

St Dunstan's

September 2010

# Review

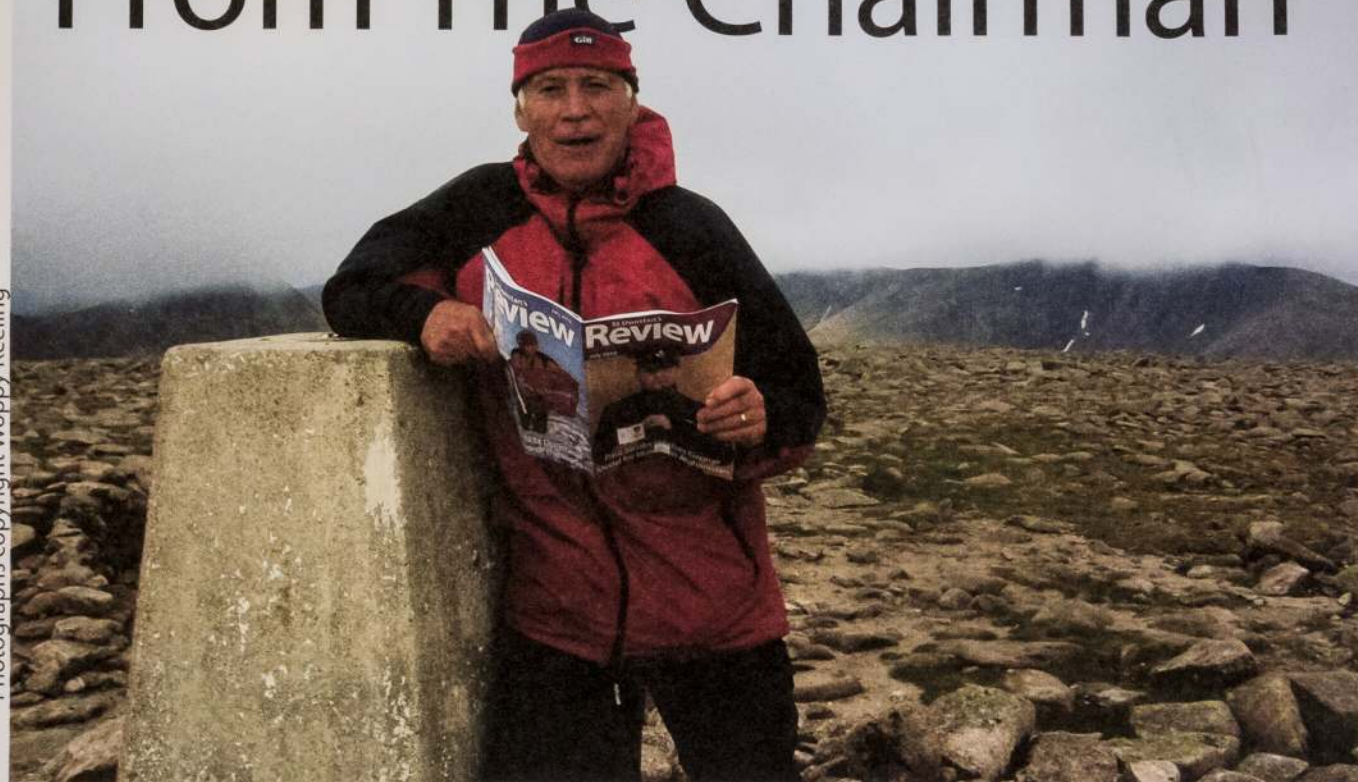


VJ Day - 65 years on!

Your message from Major General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE, RM

# From The Chairman

Photographs copyright Woppy Keeling



Read on MacDuff! St Dunstan's Chairman takes a rest on the peak of Ben Macdui which is categorised as a Marilyn (relative height of at least 492ft) and a Munro (height over 3,000ft).

You may recall that last summer I wrote in this column about a family break in North Wales and about the joys of walking to the top of Snowdon. I foolishly, and totally inaccurately, referred to Snowdon as the second highest mountain in the UK. Quite rightly I was rebuked in a letter from Scotland in the next Review reminding me that while Snowdon is the highest in Wales it is actually

the 57th highest in the UK. I was also gently challenged to get to the top of Ben Macdui (4,295ft), the real second highest in the UK. I am pleased to report that this has now been achieved. At about 2pm on 17 July, while many of you were basking in lovely warm sunshine, I paused briefly to scan July's Review at the summit. Woppy and I then had our lunch in thick mist huddled behind some convenient

rocks at the summit of Ben Macdui before wending our way, by compass, back towards civilisation.

I am even more pleased to report that we've recently had a real turning point in our Campaign to raise money for the new Centre in Llandudno as Help for Heroes have very kindly promised us £1 million for the project. We are very grateful for this massive donation, and we much look forward to a new relationship with this tremendously successful fundraising organisation.

Meanwhile the work at Craig-y-Don is progressing well and the project is on schedule for completion in the Autumn of 2011.

I visited the annual St Dunstan's Camp at HMS Sultan last month. This excellent fun-filled week is organised and hosted by the Senior Service, and in particular by ex-members of the Fleet Air Arm Field Gun Team, and has taken place for many years. One of the "Dogs" (Jack-speak for "Helper") I met has assisted every year bar two since 1962. This is a very popular event in the St Dunstan's calendar and we are hugely grateful for the enthusiasm and generosity of those that make it possible.

## St Dunstan's Review

September 2010 No 1,005

Editor: Ray Hazan Tel: 020 7723 5021

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

**Cover story:** St Dunstaner Alf Lockhart, who spent much of WWII as a prisoner in the Far East, laid a wreath at the Cenotaph of the 65th anniversary of VJ Day. He was escorted by his son, a Royal Navy veteran. More on page 18.



# St Dunstan's Calendar

## SEPTEMBER

Archery (III)	Until 5	Fishing Club	17-22
Dartmoor Yomp	10-12	Writers Forum (VIII)	19
History Week (II)	12-18	Computer Club (II)	20-21
Barn Dance, Newhaven Fort	17	Trafalgar Day	21
Golf Club (VI)	18-19	Amateur Radio (II)	22-30
RMA Lympstone	18-19	BUPA Great South Run	24
BUPA Great North Run	19	Clocks go back	31
Writers Forum (VII)	21	Bowling Club (II)	31-13 Nov
Physiotherapists Weekend	24-27		

## OCTOBER

RM Commando Challenge	9-10	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
Widows Week (II)	10-16	Bowling Club (II)	Until 13
In Touch with Art	13-14	Armistice Day	11
World Sight Day	14	Founder's Memorial Service	13
Golf Club (VII)	16-17	Remembrance Sunday	14
		Writers Forum (IX)	16
		Golf Club (VIII)	20-21
		Dance Club (II)	21-27

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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

## FORMAT CHANGES

St Dunstan's Review is available in large print, braille, MP3CD, cassette tape, USB memory stick, via e-mail and on floppy-disc (a:drive).

If you wish to change Review format, or combinations thereof, contact Catherine Goodier on 020 7616 8367 or e-mail [catherine.goodier@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:catherine.goodier@st-dunstans.org.uk).

# Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

## DRAW ON CHILDHOOD RECOLLECTIONS FOR NEW STORY CONTEST

Break out those typewriters, sharpen that quill, and charge up the word processor! The St Dunstan's Review Story contest is back for another round. This time, we are asking budding authors to delve into their childhood memories, to rifle through their recollections of pre-teenage years for inspiration.

Prizes will be announced later this year, and the winners will have their work published in the Review next year. The subject and title are yours to decide providing they adhere to the theme of Childhood Memories (recollections of pre-teenage years).

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

follow these steps when submitting entries for the competition:

- 1) Entries should be typewritten and should not exceed 1,500 words.
- 2) Only one submission per person. Multiple entries will be disqualified.
- 3) Entries must be received by the Editor, St Dunstan's Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD by 11 January 2011.

## GRAB YOUR PARTNERS

The band Tight Squeeze will be providing the music for an entertaining Barn Dance in support of St Dunstan's on 17 September. The dance at Romney Hut, Newhaven Fort, East Sussex kicks off at 19:00 (doors open 18:30). Refreshments will be available and there will be a raffle on the night. Tickets, £8.00 for adults, £5.00 for children under 16, (under-5's free), can be purchased by telephoning Melinda Dixon on 01273 391455.

## CELEBRATE THE BEST OF ST DUNSTAN'S

This is your chance to tell us who has excelled during the past year. Your nominations for the best achievements of St Dunstaners, other members of St Dunstan's Family, and volunteers are wanted for the 2011 Founder's Day Awards. There are seven categories of merit recognising the spirit of endeavour encouraged by our founder Sir Arthur Pearson. Presentations will take place at St Dunstan's Sheffield on 25 March 2011.

The categories are:

- i) **Community Award**
- ii) **Training Achievement Award**
- iii) **Award for Creative Art**
- iv) **Sports Person of the Year Award**
- v) **Volunteer of the Year Award**
- vi) **Innovator of the Year Award**
- vii) **Chairman's Commendation**

Full rules were published in the May Review and nomination forms can be obtained from the President's Office, by telephone on 020 7723 5021, or by writing to Ray Hazan, President, St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. Nominations for the Founder's Day Awards should be submitted to the President's Office by 30 November 2010.

## 2011 VIP LARGE PRINT DIARIES AVAILABLE

Large print diaries and calendars for 2011 and can be ordered via Nathan Clements in Procurement at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. The A6 pocket diaries cost £3.70 while an A4 desk diary costs £6.50. Also in stock are A3 VIP wall calendars at £3.25 each, an A4 VIP address book at £6.25, and an A4 VIP telephone book for £6.25. The items are all produced by SLSB.

Call Nathan on 01273 391441 to place an order or write to him at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton BN2 7BS, including a cheque for your order. Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's.

## NEW POOL OPENING TIMES

New opening hours have been introduced for the swimming pool at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, Monday to Friday. Opening hours are:

9:30am–12:30pm  
and 1:30pm–3:30pm.

Swimmers will be asked to vacate the pool 30 minutes before closure to allow time for changing.

## GET YOUR VETERANS LAPEL BADGE

Available for veterans from WWI to the present day: The UK Armed Forces Veterans Lapel Badge is now available to all veterans who served in HM Armed Forces. The badge is an enamelled, engraved, and pinned, lapel badge featuring the words "HM Armed Forces – Veteran", which encompass the Tri-Service, Anchor, Crossed Swords and Eagle motif. Its symbolism is intended to unite all veterans in recognising the commonality of their service, to encourage a sense of unity and community between surviving veterans and to ignite public recognition of current veterans and their continuing contribution to society.

St Dunstaners who have not already obtained a Veterans Lapel Badge can apply through Barbara Sweeney at St Dunstan's HQ on 020 7616 7922.

## FORCES DISCOUNTS

Over a thousand National and Local discounts are available through the MoD's Defence Discount Scheme which remains a benefit for Veterans after they leave active Service. New discounts are added daily. You can obtain a copy of the Defence

Discounts Directory by telephoning 01604 495495 or by e-mailing [feedback@crestpublications.com](mailto:feedback@crestpublications.com). Many of the discounts are also detailed online at [www.forcesdiscounts-mod.co.uk](http://www.forcesdiscounts-mod.co.uk). Registration with the scheme is free of charge. Categories include insurance, and home and garden.

We recently heard from St Dunstaner Mike Tetley of St Albans, Hertfordshire who was delighted when he secured travel insurance at a preferable rate through a company recommended by the Defence Discount Scheme.

## HOLIDAY IN FRANCE

St Dunstan's supporter and Army veteran Calum Harkiss is offering a special deal to St Dunstaners and their families renting his holiday cottage in France. The tariff is £250 per week, with £25 of that being donated to St Dunstan's.

The property is a 200-year-old cottage in the heart of Central Brittany, situated in a typical French hamlet. For more details visit their website, [www.frenchholidaycottage.net](http://www.frenchholidaycottage.net) or contact Calum by e-mail on [calumharkiss@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:calumharkiss@hotmail.co.uk) by telephone on 00 33 2 96 25 18 99, or by writing to him at Le Fougeray, 22210, Brittany, France.

## MORE SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN WILL QUALIFY FOR MEDALS

Hundreds more British Service men and women will receive medals, under new plans announced by the MOD last month. Previously, members of the Armed Forces served for 30 continuous days in order to qualify for Iraq and Afghanistan campaign medals.

Following a review, those who have served for an aggregate period of 45 days will also now be eligible. These changes will be backdated to the start of both operations in Afghanistan (11 September 2001) and Iraq (20 January 2003). Serving personnel who believe they may now be eligible should apply through their unit admin staff. Ex-service personnel should contact the MOD Medal Office, Building 250, Imjin Barracks, Gloucester GL3 1HW.

Only those deployed on operational duty will be eligible, visitors to operational theatres will continue to be ineligible for medals. Personnel who are evacuated from the operational theatre as a result of either death or wounding are awarded the appropriate campaign medal no matter how long they have served there and this will not change.

## DRAMA AND COMEDY

We have some spoken word CDs and cassette tapes available, courtesy of supporters of St Dunstan's. Comedy CDs available are Victoria Wood in *Victoria at the Albert Live*, Radio 4's *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue Live*, and *The Complete Beyond The Fringe*.

Inspector Morse tapes available are *Driven to Distraction*, *Greeks Bearing Gifts*, and *Inside Story*.

Those with a taste for creepy thrills might enjoy *Two Past Midnight: Secret Window*, *Secret Garden* by Stephen King, *The Body Politic* by Clive Barker, *Nobody True* by James Herbert, all on tape, while *The Magic Cottage* by James Herbert is on CD.

We also have some tapes based on books by Ruth Rendell: *A Dark Blue Perfume*, *Kissing the Gunner's Daughter*, *Murder Being Once Done*, and *From Doon with Death*. There are two tape titles by Sidney Sheldon: *If Tomorrow Comes* and *The Naked Face*, and finally, *Himoff! The Memoirs of a TV Matinee* by Richard Whiteley.

If you are interested in any of these titles then please contact Simon Rogers at St Dunstan's Review on 020 7616 7934. As ever, first come, first served, but only one title will be issued per household.

# Christmas Selection 2010

As the year progresses, the Christmas season approaches once again and we are pleased to make our new selection of Christmas cards available to order. All of our Christmas cards carry the St Dunstan's logo and the greeting "With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year".

Each pack contains ten cards and envelopes, except for our bumper pack which contains a mixed selection of 25 cards and envelopes. All prices include VAT (at 17.5 per cent) and postage and packing costs £2.50 on orders worth up to £30 or is free on orders worth over £30.



### Snowman

In this painting, a snowman in a woolly hat and scarf, with a carrot nose, looks on against the backdrop of a snowy wood. Ref: DUN100X. Size: 137mm x 137mm. Price: £3.50



### Winter Night Stroll

A smiling cartoon snowman with a lantern leads a procession of a polar bear, a reindeer, a goose, a penguin and a robin on a stroll on a snowy winter's evening. Ref: DUN101X. Size: 83mm x 165mm. Price: £3.25



### The Sleeping Christ Child

A traditional painting of the Madonna and sleeping Christ child. Ref: DUN103X. Size: 137mm x 137mm. Price: £3.50



### Classic Dove

A beautiful white dove is in flight with a piece of mistletoe in its beak. It is flying through a starry night sky and a particularly large star is twinkling just about the dove's head. Ref: DUN107X. Size: 137mm x 137mm. Price: £3.50



### Last Post of the Day

A traditional snowy village scene. Cottages and the village church nestle into the snow as a lone figure posts a Christmas card in the bright red letterbox. Ref: DUN102X. Size: 121mm x 171mm. Price: £3.75. Also available with a Welsh greeting: "Gyda Dymuniadau Gorau ar gyfer y Nadolig a'r Flwyddyn Newydd". Ref: DUN114X

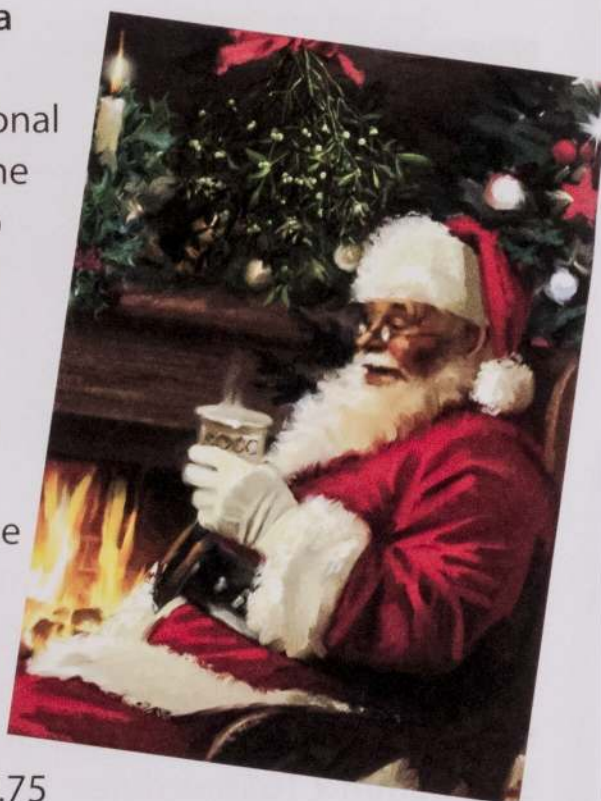


### Guiding Star

A traditional Christmas card depicting shepherds following the star to Bethlehem for the birth of baby Jesus. Ref: DUN106X. Size: 121mm x 171mm. Price: £3.75

### Santa with Cocoa

A cosy scene showing a traditional Santa sitting by the fireplace about to enjoy a steaming mug of cocoa. The mantelpiece is decorated with glistening holly, candles, mistletoe and Christmas baubles. Ref: DUN104X. Size: 121mm x 171mm. Price: £3.75



### Village Choir

The snow-covered village church is lit up and a procession of choirboys carrying hymn books is walking in for the evening service. Ref: DUN105X. Size: 121mm x 171mm. Price: £3.75



### St Dunstan's Christmas Bumper Pack

A great selection of 25 Christmas cards from the previous year. Various sizes, envelopes included. Cards in the pack may differ from those pictured above. Ref: DUN110X. Various sizes. Price: £4.50



### Giftwrap pack

The pack contains six sheets of different designs, including snowmen against a blue background, red and green Christmas stockings, green holly leaves, gold bells and words of seasonal greeting such as "Noel". Ref: DUN109X. Price: £4



### Rockery Snowdrops

A red-breasted robin sits by a bunch of wintry snowdrops by an ivy-covered wall as the snow gently falls around him. Ref: DUN108X. Size: 137mm x 137mm. Price: £3.50

### Alan Titchmarsh gift bookmark

A shiny stainless steel bookmark with a gardener's wellie boot on the end, with a leaf design etched into it, which hooks over your book to keep the page. Designed by gardener, writer and TV presenter Alan Titchmarsh.

Ref: DUN112X. Price: £5



### St Dunstan's canvas bag

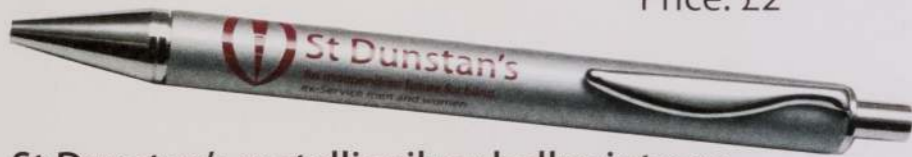
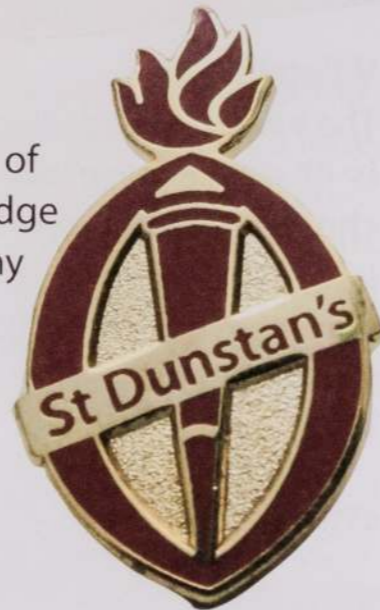
This cream coloured canvas bag is printed with the red St Dunstan's logo and has a long strap which will sit easily over the shoulder. Ref: DUN113X. Price: £2

### St Dunstan's enamel badge

The official emblem of St Dunstan's, the badge can be worn with any item of clothing.

Ref: DUN063E.

Price: £2



### St Dunstan's metallic silver ballpoint pen

This stylish pen is marked with the charity's logo.

Black ink. Ref: DUN062E. Price: £2



### St Dunstan's Diary

A smart black pocket diary, with a week to view, cream paper and the St Dunstan's logo in gold foil on the front. (Please note, this is not a large print diary). Ref: DUN111X.

Size: 83mm x 164mm. Price: £4

Orders can be placed by telephone on 0845 450 8446, online at [www.supportblindheroes.org.uk](http://www.supportblindheroes.org.uk), or by filling out both sides of the form on pages 13 and 14 and sending it to Freepost RRLX-KJXU-UZHC, St Dunstan's Christmas cards, PO Box 220, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 6ZQ.

[www.supportblindheroes.org.uk](http://www.supportblindheroes.org.uk)

# Christmas card order form

Name

Address 1

Address 2

Address 3

Postcode

Telephone

Code	Description	No. of packs	Cost per pack*	Total £
DUN100X	Snowman		£3.50	
DUN101X	Winter Night Stroll		£3.25	
DUN102X	Last Post of the Day		£3.75	
DUN114X	Last Post of the Day (Welsh version)		£3.75	
DUN103X	The Sleeping Christ Child		£3.50	
DUN104X	Santa with Cocoa		£3.75	
DUN105X	Village Choir		£3.75	
DUN106X	Guiding Star		£3.75	
DUN107X	Classic Dove		£3.50	
DUN108X	Rockery Snowdrops		£3.50	
DUN109X	Giftwrap pack		£4.00	
DUN110X	St Dunstan's Christmas Bumper Pack (a selection of 25 cards and envelopes)		£4.50	
DUN111X	St Dunstan's 2011 Pocket Diary		£4.00	
DUN112X	Alan Titchmarsh gift bookmark		£5.00	
DUN113X	St Dunstan's canvas bag		£2.00	
DUN062E	St Dunstan's ballpoint pen		£2.00	
DUN063E	St Dunstan's enamel badge		£2.00	
			<b>Order total</b>	<b>£</b>
			<b>Postage &amp; packing</b> – Up to £30: <b>£2.50</b> . Over £30: <b>FREE</b>	<b>£</b>
			<b>TOTAL</b>	

In the event that one or more of your choices is sold out, St Dunstan's will substitute an alternative design for you. Your order will be despatched within 21 days. \*Cost per pack includes VAT at 17.5 per cent.

Form continues overleaf...

## Please fill in your **payment** details

I am enclosing a cheque/postal order made payable to St Dunstan's Enterprises Ltd (please write your name and address on the reverse).

OR  Please debit my Master Card/Visa/Amex/Maestro

Card No  (Shaded boxes

Card Security Code  Maestro only)

Valid from  Expiry date  Issue No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please do not send CAF vouchers - thank you!**

Please return this order form along with your payment to:

Freepost RRLX-KJXU-UZHC,  
St Dunstan's Christmas cards,  
PO Box 220,  
Tonbridge,  
Kent TN12 6ZQ



St Dunstan's Enterprises Ltd is wholly owned by and gives all its taxable profits to St Dunstan's, a charity registered in England & Wales (no. 216227) and Scotland (no. SC0394111) under the Gift Aid Scheme.

## Tell all your family and friends

Telephone orders on **0845 450 8446**

Or place your order online by visiting

**[www.supportblindheroes.org.uk](http://www.supportblindheroes.org.uk)**

A selection of your comments from the 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](mailto:ray.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk).

## Tribute to an excellent Freemason

I first met Tom Hart in the early Sixties, when he was invited to attend my Masonic Lodge at Gravesend Kent, by one of our Lodge members, who was also a member of Tom's Lodge in Folkestone, who knew that Tom and I were members of St Dunstan's.

Tom was a very kind and considerate person, who would help anyone who sought his advice. On one occasion when we met at Ovingdean, I asked him his opinion about forming a St Dunstan's Masonic Lodge, or Group. He introduced me to Major Tom Bastock, who was a well known Freemason



of the Sussex Province, who assisted me in forming our Masonic Group. It was only later that I learnt that Major Bastock's daughter was engaged to Tom's son.

Tom and I were also members of the St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society, we both attended the same centre for our Morse exam,

where we attained our G4 Call sign, we were in constant communication via St Dunstan's "Net".

When Tom became Secretary of the Ex-Prisoner of War Group, he often asked me to join, as I was a POW of the Japanese, but for many years I declined, until some five years ago. I last spoke to Tom during the Ex-Prisoner of War Weekend in April. He will be sadly missed, especially by Mary, who looked after him for many years. He has now departed to the "Grand Lodge" above.

**Ron Freer,  
Cliftonville,  
Margate, Kent**

A full obituary appears In Memory, page 50.



# Balancing the Books

**Ted Bunting** on a remarkable leader of World War II

**Auchinleck: The Lonely Soldier**

Author: Philip Warner

Reader: Andrew Timothy

Category: Adult Non-Fiction:

Biography: War & Espionage:

War Leaders

Duration: 13 hours, 24 minutes

Catalogue number: 4608

He is described as "lonely" because the man at the top is always on his own, and this is a biography of a General. Not just any old General, however, but arguably the finest on any side in the Second World War. Like many soldiers of his generation, Claude Auchinleck acquired his early skills in India, where he also

learned several languages and, like Kipling before him, developed a life-long affection for its many peoples. I mention Kipling by the way because it seems to me that Auchinleck possessed more of the manly virtues listed in *If* than anyone I've met before, including not giving way to hating, though he surely had ample provocation and cause. This is an excellent book of its type, objective, informative and, in keeping with its subject, straight forward and perfectly honest. The author's grasp of history is particularly fine, quite complex issues are rendered intelligible, and all in all listening to the book is a most satisfying experience.

## Reunion Round-Up

St Dunstan's Chairman Major General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE presided at the Hook Reunion on 26 July. There were 19 St Dunstaners and three widows at the Tylney Hall Hotel, Rotherwick, Hook, Hampshire. RAF

St Dunstaner Chris Redmond made an eloquent response for those present. Heading north, there were eight St Dunstaners and their guests at the very first Inverness

Reunion on 11 August. Iain Lumsden was the member of St Dunstan's Council presiding at the Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness. Royal Navy St Dunstaner Professor Maurice Aldridge, MA, M.Litt, PhD responded for everyone present.

## Ten questions on...

Our Royal Patron, Queen Elizabeth II

**Quizmaster Harry Beevers asks you to raise your glasses for the Loyal Test**

- 1) There have been twelve British Prime Ministers since HM The Queen's accession in 1952. Who was the first?
- 2) When Princess Elizabeth was born in May 1926, what number in line to the throne was she?
- 3) Alphabetically, which of Queen Elizabeth's three Christian names comes first?
- 4) How many grandchildren does The Queen have?
- 5) Which annual event in London marks The Queen's official birthday in June?
- 6) Apart from Queen Elizabeth II, who is the only other British Queen to marry a Philip?
- 7) The Queen visited Australia in March 2006 to open which sporting event?
- 8) What was the name of the first ship launched in 1953 by The Queen after her coronation? The ship has been on exhibition since 1998.
- 9) The Queen's wedding ring was made from a nugget of gold mined in which part of the UK?
- 10) "Sandringham Lightning", owned by The Queen, was a winner of a race in 1990, in which sport?

**Answers can be found on page 43.**

## Ally is best blind golfer in Scotland

REME St Dunstaner Alistair Reid of Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire won the Grampian Classic on 6 August. He achieved a nett score of 59 at Stonehaven Golf Course on the Braes of Cowie.

The win also puts him at the top place of the Scottish Blind Golf Society's Order of Merit for 2010.

As the Review went to press, Ally and fellow St Dunstaner Mike Mayo were due to represent Scotland in the International Blind Golf Association World Championships at Whittlebury Park in Northamptonshire. That will be followed by the British Blind Open when they will be joined on the team by Perthshire St Dunstaner Ian Moncrieff.

More golf news on page 41.



# Nation remembers the Far East fallen on VJ Day

**T**HE EFFORTS of veterans who endured the harshest of conditions were remembered as the Nation commemorated the 65th anniversary of

Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) on 15 August. Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall joined veterans of the conflict, along

with Prime Minister David Cameron and representatives of the three military Services, at The Cenotaph in London for a service of commemoration.

Amongst those present were two St Dunstaners who served in the Far East during the Second World War. Arthur Carter, escorted by Major Adrian Golland, paraded St Dunstan's Standard during the service. Arthur, aged 86, of Bolton, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy.



FEPOW St Dunstaner Alf Lockhart and his son approach The Cenotaph to lay a wreath.

Alf Lockhart, aged 91, now resident at St Dunstan's Ovingdean endured nearly five years as a prisoner, labouring on the Burma-Siam railway.

"It was backbreaking but we daren't stop or the sentries would lay into you," recalled Alf. "We were fed nothing but rice or soup - very occasionally we'd get an egg with the rice - and that was it," he says. "We were soon skin and bones." Despite these privations, Alf remained confident that he would return home eventually.

A service was also held at the National Memorial Arboretum, where St Dunstaner Sydney Tavender, aged

In memory of the "Forgotten Army". Whitehall stands silent as the nation pays tribute to those who lost their lives in the Far East. With the assembled Standards of the Burma Star Association dipped, and those of other Veterans' organisations at half-mast, The Buglers of The Band of HM Royal Marines Commando Training Centre sound the Last Post. On the right of The Cenotaph are Viscount Slim and Lt General Sir John Kiszely, and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall.

91, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire attended with members of the Malayan Volunteers Group, FEPOW Association and Families of FEPOW. Syd was taken prisoner at the Battle of Slim River in Malaya. He was held in Kuala Lumpa before being moved on to the Burma-Siam railway. Having endured chronic dysentery and malaria, he could barely walk at the end of the war.



St Dunstaner Arthur Carter marches into Whitehall on VJ Day.



Everyone stands for the National Anthem.

# A heartlifting delight!

**T**HE BAND of HM Royal Marines Portsmouth, The Royal Band, lived up to their reputation when they returned to St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 28 July. Their annual concert in the Inner Garden has become a much anticipated event and the band went out of their way to surpass expectations. Bandmaster Warrant Officer I Martin Grace, LRSM, AMus, TCL, RM

Photographs by **Ron Charlton**

oversaw an assured selection of favourite music that slipped easily from jitterbugs to regimental marches and crossed a range of emotions with heart-lifting anthems and tear-jerking showstoppers from the West End stage.

As ever, the band were ably supported by the Corps of Drums

who bring an almost acrobatic precision to their percussive performance. Guests included the High Sheriff of East Sussex, Deborah Bedford, and Lord Lieutenant Peter Field as well as guests from Selly Oak Hospital. Chairman Major General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE thanked the band members for an excellent concert.



The bugle call of The Corps of Drums signalled the beginning of a synchronised performance.



Vice Patron Admiral Sir Jonathon Band, GCB.



St Dunstaners Roger Williams and Keith Goodger were amongst those enjoying Band's music.



WO1 Martin Grace conducts with style.



St Dunstaners and their guests gave a hearty round of applause for the Band of the Royal Marines.



Morris and Evelyn Evans enjoy a Pimms.

# Tri-Service teams target the Tower for toxophily

Man the battlements! St Dunstan's Archery Club take Household Cup at a historic London landmark

**P**EDESTRIANS ON Tower Bridge were transfixed as teams of archers fired off volley after volley of arrows at the Tower of London on 2 August. Be they tourist or local worker, all witnessed

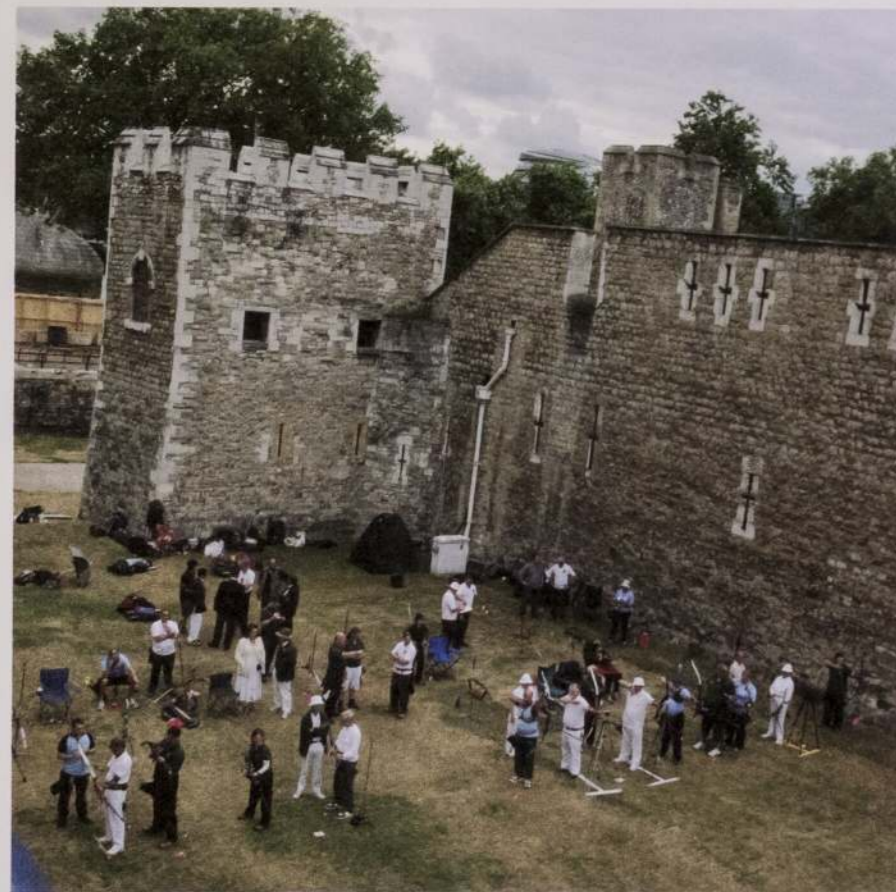
squads of archers testing their skills at the historic world heritage site.

However, this wasn't a siege of the medieval battlements, St Dunstan's Archery club were competing

against sighted teams from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force at the ultimate venue for a trial of toxophily. They all unleashed their arrows after sponsor Clickers Archery of Norwich set up targets in the east moat.

The teams were competing for the Household Cup. The last contest had been held at Buckingham Palace in 2006. The 2010 rematch was the culmination of much planning by St Dunstan's Archery Club Vice Chairman Clive Jones.

Permission to hold the shoot at the Tower was kindly granted by Her Majesty The Queen and the Governors of HM Tower of London.



St Dunstaners Adrian Neat, John Bower, Patrick Sidnell, and Keith Lanchester-Harding at the Tower.



Above: St Dunstaner Marjorie Scott with Yeoman Warder Fiddes. Left: The Tri-Service teams with our archers.

The afternoon saw some great shooting from St Dunstaners such as Norman Perry, John Bower, Keith Lanchester-Harding, Marjorie Scott and Patrick Sidnell.

Lord Paramount Chris Vitale presented prizes as he revealed St Dunstan's had held on to the Household Cup, with Army team coming second, followed by the Royal Air Force and then the Royal Navy teams.



Phil Varden was spotting for sharp-shooting St Dunstaner Norman Perry at the Tower of London.

# Mike named local champion

**A**N RAF St Dunstaner has been hailed as "The Local Champion" by Down District Council. Mike Mann, aged 61, was feted in the council's Excellence in the Community Awards 2010 for his commitment to social justice, particularly where environmental matters are concerned.

Mike was unable to collect the award in person, having involved himself in a Human Rights dispute between a County Mayo community and an oil conglomerate.

He was nominated for the Local Champion Award by Lecale Conservation chairman Doris Noe. "Mike is always keen to empower people around him to have a voice," she said. "He believes in social justice and lately has come to the conclusion that this is closely related to environmental justice. I have known Mike since the beginning of 2007 and quickly realised that he was a very active member in his

community, Killyleagh. He was instrumental in 'bringing down Killyleagh's Berlin Wall'."

This was a 45ft boundary wall that divided the village community until Mike's research paved the way for it to be removed.

"My work with him in Lecale Conservation, an environmental NGO in South Down, has taught me that you cannot win every campaign," said Doris. "A sign of the champion is to still go on and Mike is very good at that: after falling, literally, into a ditch he will get up, brush himself down and say 'Where were we?'. His visual impairment does not stop him from

seeking to embrace new experiences and locations. He is a wonderful advocate for taking the 'dis' out of disabled."

Doris applauded Mike for encouraging others to do the same. "He has campaigned for public rights of ways to be maintained, for safeguarding green spaces for people's enjoyment and in this way has always used his voice to benefit many."

She added: "I value that Mike doesn't only speak up himself but always aims to empower others to speak up for themselves. Mike brings new life to the old sustainability slogan of 'Think Global and Act Local'. The world is a village, they say, and Mike is on his way to demonstrate that a white stick is not a hindrance on a journey from Local to Global Champion."

# St John Ambulance cadets bust challenge on the dam



Just some of the cadets with St Dunstaner Colin Williamson on the Möhne Dam, not far from where 617 Squadron made their fateful strike.

**A** UNIQUE GROUP of cadets and carers splashed out for St Dunstan's in Germany on 29 July. St John Ambulance Cadets from Oxfordshire, their younger counterparts St John Badgers, cadets from the Polish wing of Malteser International, and Cheshire Young Carers (an impressive bunch who take on adult responsibilities when their parents are unable

to do so) took part in St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge with a mix of water based activities and a walk round the Möhne Dam. The group enthusiastically took part in canoeing, windsurfing, and rafting in the reservoir. They then walked over the Dam famously attacked by the RAF Dambusters.



Water, water everywhere.

Bouncing bombs in mind, it might have been a tad cruel for St Dunstaner Colin Williamson to challenge young Adam to hop across the Dam.



Hop to it, Adam



It's going great, says Daniel Hambidge.

# Marathon Jim is on a roll

by Catherine Goodier

On 24 July Staff Sergeant Jim Offord, 39 Engineer Regiment, Cambs completed a treadmill marathon in just 5 hours and 17 minutes outside Tesco in Huntingdon. Wearing his Bergen rucksack filled to weigh 39lbs, as heavy as the average five year old child, the super fit Royal Engineer also raised £927.06 for St Dunstan's.

Jim will be attempting to break two treadmill



Jim is congratulated by staff at Tesco, Huntingdon.

Guinness World Records in the coming months. All this is training for a physically punishing exercise dubbed

"10 Squaddies, 10 Marathons in 5 Days" devised for St Dunstan's Forces Challenge. Set for November, the Sappers will run from St Dunstan's Sheffield down through London to St Dunstan's Ovingdean, a distance of 226 miles.

Jim's run in the Tesco forecourt was well received by shoppers who cheered him on. "The scenery did get a bit boring though," said the Staff Sergeant.

## Game of inspiration

Traditional games such as shuffleboard regularly provide an entertaining distraction at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. However, it also provided Army St Dunstaner Mark Harden of Epsom, Surrey with a great idea for his next carpentry project.



# Blind tri-athletes make it a flash splash dash!



A lifeguard in a canoe marshals the swimmers including our St Dunstaners (in white caps) and their guides (in red caps) as they begin their triathlon.

**S** EVEN ST DUNSTANERS and their escorts pushed themselves to the limit in the Olympic Distance Challenger World London Triathlon on 8 August. They were amongst 13,000 competitors who descended on London Docklands for a 1,500m swim, followed by a 40km cycle ride, before finishing the event with a 10km run.

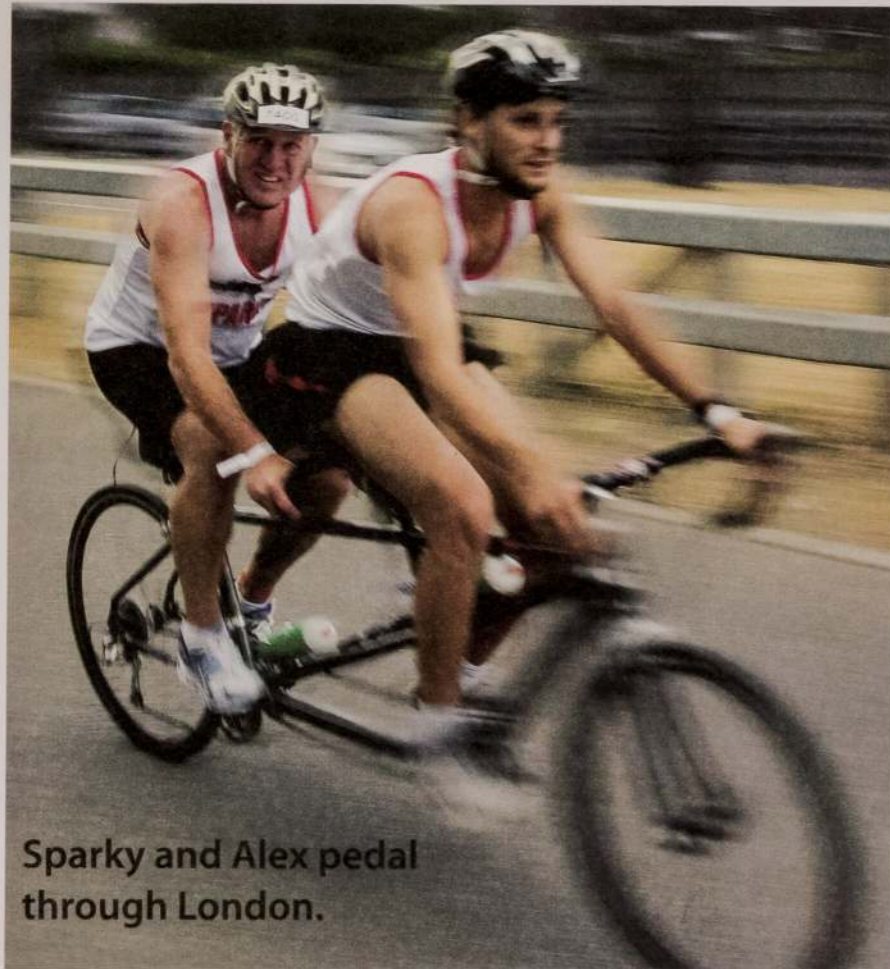
The event is based around the ExCeL Centre, a 100-acre site on the northern quay of the Royal Victoria Dock. The exhibition halls are used to house equipment and allows competitors easy access to the

by Simon Rogers

water as they swim towards the Connaught Bridge and back again. Heavy cranes and the weathered shell of the Spillers Millennium Mills stand tribute to

the area's industrial past. Participants then saddle up for two cycling laps, first heading east towards Beckton, then west to Tower Bridge and back again. Returning their tandems to the racks, they then run four laps east along the side of the Royal Victoria Dock, onto the Royal Albert Dock.

The day was a re-affirming experience for Royal Marine St Dunstaner Stephen



Sparky and Alex pedal through London.

Pushing through the pain, Mike headed on to his tandem with guide Stephen Murphy. Mike was cheered on by his girlfriend Deborah who was among spectators with St Dunstaner Billy Black. On the run, Mike from Lindfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex managed to out lap Stephen, making a solo finish in 3 hours, 27 minutes and 37 seconds.

There was another member of the Cuthbertson family on the course. Jamie's wife Shauna proved that extreme sports are not a male only preserve and completed her triathlon in 3 hours, 39 minutes and 45 seconds.

It was also a family day for RAF St Dunstaner Stephen Parnell of Brackley, Northamptonshire. Not that he and his guide David Babister had that in mind as they kept up a determined pace, but their progress was cheered on by Steve's

Sparkes of Exmouth, Devon. His original attempt on the event a few years back was skewed by bad luck in the water and mechanical failure on the cycle track. However, this year he completed all three sections in 2 hours, 59 minutes and 33 seconds, guided by Alex White. That's three minutes and four seconds short of the record set by RAF St Dunstaner Graham

Kiff and his guide Mark Brownlow in 2007. Close behind were Jamie Cuthbertson and his brother-in-law George Buckingham. The Army St Dunstaner from Glasgow made it home in 3 hours and 24 seconds. Jamie's fellow polar explorer Mike Scholes hit a problem as he emerged from the Royal Victoria Dock. He was wracked by cramp and lost precious minutes as he recovered.



Top left: George and Jamie emerge. Top right: Sue Eyles swims on. Centre: Paul and Rory run towards the ExCeL Centre. Above: David and Mandi race through Docklands. Right: Shauna on the run.



Stephen Parnell and David keep a steady pace.

family, his wife and children, mum and dad, sister and more. The triathlon bug seems to be contagious. As Steve neared the end of his swim, daughter Charlotte, aged 12, expressed a desire to join her dad in the event (in a few years' time, perhaps).

"I felt more confident about the triathlon this year," said Stephen. "My swim was quicker, the bike ride was faster, and we managed to cut down time on transition. The run was a bit disappointing, they covered part of the course with some

bouncy boards. I had to stop running at those points and then try to start again."

Stephen finished in 3 hours, 47 minutes and 1 second. Hot on his heels was Wren St Dunstaner Sue Eyles, escorted by Louise Timms. The girls made it home in 3 hours, 50 minutes and 33 seconds. They were followed by Sports and Rec's Andrew Seivewright who clocked up 3 hours, 54 minutes and 47 seconds.

Then it was neck-and-neck between two Army St Dunstaners making their triathlon debut:

Rifleman Paul Jacobs, GM, aged 21, running with Headley Court's Rory Simpson, and David Cranson, aged 56, of Deaf Hill, County Durham who was guided by Mandi Fermer. David and Mandi were first to complete their swim, but lost time in transition allowing Paul and Rory to take the lead on the cycle ride. However, David pushed ahead on the run and made it home in 4 hours, 37 minutes and 17 seconds. Soon after, Paul came racing in with a time of 4 hours, 41 minutes and 38 seconds for a jubilant reunion with his fiancée Karen.



Mike had a significant lead on his escort.

# A Bridge Too Far?

**Jamie Cuthbertson** embarks on a long held dream cycling ride, but finds he still has a many miles to go

**D**ON'T WORRY, this is not another film buff's appraisal of the star-studded film or an account of the wartime exploits of that brave bunch of guys at Arnhem! It is, in fact, a quick tale of tandem cycling and our failed attempt to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats. You'll see the link with the title towards the end.

Completing this cycle run has been something that I've wanted to do for some time and, on the evening of 10 June, we finally set off on the long drive from Glasgow to Land's End. The team consisted of myself and my pilot Ronnie Young, with our support crew of Andy Swann and Heather



Jamie and Ronnie get ready to saddle up.

Barbara! The plan was to drive through the night and arrive at Land's End at around lunchtime the next day and to cycle from there to Truro, about 40 miles. Everything went perfectly including the weather but we did begin to get an idea that Cornwall isn't particularly flat, with numerous

hills in between the picturesque villages. We even managed to find my friend's house where we were staying the night and were rewarded with an excellent dinner including a massive pavlova!

Saturday continued to plan with only a couple of wrong turnings and, because the weather



was holding up, we decided to camp near Bude. Due to the aching legs and throbbing rear ends, we felt that we could justify a couple of cans of lager and a game of 'Chubby Bunnies', which, to the uninitiated, involves shoving as many marshmallows into your mouth without chewing or swallowing them - very childish I know, but hellish funny.

Sunday proved to be a massive test of will power with our route taking us into a strong head wind and on what could only be described as a real roller coaster ride, in particular the 1-in-4 slopes down into and up out of Linmouth. The roads were also curiously busy with motorbikes which turned out to be because of a nearby rock concert. As we pushed the tandem up the hill, the rain started, coming on full blast as we gained the brow of the hill and moved out

onto Exmoor. Morale got pretty low at this point but we rallied as we dropped down into Porlock and the sun came out again. The rest of the day's cycle was uneventful and we got to Minehead in the early evening. Several pleasant pints and a comfortable bed really did the trick in terms of repairing morale!

Monday and we were heading into darkest Somerset. Generally the roads were less hilly but we still had the head wind to contend with and other little problems were beginning to manifest themselves in the shape of gear problems with the tandem and reports of the support vehicle engine overheating. Ronnie's back was also beginning to give him a lot of pain. To add insult to injury, the GPS appeared to be caught out by what we have named the Somerset Triangle! Going round in circles

in a car is one thing but doing additional miles on a bike when your legs and rear are sore is a nightmare! At least our campsite was comfortable and the sun was still shining.

Tuesday and 'the Bridge Too Far'! Well, things had started going wrong on Monday but they were about to get a whole lot worse. The Somerset Triangle continued to send us in odd directions, resulting in us having to take directions from many locals, including, believe it or not, a blind lady out on her mobility training! We should have known that this was not a good sign! We were trying to navigate to the bridge over the River Avon and then on to the Severn Bridge, however, the mixture of cycle paths and poor map reading resulted in many more frustrating miles being cycled than we should have needed. Despite the fact that the weather was still

fantastic, the final nail in the coffin came as we closed in on the Severn Bridge. Ronnie and I had stopped to grab a snack and a drink when we heard from Andy that the support vehicle had broken down just over the Severn Bridge on the outskirts of Chepstow

with a suspected blown head gasket! Certainly not the news we had wanted to hear!

After much heart searching, we decided that the vehicle problems, combined with Ronnie's increasingly painful back, meant that continuing

the trip this time was not practical. We had covered 276.5 miles in 4.5 days but the Severn Bridge was really our "Bridge Too Far". Thank God for RAC Recovery!!

This is not the end of the story, as we plan to have another go in the not too distant future.

## A welcome in the Weald

**E**IGHTEEN Kent St Dunstaners and their escorts spent a very enjoyable afternoon in July this year attending a Garden Party hosted by our Vice Chairman, Tim Bacon, and his wife Marylyn at their home near Tenterden. Members were invited to experience the house, the main part of which dates back to the 14th century, and to wander in the lovely gardens. Good weather and enjoyable company prevailed. The pleasure



St Dunstaners Harry Luckhurst, Andy Allott, Wally Jenner, Harry Hall, Gwyneth Birchall, Peter Bradshaw, and Ted Pepper in the historic barn.

of the afternoon was enhanced by the presence of actor Donald Sinden, who chatted with all the

guests and joined them for tea in the barn. Our thanks go to Tim and Marylyn for hosting a lovely occasion.

# Summer on the Solent

Robert Strickland reports on the HMS Sultan Camp

WHEN THE TROOPS left for the invasion of Europe in 1944, Mrs Avis Spurway, who worked for St Dunstan's encouraging sports, enquired about vacant accommodation in Lee-on-Solent with a view to holding a Holiday Camp for the blind ex-Servicemen of St Dunstan's. They were offered the use of tented accommodation at Seafeld Park, and so the first "Camp" was soon arranged.

With the help of Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachments, the local Women's Institute, and members of the Royal Navy and WRNS, the camp was very successful. However, when bad weather set in, the campers were offered shelter at HMS *Daedalus*. The facilities were ideal for the sports, running, and walking races and the Fleet Air Arm Gun Crews stationed in HMS *Daedalus* became so involved that they became known as "Guide Dogs".

For over 60 years, the camp has gone from

strength to strength. Now held at HMS *Sultan*, it is run by a committee of serving and Ex-Naval personnel, with former Warrant Officer David Burrows at the helm. St Dunstaners thoroughly enjoy their annual activity week and close liaison with the Service and volunteer helpers.

This year's camp was held at HMS *Sultan* from 30 July to 6 August. As usual, the travel arrangements were well planned and we soon settled into our accommodation. WO1 Andy Powell was our

Organising Sponsor on behalf of the Royal Navy. He and Dave worked extremely well in organising a wonderful camp. Our thanks go to both, very well done!

St Dunstaners attending were Bryan Alexander, Maurice Bowley, Peter Bradshaw, Arthur Carter, Bryan Durber, Charlie Eastwood, Bill Goddon, Jack Hadnum, Peter Hammond, Gerry Jackson, Clive Jones, Brian Lang, John Lappin, Don Planner, Bob Strickland, David Weltman, and Nigel Whiteley, with first-timers Graham Draycott, John Gasston, Dennis Sarginson, Ken Storey, and John Taylor.

The helpers (affectionately known as "Dogs") were Tom Atkinson, Norma Atkinson, Dave Burrows,

Jan Burrows, Alan Beasley, Sammy Dyer, Dave Hazelwood, Jim Hawkins, Ron Houghton, Allison McDowell, Dave Morgan, Don Oliver, John "Taff" Phillips, Sue Povall, Andy Powell, Sue Pyke, Kevin Pyke, Kevin and Yvonne Rixon, Andy Salter, Howard "Tasty" Smith, Kirby Taylor, Natalie Taylor, Arnold Thompson, Liz Walker, Harriet Whitfield, Lewis Whitfield, Dave Wybrant, Pam Wybrant, and Corrine Cummings (who was doing her Duke of Edinburgh Certificate).

After supper in the WO & SNCOs Mess, we gathered in the Snug Bar for the traditional welcome and Health and Safety briefing. Dave Burrows announced the passing of five campers, namely Bob Crossan, John Patterson, Mansel Lewis, Chris Emery, and Tom Hart. May they all rest in peace.

## Saturday

We were warmly welcomed at the Gosport Cruising Club by the Commodore,



Good humour and comradeship characterised a variety of activities at the HMS Sultan Camp.

Barbara Adams. Many boat owners and skippers had volunteered to host us and we were divided into small groups and allocated to various craft, some in yachts and others in motor boats.

Sue Pyke (my "Dog") and I were assigned to a motor boat together with four others.

We had the additional attraction of the Navy Weekend at Portsmouth Naval Base. The weather was a little damp but who could fault cruising around the harbour. Some even

ventured out as far as Chichester Harbour and the Solent. Aircraft displays, Royal Marines in fast ribs, and the new Type 45s all made for a great spectacle.

Back at the pontoons, the club had prepared a really nice buffet, rounding the morning off nicely. St Dunstaner Gerry Jackson thanked the club on behalf of us all. The Gosport Club always make us truly welcome and the crews treated us like VIPs. Thank you Gosport Cruising Club.

The main event for the afternoon was gliding,

courtesy of the Royal Navy Gliding Club based at the former *Daedalus* airfield. Six St Dunstaners each had one flight in reasonable flying conditions. The glider was one of the modern types, two seats in tandem, and we all wore a parachute!

The Glider was winched up at a tremendous speed to 1,200ft, the tow released, and we soared out over the Solent, Stokes Bay, and over the surrounding countryside before landing some ten minutes later. Our thanks go to CFI John Hale and Dave Howell from the Royal Navy Gliding Club.

For those who preferred to remain on "terra firma", some ventured into Lee-on-Solent, Stokes Bay and Gosport. The sea air caught up with a few who used the afternoon for catching up on a few "Zzzz".

Saturday evening was spent taking part in Real Ale Tasting, presented

by Steve Dugan (an amateur brewing enthusiast). Steve gave a very informative overview of brewing history spanning many centuries with several ales, including Porter. The Beers were home brewed and we had a chance to taste them all.

### **Sunday**

At 10am, St Dunstaners and their "Dogs" joined the regular congregation at St Francis Church, HMS *Sultan* for the Annual Church Service for St Dunstan's. John Lappin delivered the first reading and Dave Burrows remembered our departed friends and read the St Dunstan's Prayer.

The afternoon was sunny and warm, ideal for the archery competition, organised by the Havant and Hayling Island Bowmen. This is always a most enjoyable event, with the Bowmen helping us to line up our arrows. It is quite a fierce competition.

Those who had not gone gliding previously were given a chance to do so. Again, the weather was very good with plenty of thermals to ensure lengthy flights. Conditions improved enabling two flights per person.

During the evening we took part in a brain-rattling quiz, organised by Sammy Dyer, whilst taking part in a few be vies in the Snug Bar. As usual, Sam made it all very competitive.

### **Monday**

We assembled in the gymnasium for the traditional sports morning and split into five teams. There were five events; first using a hockey stick, hitting a puck to score goals, then heaving a heavy ball into a basket ball net, followed by throwing hoola-hoops over cricket stumps, kicking footballs into a net in the fastest time, and lastly, rolling balls between cones. The team with the best score wins. All of the above sound so simple,

but when you are blind or visually impaired, it all becomes very difficult.

We were greeted by the Commanding Officer HMS *Sultan*, Commodore Mark Slawson, who gave us all a very warm welcome. Major General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE, Chairman of St Dunstan's also arrived and chatted to the St Dunstaners and staff. Both were very welcome.

We were also honoured with four other visitors, ex-Portsmouth FC players Ray Crawford, Keith Blackburn, Ray Hiron and Pat Neil, all legends in their own right. They gave us plenty of encouragement and were very impressed with everything that they watched. Indeed, they accepted an invitation to attend the Presentation Evening and it looks as though we have made some new friends.

When all the gym events had been completed, we all drifted out onto

the field for the walking race. We all shot off at a fair gallop, around the obstacles on the field's edge, before an exhausting finish. The winner was Charlie Eastwood, Don Planner was second, and Jack Hadnum third.

The afternoon was spent at the Gosport and Fareham Inshore Rescue Centre (GAFIRS). Following a tour of the facilities, we were each given the chance to go out in the Rescue Craft, which we all found to be very exhilarating.

That night, we were invited to the Conservative Club at Lee-on-the-Solent for a social evening with Gosport & Lee-on-the-Solent Lions Club. For many years we have been their guests for lunch. It was a great evening. Everyone had good fun in taking part in a quiz which was made into a Gosport Lions versus St Dunstan's Golf challenge (Pub-type golf match). St Dunstan's

won. Clive Jones received the trophy from the Club President on behalf of St Dunstan's. Don Planner then thanked the Club President and Gosport & Lee-on-the-Solent Lions for a most enjoyable evening that was rounded off with David Diapers' sing-along with ukulele and guitar.

### **Tuesday**

This was our day for a visit to the Isle of Wight via the Gosport Ferry. We left Gosport at 10:15 and returned on the 16:45 ferry from Cowes. The only disaster of the day was a broken bottle of rum, traditionally provided by the Fleet Air Arm Field Gun Association for "up spirits", we salvaged most of it, but it didn't stop the Royal Naval contingent bursting into tears!

The Royal British Legion Cowes, extended a very warm welcome to us all, and Dave Burrows urged everyone visiting the island to support this well run

club and thanked the President, Dallas Lidell for her commitment to St Dunstan's. Our visit coincided with Cowes Week, so the Solent was extremely busy. The weather turned out to be good and everyone had a great day out, arriving back at Sultan a little cream crackered.

### **Wednesday**

Because of the Camp being one day short this year, we had many events taking place. These were: pitch & put at Stokes Bay (David Weltman scored a hole-in-one), open Canadian canoeing on the Hamble from Manor Farm Country Club, fresh water fishing at HMS *Sultan*, and riding with the Royal Naval Motorcycle Club. For those who could find time, there was lunch at the Conservative Club.

Three St Dunstaners attended the fishing. The winner was Clive Jones who caught two perch and came up with the story "The biggest one got away". The weight of

this enormous catch was not recorded (the scales didn't do grams!).

Four St Dunstaners, three "Dogs", and four Combined Services personnel, headed by Lt Paul Bastieans, took three Canadian canoes and paddled part way up the River Hamble. Because it was a very low tide and the winds were against us, it was decided to tie the three canoes together for a while and turn around and go back down stream and go to the pub called the Jolly Sailor (made famous in the BBC drama series *Howard's Way*).

After a while we separated and paddled our own way to the Jolly Sailor for lunch. We all made it just in time before the rain came. Our return journey was a totally different story. Where it took over two hours downstream, we flew back in just 20 minutes. It all turned out to be a great experience, especially for those doing it for the first time.

All the St Dunstaners and helpers were

invited back to the Wardroom, where we were warmly greeted by the Wardroom President, Commander JG Cunningham and the other Officers. We were led into the Wardroom Mess for dinner, a very tasty carvery. The rest of the evening was taken up with a quiz, won by Kirby Taylor's team. A vote of thanks was given by Charlie Eastwood to the Wardroom, for their hospitality.

### **Thursday**

Some chose to go deep sea fishing whilst the majority went to see the Ceremonial Divisions. Clive Jones and Jack Hadnum braved the elements and enjoyed catching a variety of species, namely scad, pouting, smooth-hound (shark) and mackerel. We were lucky with the weather as it kept dry and Divisions was a joy to watch. St Dunstan's was shown to be in very high regard when the Commodore gave his address.

Great fun was had by all with some Ten

Pin Bowling at the Go-Bowling rink in Fareham. Though one person forgot to release his fingers from the ball and followed his ball down the alley still holding on. Bryan Alexander won the competition (I don't know how) with a score of 122! "Dog" Dave Morgan was soundly beaten into last place by every St Dunstaner!

### **Prizegiving**

Thursday evening is traditionally used for the "Prize Giving" for the events that have taken place during the week.

### **Archery**

Prizes were presented by the Havant & Hayling Island Bowman Club. Fifteen people took part, each firing 18 arrows, and 12 Balloons (Bulls eyes) were burst.

### **Totally Blind**

3rd 90 John Taylor  
2nd 94 Don Planner  
1st 133 Peter Hammond

### **Partially Sighted**

3rd 133 Peter Bradshaw  
2nd 141 Bob Strickland  
1st 154  
Charlie Eastwood

The match between St Dunstan's and Havant & Hayling Island Bowman was not contested due to non availability of Team Members.

### **Novices**

2nd 130 Ken Storey  
1st 146 John Gasston

Remaining prizes were presented by Commodore Mark Slawson.

### **Walking Race**

Bronze Medal  
2 minutes, 51 seconds  
Jack Hadnum

Silver Medal  
2 minutes, 49 seconds  
Don Planner

Gold Medal  
2 minutes, 30 seconds  
Charlie Eastwood

### **Indoor Sports Events**

#### **Penalty Goals**

Totally blind with a score of four goals in 10.4 seconds  
David Weltman

Partially sighted with a score of five goals in 5.9 seconds  
Maurice Bowley

### **Best Beginner**

The Sheila McLeod Cup was awarded to Dennis Sarginson

### **Victor Ludorum Trophies**

#### **Totally Blind**

David Weltman

#### **Partially Sighted**

John Gasston

#### **Team results**

5th Pole Pirates  
4th Sky's the Limit  
3rd Made to Measure  
2nd Arthur's Northerners  
1st Irish Rovers  
The winning team were Jack Hadnum (Capt), Maurice Bowley, Ken Storey and John Lappin.

#### **Best Team Effort**

This award is in memory of Michael Perrett and is awarded to the Team that tries the hardest. The winning team this year was Team "Made to Measure" – Peter Hammond, John Taylor, Nigel Whiteley (Capt) and David Weltman.

#### **The Don Minter Memorial Trophy**

This award is given to the St Dunstaner who has without question

entered fully into the spirit of the Camp and contributed to its success, both on and off the sports field;

This year's winner was Bryan Alexander

### Speeches

St Dunstaner Arthur Carter gave the speech to the Commodore, Officers & Ships Company, then Dennis Sarginson to the WO & SNCOs Mess. Dave Burrows summarised the whole week and Commodore Mark Slawson replied.

During the evening a raffle was held and over £490 was raised.

### Friday

The morning was spent at the Gosport Submarine Museum where we were given a guided tour of HMS *Alliance*. The two tour guides were excellent and took the time and trouble to explain everything and answered as many questions as possible. This is a wonderful facility and is a must when visiting Portsmouth.

At 13:30 we all assembled for the AGM. All agreed that it had been a very successful camp. After saying our farewells, we all made our way home after a truly memorable week of many happy memories.

Our thanks go to Network Rail, VT Flagship, SODHEXO, Ktees, The Grapevine Centre, HMS *Sultan*, WO & SNCOs Mess, HMS *Sultan*, and the RN Gliding Club who all graciously sponsored the week.

## Newcastle challenge



St Dunstaners Gordon Forster and Gary Tomlinson joined Walker Technology Combined Cadet Force for a sponsored walk in Newcastle on 23 July.

## Destination Mongolia

A TRIO FROM the Isle of Scilly are crossing 17 countries, five mountain ranges and two deserts in the Mongol Rally. Will Ash, Nicholas Mackey and James Druce are tackling the 10,000 mile challenge in support of Cystic Fibrosis. Will and Nicholas are the

grandsons of Max and Joan Ash of Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset. "It's very exciting for them," said Max. "They had some trouble with suspension in Odessa, but managed to find a place that could get the part sent out." More on their drive next month.

# Bruised ribs and wonky knees

by Pam Crossan

ONCE AGAIN St Dunstan's Golf Club was very fortunate with the weather on 25-26 July. The sun shone at Rusper Golf Club in Newdigate, Surrey, as did our St Dunstaners.

John Nunney, although in pain with a bruised rib, obtained while slipping in the shower on holiday, excelled himself with a nearly faultless round, although on the last hole he carded a ten which just spoilt his superb record.

Club Captain Graham Johnson did not quite match his previous performances as he was recovering from a knee operation. He still managed to card a reasonable score, which in the circumstances he felt happy about knowing that next time he will be playing at 100 per cent again.

Derek Roden's performance was hampered as he forgot his golf shoes and had to wear his beach sandals, but still managed to look resplendent and achieve a respectable score.

Andy Allott is 89 years young and still playing a competitive game of golf and enjoying every moment. I must mention how dapper he always looks in his St Dunstan's golf attire.

Our guides also have a great weekend, as well as being invaluable to the St Dunstaners. Treasurer Don Oliver,

who is also recovering from injuries incurred in a recent car accident, made a welcome appearance and still managed to give us all some helpful advice about our golf.

We are still trying to recruit new members to join the club. Please note, you do not have to be a Tiger Woods to join us as we can introduce you to the game with the help of a golf coach at Rusper. You will enjoy a weekend of fun, laughter and golf, with your partner as your spotter, who will be reimbursed for expenses. Please contact the Club Secretary, Pam Crossan on 02380 866671.

## Royal reply for Ron

Army St Dunstaner Ron Stevens of Ashford, Middlesex wrote to Our Patron, HM The Queen saying how much he enjoyed May's open day at Frogmore Gardens. He was delighted when Buckingham Palace replied with good wishes.

# ASK ROD

Your queries answered  
by the ROVI on Duty

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

## Ready, Steady, Cook! Part Three

by Stuart Penfold

### Continuing our series on kitchen skills for the visually impaired cook

#### Keeping clean

Most important of all, keep things in the kitchen as clean as you can. Food hygiene is as important in the home as it is in a top restaurant. Don't mix utensils and chopping boards with cooked and uncooked foods. Keep tidy by having bowls ready by your workplace to place prepared foods, and one for all the peelings. Another tip is to peel onto a sheet of newspaper. When done, wrap this up and put straight into the bin. Wash up safely by not putting knives straight into the bowl. Try to organise the utensils you have used on one side of the draining board, transfer them into the bowl individually for washing, then place them back on the draining board. Or even better, have a dishwasher! Clean as you go, wipe up – start in one corner and work systematically across the area you are cleaning.

#### Transferable skills

Many kitchen skills are easily transferable. For example:

- If you can fry an egg then you have the basic skills to do a stir fry or fried mince.
- Boiling an egg means you can boil vegetables or potatoes to make mash, or boil pasta.
- Can you peel a carrot? Similar skills will help you do a potato or use a clean peeler to slice cheese.
- Basic chopping skills for vegetables will improve knife safety, allowing you to slice cheese or bread, and to cut your sandwiches into squares, triangles or rectangles.
- Making the tea means you can make gravy, pouring sauces, custard, and add stock to a variety of dishes.
- Put a pie in the oven? Then you can put a larger casserole dish or large roast chicken in the oven as well.

Just by learning and doing one skill means you already have the

ability in the bag to do other things such as those described above. The list is endless. Knowing the basics such as chopping and peeling, remembering cooking times, safe oven management, and pouring safely to make gravy means a Sunday roast is not out of the question.

#### UNUSED EQUIPMENT

Do you have any equipment that was issued to you by St Dunstan's ROVIs that you no longer use? If so, contact ROD on 01273 391447 and we'll see if we can help. Many items can be reissued if you no longer use them.

## BEER OF THE MONTH

by Colin Williamson

#### Cheshire Chocolate Porter

This is a delightful beer by the Unicorn Brewery in Stockport. Cheshire Chocolate Porter, six per cent ABV, is a beautiful porter style beer which is rich in chocolate flavouring and malts. Using an original recipe from 1899, Frederic Robinson, Head Brewer from Unicorn Brewery, they worked with Maitre Chocolatier Simon Dunn to create this fine milk chocolate coloured brew. A well balanced beer with a delightful smooth chocolate taste, this is the perfect beer for chocoholics! This beer is brewed for Marks and Spencer and can be found in any M&S stores.

## A chance to dance

A St Dunstaner's grand-daughter starts her studies at a world renowned dance school this month. Jemima Rose, 18, will join the bar for a four year course at the Royal Academy of Dance in London. Her ambition is to teach ballet. Her proud grandfather, St Dunstaner Trevor Rose of Spalding, Lincolnshire feels this is a tremendous achievement given the family's rural background.

## Ten Answers

Answers to quiz on page 17.

- 1) Winston Churchill;
- 2) Three, after her uncle who became Edward VIII and her father George VI;
- 3) Alexandra;
- 4) Eight: William, Harry, Beatrice, Eugenie, Peter, Zara, James, and Louise;
- 5) Trooping of the Colour;
- 6) Mary I, Mary Tudor, the half-sister of Queen Elizabeth I. She married Philip II of Spain;
- 7) The Commonwealth Games in Melbourne;
- 8) The Royal Yacht *Britannia*. (The Queen has launched 23 ships in her lifetime. The first was the battleship HMS *Vanguard* which she launched, as Princess Elizabeth, on 30 November 1944 in Clydebank. *Britannia* was also launched from Clydebank;
- 9) Wales; and
- 10) Pigeon racing.

# Welcome to **St Dunstan's**

**John Appleby** of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

**Arthur Atkinson** of Kingston, Kingsbridge, Devon served in the Royal Engineers and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1940 to 1946.

**Kenneth Baker** of Ipswich, Suffolk served in the Royal Fusiliers, Suffolk Regiment, and Royal East Kent Yeomanry between 1942 and 1947.

**Joseph Beesley** of Prescot, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**Betty Bolding** of Tilgate, Crawley, West Sussex served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1944 to 1949.

**Christopher Bostock** of Clerkenwell, London served in the Royal Fusiliers and Royal Dragoon Guards between 1942 and 1946.

**Gwynver Brooker** of Coventry, West Midlands served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1950 to 1956.

**William Brown** of Garstang, Preston, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps and Army Air Corps between 1945 and 1948.

**William Casely** of Maidenhead, Berkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**Millicent Chambers** of Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**William Cogan** of Rode, Frome, Somerset served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Pauline Cole** of Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the Royal Signals from 1966 to 1970.

**Pauline Dutton** of Cilcain, Mold, Flintshire served in the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1962 to 1964.

**William Evans** of Newbury, Berkshire served in the General Service Corps and Royal Army Ordnance Corps between 1943 and 1947.

**Graham Field** of Solihull, West Midlands served in the Royal Corps of Transport from 1966 and 1970.

**Ann Forrest** of Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1942 to 1947.

**Emily Goodall** of Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

**Henry Graves** of Windsor, Berkshire served in the East Surrey Regiment and Royal Artillery between 1942 and 1947.

**Reginald Green** of Barnard Castle, County Durham served in the Royal Engineers from 1952 to 1954.

**Francis Horn** of Nettleham Fields, Lincoln served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Francis Horner** of Blackpool, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Phillip Howarth** of Northampton, Northamptonshire served in the Royal Signals from 1948 to 1950.

**John Jamieson** of Chatham, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1947.

**Frederick Lavers** of Newquay, Cornwall served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

**Lance Bombardier Rob Long** of Charlton, London joined the Royal Artillery in 2008 and was injured while stationed in Afghanistan.

**Robert Lord** of Burnley, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**Lt Col William Macwilliam** of Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire served in the Royal Sussex Regiment and King's Regiment between 1949 and 1983.

**John Markham** of Downend, Bristol served in the Army Air Corps and General Service Corps between 1945 and 1948.

**Kenneth Maver** of Old Colwyn, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd served in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and Army Air Corps between 1944 and 1946.

**William Mooney** of Stanley, County Durham served in the Royal Artillery from 1964 to 1969.

**Peter Murdoch** of Llandrindod Wells, Powys served in the Royal Navy from 1946 to 1950.

**Vanda Murray** of Lowestoft, Suffolk served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1944.

**Owen Owen** of Llandudno, Conwy served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1950.

**Ronald Petherick** of Penarth, South Glamorgan served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1952 to 1958.

**Vera Pooley** of Felixstowe, Suffolk served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1944.

**Vernon Price** of Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and General Service Corps between 1946 and 1948.

**PC David Rathband** of Northumberland has been serving with Northumbria Police since 2000.

**Ronald Royff** of Ammanford, Dyfed served in the Royal Air Force Police from 1951 to 1954.

**Veronica Shiell** of Fareham, Hampshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1944.

**Peter Short** of Woburn, Milton Keynes served in the Bedford and Hertfordshire Regiment from 1943 to 1945.

**Colin Tarn** of Basildon, Essex served in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry from 1954 to 1959.

**Donald Urquhart** of Widnes, Cheshire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Victor Walford** of Catford, London served as Able Seaman in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

**Anthony West** of Kings Heath, Birmingham served in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and Royal Signals between 1941 and 1946.

**Leslie Wigham** of Tittensor, Stoke-on-Trent served in the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and Ulster Defence Regiment between 1967 and 1975.

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# Family News

## BIRTHS

**Congratulations on the birth of:**  
Adair Josslyn Moncrieff on 26 May, the first grandchild for Ian and Catherine Moncrieff of St Fillans, Crieff, Perthshire.

## RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**  
Stephen and Ann Robarts of Hoylake, Wirral, Merseyside on 25 July.

John and Una Robinson of Buckingham, Buckinghamshire on 21 August.

## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**  
Selwyn and Maureen Burden of Rugeley, Staffordshire on 23 July.

Peter and Kathleen Lennon of Reading, Berkshire on 1 August.

Bruce and Irene Slorance of Alton, Hampshire on 6 August.

William and Cathy Tasker of Peterlee, County Durham on 20 August.

## DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**  
Philip and Sybil Duffee of Seaford, East Sussex on 29 July.

Alistair and Jane Macdonald of Dingwall, Ross-shire on 29 July.

Kenneth and Pat Whiteside of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria on 29 July.

Jeannie and Sidney Hiscock of Selsey, Chichester, West Sussex on 5 August.

Bill and Irene Williams of Little Hulton, Worsley, Greater Manchester on 5 August.

Stephen and Josephine Hanlon of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear on 7 August.

Peter and Pamela Homewood of Peacehaven, East Sussex on 12 August.

Bill and Lilian Burke of Stithians, Truro, Cornwall on 19 August.

## BLUE SAPPHIRE ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**  
John and Mary Painter of Chichester, West Sussex on 1 August.

Robert and Violet Wood of Uxbridge, Middlesex on 2 August.

Joe and Alice Ponting of Nailsworth, Gloucestershire on 18 August.

## SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**  
Vic and Margaret Morgan of Stalmine, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire who celebrated 74 years of marriage on 25 July.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

**Congratulations to:**  
Stephanie Louise Muzzall who graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Business Economics from the University of Surrey on 14 July. She is the granddaughter of Gerry and Maureen Jackson of Worthing, West Sussex.

Paul Whitcombe who has just gained a 2.1 BSc (Hons) degree in Sports and Leisure Management from Christchurch University, Canterbury, Kent. He is the first member of the family to get a degree say his proud grandparents, John and Beryl Whitcombe of Eastbourne, East Sussex.

## DEATHS

**We regret to announce the passing of:**  
Kathleen Smythe of Amersham, Buckinghamshire on 27 December 2009. She was the widow of Henry Smythe.

Maureen Robinson on 21 May. She was the wife of St Dunstaner David Robinson of Peterlee, Durham.

Norma Viles of New South Wales, Australia on 2 June. She was the widow of Alfred Viles.

Josette Antoniewicz of Tulse Hill, London on 5 July. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Antoni Antoniewicz.



Dorothy Hurrell on 7 July. She was the wife of Bernard Hurrell of Snettisham, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

May Rogers, known as B, of Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire died on 12 July, aged 101. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Clarence Rogers.

Annie Hare of Ogwell, Newton Abbot, Devon on 16 July. She was the widow of St Dunstaner William Hare.

Nancy Smith on 23 July. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Charles Smith of Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland.

Jean Dibb on 1 August. She was the wife of Gerald Dibb of Croydon, Surrey.

Maureen Beniston on 6 August. She was the wife of Brian Beniston of Billington, Clitheroe, Lancashire.

**Our sympathy goes to their family and friends.**

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# 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.**

## **William Beardsmore Royal Navy**

William Henry Beardsmore of Wolverhampton, West Midlands died on 30 June, aged 84. He worked in munitions and also served in the Home Guard before joining the Royal Navy in 1943. He served as a Signaller in home waters before being discharged in 1947. He then worked for a tool manufacturer and later in the steel and building industries. Our sympathy goes to his widow Ruth and all the family.

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

Betty Pauline Sales nee Frost of

Weston-super-Mare, Avon died on 3 July, aged 87. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1943 and trained at RAF Innsworth as a radio operator. Demobbed in 1947, she married and became a full-time wife and mother. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

## **Joe Raybould Royal Air Force**

Joseph Leo Raybould of Preston, Lancashire died on 14 July, aged 86. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1946 and served in the UK. Demobbed in 1948, he completed his science degree and joined the Jesuit Church. Ordained in 1959, he taught remedial maths.

## **Cyril Filder Royal Air Force**

Cyril Herbert Filder of West Kirby, Merseyside died on 16 July, aged 82. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1946 and served as Corporal in the UK and Germany. Discharged in 1948, he worked as an accountant and later set up his own accountancy college. Our sympathy goes to his widow Jean and all members of the family.

## **William Key Royal Navy**

William Fremlin Key of Cobham, Surrey died on 16 July, aged 83. Born in Jerusalem while his father was serving in the Army, he joined the Royal Navy in 1943. Having sailed on vessels such as HMS *Beasdale*, *Mendip* and *Gabard*, he was demobbed as Temporary Acting Sub Lieutenant in 1946. In civilian life, he worked in Africa and India before returning to the UK. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

## **William Rees Royal Army Ordnance Corps**

William John Rees of Cardiff, South Glamorgan died on 17 July, aged 93. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1939 and was deployed to France with the British Expeditionary Force. Wounded as the Germans advanced, he and two companions walked to St Malo, narrowly catching the last boat of the evacuation.

During the Normandy landings, his unit were set down on the wrong beach by the US Navy, but advanced through France, Belgium, and Holland to reach Hamm, Germany. Demobbed in 1946, he worked in local government and became Chief Clerk of the Glamorgan Fire Service. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

## **Wilfred Sale Royal Air Force**

Wilfred Leslie Sale of Blurton, Stoke-on-Trent died on 17 July, aged 87. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 and specialised as an engine fitter. Having served in the UK and India, he was discharged in 1946 and worked in the building trade before joining Michelin. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

## **Eric Platt Royal Air Force**

Eric Arthur Platt of Watton, nr Thetford, Norfolk died on 18 July, aged 88. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 and served in the UK, Canada, and India. Demobbed in 1946, he worked on the family farm, but later worked at a forge and at a shipwrights shop. He also worked as a carpenter and postman. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

## **Richard Zabrocki Polish Resettlement Corps**

Richard Zabrocki, born Ryszard, of Wallsend, Tyne & Wear died on

18 July, aged 87. As a young man, he was apprenticed to his father, Zygmunt, as a trainee cabinet maker. With the outbreak of war, he joined the resistance in the Armia Krajowa (Home Army) and participated in the Warsaw Uprising. The rebellion began anticipating the arrival of the Soviet Army. However, the Russian advance came to a halt and the Polish Resistance was forced to surrender after two months of bitter fighting. Ryszard was taken prisoner and transported to Germany. After the cessation of hostilities in 1945, he made his way to Italy and enlisted in 2 Anti-Tank Artillery Regiment, Warszawska Armoured Division, 2 Polish Corps. He served in Italy as Lance Corporal, then transferred to the Polish Resettlement Corps in 1947. Discharged in 1949, he joined the Merchant Navy as an engineer. Later, he resumed work as a cabinet maker and set up business as an antique furniture restorer, passing his skills on to his son Ian. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Tom Hart**  
**King's Royal Rifle Corps**

Thomas Patrick Hart of Sandwich, Kent died on 19 July, aged 94. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1943 and he was the last surviving student of the Normanby School. Born in Liverpool, he worked as a cinema attendant and had moved down to

London to work for a printing firm before volunteering for the King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1939. The first weapon supplied to the trainee Rifleman was, in fact, a crossbow. He was deployed to France shortly before Dunkirk and his battalion mounted a rear guard defence as the Germans advanced. The action allowed a smoother retreat along the coast, but those in Calais found themselves caught in street fighting. Having taken up position in a house that was under fire, he attempted to move on, only to be caught by the blast from a hand grenade, blinded as shrapnel sliced across his face. He awoke in hospital, a prisoner of war. He was held in Brussels, then sent to a hospital in Cologne where he was treated by Catholic nuns and nurses. (Tom revisited the area in the 1960s and met up once more with one of those nuns, Sister Alwana). As his health recovered, he was moved to Stalag IXC where the prospect of repatriation was dangled over wounded prisoners. At one point, Tom was packed on a train which went as far as Rouen before diplomatic channels broke down and the POWs were returned to the camp. He became separated from other prisoners and in consequence found himself taken to Poland for the duration of a freezing Christmas. He was then moved to Schilberg, and recalled with discomfort the indignity

of being deloused. "You used to have to take all your clothes off, put them on to bales and then put them in the gas chamber," he said. "Then the Germans used to chuck them out in the snow to get rid of the gas smell. Fortunately, I had very good friends and they used to get my bits and pieces together." In May 1942, he was relocated again, this time to Klosta Heina where another British prisoner, Lord Normanby, had been allowed to set up a braille school under the pretext that he was associated with St Dunstan's. Prisoners with eye injuries were sent to the one camp, first at Klosta Heina, later Bad Soden. The Germans supplied facilities and eventually, magazines, paper and equipment came from St Dunstan's via the Swedish Red Cross. Tom, and other blind prisoners such as Sid Doy, Doug Parmenter, Jimmy Shepherd, Dennis Landin, Ron Ellis, Jimmy Legge, George Allen, Len Cook, Billy Deuchars, Dennis Fleisig and others were taught Braille, typing, and music as part of the curriculum. In 1943, Tom and other blinded prisoners were repatriated. They were taken to Gothenburg in Sweden and boarded *HS Atlantis* which sailed for Liverpool. From there, they were taken to Church Stretton where St Dunstan's relocated for the duration of the Second World War. The returning POWs were met by a military band and local villagers waving flags

as the procession moved along a bunting strewn high street. It was also the day he met his wife to be, Mabs, though at that point she was the Matron's Secretary. He cherished the friendships made with other St Dunstaners in those years, many continuing to this day. During early training, he studied telephony and in turn became a tutor, hoping that an instructor's job would become available in West Africa. In 1945, he decided on a change of course and began training as a massage student. Later, as a qualified physiotherapist, he joined the staff at Warneford General Hospital in Leamington Spa. In 1948, he accepted a position at King Edward Hospital, Durban and having moved to South Africa also took over a private practice. During this time, he became involved with the Forces charity, Toc H. Tom and his family returned to the UK in the 1960s, as he took up a position in Rhyl, a stepping stone to him becoming Senior Physiotherapist at Victoria Hospital in Folkestone. The men he had fought alongside in France remained in his thoughts, and he joined fellow KRRC veterans for regular pilgrimages to commemorative events in Calais. However, one such occasion, when he was photographed alongside Dame Vera Lynn, became a point of some embarrassment. In an accompanying caption, *The Times* described him

as "the sole defender of Calais". "I had to keep my head down for a while after that," he said. He was an able ambassador for St Dunstan's, talking about the charity's work to various groups in the Kent area. His interests included joinery, computers, wine making, travel, gardening, and he became a Freemason. Several St Dunstan's clubs also occupied his time. As Chairman of the Gardening Club, he arranged trips to Derbyshire, York, and other towns. He also developed an interest in radio (call-sign G4KPF), serving on the committee of St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society and participating in the group's trip to Jordan, coming away with the call-sign JY8KP. He became an enthusiastic archer, again serving St Dunstan's Archery Club as Chairman and later Vice President. He also took great pleasure in his role as Secretary of St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War Group, relishing the opportunity to arrange guest speakers over 30 years' worth of reunions. Our sympathy goes to Mary, Tom's son Christopher, and all members of the family.

**John Patterson**  
**Royal Electrical**  
**and Mechanical Engineers**

John Patterson of North Shields, Tynemouth, Northumberland died on 19 July, aged 65. He joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

(TA) in 1962 and served in Germany and the UK. Discharged in 1966, he joined the Merchant Navy, sailing on Ben Line and Furness, Withy & Co vessels. He rejoined the TA in 1971 for a further 20 months before working for a mining company. In later years, he worked for engineering firms and ship repair yards around the world. He enjoyed sailing and this experience served him well on several St Dunstan's Cadet Challenges. He also represented St Dunstan's as a speaker and was a highly regarded figure at the Lee-on-Solent Camp and St Dunstan's activity week. Our sympathy goes to his widow Nora and all members of the family.

**Charles Diggins**  
**Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve**  
Charles Arthur Diggins of Brighton died on 23 July, aged 89. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1940 and specialised as a Radar Operator. Demobbed as Flight Officer in 1946, he worked for firms such as Proctor & Gamble, Plough Pharmaceutical, and Glendinnings. Our sympathy goes to his widow Geraldine and all the family.

**Arthur Walker**  
**Merchant Navy**  
Arthur Alfred Walker of Llangrannog, Llandysul died on 24 July, aged 90. He became a Merchant Seaman in 1937 with the Breton Steam Ship

Company. During the Second World War, he served on Atlantic Convoys and participated in North African landings, as well as shipping supplies for the Sicily and Italian Campaigns. He became a Master Mariner, sailing on freight carriers. He retired in 1982. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Kenneth Morley**  
**Royal Air Force**  
Kenneth Arthur Morley of Birmingham, West Midlands died on 25 July, aged 90. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and served in North Africa, Middle East, Palestine, Italy, Yugoslavia, and Greece. Discharged in 1946, he became a photographer. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**William Jones**  
**Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry**  
William Parry Jones of Llanrwst, Gwynedd died on 29 July, aged 87. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1942, and later transferred to the Lincolnshire Regiment, then the Royal Norfolk Regiment and, finally, the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. He served in Northern Europe and Palestine and was stationed in Hamburg before being demobbed in 1947. In civilian life, he worked for the local council. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Victor Washer**  
**Royal Air Force**  
Victor Edward Washer of Desborough, Kettering, Northamptonshire died

on 29 July, aged 84. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1943 and flew in Halifax Bombers with 158 Squadron. Demobbed in 1947, he worked as an engineer and later became a sales representative. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mary and all the family.

**Victor Halliwell**  
**Royal Navy**  
Victor Halliwell of Holywell, Flintshire died on 31 July, aged 94. He joined the Royal Navy in 1935 and served as a stoker on HMS *Malaya* and HMS *Westminster*. Having sailed on aircraft carrier HMS *Argus*, he transferred to minesweepers and was demobbed as Petty Officer in 1947. He then worked at the power station in Wigan. Our sympathy goes to his niece and friends.

**Ron Tingay**  
**Royal Sussex Regiment**  
Roland "Ronald" Tingay of Ovingdean, Brighton died on 1 August, aged 85. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1945. He worked as a bricklayer before joining the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1943. Posted to their ninth battalion, he was deployed to Burma as part of 72 Infantry Brigade and saw action in the Arakan during the Battle of the Admin Box. Allied Forces put up fierce resistance to the Japanese advance. The regiment began its move on Myitkyina and in November 1944, Ron was wounded in action by a mortar bomb. Casevaced

to St Dunstan's at Dehra Dun, India, he had both eyes removed. Apart from being blinded, he would continue to be troubled by fragments of shrapnel lodged in his arm. Returning to the UK, he spent a period at Stoke Mandeville before training at St Dunstan's in Church Stretton. Training in boot repair, he harboured an ambition to set up shop with his father but began work at the Boot Depot in Brighton. After a few years, he retrained as a capstan lathe operator and joined Vickers Armstrong in Dartford, Kent. He continued in light engineering and assembly work with Power Samas and Fairover Engineering. His interests included handicrafts, picture framing, joinery, and wrought iron work. As part of the Racing Week fraternity, he was keen on the odd flutter. He also enjoyed swimming, winning several awards in the process. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

**Ron Hazelgrove**  
**Corps of Military Police**

Ronald William Hazelgrove of Ovingdean, Brighton died on 4 August, aged 94. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1978. He worked as a tailor's cutter before joining the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps a few months before it was renamed in 1940. After labouring with the Pioneer Corps, he transferred to the Corps of Military Police in 1941. Stationed at various camps, he was deployed on night patrols. In 1943, he noticed a spot in front of his right eye

and was discharged. Later, he worked in the appeals department at the RNIB until 1972. A keen gardener, he also enjoyed DIY. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Patricia Nuttall**  
**Auxiliary Territorial Service**

Patricia Carmen Nuttall nee Giommy of Hutton, Preston, Lancashire died on 5 August, aged 84. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1943 and was attached to the Royal Signals in London. Demobbed in 1946, she worked for Telephone and Cables in Newport and later in a factory making surgical products.

**Ian Morgan**  
**Royal Armoured Corps**

Ian Ernest Morgan of Marlow, Buckinghamshire died on 6 August, aged 89. He joined the Inns of Court Regiment (TA) in 1938, then transferred to the Royal Armoured Corps. Commissioned in 1940, he joined 3 Carabniers, RAC and was posted to India. In 1946, he was Mentioned in Despatches for gallant action in Burma. Discharged as Major, he qualified as a solicitor and worked in Kenya. Later, he joined the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Keith Harrison**  
**Merchant Navy**

Keith Henry Harrison of Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire died on 8 August, aged 86. He joined the

Merchant Navy in 1945 and served as an Engineer sailing to Australia, New Zealand, India, Trinidad and around the world. He later worked for companies such as Shellmex and BP. Our sympathy goes to his widow Marjorie and all the family.

**Jim Malcolm**  
**The Black Watch**

James Chalmers Malcolm of Letham, Perth, Perthshire died on 9 August, aged 58. He entered the Army as a boy in the Junior Leaders Battalion and joined The Black Watch in 1967. He served in Gibraltar, Germany, Hong Kong, and completed several tours of Northern Ireland. Discharged as Lance Corporal in 1978, he worked at a foundry and later for the MOD. He enjoyed walking and rough shooting. Our sympathy goes to his sister Helen and all the family.

**Islwyn Hughes**  
**Royal Welch Fusiliers**

Islwyn Hughes of Anglesey, Gwynedd died on 12 August, aged 65. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1974. He joined the Royal Welch Fusiliers in 1961 and was injured the following year while sliding down a bridging rope. While in hospital, he lost sight in one eye and continuing haemorrhage damaged the other. Discharged, he worked in the catering trade as a ferry steward and barman. After becoming a St Dunstaner, he trained at Pearson House for industry and worked in a packing depot. Later, he took over

a smallholding, keeping a variety of livestock such as lambs, chickens and calves. He enjoyed gardening and also tried his hand at wrought iron work and toy making. Our sympathy goes to his widow Einir and all members of the family.

**Bernard Pitcher**  
**Royal Fusiliers**

Bernard James Pitcher of Stratton, Bude, Cornwall died on 12 August, aged 90. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1999. Having joined the Royal Fusiliers in 1938, he was posted to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force. Wounded during the retreat, he was carried to the Dunkirk beaches for the evacuation. After recovering, he was deployed to North Africa, advancing through Tunis to Salerno and Cassino. After a tour of duty in Palestine, he was posted to Greece. Demobbed as Sergeant in 1946, he worked in the construction industry. Our sympathy goes to his widow Dorothy and all members of the family.

## St Dunstaner Legacy Gifts

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

**William Elliott**  
19 February 2010  
**Stephen "Eddie" Bennett**  
4 May 2010

# Murphy gets his man!



Murphy gets his man! Craig Bressington is brought down. Below: David Stuttard and Colin Williamson with members of 103 Military Working Dog Squadron.



ST DUNSTANER David Stuttard had a simple suggestion for soldiers stationed in Paderborn, Germany last month. "If you are interested in the St Dunstan's Forces Challenge, try doing part of your regular training wearing a blindfold." That's possibly fine for the

lads of 77 Squadron, 35 Engineers maintaining a Warrior armoured vehicle. However, Craig Bressington of 103 Military Working Dog Squadron demonstrated a certain bravery trying one on for his role as bait for a

three-and-a-half year old Belgian Shepherd called Murphy. Padded suit or not, Murphy brought his fleeing target to the ground in seconds. Lance Corporal Deborah Kerr, handling an Alsatian called Mackie, explained that some of their dogs will be deployed on patrol in Afghanistan. Others, such as Benji are trained to sniff out explosives or hidden drugs. The unit's demonstration impressed their visitors from St Dunstan's.

Sappers Craig, Sekope, Stuart and Ryan of 35 Engineers.

