

St Dunstan's

March 2011

# Review



**St Dunstaners hit the slopes!**



# From the Chairman.

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

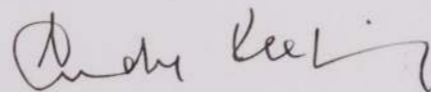
With the days gradually getting longer and early bulbs forcing their way through towards the light it's beginning to look as if spring might be just around the corner, even though we know that this particular corner is actually quite a long slow bend.

Thinking about bulbs reminds me that years ago in the Wiltshire village I lived in we put a new tarmac path down in the Churchyard during the summer, for the old one had been there for many years and was well past its sell-by date. You expect a new tarmac path to look pristine for quite some time, but what we had all overlooked was that there were a few bulbs in the soil immediately underneath the path. And sure enough at about this time of year the bulbs in question had no difficulty at all in forcing their way through what any self-respecting human being would have needed a heavy duty pick-axe to penetrate. No new tarmac path was going to stop these daffodils from doing what they do in the spring. Nature has an impressive force of its own, even apparently frail nature – something it's easy to forget in our modern, whizzed up, automated, urbanised and supposedly highly civilised world.

People, too, sometimes have surprising powers of determination, and against all the odds somehow manage to find their way through apparently impenetrable barriers, something that I am constantly reminded of in my dealings with St Dunstaners, who never cease to impress me.

As we go to print I have just heard Paul Jacobs GM reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Paul on this momentous achievement. Another magnificent example of determination.

I hope the spring turns out well for you all and I very much look forward to meeting many of you as the Reunion season – already upon us – gathers speed.



Picture: The Chairman

# St Dunstan's Calendar.

## March

Dance Week	6th-12th
Writers' Forum	19th
Bowling Club	20th-2nd April

## April

Widow's Week (I)	3rd-9th
Ex-PoW Re-union	15th-18th
Writers' Forum	16th
Golf	16th-17th
Masonic Weekend	29th-1st May

## May

Blind/Handless Reunion	12th-16th
Golf	14th-15th
Writers' Forum	21st
Archery Club (II)	28th-5th June

## June

Church Stretton 50 Year Badge	
Holdings Reunion	9th-12th
Gardening Week	12th-18th
Writers Weekend	18th-2nd July
Golf	18th-19th
Ladies Week	19th-25th

## St Dunstan's Review

March 2011 No 1,010

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On the cover:

Members of the 2011  
Ski party. More on  
pages 18 and 19



To make the Review easier to read using a screen magnifier or screen reading software we have set the text to run across the page, rather than in columns. We would value your feedback on the new layout and contact details are given above.

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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# Noticeboard.

Dates for your diary and useful information.

## Ex-PoW Reunion.

The Ex-PoW Reunion will take place at Ovingdean from 15th-18th April. Any former Prisoners of War who wish to attend the two day Reunion should ensure they book their place as soon as possible. If you require nursing or residential care please book through your Welfare Officer.

For those with non-nursing or residential care requirements please book with Claire Green at Ovingdean by telephone: 01273 391422 or email [claire.green@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:claire.green@st-dunstans.org.uk)

## Domino Appeal.

A keen archer and Chair of British Blind Sport Archery, St Dunstaner David Poyner has recently taken up playing dominoes and is keen to hear from his fellow St Dunstaners who may have heavy traditional tactile dominoes with raised dots which they no longer use. If you do please contact David on telephone: 0161 282 9524 or email: [d.poyner@ntlworld.com](mailto:d.poyner@ntlworld.com)

## HMS Sultan Summer Camp 2011.

HMS Sultan Summer Camp will take place from Friday 29th July to Saturday 6th August. To register please contact Jan and Dave Burrows by post or telephone.

Their address is: 18 Portsmouth Road, Lee on the Solent, Hants, PO13 9AG, or telephone them on: 02392 550532.

Past activities during the residential week have included archery, pitch and putt, canoeing, a trip to the Isle of Wight and a sports day, freshwater and sea fishing, gliding with the Royal Navy Gliding Club and trips out with RM Motorcycle Club. The Summer Camp has been hosted by former members of the Fleet Air Arm Field Gun Crew and volunteers since 1947.

## Golf Dates for 2011 from Pam Crossan, Club Secretary.

April 16/17th; May 14/15th; June 18/19th; July 16/17th; Aug 20/21st; September 17/18th; October 15/16th

St Dunstan`s Golf Club was established in 1984, to help build and sustain morale, confidence and self esteem. Many St Dunstaners have found they enjoy a new lease of life by facing a challenge that most sighted people would take for granted, the ability to play sports.

The commitment and enthusiasm of our golfing club members is reflected in the high standard achieved and the enjoyment each individual receives each time we go to the golf course. Sadly most of the founding members are no longer with us, but the Club is still thriving and we would welcome any St Dunstaners who would like to join us. Our home course is Rusper in Surrey, we play there seven times a year, with an invitation day (venue yet to be decided).

Anybody interested please call me, Pam Crossan, on 02380 866671 or email me at: [pcrossan@talktalk.net](mailto:pcrossan@talktalk.net)

## Priority NHS Healthcare for Veterans

When Servicemen and women leave the Armed Forces their healthcare is the responsibility of the NHS. All veterans are entitled to priority access to NHS hospital care for any condition, as long as it's related to their service, whether or not they receive a war pension. Veterans are encouraged to tell their GP about their veteran status in order to benefit from priority treatment.

### How the process works

When referring a patient who they know to be a veteran for secondary (more specialist) care, GPs have been asked to consider if the condition may be related to the patient's military Service. If the GP decides that a condition is related to Service any referral for treatment should make this clear, provided that the patient has given the GP permission to do so. It is for the hospital clinician in charge to determine whether a condition is related to Service and to allocate priority. Where hospital clinicians agree that a veteran's condition is likely to be Service-related, they have been asked to prioritise veterans over other patients with the same level of clinical need. However, veterans will not be given priority over patients with more urgent clinical needs.



## Compensation Scheme Payments

A veteran who qualifies for priority treatment does not automatically fulfil the criteria for an award of a war pension or Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payment.

Veterans given priority treatment are encouraged to contact the Veterans-UK helpline on 0800 169 2277 to discuss their potential eligibility for a war pension or Armed Forces Compensation Scheme award.

## Complaints

Veterans are able to use the NHS complaints system to resolve any breakdowns in the arrangements for priority treatment.

**More Information** [www.veterans-uk.info/vets\\_issues/healthcare](http://www.veterans-uk.info/vets_issues/healthcare)

## Sign up for a 100k Challenge

Can you walk 100k from London to Brighton? Can you do it in less than 24 hours? Are you up for the challenge?

This is a unique challenge, completely new to the UK. Starting in Richmond on Saturday 11th June your team will join hundreds of others walking through the night along trail footpaths in Surrey and Sussex to a celebratory finish at our Centre in Ovingdean, Brighton.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in participating in this challenge, or helping us to provide essential support along the route, please go to [www.st-dunstans.org.uk/walk12b](http://www.st-dunstans.org.uk/walk12b) or telephone the Events team on 020 7616 7965.

## New Format.

Thank you for contacting us with your views on the new format of the Review, as your comments were appreciated.

Should you wish to comment please contact Catherine Goodier on telephone: 020 7616 8367 or email: [catherine.goodier@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:catherine.goodier@st-dunstans.org.uk) or write to Catherine Goodier, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

## St Dunstan's Fundraising Swimathon.

The Sports Department at Ovingdean will run a Swimathon in the pool from 9th to 13th May, giving St Dunstaners, staff and invited guests the chance to dive in and take part in this great event!

It is a great chance for people of all ages and abilities to challenge themselves and complete their chosen distance. You could swim for 10 lengths, a ½ mile, or 1 mile and those brave enough can swim for 3 miles; yes that's 264 lengths of the pool! Or you could set your own distance, so whether you're swimming two lengths, or 200, there's something for everyone.

This event will also be a brilliant opportunity to raise some money for St Dunstan's if you wish.

The Sports and Recreation team at Ovingdean are happy to help any St Dunstaners create their own swimming programme to get you fitter for the event and offer swimming lessons to those who could do with some stroke technique. We will also be on hand to cheer you on and help count your lengths on the day!

For more details, or to sign up to take part, please contact the Sports Department on 01273 391465 or email [kayla.hammond@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:kayla.hammond@st-dunstans.org.uk) Anyone can sponsor the Swimathon by visiting [www.justgiving.com/stdunstans-swimathon](http://www.justgiving.com/stdunstans-swimathon)

## Writers' Forum and Writers' Weekend at Ovingdean.

The Writers' Forum will take place on the following Saturdays at Ovingdean in 2011: 19th March; 16th April; 21st May; 18th June

The Writers' Weekend will take place on 30th June, 1st July and 2nd July over the Thursday evening and all day Friday and Saturday.

Further Writers' Forums will take place on 20th August; 17th September; 15th October; 19th November; 17th December

For those with non-nursing or residential care requirements please book with Claire Green at Ovingdean by telephone: 01273 391422 or email [claire.green@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:claire.green@st-dunstans.org.uk)



## Buy a Brick.

St Dunstan's Buy a Brick webpage is looking great and thank you to everyone who has bought a brick. As we go to press 193 bricks have been sold and the virtual wall shows the names of everyone who has bought a brick, or the name of the person the brick is dedicated to. The webpage can be accessed at: [www.buyabrick.st-dunstans.org.uk](http://www.buyabrick.st-dunstans.org.uk)

## Future Focus.

We greatly appreciate the feedback we have received from you after the article about Future Focus in last month's Review. Your thoughts and opinions are very important to us and we hope many of you will respond to the survey we have included in this month's magazine. If you receive the Review in print the survey is inserted in the magazine. If you receive an audio version or prefer to complete the survey over the phone, you can call Susanne Lund on 020 7616 7949 or Barbara Sweeney on 020 7616 7922. Please respond by 22nd March 2011.

## Trooping the Colour – Ticket Draw.

The Queen's Birthday Parade will be held on Saturday 11th June 2011 on Horse Guards Parade when The Colour will be Trooped by 1st Battalion Scots Guards in the presence of Her Majesty.

As St Dunstan's has been allocated tickets, St Dunstaners and Gubbay Trust beneficiaries wishing to attend should send their name and address to Barbara Sweeney, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD by 15th April. A draw will determine the final allocation of tickets, although tickets will be limited to two per applicant. Those who are selected from the draw will be responsible for arranging and paying for their travel and accommodation.

## Pensions Supplement.

The Revised War Pension rates will come into effect on 11th April 2011. If you would like a copy of the new rates, please telephone Inderpal Kallah at St Dunstan's Headquarters on tel: 020 7723 5021 or email [inderpal.kallah@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:inderpal.kallah@st-dunstans.org.uk)

# Llandudno Update

by Helen Emmerson, Ovingdean Manager.



Picture: New St Dunstan's Centre in Llandudno

The development of the Llandudno Centre is an exciting time in the history of our Charity as we are able to continue to provide the best quality and range of services to our St Dunstaners. The development and refurbishment work is well underway and we are on track for the Centre to be opened in the early autumn of 2011.

Our Llandudno Centre will offer a full range of care and rehabilitation and training and will be open and accessible for all St Dunstaners across the UK. Forty purpose built rooms will offer accommodation for nursing, residential and independent stays whether it is for rehabilitation and training, holidays or respite care. The building interior is being specifically designed for the comfort and VI needs of all beneficiaries.

We are currently in the process of commencing the recruitment of approximately 70 staff for Llandudno. Similar to Ovingdean and Sheffield we will look to recruit highly specialised and experienced staff across all departments who are able to take this Centre forward, creating the top quality service and family environment you have come to expect.

We are already receiving interest from St Dunstaners about this Centre, especially in regards to booking accommodation. From now until the opening, the Review Magazine will contain an article each month explaining information on the services, accommodation charges, booking information and much more. Next month's issue will detail the accommodation available and when you can start to make bookings for Llandudno.

We hope you will join us in the enthusiasm which is mounting around the development of this new Centre.



# A Date with History

An interview with David Eyton-Jones.

by Catherine Goodier.

The Review had the good fortune to spend a day in the company of David Eyton-Jones as he recounted his time serving in the elite Special Air Service under the command of Major Roy Farran. Aged 22, he was part of a 50 strong force of members of the SAS who parachuted into the Italian Cusna Mountain area of Reggio Emilia in early March 1945. Their mission was to take part in Operation Tombola, to combine with the British Spring Offensive on the German Gothic line.

As a reflective David Eyton-Jones spoke of his time behind the German Gothic line, the last defensive position in the Apennines, this writer was once again moved by the remarkable courage shown by the ordinary men and women who gave up everything to fight for their country. Reading agriculture at Jesus College, Cambridge David was accustomed to working the land with oxen and mules, but he soon found himself using the beasts of burden to carry heavy arms to and from raids.

As he smoked the first in a series of pipes David began: "In September 1939 when war was declared I was aged 16 and in the 5th form of my school. Today I remember those friends of mine with whom I played rugger and whose names are on the school roll of honour. Had war not broken out my intention was to become a farmer, something highly unusual as I am from a family of Clergymen. In fact my Father was the Cleric to St Dunstan's in Kemptown and I had a wonderful childhood introduction to the charity that I now thank for doing so much for me.

"After five terms at Cambridge I was commissioned in to the Royal Sussex Regiment in April 1944 and in the autumn I was sent by troop ship to Naples to join the 1st Battalion the Royal Sussex Regiment. I had the task of delivering a replacement company of light infantry to a camp near Naples and so missed reaching my Regiment.

"In January 1945 I found myself with other Officers waiting to join different Regiments, which were spread over Italy, Greece and France. When Roy Farran came to visit the depot we were housed in, he called for volunteers for special duties behind the German lines. A young Rhodesian called Ken Harvey and I were

accepted and immediately sent via Florence to the SAS base on the west coast of Italy.

"Within two weeks of joining the SAS I was sent for by Roy Farran to drop by parachute into what we called the Tombola Valley in the Italian Cusna Mountain area of Reggio Emilia. No time to do a practice jump we were flown by night in a Dakota crewed by Polish Airmen. The search lights from the German lines seemed to fasten onto the plane and I felt like a goldfish in a bowl with one thought going through my head: 'How could the anti aircraft guns miss us?'

"I was relieved to get the order to jump as I didn't want to fly back over German lines. I leapt out of the plane onto a snowy hillside, very near a bonfire which was the marker for the dropping zone. I managed to control my parachute and on landing was met by an Italian Partisan called Bruno who directed me to a farmhouse where we were rewarded with a glass of grappa. I looked at my watch and saw that it was midnight on 8<sup>th</sup> March, my 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday, I mentioned this to my comrades and my glass was refilled.

"The following day was spent visiting various companies of Italian Partisans and watching their weapon training. The arms had been supplied by British drops for the Partisan forces and a small army of 70 escaped Russian troops.

"A week later following further drops of SAS troops I was sent to guard the Cisa Pass, one of the routes that the Germans could use to penetrate into the Kingdom of the Partisans. After a few days on the hill we were called to regroup in the village of Quara, about 10 miles distant. I marched with my company of Partisans and on our return Roy Farran ordered me back to Cisa to recover the 75mm howitzer, which had been left behind.

"Leaving my troop to rest I set off. Already exhausted I found a horse in a stable and set off back to Cisa riding the reluctant animal. I found that it was unwilling to be ridden over rivers and the only way to cross them was to dismount and drag the animal over the water. Reaching our destination I found it was impossible to move the howitzer without oxen to pull it, which meant I had to return to Quara to collect the oxen which had been ordered through the Italian Partisan Quartermaster, Barbanera.

"So once again I set off, dismounting at every stream we had to cross. Eventually we neared our destination and I dozed off in the saddle, I was awoken by a hefty



blow on the head which knocked me to the ground. Believing that I had run into a German outpost I staggered to my feet only to find the horse munching hay in a stable. I had been knocked to the ground on entering the doorway! I did return with the oxen and delivered the howitzer.

"At about that date Roy Farran sent for me and a young guardsman called Kershaw and asked about our knowledge of snow. I had skied in Switzerland and Kershaw had been a member of the British Bobsleigh team in the winter Olympics. Roy was to lead an attack on two villas used as German headquarters in Botteghe d'Albinea, in the hills above Reggio Emilia on the night of 27 March. He gave Kershaw and I orders to find an escape route out of the Tombola Valley after the attack. It was for us to find a route that could be used by the whole British force if we had to escape rastrellamento; it was a reprisal measure the Germans were likely to take if the British carried out a severe attack on the German corps headquarters.

"Kershaw and I returned to Casa Balocchi where we had landed. Once there we found a guide to take us to Monto Custna, a mountain range some 2,500 metres high. He was fully equipped with skis, sticks and snow goggles. We had none of these things and refused his offer to try to find some for us, knowing full well that it would be impossible to equip the 50 British with these essentials.

"We would have to trudge through the snow, which was three foot deep, without any assistance. The guide came some of the distance with us on his skis and obviously thought we were mad to continue. As he departed he gave us the sign of the cross, believing we were going to our death. It was a full day before we reached the summit of the mountain and we located the Rifugio at sunset, spotting a silhouette of the small building near the crest line. On reaching the Rifugio we had great difficulty opening the door as snow had drifted into the hut through a grating on the east wall and there was the same level of snow inside as outside. The temperature was like moving into a deep freeze cabinet. The fireplace was covered in snow and there were no logs or anything visible that could be burnt. We were utterly exhausted at that time and consumed the tins of self heating soup which we had with us, before collapsing in our sleeping bags on top of the snow. We didn't have the energy to even take our boots off.

"In the early morning the light streamed in through the grating and we found that we appeared to be in our graves. I looked for angels to confirm that we had reached Heaven but in fact our sleeping bags had dropped three feet to the snow floor leaving us deeply embedded in the snow.

"Summoning our last energy we rose and each took a couple of benzadrine

tablets. Outside the sun shone on the bare snow coloured mountain which caused me to lose my sight to temporary snow blindness. We decided that we could not recommend the travis of the mountain as an escape route for the British and took the shortest route down the mountain, which meant sliding on our backsides. With his bobsleigh experience Kershaw led the way and I followed behind. He kept his two feet spread out and used his heels to guide us down between the occasional boulder. On reaching the relatively level ground at the base of the mountain our feet were sore and Kershaw had injured himself when he caught his foot on a boulder.

"Unable to undo the frozen laces of our boots we staggered along towards Febbio, which was the billet of Mike Lees's, a member of our team and the Special Operations Executive agent. He was already on his way to join the attack at Botteghe d'Albinea and so we had to walk the five miles back to Quara. Every step was an agony as we had frostbite in our feet. Our toes were black as were the toenails and the latter required six months to regain their original colour.

"When Roy had returned from the villas he realised that my feet were not in order and put me in charge of the jeeps, each mounted with a Vickers machine gun for hassling Germans!

"However as the person Roy had put in command of the Italian company didn't get on with their leader I was reallocated to take over command of the Italian company of 50 Partisans. Whilst I was preparing to depart an American plane flew very low over the valley with its starboard engine on fire. Three parachutes opened under the plane and the crew landed in a flat area near the river. Taking



Picture: David Eyton-Jones at home in Sussex.



one of the jeeps I drove over to greet them, but all three airmen threw their hands into the air thinking I was German. I called over to them that I was British and would they get into the jeep as I could see a car with German troops heading towards them. I remember the pilot's remark of 'Aw gee my navigator must have got it all wrong!' I assured him that the navigator was quite correct, they were in German occupied territory and I would arrange with the Partisans for them to be accommodated in a farmhouse."

Laying aside his pipe, David broke from his narrative to say in 1987, at the Partisans reunion in Bologna, he learnt from the Italian Quartermaster Barbanera the fate of the American airmen. He discovered there were a total of seven airmen who bailed out. They were all accommodated in a farmhouse until the Germans retreated when they resumed their duties.

Drawing on his pipe David continued: "I was allocated a target of a Section of Route 12, which was regularly used as a supply route and convoy system. I led the Partisans to a village within two miles of Route 12 where the following day I was called to a conference with Roy Farran and other British, Partisan and Russian leaders and given orders to commence attacks on our targets in time with the British Spring Offensive on the German Gothic line.

"Having reached Route 12 we took up firing positions on both sides of the road which followed a ridge across the mountains. No traffic passed that night. Then two nights later having decided that a smaller party would be more effective I sent Corporal Danny Ford to use another route and another attacking position on any German convoy that passed. On this occasion he had great success, destroying several trucks which caught fire and disappearing before the Germans could organise return fire.

"I led the company of Italian Partisans on the march to our destination but soon realised that it was unwise to take the whole Italian Company of 50 men on a night march. They made so much noise they set the guard dogs barking at each farm we passed. Today if I go out after dark and hear dogs barking it still sends a shiver down my spine.

"In the morning the Partisans captured a German soldier as he visited a farmhouse to buy eggs. I was called in to question him and discovered there was a staging post for German convoys at a village called Monte Bonello, with a German sentry posted in the bell tower of the village Church, a prime position to view the surrounding area.

"I decided that Monte Bonello would be a good target and set off in the

afternoon to review our target from a small mountain nearby. We reached our destination in the afternoon and I took a compass bearing on the Church tower. Later in the evening under the cover of darkness we carried our heavy Browning machine gun to the crest of Monte Forco and set aim on the Church tower with the compass bearing.

"We had loaded belts of ammunition with tracer bullets and incendiary. It was rather fun at night to see our tracer streaking across the sky and swinging in arcs from the Church tower to the village square. There must have been vehicles parked in the square because very soon there were large explosions from that area. The barrel of the Browning was red hot when we loaded it back onto the mule which had carried it to the spot. I was alarmed to see the mule feeling the warmth from the Browning make a rapid run from the firing position to our camp. However when we crossed the next stream we found the mule standing patiently with its feet in the icy water from the melting snow and it was a wise animal that led us away from Monte Forco as German mortars opened up, plastering our previous firing position. This mortar fire continued for some hours after we had left. It is after all the SAS saying: 'He who hits and runs away lives to fight another day'.

"The following day the Staffettas, a force of women who served with the Partisans, reported our raid had been successful and Bonello had been evacuated as the Germans withdrew from the area. And so I led the Italian Partisan Company up to Route 12 and they marched triumphantly down towards their homes in the plane of Lombardy.

"As we approached the town of Sassoulo, the doors opened and the people rushed out with flowers and bottles of vino. However this suddenly stopped as we heard the rumble of track vehicles coming up behind us. Thinking that it might be another German convoy my Partisans fled to behind the houses leaving Corporal Danny Ford and myself standing by the road. The leading scout car was flying the American flag and so we were glad to see them, until the convoy came to a halt beside us on the road and we were rather horrified to see that every gun was aimed at us. I called out to the Officer peering out of the leading vehicle 'Don't shoot we're British'. He shouted 'Dove sono i tedeschi?' 'Where are the Germans?' I replied that we had been in the area for some months and that the Germans were making full speed northwards and the dust they could see on the road in front was left by German vehicles. When the American column had passed through the village and not before, the gifts of vino and flowers was resumed."

The final part of David's narrative will be included in the April edition of the Review.



# A Tangled Web

by David Dent,  
IT Instructor,  
Ovingdean.

Back in the early days of computing, before high-powered computer graphics were developed, there were text-based computer adventure games that you would control by typing in simple commands like 'Hit giant spider with sword'. When I played I would inevitably end up in a 'maze of twisty passages, all alike'. No matter what command I gave the machine, the results were the same: 'You are in a maze of twisty passages, all alike...' I never got any further and just gave up.

Using the world-wide web by listening to web pages rather than viewing them can often seem much the same: bewildering and with no clear way through. Sometimes it can seem easier not to bother. What you need is something to take a little of the guesswork out of the Internet.

Webbie is a web-browser that makes the world-wide web a little more accessible. For partially-sighted users it presents a simplified interface with large icons; for people with no vision it can turn ordinary web-pages into plain text that can be read aloud by almost every accessibility programme, apart from Guide, which incorporates similar features of its own. Developed by Alasdair King, formerly of the University of Manchester, Webbie is available free of charge. It can be downloaded from [www.webbie.org.uk](http://www.webbie.org.uk)

Impressive through the Webbie web browser is, the accessibility programs that accompany it are even more so. If you have Webbie installed you also have easier ways access a number of different Internet Services: just use the start menu and 'all programs' then find the folder called 'accessible and webbie'

There is a clock you can use to hear the time and to set reminders and a calendar in which to keep your appointments. If you are a keen reader, Project Gutenberg is a collection of thousands of classic books that is available for free through Webbie. Internet Radio and BBC Radio can both be accessed easily using Webbie's tools; as can the BBC's iPlayer service. A podcatcher will allow you to obtain pre-recorded audio programs that you could copy to an MP3 player. With the RSS newsreader, you can have access to up-to-the minute news headlines at any time. This free suite of programs can make the Internet a little less of a maze: by providing a direct way of accessing popular services without the chore of finding the correct link or button on a webpage.

# Cadet and Youth Challenge Competition.

by Colin Williamson  
Cadet Challenge Project Officer.

The 2011 St Dunstan's Cadet & Youth Challenge Competition gets underway shortly and we are asking St Dunstaners who have family members connected to the following youth and Cadet groups to invite them to participate: The Army Cadet Force; The Air Training Corps; The Sea Cadet and Marine Corps; The Combined Cadet Force; The St. John Ambulance Brigade; The Volunteer Police Cadets; The Scout Movement; Girl Guides Association; The Boys Brigade and schools or individual classes.

The competition is open to Cadet and youth groups throughout the UK and is a great way of raising awareness and funds for St Dunstan's. The challenge involves covering a distance of 13.1 miles in the most imaginative way possible and every cadet or youth group member who participates receives a certificate and medal in recognition of their efforts; there are also five silver trophies to be won!

Please contact Colin Williamson on 0207 616 7939 or alternatively email [colin.williamson@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:colin.williamson@st-dunstans.org.uk)



Picture: Andover Cadets pull a Landrover for a Cadet Challenge.



# Ski Report from the Italian Dolomites

by Gerry Jones.

We arrived in the wonderful village and ski resort of Canazei at 4pm on Saturday 15th January. By 7pm we had all been fitted with boots and skis, given our bright yellow ski jackets, received our lift passes, been assigned a guide for the week, unpacked and had one or two drinks and an evening meal. A highly organised start!

As tradition demands after dinner we returned to the bar, delivered our first Staveley with his drink and proceeded to drink into the early hours. We don't learn, but we had a lot to talk about! We met our two new guides Steve 1 and Steve 2 and welcomed St Dunstaners, Tony Whitelaw, Tony Haskey and Billy Drinkwater to our skiing party. Peter Zamudio our longest serving guide of some 33 years joined up with Vince Stone and they travelled from Switzerland and Germany respectively.

The 39 strong group comprised 14 St Dunstaners, 16 guides and nine family members, including two old friends Joe and Dagmar May who popped across from Munich. I would like to include the names of our sighted guides but the list would be too long. Without all the guides and their expertise we could not ski and without St Dunstan's we would not have guides, so a massive thank you to all. Although I would like to thank Martin Blank, my right hand man for his invaluable admin help.

We had a cracking week, three days of brilliant sunshine and three days of snow, clouds and quite a cold wind. In Tony Whitelaw's case the 'crack' turned out to be a broken wrist, which he achieved late in the afternoon on the first day. He had skied years before when he had full sight and was showing exceptional skills, when he decided to punch a hole in the side of a building with his fist. Of course he managed to find the only piece of brickwork that was not padded. His speed at the time was that of a fast walk. Nathan his guide was 'gutted' as he thought they would achieve great heights by the end of the week. With his hand and arm set in a plaster cast that extended beyond his elbow he was taken up the main mountain the following day where he joined our skiers for lunch. Louise Timms organised his flight home and with Vince got him to Innsbruck and St Dunstan's did the rest this end. Another notable

achievement was that the group conquered the Sella Ronda, the 28 mile circuit around and including our resort. They were Mark Brewin and guide Arthur Bloomfield, Jamie Weller and guide Stewart Graham, Steve Sparks and guide Ewan Cameron, Gary Lomas and guide Nicky Hutchinson and Billy Drinkwater and guide Rick Jones. Not content with this great achievement two days later Steve, Jamie, Gary and their guides did it twice, reversing the circuit after the first complete run. This is a massive stride forward with St Dunstaners and guides running up around 60 miles of skiing in one day, not forgetting all those miles they had to travel on lifts to get to the next mountain slope.

The most improved skier award went to Billy Drinkwater, who showed tremendous drive and enthusiasm. He was presented with the old Cow Bell which he will keep for this year. Sighted guide Mike Boocock who introduced the Cow Bell award some 30 years ago was with us to see the tradition continue. How time flies. Mike was also a comrade in arms with our President and was in the same Barracks when Ray Hazan sustained his injuries in Northern Ireland. So the ski tradition moves merrily on and believe it or not a new recruit has just signed up for next year.

The Hotel led by the owner Mara, entertained us to a Gala night on Thursday and Cam did his magic with his bag pipes which the staff truly love. We are considered as Family by Mara and we reciprocate that sentiment as we do with Annalise and Jean Paul at the ski hire shop. This was our 10th year staying at El Ciasel and we shall regroup next year on the 21st January.



Picture: The Ski Group 2011



# Indoor Archery Week

by Peter Hammond.

Saturday 5th February saw eight members of the archery team assembled at Ovingdean for our first archery week of 2011. Sadly our Club Chairman David Poyner could not join us as he is still getting over his operation.

We started the week off on the right note, we gathered in the lounge for coffee and a good chin wag, catching up with each other to find out what everyone had been up to.

We were introduced to a new volunteer Derrick Macqueen, welcome Derrick; you don't know what you have let yourself in for. The rest of the day was mainly safety checks on our equipment and practice.

Sunday morning and we were off with our first competition of the week which was against Hellingly Archers. The round shot was a Portsmouth. It was a very close competition with Hellingly winning by nine points. The St Dunstan's team was Eileen Thompson, Dennis Cook, Clive Jones and Peter Hammond.

Sunday afternoon we shot another match against Southampton University Archers. Again the round shot was a Portsmouth. The St Dunstan's team was as follows: Norman Perry, John Bower, Patrick Sidnell and Clive Jones. Southampton won the match, but only by 13 points, so once again it was a very close match.

Mondays round was a Bray 1. In 3rd place was Marjorie Scott, 2nd place was Clive Jones and the winner was John Bower. It was a very close match with most archers shooting to handicap or better. After the match we had our AGM in the Winter Garden at Ovingdean.

Our Club President Major (rtd) Wendy Le Gassick was in attendance. Marjorie Scott and John Bower were voted onto the committee. The other members of the committee that were re-elected were David Poyner, Clive Jones, Peter

Hammond and Keith Lanchester Harding.

At the end of the AGM Leslie George was awarded the GNAS Medal for the most improved handicap over last year. The Guegan Gold trophy was won by Keith Lanchester Harding and the Guegan Gold tactile trophy was won by Patrick Sidnell.

On Tuesday we shot a Worcester. In first place was Dennis Cook with some great shooting, 2nd was Clive Jones and in joint 3rd was Marjorie Scott and Peter Hammond.

On Wednesday we shot a Portsmouth round for the Lorrie Austin Trophy. First place went to Dennis Cooke, 2nd place was Norman Perry and 3rd was Peter Hammond. Two archers shot a double Portsmouth, John Bower came 1st and Pat Sidnell came 2nd.

Thursday's round was a FITA 18. Marjorie Scott finished 3rd, John Bower finished 2nd and the winner was Dennis Cooke.

Friday's round was a Bray 2, which was a new round for our Archery Week. Everybody enjoyed the round. The winner of today's round and winner of the Longhill Trophy was Clive Jones, 2nd place went to Marjorie Scott and 3rd place to Dennis Cook.

Saturday and our last shoot for this Archery Week. The round shot was a FITA 25 against Ditchling a local Club with whom we have shot over many years and it is always a pleasure to invite them. I am glad to report that St Dunstons won the match and the winning team was Marjorie Scott, Norman Perry, John Bower and Dennis Cooke.

Well done to all the Archers who participated over this week, the standard of archery has really improved and a number of club records have been broken this week. Special thanks to our coaches and spotters, without your help we could not hold our archery weeks, thank you.

The date of the next meeting is 28th May to 5th June 2011



# Ten questions on...

## The subject "Smith".

by Harry Beevers.

1. What is the most common combination of first name and surname in England?
2. In the name of the High Street store W.H. Smith, for what do the initials W.H. stand?
3. Winston Smith is the principal character of which George Orwell novel first published in the year 1949?
4. Which boys' organisation was founded by Sir William Alexander Smith in Glasgow in 1883?
5. In 1982, for the second year in succession, Joyce Smith was the winner of the women's section of which annual athletics event?
6. Captain Edward Smith worked for the White Star Line, on which ship did he serve on his final voyage?
7. What term was introduced by the jazz pianist Pinetop Smith for a style of blues piano music often called eight to the bar which became very popular in the late 1930's and early 1940's?
8. Which Olympic medal winner chose the song "On Ilkley Moor baht 'at" when he appeared on radio's "Desert Island Discs" and claimed he had never read a book in his life?
9. For what is Maria Ann Smith née Sherwood, born in New South Wales, Australia in 1799, best remembered?
10. Which former British Prime Minister said "If you believe that you'll believe anything", in response to the question, "Mr Smith I presume?"?

Answers on page 47.

# Once a Sapper Always a Sapper.

by Catherine Goodier.



Picture: A successful project.

In 2005 St Dunstaner and Trustee Dave Stuttard went to the Tolon-Kumbungu District of Northern Ghana in sub-Saharan Africa with a team of Royal Engineers to head up a clean water and sanitation programme. During the successful pilot project they brought clean water to some 2,500 people. In 2006 Dave set up the charity *MyUbique*, to carry out the essential work and today more than 40,000 people in villages in the District have benefited from the supply of clean water and sanitation.



An outstanding testimony to the success of the programme came from the District Assembly as reports show the work has eradicated Guinea Worm and Trachoma in the villages where clean water and sanitation have been introduced. Trachoma is the world's leading cause of infectious blindness from waterborne parasites.

Running the programme with military planning Dave has received invaluable support from teams of Royal Engineers who worked on the programme in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. Each of the MACC Task called "Exercise Water Endeavour" took four medical support members of the AMC with them. *MyUbique* has also been assisted by the Ghanaian Army and Air Force and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working in the District.

This year through his charity *MyUbique*, Dave wants to bring clean water and sanitation to approximately 3,500 people in the villages of. Kukuo, Bagou, Jekpahi-Nayili and Tonjing.

## Ghana

"After my rehab and training at Ovingdean in 2003 I realised I had to do something to regain my independence as I had always been a proactive person and initially I found it difficult to adjust when life as I had known it came to a sudden stop.

"Inspired by the St Dunstaners I had met, and encouraged by family and friends I turned to my military skills to help me regain my independence. I did research to find out how I could utilise my skills as a Royal Engineer to help myself and others. Eventually I came up with the idea to do a water supply and sanitisation project in Africa. I always tell people that I don't do it for purely altruistic reasons as I enjoy the work and it gives me a focus. It's great meeting the people, especially the children in Ghana and I get immense satisfaction from a job well done.

"With invaluable input from a colleague serving with 521 STRE, (Specialist Team Royal Engineers), and their Water Development Department I decided that a pilot scheme based in Northern Ghana in Sub-Saharan Africa, would give me some lead into the kind of work I thought I should be following. At their Barracks in Nottingham it was a chance meeting with a young Officer who overhearing our conversation put me in touch with a project in Ghana.

"I'm not a religious man but his Church, The Christian Centre / 58i, in Nottingham, was involved with a water supply and sanitation project through the King's Village in Northern Ghana that serves a district of 160,000 people, living in 265 villages, where the average person earns just 50p a day. The project adopts an integrated development approach - providing clean water and sanitation, Medical Centre and School, healthcare, education training and enterprise development in the Tolon-Kumbungu District. I have worked in partnership with them since 2005 on the water and sanitisation programme.

"During the pilot project in 2005 in the village of Kushibu, they were so pleased they made me an Elder of the Village, giving me the gift of an Elder's gown. I was also presented with the gift of a goat, which at the time in my naivety I thought: 'How will I get a goat back to the UK for a pet', until I was told five minutes later it was for me to eat that night. I promptly became a vegetarian!

"I cannot take credit for all the work in Ghana as I have been assisted by many people, including the Royal Engineers (REs) and fellow St Dunstaners. The Kings village was the Vision of Pastor Ben and his wife Marion Owusu Sekyere, and amongst his other duties Moses Yahaya manages the promotion of Clean Water and Sanitation. My wife Dot and son Steven, along with family members and friends like Graham and Jack have given me fantastic support and Clubs, Groups and Churches have held fundraising events to aid our work.

"In 2006 I set up the charity *MyUbique* and under its banner a lot of lessons were learnt. We were given a grant by the Minister of Veterans/Overseas Development Fund and I was able to take a team of Royal Engineers out to the Tolon-Kumbungu District. World Vision (Ghana) let us use their drilling rigs and the RE's were able to reduce the number of dry boreholes and create wet wells using equipment sent from the UK. In return World Vision got a better strike rate with their rigs to drill for water. We enlisted the support of the British Defence Advisor based in Accra and Ghanaian Army Engineers who worked alongside the RE's.

"Having spoken with UNICEF and other NGOs who work in the area, we decided on the type of latrines to introduce to the villages. With the help of the villagers we dug deep pit latrines which are 6 or 8 feet deep and concrete block lined. We found the funds for the concrete and taught the villagers to make the concrete blocks. We then showed them how to make a reinforced squat cover



plate and a modesty screen was built around the latrine. On the funny side, the Army lads, wearing a pair of trunks would squat over the squat plate to show how to use the latrine.

"It's interesting to see how modern technology can work alongside more traditional methods as in 2007 the RE's came out with a Geo Physical Survey kit when they laid an electric cable about 600ft long on the ground to find out where there was water in the area. In Ghana the traditional way to find water is to look for termite mounds that are 6 to 10 foot in height. If they're in a line it's a good way to find water as termites only put their hides or mounds in damp areas. We knew from practice that if we drilled by the termite mound, making sure not to disturb it, we could make a well and put an India hand operated pump on top.

"As the military couldn't come out in 2009 I changed tact slightly and visited a village called Fahini, that was drawing water from a lake that all the domestic animals used for everything animals use water for. At the time we didn't have enough funds to do any major water purification or even sanitation work but as it was essential the village had clean water we prepared to work on a water and sanitation, or WatSan project. I shipped a number of Ceramic Filters and Rotary hand pumps from the UK as it was a good temporary measure that allowed the villagers to hand pump water through the Ceramic Filters, thereby filtering out the water borne parasites that caused Guinea Worm and Trachoma.

"Children being children they would play in the water and as they ran around it would create sediment that got into the filters making them less effective. As they were just young children having fun I found it hard to explain they shouldn't run where the pump units had been fitted. I decided I had to act quickly and the only way was to raise enough money to lay a mains water pipe. Through the Water Authority in Ghana and in the township of Tamale, we managed to negotiate a good price to lay the pipe line and standpipe manifolds to Fihini village at a cost of £12,000.

"MyUbique managed to raise the money which we paid to the water company in October 2010. The villagers dug the trench for the pipe which was their payment towards the cost of the project. The pipes were finally laid during Christmas and when I visited Ghana in January 2011 the pipes had been fitted with the stop taps, with the pipes coming out of the ground on a manifold.

"It meant the women of the village didn't have to walk the four miles, five times each day, carrying the 5 gallon container on their head to collect water. They could now collect it directly from the tap in their villages. The village of Fihini were so pleased we kept our promises they made me the honorary Chief. They call me Maltinaa rather than David, which means 'Someone who has given something good and lasting to their lives'. They also gave me some land and my plan is to grow mango trees on it as the villagers will be able to use the fruits in future.

"This year's project is well in hand as 30 Air Force Cadets from Blackpool will work on various projects in July and August. I'm still raising funds for the programme in 2011 but the intention is to run a four mile pipeline to the villages where there will be various manifolds for people to draw their water from at the standpipes. This project will cost around £23,000.

"The added advantage of these standpipes is that each standpipe has a Waterman nominated by the WatSan Committee of that village. He is then responsible for taking the fee for the water, they charge per 5 gallon, at the end of the period when the meter is read. The Waterman is responsible for the total amount sold and he gets 20% of the takings."

In finishing, the Review asked Dave if he felt the work has helped him to regain his independence. He stated it had and when asked about the success of the project he humbly stated he hoped he has achieved what he set out to do.

There will be an update of the work in 2011 in the October edition of the Review.



Picture: Royal Engineers with Geo-Physical Survey Kit.



Picture: Building latrines.



# The Panic

Second Instalment

by Ron Wilson.

In the February Review we bought you the first instalment of The Panic by Ron Wilson, a newspaper he produced while serving on the Island Base of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean in 1944. Now we continue with the second instalment:

At the end of March it was rumoured that a destroyer was due to come in that may be carrying mail. In April I had to go to the medical orderly for ear drops due to an ear infection that had dogged me for the whole of my service in Diego Garcia. It was thought that the most likely cause was a coral infection caught while swimming. We discovered a native Roman Catholic Church on the Island, which was a lovely little place. It should be mentioned that it was many moons since a Chaplain had visited this Island and there was a need to come and sort out the marriages and baptisms for the population.

On Tuesday 18th April a flying boat arrived with only two signal reliefs. These were a wireless mechanic Sergeant and an aircraft electrician. There was no D/F relief.

On Friday 21st April the S.S. Maharajah arrived; not many boats visited the area and as luck would have it they had a Padre onboard who had a great time sorting out some of the domestic arrangements of the civil population.

The Bombay Grenadiers were allocated to the defence of Diego Garcia. As far as I remember they were about 60 strong and from time to time appeared as sentries at various points on the Island. On Monday 24th April they were allocated the job of completing an open air cinema, which had previously arrived by ship. We were immediately treated to test films which we felt were wonderful. We were left with a few Indian and American films which were viewed many times.

On the evening of Saturday 3 June we received a pep talk from our Commanding Officer. He advised us that enemy submarines were using a route from Germany to Japan and there was a possibility of them using our Island as a stepping stone on this route. It was anticipated that they would have a short pause to recharge batteries and make any emergency observations.

They were using this method of transporting German high command individuals from Germany to Japan. Our role was to be vigilant and not to engage the submarines. We had to restrict our activity to observation and report to Command HQ in order for the flying boats to pin point the position of the submarines and determine the exact route they were taking.

On 6 June the Marine section reported a vessel in the harbour which caused bags of panic. The vessel was of unknown origin and type. RAF personnel got the arms from the armoury, which were to be prepared for an emergency. There was a twin Browning mounted on one of our marine craft, which is depicted in the illustration below.

The CO went with the intention of obtaining further information and reported no sign of the vessel. In the evening there was more panic when Bill Watkins reported that he saw a very red light out to sea. This was duly reported to the High Command.



Picture: A fun illustration of a sub chaser by Ron Wilson.



# Family News

## Congratulations to:

Steve and Mini Finlay on the birth of their first grandson, Malakee Finlay-O'Rourke who was born on 1st February to proud parents Samantha and Cormac. Congratulations to the proud parents and delighted grandparents.



Picture: Malakee Finlay-O'Rourke.

St Dunstaner David Orr and his wife June of Kilkeel Northern Ireland, on the birth of their grandchild Jack Wesley John Watson on 11th October 2010. Weighing in at 8lb 4oz Jack was born to their daughter Jenny and husband Chris.

Proud grandparents Julia and Geoffrey Payne on the birth of their grandchild Mimi Rodriguez-Payne who was born on 20th November 2010. Mimi is their 18th grandchild born to their son Matthew and his wife Alex who are report older brothers Max and Ollie are pleased with the new arrival.

## Weddings:

Congratulations to James Collinge and Isla de la Haye on their marriage. James is the grandson of St Dunstaner Evelyn Collinge.

## Golden Anniversaries

Kevin and Kathleen Letties of Lancashire on 11th March.

## Diamond Anniversaries

Maurice and Elsie Morrison of Northampton on 25th February.  
Annie and Gerald Norris of Nottinghamshire on 24th February.

## Blue Sapphire

Jeff and June Jeffery of Hampshire on 2nd February.  
Joseph and Myrtle Hirsh of London on 10th February.  
Samuel and Kitty Wrest on 28th February.

## Platinum Anniversaries

Charles and Peggy Blockley of Sileby, Leicestershire on 19th February.

## We regret to announce the death of:

**Phyllis Adderley** of Sidmouth, Devon who died on 20th January 2011. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Jim Adderley.

**Phyllis Birchall** of Ormskirk, Lancs died on 1st February 2011. She was married to St Dunstaner Tom Birchall.

**Mary Gaygan**, only daughter of Audrey and St Dunstaner the late Tom Gaygan who died on 17th December 2010, after losing the courageous battle she had fought against cancer.

**Marjorie Norman** of Cambridge who died on 13th January 2011. She was the wife of the St Dunstaner John Norman.

**Gertrude Rayton** of Leeds, West Yorks died on 4th February 2011. She was the widow of the late St Dunstaner William Henry Rayton

**Mary Richards** of Hassocks, West Sussex died on 16th December 2010. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Edward Richards.

**Morwenna Salisbury** of Flintshire died on 1st July 2010. She was the wife of St Dunstaner John Salisbury.

**Joan Waters** of Hornchurch, Essex who died on 1st January 2011. She was the wife of St Dunstaner Eric Waters.

**Sheila Watkins** of Berkhamstead, Herts died on 4th February 2011. She was the long term partner of St Dunstaner Michael Clark.

**Monica Yabsley** of Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire who died on 15th December 2010. She was the widow of St Dunstaner the late John Yabsley.



# Welcome to **St Dunstan's**

**Raymond Allard** of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1942 to 1947.

**Bernard Asquith** of Solihull, West Midlands served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1947.

**Harold Beecroft** of Maldon, Essex served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Joseph Brecknell** of Kendal, Cumbria served in the General Service Corps from February 1943 to March 1943 and in the Royal Signals from March 1943 to October 1943. He then served in the Royal Navy from October 1943 to June 1946.

**Jack Burton** of Henfield, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

**Maurice Bush** of Preston, Lancs served in the General Service Corps from May 1944 to June 1944 and in the Royal Army Service Corps from June 1944 to October 1946.

**John Carter** of Steyning, West Sussex served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1948 to 1950.

**Kenneth Chalk** of St. Mary, Felixstowe served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1943 to 1946.

**Reginald Cook** of Hove, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**Ernest Crump** of York served in the Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-Shire Buffs, the Duke of Albany's) from September 1949 to September 1951 and the West Yorkshire Regiment, the Prince of Wales's Own, from September 1951 to March 1955.

**Frederick Dance** of Hardingstone, Northampton served in the Royal Signals from February 1955 to August 1960 and in the Queen's Regiment from December 1965 to December 1967.

**Bryan Dodson** of Peacehaven, East Sussex served in the General Service Corps from March 1943 to April 1943 and in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry from April 1943 to November 1943. He then served in the East Sussex Regiment from November 1943 to October 1947.

**Robert Elliot** of Lytham St Anne's, Lancs served in the Royal Armoured Corps during 1949.

**David Farrow** of King's Lynn, Norfolk served in the Royal Norfolk Regiment from February 1956 to February 1958 and the Mobile Defence Corps from February 1958 to January 1959. In January 1959 he returned to the Royal Norfolk Regiment and served with them until August 1961.

**Roy Forrest** of Burnley, Lancs served in the Royal Navy from December 1946 to April 1949.

**Jean Galitzine** from London served in the Women's Auxiliary Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1943.

**John Gilmour** of York served in the General Service Corps from January 1948 to March 1948 and in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from March 1948 until 1953.

**Eric Goodwin** of Bootle, Merseyside served in the South Lancashire Regiment from January 1946 to June 1948.

**George Gregory** of Bourne, Lincs served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1942 to 1953.

**Sydney Gregory** of Rossendale, Lancs served in the General Service Corps from January 1945 to September 1945 and in the Lancashire Regiment from September 1945 to November 1945. He then served in the Manchester Regiment from November 1945 to November 1952.

**Arthur Hall** of Huntingdon, Cambs served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

**Jean Hamer** of Teignmouth, Devon served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1946.

**John Henderson** of North London served in the Royal Navy from 1946 to 1948.

**Andrew Leitch of Aldershot** of Hants served in the Royal Corps of Transport from September 1992 to April 1993 when he transferred to the Royal Logistic Corps, with whom he is still serving

**Colin Mather** of Allestree, Derby served in the Royal Signals from 1978 to 1982.

**Alan McCathie** from Wellingborough, Northants served in the General Service Corps from January 1945 to February 1945 and in the Black Watch from February 1945 to January 1946. He then served in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) from January 1946 to November 1947 and in the Green Howards



(Alexandra, Princess of Wales Own Yorkshire Regiment) from November 1947 to March 1951. He then went on to serve in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) from March 1951 to October 1952.

**Nigel McGill** from Fordingbridge, Hants served in the Royal Navy from 1934 to 1968.

**Joseph Milburn** of Durham, Co Durham served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1949 to 1955.

**William Morris** of Bristol served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Charles Pilbeam** of south east London served in the Royal Artillery from 1942 until 1947.

**Thomas Pilsbury** of Cannock, Staffs served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

**Kathlyn Presdee** of Williton, Taunton, served in the Royal Air Force from March 1941 to July 1945.

**Edward Rayson** of Littlehampton, west Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**John Rickard** of Wirral, Merseyside served in the General Service Corps from February 1945 to March 1945 and in the Army Catering Corps from March 1945 to March 1948.

**George Rostron** of Witton Gilbert, Durham served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1945.

**Francis Rugman** of Bristol served in the General Service Corps from May 1947 to June 1947 and in the Royal Engineers from June 1947 to June 1949.

**William Ryder** of Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset served in the General Service Corps from July 1947 to November 1947 and in the Royal Artillery from November 1947 to August 1949.

**Ronald Sampson** of Manchester served in the Royal Marines from 1938 to 1950.

**John Sefton** of Leek Wootton, Warwick served in the Gunner Service Corps from December 1946 to May 1947 and in the Royal Artillery from May 1947 to November 1948.

**Clifford Sherer** of Carmarthen, Dyfed served in the General Service Corps from July 1946 to 29 August 1946 and in the Royal Signals from August 1946 to November 1948.

**James Smart** of Torpoint, Cornwall served in the Royal Artillery from April 1939 to February 1946.

**Kenneth Smith** of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1942 to 1946.

**Robert Stanger** of Elland, West Yorks served in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) from April 1939 to April 1942 and in the Reconnaissance Corps from April 1942 to July 1946.

**Gregor Stewart** of Stirling served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

**Mark Sutton** of Ellesmere Port, Cheshire served in the Royal Air Force from July 1983 to April 1986.

**Ronald Tiley** of King's Lynn, Norfolk served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1943 to 1947.

**Phyllis Tyler** of Lewes, East Sussex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1939 to 1946.

**Raymond Walker** from Mansfield, Notts served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1954.

**Donald Webb** of Diss, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

**Thomas Wicks** of Newport, Gwent served in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry from July 1947 to October 1955 and in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry from October 1955 to April 1965.

**Ronald Williams** of Buckingham, Bucks served in the Royal Navy from 1935 to 1960.

**Joseph Wilson** of Liverpool served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1948.

**Alfred Woodcock** of Brighton, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1978.

**Phyllis Woodford** from Eastleigh, Hants served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

**Stanley Wright** of Beccles, Suffolk served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.



# 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.

## **Margery Allen, Women's Auxiliary Air Force**

Margery Allen of Poole, Dorset died on 13th February 2011, aged 95. Mrs Allen had various jobs before the war. Before she trained to become a nurse Mrs Allen had a number of jobs which included an assistant in a gift shop on Wimbledon High Street, a House Assistant, Manageress of a Beauty Shop and a job with Philips Radio.

In August 1942 she joined the WAAF and trained at Bridgeworth as a wireless operator, often moving locations until she eventually settled with RAF Coastal Command where she remained until her discharge in January 1946.

After the war Mrs Allen soon found employment as a clerk at Wimbledon Motors where she met her husband. They married in 1947 and had three children but Mr Allen sadly died in 1982. Mrs Allen leaves her children and four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

## **John Boyd-Nicol MBE BEM, Royal Air Force**

John Boyd-Nicol of Ormskirk, Lancs died on 1st November 2010, aged 88. John Boyd-Nicol was brought up and educated in Paisley before joining the RAF in July 1941 as an Airman and had a full career. In July 1963 he was commissioned as a Pilot Officer and joined the RAF Police becoming Deputy Provost Marshal. He served all over the world in countries such as Germany, Aden, Cyprus, Burma, Japan, India, the UK, Hong Kong, Singapore and Northern Ireland prior to retiring fully in 1980.

Mr Boyd-Nicol's wife died in 1990 but they had three daughters. In total he had four grandchildren and one great grandchild. He also has a sister in Paisley.

## **Peter Coker, Royal Army Service Corps**

Peter Coker of Stevenage, Herts died on 18th November, 2010 aged 92. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in September 1939 and was sent to

France as a member of the British Expeditionary Force. He was evacuated home and worked in a Stores Depot at Preston before he was deployed to Egypt. He eventually joined the American Field Service, a volunteer company of ambulance drivers, with whom he remained until VE Day after deploying to Italy, Holland and Belgium. Demobilised in May 1946 he returned to the electrical meter company and went back to further education qualifying and taking up work with an electronics firm in Stevenage. He remained with them until he retired in 1981. Mr Coker married Nancy in 1948 but was sadly widowed in 2004.

## **Roy Delderfield, Wiltshire Light Infantry, RAOC and REME**

Roy Delderfield of Cheltenham, Gloucs died on 21st January 2011, aged 90. An Accountant he joined the Wiltshire Light Infantry in May 1941 when he first served in the UK with the RAOC. He transferred to the Royal Electrical Mechanical and Engineers (REME) in October 1942 and was posted to India and attached to the Indian Army REME to serve in Agra as the Controller of Instruments. He later moved to Bangalore controlling equipment in South India and was eventually discharged as an Armaments Sergeant Major in October 1946. After the war, Mr Delderfield returned to accountancy and became a Chartered Accountant. He later had a variety of roles working mainly with a property company in London called Samuel Properties.

Mr Delderfield married Joan and they had two children: John, who lives in Oxford and has two children; and Anne, who lives in Romford and has two children.

## **Joseph Drake MM, 16th Durham Light Infantry**

Joseph Drake of Blackpool, Lancs died on 30th January 2011, aged 97. He joined the 16th Durham Light Infantry on 17th July 1940 in Edinburgh. The Battalion moved to Norfolk and then fought in North Africa where he was awarded the Military Medal, bestowed on him at Buckingham Palace. Mr Drake subsequently spent two years in Northumberland at a military hospital on administrative duties until his discharge in 1946. He returned to work as a painter and decorator in Blackpool.

Married in 1938 his first wife sadly died and he married Mary Hilda. He had three sons and a daughter and eight grandchildren.

## **John Dye, Royal Navy and RNVR**

John Dye of Whitby, North Yorks died on 1st October 2010, aged 84. John Dye was commissioned in the Royal Navy in 1943 and qualified as a pilot in the



Fleet Air Arm. He served in the Far East and flew Seafires off HMS Attacker, an aircraft carrier converted from a merchant ship. Discharged in 1947 he rejoined the Royal Navy RNVR in 1951 for the Korean War and left as a Lieutenant when the Air Branch was disbanded in the late 1950s. After the war he started a restaurant and hotel which he sold in the 1980s. He was married to Phyllis and they had a son and daughter and grandchildren.

#### **William Finbow, Royal Scots Greys and Royal Tank Regiment (TA)**

William Finbow of Hailsham, East Sussex died on 22nd December 2010, aged 79. Mr Finbow left school at the age of 14 and did a plumbing apprenticeship in 1946, after the War. He began as a builder, working on private houses and building sites before he joined the Army as National Service in 1949, serving in the Royal Scots Greys in Lunenburg, Germany. He finished his National Service in 1951 when he transferred to the TA in the Royal Tank Regiment. He was discharged in 1955, leaving as a Trooper.

After the Army Mr Finbow returned to the building trade, before he changed career and worked as a long distance driver. He married Joyce in 1974 and they had four sons.

#### **Kathleen Flatt, Women's Auxiliary Air Force**

Kathleen Flatt of Ealing, west London died on 23rd January 2011, aged 94. She joined the WAAF in 1942 and served in Kent and the Isle of Wight as a Radar Operator until she was discharged in 1945 as a Leading Aircraftswoman. After the war she worked as a teacher for 23 years in a comprehensive school. Widowed in 1996, Mrs Flatt had 2 sons Andrew and Paul.

#### **John Kenneth Fraser, Royal Navy**

John Kenneth Fraser of Thirsk, North Yorks died on 7th February 2011, aged 89. He joined the Royal Navy in 1941, serving in a North Sea minesweeper, a destroyer in the Mediterranean and was discharged in 1941 as a Telegraphist. After the war he took a three year contract to work on a ranch in Southern Rhodesia, however he stayed for 16 years. He met and married a nurse there in 1957 and they returned to England in 1961.

#### **Ernest Freeman, Royal Army Ordnance Corps**

Ernest Freeman of North Shields, Tyne and Wear died on 18th January 2011, at the age of 100. Born in 1911 and brought up in London, Ernest Freeman

had various jobs before joining the RAOC in 1944. He served in Germany and was discharged in 1947. Married to Eve they had four children and several grandchildren.

#### **Verney Gilbert, Royal Air Force**

Verney Gilbert of Neath, West Glamorgan died on 1st February 2011, aged 90. He joined the RAF in April 1941 and served in Northern Ireland. Later he went to India and Singapore and was en route to Japan when the war ended. He was discharged as a LAC in August 1946 and returned to Neath. He had various jobs and ended up working in the print department of the Metal Box factory, which specialised in manufacturing metal containers. Married in 1947 to Barbara they had one daughter, Beverley.

#### **Winifred Gill, Women's Royal Air Force**

Winifred Gill of Swansea died on 10th February 2011, aged 88. She left school to join the WRAF in 1941. She served in Melksham, Wilts, Gloucester and later at Cosford Hospital before she was discharged in 1946. She then worked at a local hospital in Swansea and later in a children's care home. In 1965 she joined the Area Health Authority to work with children and the disabled, retiring in 1987. She was widowed in 1970.

#### **Edmund Gough, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Edmund Gough of Sutton Coldfield died on 28th January 2011, aged 88. He was called up in 1942 in Derby when he first served in the RAOC but by May of that year he was specialising with the REME in Nottingham. He was sent to North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Australia before his discharge in 1947. After the War he worked as an electrical engineer and was a Chief Inspector of Engineering when he retired. In 1948 he married Betty in Birmingham and they had a son and two grandchildren. Mr Gough was widowed.

#### **John Griffiths, Royal Artillery**

John Griffiths of Barry, South Glamorgan died on 20th December 2010, aged 91. He joined the Royal Artillery in October 1939 and trained in Bishop Auckland. He went to Scotland in 1939 with an anti-tank unit and later to North Africa where he fought at the Battle of El Alamein. He took part in the Sicilian invasion and regrouped in the UK, landing in Normandy on D+2. He fought through to Hamburg and was discharged on 12 June 1946. He returned to St Athan in Barry where his late wife's family come from and worked at the RAF



station at St Athan as a civilian driver for the Air Ministry for 12 years. He started his own ironmongery business in St Athan which he later sold and retired aged 65.

#### **William Hardy, Territorial Army and Royal Signals**

William Hardy of Ruislip, Middx died on 28th January 2011, aged 90. Mr Hardy was apprentice printer in Fleet Street. He was in the Territorial Army when he was mobilised in 1939 and served in the Royal Signals on light ack-ack. He moved across to France a week after D-Day and moved through Belgium, Holland and finally Germany. He was discharged in 1946, leaving as a Gunner. He returned to printing where he remained until he retired. He was married to Gisela.

#### **Thomas Hinton, Royal Army Ordnance Corps**

Thomas Hinton of Wigston, Leics died on 31st October 2010, aged 89. He joined the RAOC in August 1941 and completed basic training at Hinckley. He was initially posted to the General Stores at Olympia and later to Derby. He served in Egypt via South Africa and was in the 8th Army in North Africa, supporting the advance through Italy. Following a brief spell in Austria, during which time he married he was discharged as a Corporal in January 1948. He returned to Leicester where he worked for Champion & Sons, a firm of motor dealers. Mr Hinton who married Ilse in Graz in 1947 was widowed in 2002. They had a son Andrew.

#### **Mabel Jarrett, Auxiliary Territorial Service and Royal Army Pay Corps**

Mabel Jarrett of Luton died on 29th January 2011, aged 91. Brought up in Barking, Essex she was called up by the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1942 and posted within Barking before moving to Aldershot on heavy Ack-Ack. She then moved to an administrative job in Guildford before joining the Pay Corps in Bournemouth before she was discharged in 1944. She married in 1945 and they had two sons and two grandchildren. Mrs Jarrett's husband sadly died in 1981.

#### **Joseph 'Douglas' Jones, Royal Air Force**

Joseph Jones of Talybont, Dyfed died on 3rd January 2011, aged 93. He joined the RAF in November 1940 and initially served in the UK. He then served in India, Karachi and South East Asia before he was discharged as a Corporal in 1946. After he was demobilised he worked for Cardiganshire County Council as the Chief Trading Standards Officer until he retired at 65. Mr Jones was married to Dwynwen and they had one daughter, Margaret.

#### **Emrys Jones, South Wales Borderers, Gloucestershire Regiment**

Emrys Jones of Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan died on 5th February 2011, aged 90. Mr Jones was brought up in Merthyr Tydfil and first employed as a carpenter's apprentice. He joined the South Wales Borderers in April 1940 and transferred to the Gloucestershire Regiment in June that year, serving in the UK, France and Germany. Discharged in August 1946 he then worked for a building company as a carpenter.

#### **George Meredith, Essex Regiment and Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry**

George Meredith of Ulverston, Cumbria died on 27th August 2010, aged 87. He was called up to join the Essex Regiment in 1942 and in 1943 he transferred to the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry with whom he trained for the Normandy Invasion. He was attached to the Airborne Division and landed on D + 2. He was wounded in the Ardennes and sent to hospital in Brussels and after the War he served in Palestine before he was discharged in 1946. After his service he returned to his work with Astleys Electrical Company where he was a storeman and later in charge of the fitters prior to retirement at 65. Widowed in 1995 he has two daughters.

#### **Thomas Milne, Royal Marines**

Thomas Milne of Bearsden, Glasgow died on 22nd January 2011, aged 83. Thomas Milne joined the Royal Marines in 1946, completing the Commando course at Lympstone. He was then based at Portsmouth and Browndown Camp before he left the Royal Marines in 1948. He subsequently did electrical work for British Railways for 42 years until he retired at the age of 64. Mr Milne married Pearl in 1950 and they had three children and five grandchildren.

#### **George Morton, Royal Army Service Corps**

George Morton of Beccles, Suffolk died on 14th January 2011, aged 85. Mr Morton was a trainee accountant before he joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1943, and went to France after D-Day. Fighting through to Germany, he remained in Frankfurt until the war ended and then moved to Berlin. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1959. He was married to Winifred.

#### **Joan Mackay, Women's Royal Army Corps and Royal Signals**

Joan Mackay of Gosport, Hants died on 1st February 2011, aged 73. She first worked in a local shop before joining the WRAC in 1958 carrying out her basic training at Guildford, followed by her trade training as a Teleprinter Operator at Catterick. She was then attached to the Royal Signals and served in Cyprus for



two years, later moving to Chester for a brief period. After discharge as a Lance Corporal in 1964 she became a full-time wife and mother, later working as a carer in a residential home in Slough.

#### **John Meeklah, Royal Air Force**

John Meeklah of Bognor Regis, West Sussex died on 4th January 2011, aged 88. John Meeklah was just 17 when he joined the RAF in July 1940. He was however commissioned and trained as a pilot, flying Spitfires and Hurricanes. He was later involved in Air Sea Rescue, operating Sea Otters and Walruses. He was discharged as a Flight Lieutenant in January 1946 and became a school master at various schools, mainly in Essex teaching technical drawing, carpentry and metalwork. He retired at 59. Married to Gloria they had two sons

#### **James Meighan, 26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery**

James Meighan of East Kilbride, Glasgow died on 1st June 2010, aged 75. He joined the Army as a National Serviceman in 1955, training initially at Oswestry and Rhyl. He later joined the 26 Field Regiment in 159 (Colenso) Battery. As part of the Army's strategic reserve he was prepared to be deployed anywhere and found himself in Cyprus for the last part of a year during the EOKA campaign. After National Service, he signed up for another three years, eventually discharging in 1960 as a Bombardier. Following discharge he joined the Police Force and was involved in the policing of airfields around UK. He completed his service in 1975 and then began working for the British Airports Authority where he remained until 1986 when he retired on medical grounds. Mr Meighan married Mary in 1974 in East Kilbride and they had three children.

#### **William 'Bill' Moulford, Royal Engineers (TA)**

William 'Bill' Moulford of Worthing, West Sussex died on 23rd January 2011, aged 88. He joined the Royal Engineers (TA) in September 1937 and was fully mobilised when the war began. He trained in the south of England and was posted to North Africa as a field engineer, spending most of his time building bridges. Taking part in the east Italy campaign his unit moved through the south of France, followed by Belgium, Holland and Germany. Before his discharge in August 1946 he served briefly in Yugoslavia and then joined the Police Force, working in Reading and later Worthing. He was married to Hilda.

#### **Peter Mulvihill, Royal Air Force**

Peter Mulvihill of Bury, Lancs died on 19th December 2010, aged 82. A Chartered Accountant he joined the RAF in 1946 working in equipment accounts at UK RAF stations including Padgate and Burton Wood. He was demobilised as an AC1 in 1949 when he returned to work as a Chartered

Accountant. He was Finance Director at Chloride Batteries for 23 years and on retirement at the age of 62 he worked as a supply teacher teaching Accountancy at Colleges and Institutes. Married to Audrey they had two children Peter and Beverley.

#### **Rodney 'Rod' Pamphilon, Royal Navy**

Rodney 'Rod' Pamphilon died on 4th February 2011, aged 67. He served in the Royal Navy from 1960 to 1983, leaving as a Chief Petty Officer MEA(P). He served at home and on various ships. He left school at 16 years of age and his first job was as a joiner engineering mechanic at RMS Raleigh at Torpoint. When he completed his training he joined HMS Gambia. He later joined HMS Centaur, an aircraft carrier, where he remained for a period of four years. He then moved to HMS Eagle, another aircraft carrier and then to a frigate, HMS Argonaut where he was promoted to Chief Petty Officer. Next he moved to HMS Hampshire, a guided missile destroyer and then finally to HMS Fife. He served all over the world onboard the various ships.

#### **Leslie Parker, The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) and 2nd Reconnaissance Regiment**

Leslie Parker of Morecambe, Lancs died on 12th February 2011, aged 92. On leaving school Mr Parker had a number of jobs until he found his niche in the local cinema business. At the outbreak of war Mr Parker joined the Loyal Regiment, a motorcycle battalion in October 1939 and served with them until he transferred to the 2nd Reece Regiment in April 1941. He was posted to India and thereafter into Burma. He was involved in combat in the area of Kohima and Imphal and the Battle of the "Admin Box". He was discharged in April 1946, leaving as a Sergeant. At the end of the war he was employed again in the cinema business in the North West of England. He was married to Mary in 1940 in Morecambe and they had three children and seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

#### **Arthur Phillips, Royal Navy**

Arthur Phillips of Garston, Liverpool died on 7th October 2010, aged 90. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942 and qualified as an Air Mechanic in the Fleet Air Arm. He served in Ceylon and India during the war before discharge in 1946. He then joined the Merchant Navy and travelled all over the world in a number of ships. He became Chief Caterer and Purser, retiring in the early 1970s.

#### **Philip Plumpton, Royal Army Service Corps (TA)**

Philip Plumpton of South West London died on 30th January 2011, aged 96. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps (TA) in 1939 and was mobilised at the start



of the War. He went to France in 1940 and after evacuation from Boulogne was posted to the depot at Guildford. Commissioned in 1943 he worked in the War Office and subsequently became 2nd in command of a unit in Chelmsford from where he was posted to Italy in 1944. The war ended when he was in Austria and he was discharged in 1945. He resumed his career at The Times composing room where he remained for the rest of his working life, before retiring in 1980. He was married to Dorothy.

#### **Charles Rance, Royal Army Service Corps**

Charles Rance of Worthing, West Sussex died on 4th February 2011, aged 94. He joined the RASC in 1940 and served with 3 Bulk Petrol Company as a driver. He went to France with the British Expeditionary Force and was evacuated from Boulogne. Posted to Egypt in 1941 he spent the latter part of the war in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria before he was discharged in 1946. He then returned to London to work in the printing industry, working in the despatch department of the Daily Mirror for 34 years, six days per week. He retired at 65. He was married to Daphne.

#### **Walter Roach, Royal Air Force**

Walter Roach of Norwich, Norfolk died on 25th January 2011, aged 95. He joined the RAF in 1938, training as a fitter and was deployed with the British Expeditionary Force before evacuation from St Nazaire. He was then posted to the Shetlands with Gladiator aircraft. When the Squadron moved to Plymouth he completed a fitter's course at RAF Cosford and transferred to RAF Sealand, Cheshire before being posted to Canada. After the war he was posted to various airfields in the Far East and was discharged in 1965. He then worked for the Beckton Gas Terminal in security and also did clerical work as a civil servant at RAF Coltishall. Mr Roach who was sadly widowed had three sons.

#### **John Skinner, Royal Air Force**

John Skinner of Poole, Dorset died on 22nd January 2011, aged 89. Mr Skinner joined the RAF in 1941 and served with ACRC London and 8ITW Newquay. He was later in Rhodesia and then RAF Ismalia in Egypt (75OTU). He was with the 8th Squadron in Aden and finally with 39MU Colerne in Wiltshire before his discharge in July 1946. He suffered a minor head injury when as a pilot he ditched in a Blenheim on an operational convoy escort sortie off Aden. After the war he joined the British Drug Company in London and later worked

at their laboratory in Poole. Mr Skinner married Nancy in 1946 and has 3 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

#### **James Smith, Royal Navy**

James Smith of Peacehaven, East Sussex died on 30th January 2011, aged 87. Mr Smith joined the Royal Navy in 1942 qualifying as a cook. He served in MTBs and was based in Barbados for a spell before he was discharged in 1946. After he was demobilised he returned to the grocery business and then became a sales representative for Crawford Biscuits. Married to Pat in 1951 they had two sons and a daughter; grandchildren and a great grandchild.

#### **Bernard Thomas, Royal Artillery and the Special Air Service**

Bernard Thomas of Worcester died on 18th January 2011, aged 89. Brought up in South Wales he was first employed as a coal miner. In May 1941 he joined the Royal Artillery and after training in England he was posted to the Middle East, Iraq, Palestine & Lebanon. He was attached to the SAS as a parachutist and saw action in Greece, Italy and Germany before being discharged from the services in May 1946. He settled back in South Wales and was in the mines for two years. He later became a lorry driver before he took up employment as a driver at the radar research establishment in Malvern. Married to June they had a son and daughter and several grandchildren.

#### **James Torr, General Service Corps and Royal Army Ordnance Corps**

James Torr of Blackpool died on 2nd February 2011, aged 85. Bought up in Manchester his first employment was with his father's greengrocery business, a chain of six shops. He was called up and joined the General Service Corps in May 1944 and transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps the following September. He trained at Maidstone with the Royal West Kent Regiment and he was posted in London, dealing with damage from the V1 flying bombs, helping the emergency services. He was discharged in Feb 1948 and returned to Manchester to work in the greengrocery business. When his father died the business was sold and he became a driver with Dexter Paints in Blackpool for 20 years. He retired at 60. Mr Torr is survived by his daughter Valerie.

#### **Derek Vincent, General Service Corps, Army Air Corps**

Derek Vincent of Worthing, west Sussex died on 17th January 2011, aged 84. He managed to join the Army in 1942 aged just 16. He trained with the General Service Corps and was posted to the Middlesex Regiment in Hounslow in 1943. In August 1943 he transferred to the Army Air Corps where he learnt to parachute. He remained with the 9th Battalion the Parachute Regiment and



took part in the D Day landings at Merville Battery. He then moved through France, Belgium, Holland and into Germany before a brief return to the Ardennes. He was deployed to Palestine in 1945 and discharged in 1947. He joined London Transport as a bus conductor and then had numerous jobs up until his time at Hendon College where he learnt to be an estimator. He retired at 60. He was married to Joan and they had five children.

#### **Thomas Vincent, Lancashire Fusiliers**

Thomas Vincent of Burnley, Lancs died on 16th November 2010, aged 84. Mr Vincent joined the Lancashire Fusiliers in 1944 and trained at Derby before he joined his Battalion in Belgium and moved into Germany. Wounded he was evacuated to the UK and later rejoined his unit becoming a Regimental tailor. Mr. Vincent left the services in 1947 and tried market gardening for a brief period in the Burnley area before returning to his former career in Gentleman's Retail when he worked for Alexanders and Greenwoods until his retirement.

#### **Norman Waddington, Royal Navy**

Norman Waddington of Burnley, Lancs died on 13th February 2011, aged 86. He joined the Royal Navy in May 1943, training at HMS Glendower as an Able Seaman. He served in the destroyer HMS Hesperus on North Atlantic convoys. He then served at HMS Cabbala in Lowton St Mary's and later in HMS Amethyst. He then went to the Far East via the Suez Canal to Singapore and then on to Hong Kong and Australia. He returned to the UK on HMS Indefatigable and was discharged in September 1946. Following service he worked at Joseph Lucas in Burnley. He later moved to Mullards, the TV and bulb makers followed by a variety of jobs in the Burnley area. He ended up as the Chief Security Officer at Main Gas Company. Mr Waddington was married to Sylvia.

#### **Kenneth Willats, Queen's Royal Regiment and Royal Engineers**

Kenneth Willats of Tonbridge, Kent died on 9th February 2011, aged 93. He went to Westminster Catering College and his first job was at Romano's in the Strand before he moved to the Bush House restaurant in Aldwych. He was called up in January 1940 and joined the Queen's Royal Regiment, carrying out his training in Guildford. He was deployed to France as part of the BEF when he was captured and was made a PoW by the German Army. He spent 5 years in a variety of PoW camps and was forced to work as a labourer. He was marched for three months from the advancing Russians until he was freed by US forces near Hanover. He was transferred to the Royal Engineers in August 1945 and demobilised in September 1946. After the war he returned to the catering business and spent 20 years with St George's Hospital before he joined Sainsbury's as the Staff Catering Advisor. He married Dorothea in 1946 and they had a son and a daughter.

## **Answers to Ten questions on... The subject "Smith"** from page 22.

1. John Smith.
2. William Henry.
3. "1984".
4. The Boys' Brigade.
5. The London Marathon, at the age of 45 Joyce Smith became the oldest woman to set a British athletics record.
6. "Titanic" in April 1912.
7. Boogie Woogie
8. Harvey Smith, the show jumper.
9. Granny Smith apples.
10. The Duke of Wellington.

## **Beer of the Month.**

**by Colin Williamson.**

**This month Colin brings you a little beauty in Abbot Reserve Ale.**

A rich full bodied ale brewed in Suffolk by Greene King, this is an exceptional beer with wonderful fruit cake and toffee flavours. A very smooth, drinkable ale which is quite strong, coming in at 6.5%. This ale is brewed in limited quantities so grab some while you can. It can be found on tap at most Weatherspoon's pubs and in bottles in most major stores including ASDA, Morrisons and Tesco.

## **24 Hour Trucks Pull Heroes Present Cheque.**

Simon Brown and Colin Williamson were presented with a cheque for £2639 by members from Stores Troop, Royal Logistic Corps, 1 CS Battalion REME at Megiddo Lines at Catterick Garrison. The team recently completed the Forces Challenge whilst in theatre in Afghanistan when they completed a 24 hour truck pull at Camp Bastion.



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Picture: A Cinema Poster created by Ron Wilson in 1944