ted Bunting** learns anew the true-life story of Greville Wynne who was arrested as a British spy in Budapest

## The Man From Moscow

Author: Greville Wynne

Reader: Michael de Morgan

Category: Adult Non-Fiction:

Biography: Political

Catalogue no: 353

Duration: 9 hours, 10 minutes

Many books have portrayed man's inhumanity to man but few, I feel sure, have achieved the astounding brilliance of this one. It is a story of a man who had slipped from my memory, but I will never forget him again.

We need to turn our minds back to 1963 to remember Greville Wynne, the British businessman who featured in a Soviet show trial and was sentenced to eight years imprisonment. The Russians called him a liar, but I believe every word of his amazing and moving story. He describes the nightmare world of the Soviet prison system, the filth, the cruelty and the squalor. I can readily appreciate how their

crude attempts to degrade him would merely have deepened his hatred and utter contempt for them. But whilst the cowardly mistreatment of his captors stiffened his resolve, it also brought him to the point of death.

Given the terrible conditions in which he was held, deprived of food, warmth, sanitation and companionship, it seems incredible that he could have survived. But he did, and more incredible still, he retained throughout a certain dignity and pride they could not take away. It was a genuine privilege to hear Greville Wynne's story.

This book is not available in Braille, but 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](mailto:helpline@rnib.org.uk) for details.

## Ten questions on...

### The subject of Mountains

The Review's Quizmaster **Harry Beevers** is in peak performance for 2010

- 1) Which Mount was featured in a battle during the Falklands War in 1982?
- 2) According to the song made popular by singer Burl Ives, where do all the bulldogs have rubber teeth and the hens lay soft-boiled eggs?
- 3) The long distance footpath which runs from Edale in England to Yetholme in Scotland is named after which mountain range?
- 4) Mount Etna, Europe's highest and most active volcano is in which island of the Mediterranean?
- 5) Molten rock inside a volcano is called magma, what is it called once it reaches the surface?
- 6) The potato was originally native to which range of mountains?
- 7) John Hunt led the first successful expedition to conquer Mount Everest, in which year?
- 8) The summit of which mountain, the highest in Greece, was the home of the ancient Greek gods?
- 9) A mountain surrounded by a ring of stars is the logo of which film company?
- 10) The 28 highest peaks in the world are in Asia, in which continent is the 29th highest?

**Answers can be found on page 36.**



## A tasty treat

Westdene Butchers had a mouth-watering surprise for St Dunstaners recently. Trevor Morton and his staff donated a leg of pork for Sunday lunch at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. The Brighton village butcher presented PBK's Trevor Richardson with the tasty treat for residents at our National Centre. Crackling, anyone?

## Happy Birthday to Ethel, 100

It's not just St Dunstaners who are living longer these days, a former member of St Dunstan's staff has celebrated her 100th birthday! Ethel Howard of Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex was treated to a family reunion to mark the occasion on 18 December. She joined St Dunstan's as a 20-year-old and taught St Dunstaners net making for the next 30 years.



# Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell

GBE, KCB, KCVO

**A** STAUNCH AND highly regarded friend of St Dunstan's, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell, GBE, KCB, KCVO passed away in December.



Sir John Gingell with St Dunstaners Tom Hart and Stan Sharpley at a reunion of the Ex-Prisoners of War.

John Gingell spent most of his working life in the Royal Air Force following training as a pilot in Texas in the mid-Forties. Arriving back in England on VE Day, he soon transferred to the Fleet Air Arm converting on to Firefly aircraft and various other naval types before demobilisation - and a pressing need to start work!

A few years in industry prefaced a return to the RAF at the time of the Korean War and a belated recognition that flying really was "the name of the game".

He enjoyed some years in Photographic Reconnaissance before becoming a flying

instructor in that specialist field. Much later he commanded a Vulcan V-Bomber Squadron and, in due course, a Flying Training Group. Eventually he became the Member of the Air Force Board responsible for personnel and training. Along the way, staff appointments in Cyprus and a number within NATO broadened his experience.

A period in the Brussels Headquarters of NATO as Military Assistant to the Chairman of the Military Committee proved invaluable and this was followed by an administrative appointment in Germany at the Joint Headquarters at Rheindahlen. He finished his RAF career at Brunssum in the Netherlands as Deputy Commander-in-Chief

Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT).

On retirement from the RAF in 1984 he was appointed Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, an Officer of the Order of the Garter with administrative responsibilities in the House of Lords and certain ceremonial functions at the Palace of Westminster. Television cameras were introduced to the House during his term of office. He also enjoyed ceremonial duties at Windsor on the

occasion of the annual gathering of Knights of the Garter and their procession to the Chapel of St George.

Following his final retirement, Sir John and his wife Prudence enjoyed gardening, travelling and local activities. They both regarded themselves as very fortunate in having so many St Dunstaner friends and always looked forward to the conviviality of visits to St Dunstan's Ovingdean. Sir John was President of

St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoner of War Group and of the Blind Handless Group. He was a Trustee of the Charity from 24 October 1991 to 30 October 2003.

Sir John died on 10 December 2009 and a Service of Thanksgiving was held at St John the Baptist Church in Tisbury on 22 December, attended by St Dunstan's President, Chairman and Chief Executive.

We extend sincere condolences to Lady Pru and all of the family.

## Bronze award for marketing agency

A MARKETING AGENCY have been feted for a campaign they conducted on behalf of St Dunstan's. TDA's Jamie Taylor, Paula Lipscombe, David Burrows, Dan Buxton, Simon Coultard and Glen Marsden won Bronze in the Direct Marketing Association Awards held in Old Billingsgate, London on 9 December. The award fell into the Special

category and was for Best Business Performance or Improvement.

"We repositioned this charity from an old-fashioned relic to new relevance, recruiting 93,353 new supporters," said TDA. "Cold mailing response was 50 per cent above target. Door drop ROI was double target. Inserts response was 50 per cent above target."

"Previous campaigns had led with WWII imagery that failed to give contemporary relevance. We brought the cause up to date and helped it stand out against The Royal British Legion and Help the Heroes, leading on the story of a young soldier blinded in Iraq. To own the issue of sight loss we created the red blindfold: a unique visual property."

# Princess tells Penny to keep active

**T**HE PRINCESS ROYAL applauded the positive outlook of a St Dunstaner recently. HRH Princess Anne was talking to Penny Melville-Brown of Fareham, Hampshire who attended Buckingham Palace on 4 December for her investiture as an OBE.

The first female Naval Barrister, Penny was feted in HM The Queen's Birthday Honours for championing the rights of disabled people, particularly in the workplace (St Dunstan's Review July 2009). Six months later, the honour was bestowed on her by The Princess Royal, HRH Princess Anne.

"The Princess mentioned that I would have been there in uniform a few years ago," said Penny. "She was pleased that I had used my naval experience to keep active after leaving the Service. I explained that it was better than just sitting

Photograph copyright: Johnny Green/PA



**Princess Anne congratulates St Dunstaner Penny Melville-Brown on becoming an OBE.**

at home and watching the television. I took my mother, a neighbour who has been very supportive over recent years, plus my office support worker, Heidi Redman, who also served in the Royal

Navy as a Lieutenant." Penny was also delighted to meet an old work colleague at the Palace, another Naval Barrister, Commodore David Steel who was being made a CBE that day.

# Spirit of Pegasus lives on!

**A** GROUP THAT honours the memory of the men who captured Pegasus and Horsa Bridges in the early hours of D-Day has raised £10,000 for St Dunstan's. Project 65 presented proceeds of their efforts to representatives of several Service Charities at Bedford Town Hall on 22 November.

Back on 5 June 1944, 180 men drawn from the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Regiment, Glider Pilot Regiment, Air Landing Brigade, Royal Engineers and Royal Air Force flew six gliders into occupied France. With uncanny precision, they landed near their targets and successfully seized the bridges over the Caen Canal and River Orne. St Dunstaner Fred Weaver of Birmingham was in Glider No 2 which landed close to Pegasus Bridge, while late St Dunstaner Ted

Photograph copyright Jean Hay



**Jason and Patience Hobday with Project 65's Danny Greeno, Welfare Officer Alan Hay, and Mayoress of Bedford Christine Hodgson at Bedford Town Hall.**

Tibbit was in Glider No 5 which landed by Horsa Bridge on the River Orne. The area is celebrated as the first part of France to have been liberated in the early hours of D-Day.

Project 65 recreated the Coup de Main operation by running from Dorset to Normandy last year. Almost 200 sponsored runners met at Tarrant Rushton Airfield, Dorset at 14:00 on 4 June. They set off for Portsmouth and made the ferry crossing to Ouistreham, Normandy

before splitting into six "Glider Groups" on the Caen Canal towpath and running to Pegasus Bridge. The runners completed their journey by crossing the bridge just after midnight on the 65th anniversary of D-Day.

RAF St Dunstaner Jason Hobday accepted the donation, telling Project 65 Chairman Danny Greeno and Mayoress of Bedford Christine Hodgson of our appreciation for everyone who took part.

# UK says thank you to invisible veterans like St Dunstaner Joan

IT WASN'T THE done thing to speak about it at the time, and St Dunstaner Joan Naylor spoke little of it afterwards – but now she and other veterans who worked on codes and ciphers at Bletchley Park have been hailed for the vital contribution they made during the Second World War. Much of the work at Bletchley Park has been regarded as laying the foundations for modern computing.

Joan Naylor of Basingstoke, Hampshire has received a commemorative badge and certificate in recognition of her work at the Government Code and Cypher School. She also received a letter from Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Our WAAF St Dunstaner spent three years stationed at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire.

"We didn't exist," said Joan. "You didn't breath a word about what you did and I think everyone kept to themselves. I don't think I ever met a boffin. It was very secretive, but it's come out gradually since then and rightly so because we shortened the war."

Joan describes herself as "a little cog in the machinery" but her position as a teleprinter operator demanded high levels of accuracy. She and her colleagues were tasked with transcribing enemy radio transmissions that had been intercepted. The letters and numbers that

hid the true nature of the message had to be faithfully recorded before being sent for decoding.

At the time there was no feedback on the results of the Bletchley operation, though Joan recalled all went silent as the invasion of Normandy approached. "That didn't last long though, all hell broke lose when the invasion began," she said.

The badge has a laurel around a globe pinned by three lightening strikes and bears the legend "GC &CS, Bletchley Park and Its Outstations – 1939-1945".

## Arthur is made MBE

CONGRATULATIONS are due to a friend of St Dunstan's, Arthur Lockyear of Durham City. He was made an MBE in the New Year's Honours. Retired firefighter Arthur has organised the annual Remembrance Sunday Service in Sunderland for nearly a decade. It has grown to rival the National event at London's Cenotaph.

# A seasonal song for St Dunstan's

SEASONAL SONGS filled the air in support of blind ex-Service men and women in Brighton on 17 December. Four choirs sang in the shopping centre at Churchill Square to raise money for St Dunstan's. First up were the pupils of Seaford Primary School, followed by a group of St Dunstaners and volunteers, including Michael Brown, Arthur Walton, David Weltman,



Joyce Charlton and Joy Walters. Later in the day Brighton Festival Chorus and Brighton Chamber Choir sang to the Christmas shoppers. More than £600 was

raised from the event and we would like to thank all who took part and everyone who kindly donated to the charity. Anyone for Trafalgar Square in Christmas 2010?

# NFA sprinkle Christmas Cbeer



CHRISTMAS Celebrations started early at St James's Palace, London with a little push from the Not Forgotten Association on 3 December. Several St Dunstaners attended the evening soiree for

veterans. James Poole met up with a delightful quartet of Forces ladies, while Alf Lockhart found himself the subject of cartoonist Simon Ellinas. Has the caricaturist captured the inner Alf?



Also at the reception were The Princess Royal, Dame Vera Lynn and DJ Tony Blackburn.

# Ten shots for Dorothy!

Rifle Club Chairman **Peter Hammond** reports on a special shooting session at St Dunstan's Ovingdean

**S**T DUNSTAN'S RIFLE Club held the inaugural shoot for the Dorothy Wright Trophy on 25-26 November 2009. There were some determined shooters on the firing line in the Sports Hall.

Dorothy was a WAAF St Dunstaner and resident at St Dunstan's Ovingdean until she passed away in 2008. She was a member of the Rifle Club for three years and shot very competitively against "You Men" as she used to say to the other members as she was the only woman in the Club. Dorothy left the Club a generous legacy in her will which has helped purchase new equipment and helped us promote the group when shooting against other teams.

Earlier this year, the members decided to



Photograph copyright Leigh Gibbins

**St Dunstaner Arthur Walton was the first winner of the Dorothy Wright Memorial Trophy.**

commission a memorial trophy in Dorothy's name which would be shot for once a year by all the members of the Rifle Club. After a long search, we asked Mike Shorer, a local designer, along to St Dunstan's. He spent a morning at St Dunstan's Ovingdean with us and was amazed at the building and the characters that he met.

He came up with a design that we all agreed on and proceeded with making the trophy. It is silver plated, brass and enamel, and engraved to portray a target, supported by a lathe-turned model of an acoustic gunsight. This is mounted on a black lacquered wood plinth with two sterling silver engraved plaques at the rear. To the right of the

target is engraved "The Dorothy Wright Memorial Trophy" and above that is St Dunstan's logo. It is on display in the cabinet in the Green Room.

Eleven members of the Rifle Club (the biggest gathering that the club has ever had) shot for the trophy. They were Marjorie Scott, George Oliver, Cliff Ford, Don Hart, Peter Hammond, Arthur Walton, Dave Weltman, John Watts, Bill Goddon, Brian Taylor and Albert Jenkins. The judge and loader for the day was Roger McMullan.

The competition was based on a nominated score basis. Everybody taking part thinks of what score they will achieve firing ten shots over two cards (the maximum being 100 points). This score is put into a sealed envelope with the person's name on the outside and then handed to the judge. Everybody then has a chance of a warm-up card, then shoots their ten shots for the



**Sharp-shooting Dorothy Wright listening for the target - as her fellow Club members remember her.**

competition. The judge cannot call the fall of the shots, so nobody knows how they have done. The winner is the person who strikes the nearest points to their nominated score.

When everyone had finished shooting, Roger worked on the results. Dave Bryant from the Craft Workshop joined us to do the presentation as he had worked with Dorothy in the Workshop for a few years.

In first place was Arthur Walton, he had nominated a score of 94 and scored an impressive 92 points. Well done, Arthur! The second and third places were drawn; Bill Goddon nominated

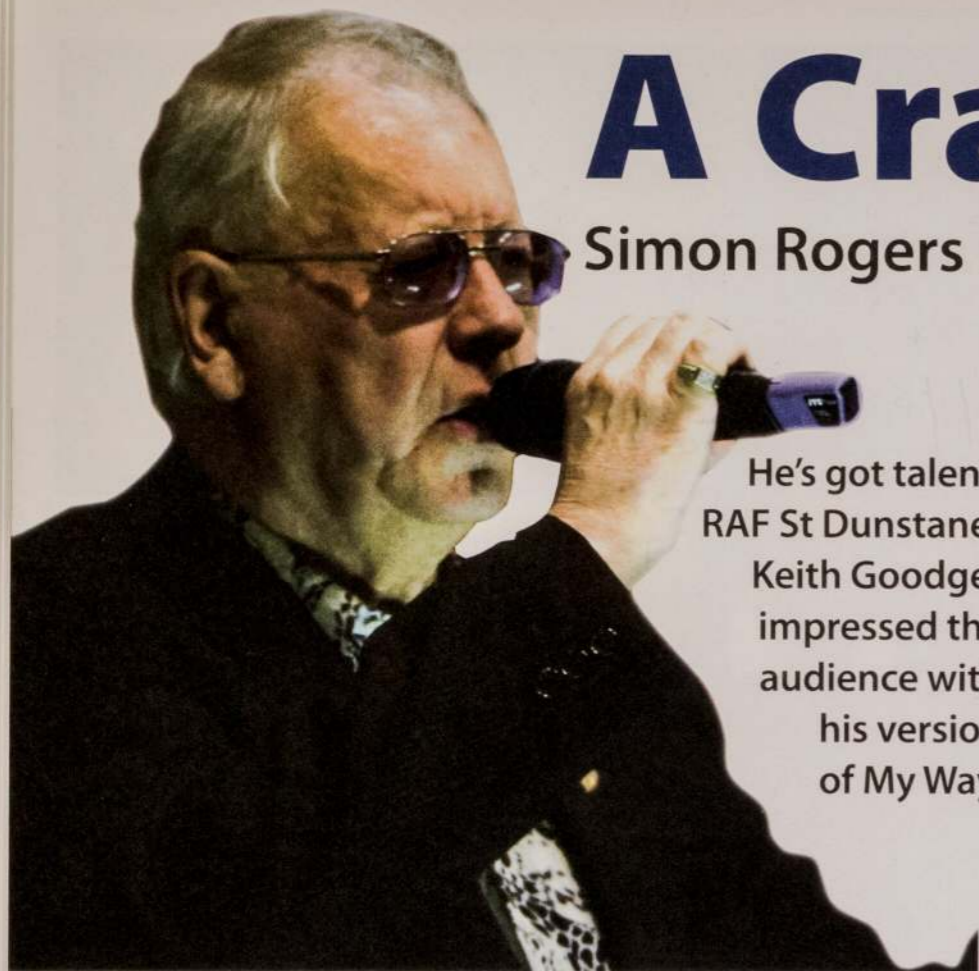
95 and scored 92 whilst Brian Taylor nominated 78 and scored 81 points.

Both Bill and Brian will have a shoot-off to see who gets which medal. Dave Bryant then said a few words about Dorothy and his time spent working on various art projects with her. He then commented on the workmanship that had gone into making the trophy and how she would have loved the final result.

The Club members would like to thank Roger for his time and help, we could not function otherwise. We would also like to thank Dave Bryant for presenting the trophy.

# A Cracking Christmas!

Simon Rogers keeps on the trail for a Happy New Year with St Dunstan's



He's got talent! RAF St Dunstaner Keith Goodger impressed the audience with his version of My Way.



'Ten Shun! Belinda Batt dangled a little ditty about Billy surrendering to the passing years.

Photographs copyright Deena Davies



Jim Faulkner channels Ol' Blue Eyes himself!



Apart from their usual duties, the Care Assistants were seconded to help Santa on Christmas Day. Later, Ovingdean residents Mansel Lewis, Eric Church, Arthur Lowe, Leonard Wheeler, Bill Burrows, Ray Price, Les Pelpoe, Tom Mitchell, George Tompsett and Eddie Allchin enjoyed Christmas lunch in the Blue Room.

IT WAS FROSTY outside, but festive fun filled the lounge with warmth at St Dunstan's Ovingdean in the closing weeks of 2009. The first decade of the 21st Century slipped away with laughter, song, and merry making. The Traditional Christmas

Concert brought staff and St Dunstaners to the stage for some musical mischief on 21 December. Ovingdean Manager Helen Emmerson put the accent on giggles, cheekily punctuating each turn with a selection of gags from Christmas Crackers. There were some bouncy numbers from

Housekeeping and Human Resources, particularly an unforgettable re-enactment of Benny Hill's *Ernie* which pitched PBK's Trevor Richardson in theatrical battle against Health Care Assistant Gordon Grey.

Housekeeping's Jim Faulkner was ever popular as he slipped into

the shoes of Frank Sinatra. However, a trio of St Dunstaners claimed the show as their own. Billy Baxter stepped out in his alter ego, Belinda Batt, while David Weltman had a spooky Man in Black style "invitation", and Keith Goodger sang *My Way* with gusto. Joan Osborne also struck a popular chord playing the piano. The show concluded with the audience joining the performers in a sing-along.

All of which was a warm up for Christmas Day. With



Joan Osborne was on to a winner when she played some favourites from Showboat.



St Dunstaner Norman Chidler has a surprise parcel to unwrap as the festivities start to swing.



David Weltman had a sepulchral monologue from Valentine Dyll's *Man in Black*.

the house packed to the gills, there were exchanges of gifts, quizzes, and music. With all the hoopla, St Dunstaner Frank Tinsley postponed celebrations for his own 90th birthday for a more sedate date. The appearance of Father Christmas in the lounge was a timely diversion as PBK prepared a turkey feast.

The cheerful mood hadn't dimmed come New Year's Eve when Andrew Varley played a wide selection of melodies on his keyboard. He was in tune with his audience as, halfway through

the evening, everyone spontaneously joined in with *Daisy, Daisy*, carrying though *Me and My Gal* and several other favourites. Spot quizzes with surprise prizes punctuated dancing. There were birthday congratulations for Margaret Holmes, who was there with her St Dunstaner husband Brian. All the while, the clock ticked closer to midnight. As the hands closed on twelve, everyone gathered beneath a net filled with balloons. At the critical moment, Paul Cartwright pulled a chord and the balloons fell to the

ground with a cheer. The New Year, the new decade, began with a chorus of *Auld Lang Syne* and a spot of stomping on the balloons.

Thanks go to members of St Dunstan's and PBK staff who were on duty at St Dunstan's

Ovingdean over Christmas and New Year.



Arthur and Betty take aim with a popper.



Douglas and Nancy Lindley enjoy a waltz.



Joan Morgan gets Aaron on the dance floor.



Bob Osborne and Alf Dodgson in party mood.



Eddie Dunn innovatively pipes in the New Year.



Bye-bye Ernie! A PBK pie caught him in the eye.



CPO Richard Gwilliam and WO Bill Bailey brought some cheer from HMS Sultan, presenting £320 raised at a Fun Day to compere Helen Emmerson.



Christopher and Dorothy Spellacy at Ovingdean.



Brian says Happy Birthday to Margaret.



St Dunstaners Colwyn Lloyd, Tony Vincent, and Billy Orr already have the spirit of the decade pegged.

# Gunners swing into action

Arthur Turner reports on the November Dance Week



The Dance Band of The Royal Artillery fired up some great rhythms for the dance.

**O**UR DANCE WEEK is as popular as ever and it is always good to meet old friends and new. November 15-21 was no exception! The Club continues to thrive, due in no small measure to David Schofield and Glenys. The encouragement, demonstrations and teaching is first class. They are helped twice each week when a qualified teacher comes in. She runs a dance club in Brighton and does not baffle people with technicalities.



Team spirit! The formation dances were a popular activity for St Dunstan's Dance Club members.

The Formation Team continues to improve – *Strictly Come Dancing* look out!!

Friday evening proved to be the pièce de

résistance of our week, when The Dance Band of The Royal Artillery played. They were first class and thanks are due to David for finishing the week in fine style.

# VIP treatment for hero Joe

**S**T DUNSTANER JOE ELSENDER received celebrity treatment after being named a Club Hero at Bannatyne's Health Club in Chester-le-Street, Durham. Joe and his wife Anne were treated to a relaxing day at Bannatyne Spa in Darlington, then chauffeur-driven to a glamorous gala ceremony for The Northern Echo's Local Heroes Awards 2009 at the Hardwick Hall Hotel in Sedgefield on 3 December.

"Each of these members has shown real dedication and commitment, whether it has been through improving their lifestyles or by helping others," said Nigel Armstrong, managing director of the Bannatyne Group.

In Joe's case, his peers were impressed by the 71-year-old having completed the Great North Run on 21 occasions, raising thousands of pounds for charities such as St Dunstan's, establishing a running club, and

coaching local children despite his sight loss.

At the ceremony, Joe teamed up with Mick Martin and Justin Musgrove to present Lyndon Longhorne with the Youth Award For Remarkable Achievement. The 14-year-old from Crook who lost both legs and an arm to Meningitis was named The Northern Echo's Local Hero of 2009 for overcoming his disabilities and becoming a national swimming champion.

# Gardening tips from Elsie

WAAF St Dunstaner Elsie Hall from Fortrose, Ross-shire hasn't let visual impairment get in the way of her love of gardening. She has a few innovative tips for getting the right results.

"If I'm watering something, I tend to get it all over the place,"

said Elsie. Her solution: cut the top off a plastic lemonade bottle and bury it halfway down in the soil, pointing towards the roots of the plant. "It becomes a ready made funnel. That way the water goes straight where you want it."

Elsie also finds that

sprinkling a layer of cat litter around a plant does wonders for keeping weeds at bay. "If you have any residual sight, it also provides extra contrast, so if a weed does come through you can spot it more easily. It does help to experiment to find the best litter though."

# The Top Ten Telephone Numbers for the Tennies

Useful contacts for blind ex-Service men and women

**T**HE REVIEW conducted a straw poll for the new decade on the most useful telephone numbers a blind person could keep handy. Popular responses from St Dunstaners were the doctor, local taxi firm, and Chinese takeaway, but we've filtered out some of the most universal sources of help and information. So the top ten telephone numbers for 2010 are:

## **10 – ROVI ON DUTY** **Dial 01273 391447**

St Dunstan's Rehabilitation Officers for Visually Impaired people offer day-to-day advice on communications, low vision, orientation and mobility, as well as independent living skills. The ROVI on Duty is first point of contact for any enquiries and will also deal with the return of any equipment that is no longer in use.

## **9 – IT Helpline** **Dial 01273 391432**

Inbetween teaching St Dunstaners to get the best out of new technology, our elite band of IT instructors operate a support answerphone to deal with problems relating to the use of computer hardware and software.

## **8 – Tax Help for Older People** **Dial 0845 601 3321**

A national charity called TaxHelp for Older People offers free professional help on tax matters to elderly people on low incomes. They run tax surgeries at local libraries but will also visit clients at home if needed.

## **7 – Action for Blind People** **National Helpline** **Dial 0800 915 4666**

Although Action for Blind People have come under the umbrella of the RNIB, their National Helpline continues to offer an enhanced service covering housing, welfare and employment issues, Monday to Friday, 09:00-17:00.

## **6 – SPVA** **Dial 0800 169 22 77**

The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency operates a free Veterans Helpline which offers a range of pension, welfare and support services for ex-Service men and women and their dependents.

## **5 – Poppy Call** **Dial 01480 478031**

The Royal British Legion runs Poppy Call which draws on volunteers to carry

out small repairs and minor adaptations such as putting up shelves. The scheme doesn't cover every area and is not open to those with savings over £10,000.

## **4 – WRVS** **Dial 029 2073 9000**

The WRVS has 70 years experience helping people in England, Scotland and Wales. The charity offers a range of practical services to help and support older people to live well, maintain their independence and play a part in their local community.

## **3 – Age Concern** **Dial 0800 00 99 66**

Age Concern and Help the Aged merged last year, but continue to offer a range of services for older people including benefit checks, heating advice, day centres and lunch clubs. Their free helpline operates seven days a week, 08:00-19:00.

## **2 – RNIB Helpline** **and Customer Services** **Dial 0303 123 9999**

The Royal National Institute of Blind People have combined their helpline and Customer Services number. They will offer free information on a range of eye conditions, benefit advice, suggest ways to continue hobbies and recommend everyday products from their online shop. They can also help you join and use the national library service which has over 40,000 titles in Braille, Moon, and audio. Additionally,

they run a number of counselling and mutual support services. Open Monday to Friday, 08:45 to 18:00 and Saturday 09:00 to 16:00, calls cost no more than a standard rate call to an 01 or 02 number.

## **1 – Directory Enquiries** **Dial 195**

The best way to place a call is to use the free directory enquiry service available for blind people or anyone who has difficulty holding, handling or reading the phone book. To register for this service ring 0800 587 0195, Monday to Friday, 09:00 to 16:30, excluding public holidays. Once registered, just dial 195 and the operator will ask you for your Personal Identification Number (PIN) which will be allocated upon registration. You can then ask the operator to look up a number. The operator will either tell you what the number is or connect the call for you if preferred. You do not need to be a BT customer to take advantage of this service which will usually be free, though some other networks may levy a charge, and family and friends rates will not be applied to calls made in this fashion.

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



# Welcome to St Dunstan's

**Harold Armstrong** of Solihull, West Midlands served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Albert Ashley** of Romford, Essex served in the Essex Regiment and Royal Artillery between 1942 and 1945.

**Douglas Ayling** of Epsom, Surrey served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1949.

**Jack Booth** of Formby, Liverpool served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Charles Bragg** of Worthing, West Sussex served as Able Seaman in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Ronald Briggs** of Wilmslow, Cheshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**William Carter** of Plymouth, Devon served as Sergeant in the Royal Marines from 1939 to 1961.

**Robert Cass, MM** of Eastfield, Scarborough, North Yorkshire served as Lance Sergeant in the Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment) from 1939 to 1946.

**John Chapman** of Coton, Cambridge served in the South Staffordshire Regiment from 1940 to 1946.

**Richard Cheale** of Brighton served in the General Service Corps and Royal Engineers between 1945 and 1952.

**Arthur Corley** of Lindfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1946.

**Leonard Cridland** of Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1946 to 1948.

**Christopher Crowther**, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

**Alan Daniel** of Thame, Oxfordshire served in the East Riding Yeomanry from 1939 to 1946.

**John Davies** of Hassocks, West Sussex served as Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

**Ronald Davies** of Neath, West Glamorgan served in the General Service Corps, Pioneer Corps, South Wales Borderers, and Welch Regiment between 1944 and 1947.

**Arthur Davison** of Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1944 to 1947.

**Grace Dawson** of Shawford, Winchester, Hampshire served in the Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service from 1947 to 1950.

**Matthew Doherty** of Manchester served in the General Service Corps and Royal Engineers between 1945 and 1953.

**James Dowling** of Liverpool, Merseyside served in the Welch Regiment, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's), and Cheshire Regiment between 1941 and 1946.

**Corporal RG Edwards** of Bagillt, Flintshire has been serving in the Royal Regiment of Wales since 1986.

**Glynn Evans** of Wroughton, Swindon, Wiltshire served as Corporal in the Royal Signals from 1965 to 1988.

**Frederick Elliott** of Selsey, Chichester, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Vincent Ellis** of Flint, Flintshire served as a Fusilier in the Royal Welch Fusiliers from 1940 to 1946.

**Andrew Erickson** of Liverpool, Merseyside served in the Merchant Navy from 1940 to 1970.

**James Eustace** of Bingley, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps between 1946 and 1948.

**Geoffrey Fearn** of Bakewell, Derbyshire served in the Royal Signals from 1942 to 1946.

**Peter Fielder** of Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1958.

**Michael Foden** of Gowerton, Swansea served as Signaller in the Royal Signals from 1959 to 1962.

**George Fortescue** of Irchester, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire served in the RAF from 1941 to 1946.

**Thomas Fovargue** of Dogsthorpe, Peterborough served in the Royal Air Force in 1947.

**Miriam Gilchrist** of Eastbury, Hungerford, Berkshire served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1942 to 1946.

**Brian Giles** of Whimple, Exeter, Devon served in the General Service Corps and Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) between 1945 to 1948.

**Eric Goodwin** of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Scots from 1940 to 1946.

**Reginald Goudy** of Stockport, Cheshire served in the General Service Corps, East Yorkshire Regiment (The Duke of York's Own), Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) between 1944 and 1948.

**Eric Gowers** of Seaton, Devon served as Corporal in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1942 to 1947.

**Reginald Harris** of Mangotsfield, Bristol served as Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1946.

**Leslie Hatton** of Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps, Royal Artillery and Royal Army Service Corps between 1942 and 1947.

**Donald Hughes** of Denbigh, Denbighshire served in the Welsh Guards from 1952 to 1956.

**Rifleman Paul "Ginge" Jacobs** of Broadstairs, Kent has been serving in 2 Rifles since 2008.

**Walter Jenner** of Folkestone, Kent served in The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment from 1938 to 1946.

**George Jones** of Cwmdru, Swansea served as Bombardier in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1945 and the South Wales Borderers until 1946.

**Hugh Jones** of Midsomer Norton, Radstock served in the Welsh Guards from 1938 to 1946.

**George King** of Coventry, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**William Lackey** of Ulverston, Cumbria served as Leading Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**John Liddle** of Easington, Peterlee, County Durham served in the Royal Artillery, Durham Light Infantry, and Royal Army Pay Corps between 1940 and 1946.

**Peter Lillis** of Birmingham served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1954.

**Joseph Lindsay** of Cumbernauld, Glasgow served in the Royal Artillery from 1938 to 1946.

**Raymond Lowe** of Bolton-le-Sands, Carnforth, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps and Royal Signals between 1944 and 1948.

**Keith Lusted, MC** of Lewes, East Sussex served in the Royal Artillery from 1937 to 1946.

**Noel McCarthy** of Moulton, Spalding, Lincolnshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**Ronald Mack** of Hackney, London served in Ireland and Germany in the Royal Fusiliers and Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers between 1951 and 1956.

**John Mann** of Quinton, Birmingham served in Scotland and the Middle East in the North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) and Cheshire Regiment between 1944 and 1947.

**Frank Martin** of Epsom, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1945.

**Staff Sergeant Bernard Meehan** of St Helens, Merseyside joined the Royal Signals in 1968 and has been serving in the TA since 1990.

**John Meeklah** of Bognor Regis, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**Thomas Milward** of Alfreton, Derbyshire served in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and Intelligence Corps between 1940 and 1946.

**John Moncrieff** of Crieff, Perthshire served in the Merchant Navy from 1948 to 1963, including time in Korea.

**Terence Moreline** of Bretton, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire served in the Royal Engineers from 1954 to 1959.

**Joseph Munroe** of North Shields, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1945.

**Major William Newton** of Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the Royal Signals, Worcestershire Regiment, Royal Artillery and Intelligence Corps between 1944 and 1961.

**Herbert Nicholls** of Broadclyst, Exeter, Devon served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

**Christina Nicholson** of Aldbrough, Hull served in the Auxiliary Territorial service from 1942 to 1946.

**James O'Brien** of Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan served in the Cavalry of the Line, Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Hussars, and Training Regiment between 1935 and 1949.

**Felicity O'Driscoll** of Twickenham, Middlesex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1945.

**Kenneth Parker** of Chelmsford, Essex served in the Royal Air Force Police from 1947 to 1949.

**Barbara Pawley** of Great Dunham, King's Lynn, Norfolk served in Belgium, France, and Germany in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1947.

**Ida Peck** of St Helens, Merseyside served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

**Denis Peel** of Haywards Heath, West Sussex served as Petty Officer in the Royal Navy from 1938 to 1946.

**Robert Percival** of Basildon, Essex served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1949 to 1955.

**Arthur Phillips** of Garston, Liverpool served as an Air Mechanic in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Jean Potter** of Swanley, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1946.

**Robert Ridley** of Staithes, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Cleveland served as Leading Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1941 to 1946.

**Jack Roberts** of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served as Able Seaman in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**David Robson** of King's Lynn, Norfolk served in the Royal Engineers from 1954 to 1959.

**Geoffrey Rye** of Radstock, Avon served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve from 1941 to 1946.

**Norman Sellwood** of Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire served as Leading Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1941 to 1946.

**Ethel Sharpe-Nelson** of Weybridge, Surrey served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1940 to 1947.

**William Slater** of Colne, Lancashire served as Private in the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1957 to 1959.

**Jim Smith** of Peacehaven, East Sussex served as a Cook in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**John Smith** of Abbeymead, Gloucester, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

**Frank Staton** of Bridlington, North Humberside served in the General Service Corps, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), and Corps of Military Police between 1943 and 1947.

**Jean Stedman** of Stoke D'Abernon, Cobham, Surrey served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Arthur Steemson** of Ravenshead, Nottingham served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

**Albert Stevenson** of West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1943 to 1947.

**Kenneth Steward** of Brighton served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

**Dorothy Sutcliffe** of Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire served as Aircraftwoman II in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1948 to 1950.

**Stanley Swindon** of Milford, Godalming, Surrey served in the Polish Army from 1942 to 1948.

**Murray Talbot** of Worthing, West Sussex served in the Royal Artillery, Army Air Corps, and Royal Engineers between 1949 and 1979.

**Bob Thirtle** of Brighton served as Senior Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force Fire Service from 1957 to 1962.

**Harry Thornley** of Boston, Lincolnshire served in the General Service Corps and Royal Army Service Corps from 1944 to 1947.

**Alfred Waterer** of Frampton Park, London served in the Royal Armoured Corps in 1942.

**Robert Watt** of Leicester, Leicestershire served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1939 to 1946.

**Keith Webster** of St Helens, Merseyside served in the Royal Armoured Corps and Royal Army Service Corps between 1946 and 1948.

**Charles Westley** of Moulton, Northampton served in the King's Royal Hussars and Northamptonshire Yeomanry between 1949 and 1955.

**Jack Weston** of Hingham, Norwich served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1952 to 1955.

**William Whatling** of Halesworth, Suffolk served in the Royal Tank Regiment from 1936 to 1958.

**Frederick Williams** of Gravesend, Kent served in the North Sea and Russia in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

**Mary Wilson** of Southgate, Ripon, North Yorkshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1943 to 1946.

**Leonard Winney** of Hove, East Sussex served as Stoker 1st Class in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

**Keith Woodhall** of Hartlepool, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1959.

## Ten Answers

Answers to quiz on page 15.

- 1) Mount Tumbledown; 2) The Big Rock Candy Mountain; 3) Pennines; 4) Sicily; 5) Lava; 6) Andes; 7) 1953; 8) Mount Olympus; 9) Paramount; and 10) South America, Mount Aconcagua.

Ella Menary who weighed in at 6lb, 4oz on 5 December. She is the daughter of Stephen Menary and Kelly Scott of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

### RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**

John and June Carrell of Lytham St Annes, Lancashire on 10 January.

Donald and Jo Oates of Golders Green, London on 24 January.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**

Ted and Sue Elliott of Westham, Pevensey, East Sussex on 2 January.

Alan and Jean Davies of Hordle, Lymington, Hampshire on 14 January.

### DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**

Thomas and Gladys Nicholls of Carshalton, Surrey on 3 December.

Jim and Ruby Hodgkinson of Middleton, Manchester on 24 December.

Ronald and Hendrika Pell of Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear on 24 December,

Gordon and Margaret Clarke of Pyle, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan on 27 December.

Warrick and Ray May of West Ryde, New South Wales, Australia on 28 December.

### BLUE SAPPHIRE ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**

Frederick and Libby Scott of Lancing, West Sussex on 9 December.

Victor and Florence White of Tetbury, Gloucestershire on 23 December.

Cyril and Iris Burton of Gosport, Hampshire on 26 December.



Charles and Win Miller, pictured above, of Crowborough, East Sussex on 23 December. They celebrated 70 years together with family and friends.

Jim and Betty Deller of Telscombe Cliffs, Peacehaven, East Sussex on 25 January.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**

Thomas and Ethel Boulton of Petworth, West Sussex who celebrated 72 years of marriage on 18 December.

Ronald and Kathleen Spathkay of Chesterton, Cambridgeshire who celebrated 72 years of marriage on 21 December.

Charles and Phyllis Thorn of Lincoln, Lincolnshire who celebrated 73 years of marriage on 23 January.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

**Congratulations to:**

St Dunstaner Dennis Barker of Derby, Derbyshire who has passed the first part of his CLAiT exams. Danny has been having IT training at St Dunstan's Sheffield and at an adult learning centre in Derby.

# Family News

### BIRTHS

**Congratulations on the birth of:**

Emma Jane on 20 October, weighing 7½lbs. She is the grand-daughter of Ted Pepper of Aylesford, Kent.

Emily Grace Mitchell on 28 November. She is the first great-grandchild of Reg and Sheila Skinner of Frieston, Boston, Lincolnshire.

Mary Goodden who achieved a 1:1 degree in American Studies at Goldsmiths College, University of London. She is the grand-daughter of Susan Ellis of Weymouth, Dorset and the late Anthony Ellis.

Joan Beevers won second prize in a contest organised by The Rottingdean Writing Group. Her story, *The Village Fayre*, responded to the theme of Rottingdean: Past and Present? The wife of Harry Beevers of Castleford, North Yorkshire, she became aware of the competition at a meeting of St Dunstan's Writers Forum.

## DEATHS

**We regret to announce the passing of:** Elspeth Douglas on 17 November. She was the wife of John Douglas of Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire.

Edna Williams of Ely, Cambridgeshire on 29 November. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Henry Williams.

Constance Faulkner of Great Barr, Birmingham died on 7 December. She was the widow of William Faulkner.

Ruby Benham of Hastings, Sussex died on 10 December. She was the widow of St Dunstaner of Andrew Benham.

Marjorie Matthews of Chorleywood, Hertfordshire on 11 December. Her late husband, Peter Matthews, ran St Dunstan's Estates department for nearly 38 years and was a Member of Council for three. She later instigated St Dunstan's Book of Remembrance.

Margaret Murphy on 11 December. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Dennis Murphy of Orpington, Kent.

Muriel Newton of Lees, Oldham, Lancashire on 21 December. She was the widow of Roy Newton.

Mary Gann of Barkingside, Ilford on 21 December. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Thomas Gann.

Sylvia Newman of Cheylesmore, Coventry, West Midlands on 24 December. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Andrew Newman.

Marjorie Fallowfield of Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex on 25 December. She was the widow of First World War St Dunstaner George Fallowfield and stepmother of St Dunstaner Marjorie Scott of Peacehaven, East Sussex.

Ellen Gilert of Askem, Doncaster, South Yorkshire on 26 December. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Edgar Gilert.

Dorothy Smith on 5 January. She was the wife of William Smith of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands

Alice Turner of Heybridge, Maldon, Essex on 9 January. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Ernest Turner.

Diana Laverty of Sompting, Lancing, West Sussex on 17 January. She was the widow of Joseph Laverty.

# 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.**

## Mary Hayter

### Auxiliary Territorial Service

Mary Hayter nee Hardy of Pudsey, West Yorkshire died on 21 February 2009, aged 86. She served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

## Colin Reedy

### Australian Army

Colin Eric Reedy of Wentworthville, New South Wales, Australia died on 2 September, aged 90. He joined the 2/3 Anti Tank regiment in 1939 and served as Bombardier until 1946.

## Eric Cartlidge

### Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Eric Cartlidge of Hartlepool, Cleveland died on 9 September, aged 90. He served in the North Staffordshire regiment, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1939 and 1946. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

## Eric Hill

### Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Eric Percy Hill of Pitchcombe, Stroud,

Gloucestershire died on 28 September, aged 93. He joined the Somerset Light Infantry in 1940, transferring in 1942 to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers as a Radar technician and was stationed in Libya during the Battle of El Alamein. Discharged in 1945, he became an architect. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

## Albert Critchley

### Royal Artillery

Albert Samuel Critchley of Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire died on 19 November, aged 92. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940, serving in the UK and Europe. Discharged in 1946, he worked in the textile industry. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

## Ronald Shelton

### Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Ronald Robert Shelton of Penalt, Monmouth, Gwent died on 17 November, aged 87. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer reserve in 1941, flying in the UK, Middle East, and Mediterranean. He was Flight Lieutenant when demobbed in 1947. He then worked on importing and exporting fruit. Our sympathy goes to his widow Eileen and all the family.

**Stanley Arnold****Royal Artillery**

Stanley Richard Arnold of Yeovil, Somerset died on 19 November, aged 93. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1940 and soon transferred to the Royal Artillery. Having served around the UK in an Ack-Ack unit, he was discharged in 1946. He later ran a hotel in Bloomsbury. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Air Commodore Manny Vaughan,  
CBE, RAF****Royal Air Force**

Air Commodore Mansel Clifford Morris Vaughan, CBE, RAF of Wantage, Oxfordshire died on 19 November, aged 93. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1933 and served in Malta, Italy, and Germany. He was commissioned in 1943 and awarded the MBE in 1944. He was made a CBE in 1972. Having served as Director of Personnel for the RAF at the MOD, he retired as Air Commodore in 1973. He then worked as Secretary of the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester until 1983. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**John Dolby****Royal Navy**

Reginald Alfred Dolby of Colchester, Essex died on 21 November, aged 89. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and served on minesweepers. Discharged in 1946, he fished the North Sea. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**James Preston****Royal Berkshire Regiment**

James Anthony Preston of Crossford, Lanarkshire died on 22 November, aged 83. He served in the General Service Corps, West Yorkshire regiment, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, and the Royal Berkshire Regiment between 1944 and 1946. Later, he became senior technician at the University of Hull. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joan and all the family.

**Harold Lloyd****Royal Artillery**

Harold Lloyd of Langney, Eastbourne, East Sussex died on 23 November, aged 92. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 and served in Iceland, Russia, Norway, France and Germany. Demobbed in 1946, he became a greengrocer running his own shop until 1968. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Major Leonard Foulds****Royal Electrical and  
Mechanical Engineers**

Major Leonard Foulds of Southport, Merseyside died on 25 November, aged 104. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1939 and transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1943. After serving as Captain in India, he was made an honorary Major. Discharged in 1945, he remained on the reserve until 1960 and was awarded the Territorial Efficiency medal in 1951. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Leslie Roberts****Intelligence Corps**

Leslie Ronald Roberts of Blackpool, Lancashire died on 25 November, aged 91. He joined the Royal Artillery (TA) and was embodied in 1940. Transferring to the Royal Armoured Corps, he was posted to 47 Royal Tank Regiment but switched to the Corps of Military Police in 1943. Demobbed in 1946, he worked for the Blackpool Gas Corporation. He re-enlisted with the Intelligence Corps (TA) in 1959 and was promoted to Sergeant the following year. He was discharged in 1967. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Wallace Armstrong****Royal Army Pay Corps**

Wallace Armstrong of Reigate, Surrey died on 27 November, aged 80. He joined the General Service Corps in 1947 and soon transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps. Commissioned into the Royal Army Pay Corps in 1948, he served in Egypt. Demobbed in 1949, he became a bank manager. Our sympathy goes to his widow Vivien and all the family.

**Cyril Bedford****Royal Air Force**

Cyril Reginald Douglas Bedford of Exeter, Devon died on 28 November, his 87th birthday. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1942 and served in the UK, India, and Burma. Demobbed in 1946, he worked for a civil engineering firm. Our sympathy goes to his widow Maureen and all the family.

**David Shaw****Royal Air Force**

David Shaw of Solihull, West Midlands died on 29 November, aged 89. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 and served in the Middle East, North Africa, Greece, and Italy. Discharged in 1946, he worked as an accountant for the British Red Cross. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Samuel Carpenter****Royal Air Force**

Samuel Walter Carpenter of Stafford, Staffordshire died on 2 December, aged 98. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1943 and served in the UK, Italy and Singapore. Discharged as Corporal in 1950, he became a marketing manager. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mary and all members of the family.

**Geoffrey George****Royal Engineers**

Geoffrey Roberts George of Brierfield, Nelson, Lancashire died on 2 December, aged 76. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1951 and specialised as telephone operator. After National Service, he joined the Royal Engineers (TA) and served until 1956. In civilian life, he was a teacher. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Jim Farren****Royal Navy**

James Farren of Anstey, Leicester, Leicestershire died on 3 December, aged 83. He joined the Royal Navy in

1943 and specialised as a Telegraphist. Having served in the Adriatic, Aegean, and Mediterranean, he was demobbed in 1946. He later managed a hosiery factory. Our sympathy goes to his partner Kathleen and all the family.

**Andrew Crowter**  
**Coldstream Guards**

Andrew Crowter of Hove, East Sussex died on 5 December, aged 49. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1997. He worked as a labourer in a metal factory before joining the Coldstream Guards as an 18-year-old in 1978. After training, he served in Northern Ireland, Germany and England but was discharged on compassionate grounds in 1985, when his late son Stephen developed a heart condition. He worked as a security guard, until the firm closed. Buying a car, he set up as a taxi driver in the Hove area, but was forced to give up when his coordination deteriorated and he was diagnosed with having Multiple Sclerosis. Closely involved in his Regimental Association, he enjoyed music and church activities. Our sympathy goes to his widow Beverley, son Daniel, and all the family.

**Robert Mark**  
**Royal Navy**

Robert Henry Mark of Marton-in-Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Cleveland died on 5 December, aged 84. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and served as Stoker in the Far East, Mediterranean, and North Atlantic.

Discharged in 1946, he worked for ICI as a foreman. Our sympathy goes to his widow Gladys and all the family.

**Peter Elyard**  
**Royal Army Service Corps**

Peter Elyard of Consett, County Durham died on 7 December, aged 77. He served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, Royal Lincolnshire Regiment (TA), and Royal Army Service Corps (TA) between 1952 and 1958. A bricklayer by trade, he worked in the building industry and emigrated to Australia for 20 years. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doreen and all the family.

**James Glew**  
**King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry**

James Glew of Hartlepool, Cleveland died on 8 December, aged 76. He was called up for National Service in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry during 1951. In civilian life, he worked for Tarmac Roadstone. Our sympathy goes to his widow Dorothy and all of the members of the family.

**Fred Winnett**  
**Royal Artillery**

Charles Frederick Winnett of Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands died on 8 December, aged 81. He joined the General Service Corps in 1945 and transferred to the Royal Artillery. Having served in the UK and Hong Kong, he was discharged in 1953 and became an HGV driver. Our sympathy goes to his widow Audrey and all the family.

**Lily Duggan**  
**Auxiliary Territorial Service**  
Elizabeth Grace Duggan of Aldwick-le-Street, Doncaster, South Yorkshire died on 9 December, aged 83. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1945 and served around the UK. Discharged in 1947, she raised a family and worked locally. Our sympathy goes to all the members of the family.

**Albert Holtham**  
**Royal Australian Air Force**  
Albert George Holtham of Mandurah, Western Australia died on 9 December, aged 94. He joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1941 and served overseas as a Flying Officer. Discharged in 1946, he worked as a clerk. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Ernest Platt**  
**Royal Engineers**  
Ernest Platt of Altrincham, Cheshire died on 9 December, aged 91. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1939 and served in France and the UK. Demobbed in 1946, he worked as a plumber but later dedicated his time to caring for a paraplegic friend. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Brian Dunn**  
**Pioneer Corps**  
Brian Dunn of Bromley, Kent died on 12 December, aged 93. He joined the Fire Service on the outbreak of war, but then enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers in 1940. Two years later, he transferred to the Pioneer

Corps and served in the UK, France and Germany. Discharged in 1946, he worked for Prudential Insurance. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Bill Davy**  
**The Cheshire Regiment**  
William Frederick Davy of Birmingham, West Midlands died on 16 December, aged 85. Raised in Jersey, he moved to Exeter just before the German Occupation. He joined the General Service Corps in 1944, soon transferring to The Cheshire Regiment. Having served in North Africa, Egypt, and Palestine, he was discharged in 1948 and resumed work in the tailoring industry. Our sympathy goes to his sister-in-law, Edna.

**John Appleton**  
**Royal Air Force**  
Squadron Leader John Griffith Appleton of Macclesfield, Cheshire died on 19 December, aged 92. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1935 and trained as a wireless operator and gunner, initially serving in India and Egypt. After engaging the Japanese in Malaya, his squadron moved back to Singapore. Sailing away from the island, his ship was sunk and the survivors made their way to Sumatra where they were taken prisoner. Between 1942 and 1945, he endured malaria, beri-beri, and pellagra while working on the railways. After liberation, he continued to serve, including postings on Christmas Island. Commissioned in 1953, he was

involved with the Bloodhound missile programme. Retiring from the RAF in 1967, he joined British Aerospace. An active member of his local FEPOW Association, he enjoyed golf and tennis. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Thomas Potter**  
**Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Thomas Stanley Potter of Weasenham, St Peter, King's Lynn, Norfolk died on 19 December, aged 90. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1939 but transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1942. After serving in the UK and Europe, he was discharged in 1946. In civilian life, he worked for Kellogs, British Oxygen, and later Distillers. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doris and all the family.

**Harry Pearson**  
**Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Harry Pearson of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died on 20 December, aged 90. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1940 and transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1943. Having served in the UK, Persia and North Africa, he was demobbed in 1946.

**Jack Wilson**  
**The King's Royal Hussars**

John Wilson of Doncaster, South Yorkshire died on 20 December, aged 83. He joined the General Service

Corps in 1945, swiftly transferring to 54 Training Regiment. Later in the year, he transferred to 15/19 The King's Royal Hussars and served in Palestine and the Middle East. Discharged as Corporal in 1945, he worked as a tool fitter, later running a pub before becoming Transport Manager for an electrical wholesaler. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Les Harris**  
**Royal Air Force**

Leslie George Harris of Chislehurst, Kent died on 21 December, aged 85. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1943. Having served in the UK, Palestine and Cyprus, he was demobbed in 1947. He later became Parks Superintendent, responsible for training, at Lewisham Council. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**John Lancaster**  
**Royal Engineers**

John Patrick Lancaster of Sherborne, Dorset died on 21 December, aged 90. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1939 and served in the UK, Egypt, Tripoli, and the Western Desert. Discharged in 1946, he remained on the reserve until 1959. In civilian life, he worked as a gardener. Our sympathy goes to his widow Elsie and all the family.

**Bob Crossan**  
**Royal Military Police**

Robert Gilchrist Crossan of Alexandria, Dunbartonshire died on 23 December, aged 67. Originally an apprentice

joiner, he became a Special Constable when 18 years old while employed at the Littlemill Distillery in Bowling. He joined the Royal Military Police in 1963 and served in the UK, Germany and Singapore. Discharged in 1972, he went on to complete nearly 20 years service as a Constable with Strathclyde Police before loss of sight forced his retirement. A guide dog owner, he was active within the Masons and an adept harmonica player. He took great pleasure in the Summer Camp at HMS *Sultan* and St Dunstan's Activity Week. Later, he became an ambassador for the charity as a St Dunstan's Speaker, talking to community groups in the north. Our sympathy goes to his widow Violet, son Robert, and all the family.

**Dennis Turton**  
**Royal Irish Rifles**

Dennis Turton of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died on 23 December, aged 93. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 and served in the UK, North Africa, Italy, and Austria. In 1945, he transferred to the London Irish Rifles. Demobbed in 1946, he worked as a painter and decorator. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Winifred Ward**  
**Women's Royal Naval Service**

Winifred Lydia Ward nee Emerick of Althorne, Chelmsford died on 25 December, aged 84. She served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Dorothy Godfrey**  
**Women's Auxiliary Air Force**

Dorothy Patricia Godfrey nee Williams of Brighton died on 27 December, aged 86. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1943 and specialised as a Wireless Operator. Demobbed in 1947, she worked for a printing business before marrying. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Bill Carthy**  
**Royal Artillery**

William Patrick Carthy of Heron Park, Gloucester, Gloucestershire died on 29 December, aged 89. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1993. The son of a RSM of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, he grew up with the army but initially harboured ambitions to become a professional boxer. In a series of bouts on the local circuit, he developed a presence in the ring that remained in popular memory for over six decades. However, despite a growing reputation as a contender, these victories seemed insubstantial in the face of the depression that was biting at Liverpool's population. In 1938, he enlisted in the Royal Artillery and trained as an Artillery Surveyor. Posted to 19 Field Regiment, he deployed to France and was part of the subsequent evacuation from Dunkirk. He was then sent to North Africa, advancing with the campaign through Italy into Germany. After the war, he trained officers at Larkhill and later became BSM of Chestnut Troop. In turn, he became RSM of 4RHA. During

this time, he boxed for the regiment, achieving the championship success that had eluded him in civilian life. In 1963, as he was recommended for commission as Quartermaster, it was discovered that he had diabetes and he was invalided out of the Army. Initially he worked for ICI in Germany, but later emigrated to Australia where he ran a roadhouse. Returning to the UK, complications with diabetes led to the loss of his sight and subsequently the amputation of both legs. His interests included bowling, picture framing and handicrafts. Our sympathy goes to his widow Hildegard and all the family.

**William King**  
**Scots Guards**

William Ernest King of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire died on 29 December, aged 73. He joined the Scots Guards in 1954 but was injured during training. Unable to resume his old trade of plastering, he set up a company employing others. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Jim Hetherington**  
**Royal Army Ordnance Corps**

James Finlay Hetherington of Ovingdean, Brighton died on 30 December, aged 95. Born in Canada, he was commissioned into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1940. Posted to the Western Desert as part of 7 Armoured Division, he took part in the campaign until the fall of Tripoli. His battalion entered Normandy on D+7 advancing

to the Danish borders. After suffering a gunshot wound to his leg, he was discharged as Captain in 1945. In civilian life, he ran a laundry business. In 2005, he and other St Dunstaners took to the air at Popham Airfield, Hampshire, trying their hand at flying microlite aircraft. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Alfred Sullivan**  
**Royal Air Force**

Alfred Sullivan of Bevendean, Brighton died on 6 January, aged 71. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1957 and served in the UK and Cyprus. Discharged in 1960, he worked for the Railways. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joan and all members of the family.

**Eric Wigglesworth**  
**Royal Air Force**

William Eric Wigglesworth of Heathfield, East Sussex died on 6 January, aged 93. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 and served in the UK, Imphal, and Burma. Discharged in 1945, he became a surveyor. Our sympathy goes to his widow Muriel and all members of the family.

**Alex Pecket**  
**Inns of Court Regiment**

Joseph Alexander Pecket of Gorton, Greater Manchester died on 10 January, aged 93. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. He worked as a dental mechanic and grocer's assistant before joining the Inns of Court Regiment in

1940, just as it became part of the Royal Armoured Corps. On D-Day, they were the only Armoured Car unit to land in Normandy, charged with making a dash to the Orne Bridges in an attempt to cut off 21 Panzer Division on the flank of the invasion. Their landing at Juno Beach was immediately marked by a landing craft hitting a mine. The remaining vehicles cleared the beach (although not before one car was destroyed by a British tank), but they were confronted by heavy opposition. On the second day, Lance Corporal Alex met a French farmer who gave him a bottle of wine. This was a rare moment of peace; as his unit attempted to regroup at Jerusalem Crossroads, Chouain-le-Douet, they came under attack from USAF Thunderbolts. Alex was blinded by bomb fragments and also suffered multiple injuries. Casevaced to the UK, he was hospitalised at Stoke Mandeville before heading out to Church Stretton for training at St Dunstan's the following year. He became a telephonist, first with the Ministry of Pensions, later with Barclays Bank until retirement in 1980. He maintained close contact with regimental colleagues and sponsored a memorial to those who lost their lives at Jerusalem Crossroads. During a visit to France some 40 years after D-Day, he was reunited with the farmer he had met, M. Pacavy, and they kept in touch for many years after. A keen braille reader, he studied French and enjoyed travel. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Jack Winter**  
**Royal Engineers**

John Byatt Winter of Liverpool, Merseyside died on 10 January, aged 97. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1940 and served in the UK. Demobbed in 1946, he worked in distribution for the Daily Post and Liverpool Echo. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Eddie Gillies**  
**Army Catering Corps**

Emmanuel Gillies of Ellesmere Port, Cheshire died on 11 January, aged 80. He served as a cook in the Army Catering Corps in 1948 and was a tanker driver in civilian life. His interests included bowls. Our sympathy goes to his widow June and all the family.

**Les Northfield**  
**Royal Artillery**

Leslie James Northfield of Norwich, Norfolk died on 13 January, aged 93. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 and served as an anti-tank gunner in North Africa. He was captured in Crete and held as a prisoner of war in Berlin until being liberated by American forces. Demobbed in 1945, he worked for the Florida Shoe Company.

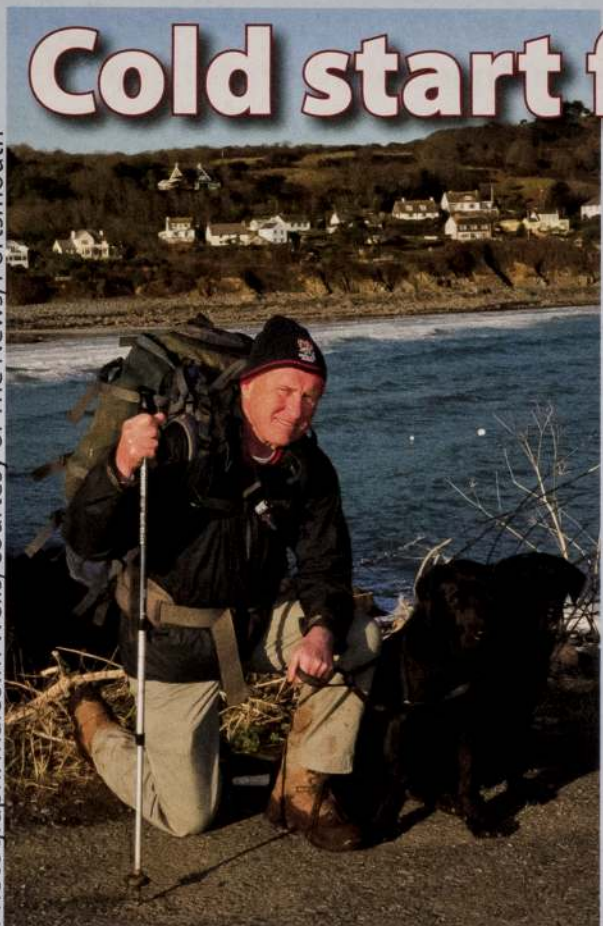
**Ronald Gillman**  
**Royal New Zealand Air Force**

Ronald Gordon Gillman of Titirangi Beach, Auckland, New Zealand has died, aged 91. He served in the Royal New Zealand Air Force during World War II. Our sympathy goes to all the family.



# Cold start for Ges in 2010

Photograph: Malcolm Wells, courtesy of The News, Portsmouth



FORMER FLEET AIR Arm Gun Runner Ges Laker and his dogs Phoebe and Sumo have been on the road for nearly 360 days. During that time, they have walked almost 6,000 miles around the UK coast to support blind ex-Service men and women and have raised nearly £9,000 to date. Ges and his dogs set off from Warsash, Hampshire in snowy weather on 31 January last year. Since then, they have walked in an anti-clockwise direction, up to Scotland, down around Wales and back into England. The icy blasts came back to haunt them as they reached The Lizard, Britain's most southerly point, on 4 January. They persevered through hail and biting winds, and are heading for Plymouth.

## Blind as you know what...

ST DUNSTAN'S Llandudno is already hosting some visually impaired individuals - around half a dozen bats have been sleeping in what used to be stables on the perimeter of the grounds. A local builder found them when making checks to carry out repairs.

The new residents are horseshoe bats, so named for a fleshy flap around the nose, shaped like a horseshoe, which amplifies ultrasonic calls



**Hibernation time.** A trio of horseshoe bats hang out in the stables at St Dunstan's Llandudno.

emitted when searching for food. With a wingspan of up to 25cm, they are skilful and fast fliers, feeding on insects. Sleeping most of the time from September to April,

they usually retreat to caves during the winter. The stables are separate from the main area being developed as St Dunstan's Third Centre for blind ex-Service men and women.