

St Dunstan's

April 2011

# Review



Paul Jacobs GM Conquers  
Mount Kilimanjaro

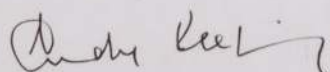
# From the Chairman.

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

When I was in uniform I frequently reminded my men that the only real certainty about the future was that it is *uncertain*, and that we therefore needed to make sure that we were always ready to respond to any eventuality, however unlikely it might seem. Sure enough, 20 years ago almost to the day, I was told to go to Kurdistan with my Brigade to join a Coalition that was being formed right then to do what we could to help resolve a fast-moving crisis that had arisen – a pretty inhospitable part of the world straddling the borders between Iraq, Turkey and Iran - involving an unknown number of Kurdish refugees who had taken to the hills to escape the wrath of Saddam Hussein's murderous army. We didn't know exactly where they all were, and we certainly didn't know how many of them there were (it turned out to be somewhere around a million). We had no plans or training for this kind of humanitarian event, we couldn't speak the language, nor did we know who we would be working with. Furthermore, and if I'm really honest, I didn't even know where Kurdistan was! It turned out to be a very exciting operation, and a successful one, and an experience that to some extent shaped the following 20 years for me.

Recent world events in North Africa and the Middle East region have reminded me, yet again, that although we inevitably make plans for the future for our private and working lives, in reality they are only plans, for none of us actually know for certain what is going to happen tomorrow, let alone next week or next month. The unexpected, which is often unwelcome, has a habit of barging its way into our lives and the result can be either good or bad or somewhere in the middle. We often have no alternative but to go with the flow. And 'going with the flow' is so much easier to achieve if we can keep an open mind and try to concentrate on being grateful for what, in reality, we have, rather than what we would like to have but don't have.

I recently came across a couple of quotations that say this in different ways: Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity.... It turns problems into gifts, failures into success, the unexpected into perfect timing, and mistakes into important events. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow. (Melodie Beattie) I do not want the peace that passeth all understanding, I want the understanding which bringeth peace. (Helen Keller). And one more from Helen Keller: The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight but no vision.



# St Dunstan's Calendar.

## 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 Forum	18th
Golf	18th-19th
Ladies Week	19th-25th
Writers' Weekend	30th-2nd July

## July

Golf	16th-17th
History Week	17th-23rd
Royal Marines Band Concert	20th
Race Week	24th-30th

## St Dunstan's Review

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### On the cover:

Paul Jacobs standing between porters holds the St Dunstan's flag and mascot Dunstan the Dog.



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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# Noticeboard.

Dates for your diary and useful information.

## Thank you Graham Raphael you're a hero.

The Review would like to make a very overdue thank you to Graham Raphael of Motorsport Endeavour for his outstanding generosity - Graham included St Dunstaners in an excellent track day at Silverstone. Graham thanks to you and the instructors at Silverstone everyone had a wonderful time.

## Future Focus update.

We have had an incredible response to the Future Focus surveys included within the last Review. Thank you to everyone who contributed! The survey is now closed. The results are being collated, and we will share them with you in the May Review.

The survey results will help us to review St Dunstan's public profile. Many of you have raised the need to generate more publicity for St Dunstan's and make the organisation more recognisable in the local communities. These are among the main objectives of the Future Focus project. We need to make it much clearer to the public who St Dunstan's is, what makes us unique and what impact we have. We need to do this in order to attract support from new groups of people, which will help secure the future for St Dunstan's and - more importantly - for blind or vision impaired people who have served our country and who now need St Dunstan's.

Some of you have been concerned to hear that the St Dunstan's name is under review. We would like to confirm that no decision will be made until the summer at the earliest. Keeping St Dunstan's is always going to be an option. We are however considering alternatives, and your suggestions will be evaluated alongside other proposals. Options for a renewed St Dunstan's brand will then be tested on focus groups to help establish the potential benefits and disadvantages a change may have.

We will keep you informed of the progress through the Review. Please remember that no decision has been taken yet, and please do get in touch with any suggestions, concerns or questions you may have throughout the project. You can contact Susanne Lund on [FutureReview@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:FutureReview@st-dunstans.org.uk) or 020 7616 7949.

## Capital to Coast Bike Ride 2011.

Due to the spectacular success of our tandem cyclists in the Capital to Coast Bike Ride last year we will do the Hove to Hove 60 mile circular route in July 2011.

The ride starts and finishes at Hove Lawns and the cycle route heads past Shoreham, Steyning, Shipley, Southwater, and meets up with the riders from the London to Hove cycle just south of Horsham. It finishes with a nice long downhill cycle from Devils Dyke!

Any St Dunstaners who wish to take part in the 2011 Capital to Coast Bike Ride should contact the Sports Department on 01273 391465.

## Heroes Return.

Heroes Return is a lottery funded initiative that gives World War II Veterans the opportunity to visit places around the World where they served. The Big Lottery Fund has extended the deadline for applications, which will now be accepted until 31 January 2012.

The Big Lottery Fund has submitted the following information for World War II veterans:

- Veterans are eligible as long as they saw active service in World War II and are resident in the UK or Republic of Ireland.
- We will make grants for travel and accommodation costs to visit places where veterans saw active service.
- We can make grants for trips abroad or for veterans to attend commemorative events in the UK.



Photography Copyright and Courtesy of Norwood

Picture: Steve Nixon and Louise Timms who took part in 2010.

-We will also pay for someone to travel with the veteran.

-Widows and widowers of veterans can also get a grant in most cases.

Travel needs to take place before end of December 2011, but grants are available until end of January 2012. This is because in some cases you can get a grant even if you've already paid for your trip.

This programme is not means-tested.

Big Lottery Fund does not make the travel arrangements, but veterans may be able to get advice from the Royal British Legion travel service, Poppy Travel on 01622 716 729.

This blog documents some of the journeys made by veterans  
[www.heroesreturn.org](http://www.heroesreturn.org)

If you have any general questions about the scheme and whether you are eligible, ring the application helpline 0845 0000 121.

You can also download an application pack at [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/heroesreturn](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/heroesreturn)

### **Ovingdean Investing in Volunteers Award.**

The Ovingdean Centre Investing in Volunteers Award has been renewed for a further three years in recognition of its excellent work with volunteers. St Dunstan's is the only organisation in Brighton to hold the prestigious Award. Congratulations.



### **Correction.**

In the March Review it was stated that Phyllis Adderley of Sidmouth, Devon who died on 20th January 2011 was the widow of St Dunstaner Jim Adderley. It should have stated she was the wife of St Dunstaner Jim Adderley. Our apologies to the family and our sympathy goes to Mr Adderley and all the family.

### **Latchett Gardens Open Day on 1st June.**

An Open Day will take place at Latchett Gardens on Wednesday 1st June 2011 from 10am – 1pm and from 1.30pm to 4pm.

Latchett Gardens, Haywards Heath in West Sussex is the home of St Dunstaner Laurence and Rebeka Hardy.



**Picture: Latchett Gardens.**

Fascinating and beautifully kept the country garden covers eight acres and there will be opportunities to learn about the colourful borders and unusual plants and to take a quiet moment of contemplation in the Christian walled and sunken gardens. With a scary path and safari hunt there's also plenty to keep children amused.

Tickets cost £5 and can be booked online at [www.st-dunstans.org.uk/garden](http://www.st-dunstans.org.uk/garden) or telephone Fundraising on 020 7616 7966, or email: [fundraising@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@st-dunstans.org.uk)

### **Pilgrimage to Lourdes 15th to 22nd July 2011.**

The organisers of the Ampleforth Lourdes Pilgrimage this year especially invite Serving and Ex-Service men and women who have been blinded or seriously visually impaired as a result of active service since 2001, to join them on its annual pilgrimage to Lourdes in the French Pyrenees from Friday 15th to Friday 22nd July.

For those who require personal or nursing care, the Pilgrimage has hospital places available for men and women, and it brings its own doctors and nurses and a team of volunteers to work in the hospital throughout the week. Assistance to travel and/or support whilst in Lourdes is provided.

Pilgrims, whether accommodated in the hospital or hotel, can participate fully in all aspects of the Pilgrimage including the Baths, processions and daily

Mass. There is also social time and opportunities to go shopping and visit the many cafés in the town.

Your application would be considered by our Medical Team who would decide if we had the necessary skills to care for your particular requirements. An application does not necessarily guarantee a place as we have a limit on the number of beds available to us.

The Ampleforth Lourdes Pilgrimage was founded by the late Cardinal Basil Hume and celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2003. It is one of the largest independent pilgrimages from the UK and is affiliated to Ampleforth Abbey & College in Yorkshire.

Anyone interested in joining the Pilgrimage or in finding out more, should contact: Mrs Ros Lynch, 3 Bracken Mews, London E4 7UT or telephone: 020 8529 0811.

### **Concert in Ypres.**

A public concert in Ypres has been arranged by St Dunstan's supporters Chris and Milena Locke and the Lest We Forget WWI and WWII Battlefield Tours (Flanders). The open air concert will take place at 7pm on Saturday 28th May in the Great Square in Ypres. The Ypres Surrey Pipes and Drums will make two 10 minute performances and as they have waived their fee all proceeds collected on the evening will go to St Dunstan's. On conclusion of the concert, the band along with St Dunstan's supporters will march to the nearby Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing. St Dunstan's has been officially included within the evenings 8pm Last Post Ceremony. For further information go to: [www.lastpost.be](http://www.lastpost.be) and click calendar. St Dunstaners and supporters who wish to attend the concert are welcome to do so, although they will be responsible for arranging and paying for their travel and accommodation. For further information please contact Catherine Goodier on [catherine.goodier@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:catherine.goodier@st-dunstans.org.uk) or telephone 020 7616 8367.



**Picture: Statue Salus Infirmorum.**

# Llandudno Update

by Helen Emmerson, Head of Centre Services.

As work progresses on our new Centre in Wales so does the interest from our beneficiaries, staff and the local Llandudno community on this exciting development.

The landmark building in Llandudno which is our new Centre promises to be another fantastic addition to our overall facilities and is being renovated and refurbished to bring out the best of this glorious building. The facilities at Llandudno will include:-

- Forty bedrooms with a mixture of 23 single and 17 double rooms, all with en-suite facilities.
- Eleven care rooms to accommodate nursing and residential beneficiaries. All of the care rooms have been fitted out to the highest standard to assist us in delivering a high quality of care services.
- A variety of residential lounges, a bar, an outdoor terrace, sports and activities hall and an art and craft workshop.
- Set on large scenic grounds for beneficiaries to enjoy.

The Rehabilitation and Training unit will have the ability to complete the tailor made Introduction and Training Weeks for our beneficiaries offering the range of facilities and packages you will recognise. The location of a Centre in North Wales will mean the Rehabilitation and Training (R&T) facilities are more accessible for our beneficiaries in that part of the country who may have found Sheffield or Ovingdean too far away. The Centre will be open 365 days a year for R&T, holidays and respite care and the accommodation charges will be exactly the same as for our Ovingdean Centre.

As the Centre is due to open toward the end of August, you will be able to start to make bookings for the Centre from June 2011 onwards. Bookings should be made in the usual way either through your WO (for Care and R&T) or yourself for holidays. Bookings for all of our Centres will be centralised in the coming months and will all be managed by Claire Green at Ovingdean.

# Paul Jacobs Conquers Mount Kilimanjaro

Paul Jacobs was on top of the world after completing a gruelling challenge from 4th to 12th February to scale Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, East Africa the world's tallest free-standing mountain.

Determined not to be beaten he completed the final hour of his ascent on his hands and knees as the lack of oxygen near the peak - almost 6,000 metres above sea level - left him feeling "As though someone was sitting on my chest".

He said: "Nothing prepared me for the lack of oxygen. I needed the porters to help me get there but I was determined to make it. When I reached the summit, I was too tired to feel jubilant as all I wanted to do was sleep. It wasn't until I was on the plane home that I felt a sense of achievement."

Rifleman Jacobs GM, from 2nd Battalion The Rifles who undertook the challenge to raise £8,000 for St Dunstan's said: "St Dunstan's has been a lifeline for me and this is my way of giving something back. Knowing that the money raised from my challenge will help to transform the lives of others got me to the top of the mountain."

The 22-year-old has so far raised more than £2,500 and is urging people to help him hit his target. Not content to rest on his laurels, he is now planning a parachute jump, intends to take part in the Great North Run and his greatest ambition is to be the first blind person to swim the English Channel.

He thanked his future Father in law Peter Smith who accompanied him on his trek. Paul, who is originally from Lambeth in South London, lives in Stourbridge with his fiancée Louise who was his carer at RCDM Selly Oak in Birmingham.

Rifleman Jacobs, who was blinded by a Taliban bomb in Afghanistan, was awarded the George Medal in March 2010 for bravery for protecting colleagues from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), after suffering severe injuries in the

Upper Sangin Valley in 2009. His medal citation praised his 'Faultless courage, selflessness and dedication to his unit'.

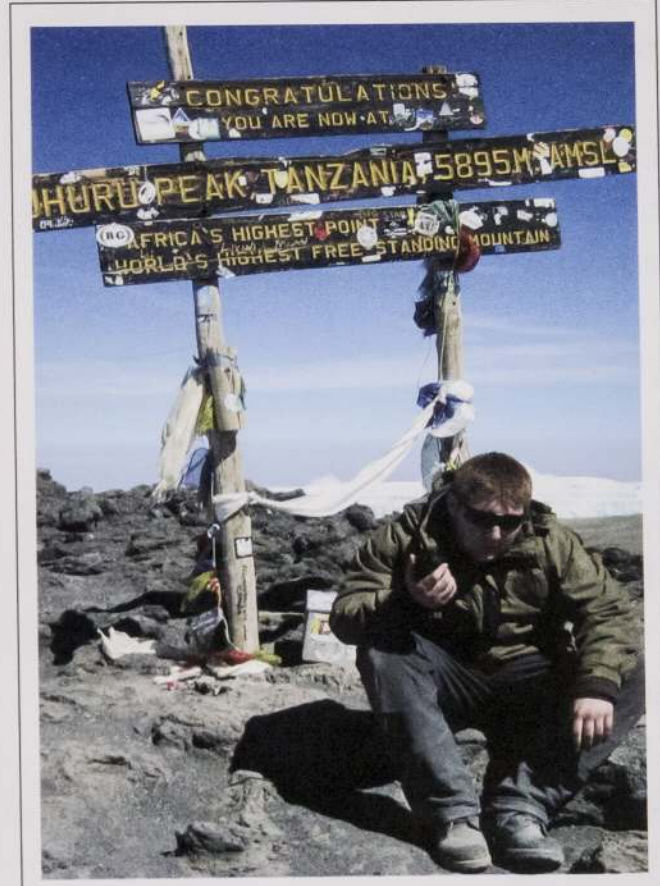
The explosion which cost his sight occurred when he was leading his patrol up one of the most heavily IED'd sections of road in Afghanistan. A member of his company was fatally wounded in an initial explosion and, with just a single cover-man, Rifleman Jacobs set about clearing up to, and around the body. Then, as he moved back towards his cover-man, who had now come forward, another device suddenly exploded killing his comrade.

Blinded and bleeding heavily from multiple wounds Paul had the presence of mind to drag himself back onto the safe route he had just cleared to a position where his rescue would be safer for others.

However Paul wasn't the only intrepid person to complete the gruelling trek on behalf of St Dunstan's and a report by super fit Nicki Hall, PA to St Dunstan's Chief Executive Robert Leader follows.



Picture: Paul Jacobs conquers the Rockface.



Picture: Phone home - Paul breaks the good news.

## Mount Kilimanjaro Report from Nicki Hall.

On 4th February a group of 19 of us arrived in Kilimanjaro Airport, Tanzania to attempt to reach the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro which stands at 5,896 metres. Four of us were doing it for St Dunstan's, one of whom you have just read about, St Dunstaner Paul Jacobs.

After briefings at our hotel we started the trek the following morning. There are six different routes up, all varying in length of time and difficulties. We would be doing the Machame Route which is one of the tougher but more scenic routes and would take six days, five nights up and down.

At the Machame Gate we met our 30 or so guides, cooks and porters who would set up camp for us each night, cook all our meals and carry our main bags. We just had to be armed with a small 30 litre day pack which contained layers of clothing for that day, snacks and litres of water. Our head guide, Nelson, who had been up to the top 119 times, set the pace which was "pole pole" which means "slowly slowly" in Swahili to help us acclimatise.

Day 1 took us through rain forest and as the days went on the landscape changed to heather and moorland and then barren moonlike volcanic rock and glaciers as we neared the summit. The higher we got the more difficultly we had sleeping at night, members of the group suffered with headaches and shortness of breath – all signs of mild altitude sickness.

And so to summit day and our toughest challenge yet. We 'woke', although I hadn't slept a wink, just before midnight and I put on all the clothes I had with me. At 12:30am, we set off single file with one guide per two people into the darkness with our head torches fully on and the most wonderfully star filled sky I have ever seen. The climb was steep and the group had fallen silent unlike the other days. Altitude sickness really started to set in with many of the group collapsing and vomiting. I was lucky and felt okay, my energy levels were just really low and I was very tired. A culmination of all the long days, lack of sleep and altitude. The hours merged and eventually I felt a warm glow on my back, the sun was coming up and I knew that we were nearing the top.

At 8:30am we reached Stella Point, the crater rim, where we had some sweet tea and then continued on to the summit, Uhuru Point. The highest point in Africa. The view of the glaciers was phenomenal, the sun was shining and the clouds were far below us. We spent about 40 minutes admiring the view. At such a height I found myself feeling very light headed and almost as if I was walking on air. But then this wasn't where I naturally belonged, having spent most of the days of my life at around 30 metres above sea level, it was time to get down to a more normal altitude. The descent was down steep scree to Millennium camp where we would spend our final night on the Mountain.

What an amazing experience and one that I shall never forget!

Note from Editor: I'm sure you will also join with me in congratulating Paul and Nicki on their most impressive achievement.



Picture: Elaine Bates and Nicki Hall.

# Llandudno Centre boosted by £2.6 million donation.

by Laura Luxton, Press Officer.

Representatives of The Royal British Legion were joined by the Mayor of Llandudno on Wednesday, 9 March, to view progress at the site of the Llandudno Centre's Poppy Wing. The new high dependency unit has been named in honour of The Legion's generous £2.6m donation.

Also present on the day was St Dunstaner John Robinson and his wife Sylvia who live in Flintshire, North Wales. John is looking forward to honing his cooking and IT skills when the Centre opens, rather than having to do the 166 mile round trip he has had to endure to attend the Sheffield Centre.

John said "This centre is very impressive. It will help people like me in Wales and North West of England and take the burden off the Sheffield and Brighton centres".



Picture: Mick Byrne St Dunstan's Project Manager; Mayor Cllr of Llandudno Anne Yates; Alan Cathery, North Wales District Chairman for The British Legion; Mike Greenwood, The Royal British Legion's North Wales County Manager and Neville Yates the Mayor Cllr's Escort.



Picture: Helen Emmerson St Dunstan's Head of Centre Services, Andrew Jones St Dunstan's Director of Fundraising & Communications, Alan Cathery North Wales District Chairman for The British Legion; Mike Greenwood The Royal British Legion's North Wales County Manager.

# Sue Townsend Selects the Top Three Short Stories.

St Dunstan's Short Story competition was judged by the outstandingly talented Sue Townsend who has captivated readers with the Adrian Mole Series, The Queen and I, Ghost Children, Number Ten and Queen Camilla.

Choosing the winners Sue said: The standard of the entries was so high that I had been unable to choose between them.

I have chosen as my winner The Big Cats by Brian Holmes. Mr Holmes story was original and funny and brought back the days before Health and Safety legislation spread from the workplace (where it was needed) into our daily lives.

I would like to Highly Commend Pre-War Memories by George Oliver for evoking the delights that public parks provided for poor children.

Kezia Brinkley is my second runner up, she writes beautifully about her childhood - despite the terrible poverty her family endured. If only we all had loving parents like Kezia's, then the world would be a better place.

Writing is not easy, as somebody famous once said, "Writing is easy, all you do is stare down at a blank piece of paper until your forehead bleeds."

Yours with very best wishes  
Sue Townsend

This month we bring you the winning story by Brian Holmes. George Oliver's story will feature in the May Review and Kezia Brinkley's in the June edition. Speaking of the inspiration for his story Brian said he once read of a man who was shaved in a lion's cage and it was after learning to type at Ovingdean he felt ready to start writing.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Place The Big Cats by Brian Holmes.

Auntie Mary and her husband Uncle Tom came to our house to spend Christmas Day with us every year. My brother and I could almost guarantee that amongst our presents we would find a really good one from them. Uncle Tom seemed to know the ideal presents to make small boys happy. The year he bought us a shooting gallery with cork firing pop guns was no exception.



Different animals were sighted in different positions making some of them harder to knock over with the corks than others, the hardest ones scoring the most points. Whilst my mother and aunt were left to their own devices, the four males competed to show their shooting skills. Father and Uncle Tom were both sportsmen of some repute and I loved to hear them reliving their glory days although suspecting some stories were exaggerated a little.

I had just knocked over a lion on the shooting gallery to score maximum points when Uncle Tom told us that he had once been shaved in a lion's cage at a circus. Even my father looked surprised but my aunt confirmed that it was true and said that he did stupid things in his youth. Apparently he had accepted a sum of money offered to anybody willing to be shaved in the cage whilst the lions were performing. It was remarkable that he had never mentioned it before but after once telling us the story he reminded us on almost every occasion we saw him. From admiration it gradually changed to me thinking: 'Please, not again'. I really liked my uncle but often wished the opportunity would arise for me to top his claim to glory.

A few years past by and I would be about twelve years old, when passing the local recreation ground I saw notices posted stating that a circus was to be held there in a couple of weeks. On my return journey that evening I noticed a different poster showing a lion tamer with the lions. It set me thinking, would I have the courage to repeat what my uncle had done all those years before. All that evening I pondered over whether I dare approach the ringmaster to see if I could have my hair cut in the cage. It would have been pointless asking to shave a boy with no facial hair. Finally I made my mind up to ask him.

The following week I saw the equipment for the tent arriving. On the Sunday there was to be a parade from the station of all the acts performing here. First we heard the music of the band then the horses followed by dogs and elephants with the clowns alongside. Behind these came the ones on vehicles, the high wire acts in their costumes and finally the lions and tigers in cages. The appearance of these ferocious animals made me consider whether to proceed any further with this idea. I was not committed to carry on with this foolhardy scheme, for I had not mentioned it to anybody.

That evening I strolled around the recreation ground before finally deciding to ask if I could see the Ringmaster. The person I approached thought I was just hanging around and told me to clear off the site. Finally I convinced him that I genuinely wanted to see the Ringmaster. He pointed out a large caravan and told me that was where I would probably find him. As I approached it the door of the caravan opened and a heavily built man stood in the doorway. I asked

him if I could have my hair cut in the cage whilst the lions were performing. He looked at me, laughed, and then said that I was too young and I would have to get my parents' permission. No doubt he thought it would be the easy way to get rid of me. It was a crest fallen boy who started on the journey home. Suddenly I had an inspiration, I wondered if I would dare forge a letter as though it had been written by my father. After much soul searching I went up to my bedroom and wrote one appropriate to such a request. Never realising I would have to follow it up with a lie explaining how I came to have a new haircut. On completing the letter I read it over at least a dozen times and knew I was doing something wrong. My thoughts were that it would not harm anybody else, so I discarded my doubts I had. Unfortunately it did not occur to me that I was committing a really serious crime and also betraying the trust my parents had in me.

The following day I returned to the circus and once again approached the Ringmaster. He was surprised to see me and even more so when he read the letter. He then told me that it was not as easy as that, for he would have to consult the man representing the owners of the circus, along with the trainer and find someone to cut my hair. Once again I was told to return the following day and was convinced it was just another ploy to get rid of me.

I made my mind up not to give up so easily and went to see him after leaving school the following day. I was amazed when he said that he was prepared to grant my request with one proviso, one of my parents should accompany me. This was a real shock that left me with no options. To proceed any further I would have to confess to my father what I had done. When I told him he was absolutely furious. Not over approaching the Ringmaster but over forging the letter. Finally when his rage had subsided, I convinced him that I was truly sorry and would not do anything like it in the future; after due consideration he agreed to accompany me the following evening.

On arrival at the circus we were greeted by the Ringmaster and I received a real shock when my father asked if he too could accompany me into the cage and cut my hair. The Ringmaster looked surprised but agreed to his request. The trainer came along to have a few words and told us that as long as we stayed where the chair was positioned and made no sudden movements, there would not be anything to worry about. His next statement took us by surprise. Would we like to go in with tigers instead of lions as they were considered more dangerous? He assured us that he had them under full control. We were both dubious but finally decided to put our trust in him.

The time came for the tigers to enter the cage and the trainer got them sitting on their respective stands. As I surveyed them I started to have grave doubts

about what I was doing here. Looking at the tigers for the first time I realised what powerful animals these potential killers were. My father stood alongside me and looked so calm that it gave me more confidence; however he later confessed that he too was very worried. The cage door opened for us to enter then closed behind us. Slowly we approached a chair positioned facing the audience not far from the cage door. Once seated, I couldn't see the tigers, which had no doubt been the intention of the trainer.

I sat down not daring to look about me, wishing I had never started out on this mad venture. My father often cut my hair but my hands were trembling and I had to grasp the chair to stop them. Afterwards I thought that if father had been as nervous as I was, my hair would have been a real mess. Every time I heard the tigers snarl and the trainer cracked his whip I was rigid with fear for I was unaware of what the tigers were doing. Were they on the prowl? My father finally finished cutting my hair and we stood up slowly. A nod from the Ringmaster told us it was time to leave the cage. The cage door opened, and we emerged with the applause ringing in our ears, proud of ourselves but relieved it was all over. A collection for us from the audience raised almost £80, a magnificent sum in those pre war days. Uncle Tom could boast to us no more.

Would I ever repeat it? Definitely not, and I think my father's answer would be exactly the same.



Picture: Illustration by Michael Markson.

# Ten questions on...

## The subject "Royal Marriages" by Harry Beevers.

Looking forward to the Royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton at the end of the month here are ten questions on the subject..."Royal Marriages".

1. Who was the last British monarch to marry whilst on the throne?
2. Regarding their marriages, what have the current Duke of Kent, Tsar Peter III of Russia, Thomas Seymour the 16th century courtier and Kings Charles II, Henry V and Henry VIII all in common?
3. What was the double barrelled surname of Lord Snowdon when he married Princess Margaret?
4. Gruoch was the name of the wife of which Scottish King?
5. Married in 1976, Queen Sylvia is the wife of the reigning monarch of which European country?
6. Where in Yorkshire were the Duke of Kent and his wife Catherine Worsley married in 1961?
7. Who had the Radetsky March, the Regimental March of the Queen's Dragoon Guards at their wedding in 1973?
8. The first televised Royal wedding was on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1960, who were the bride and bridegroom?
9. At the Queen's wedding in 1947 which two Princesses acted as bridesmaids?
10. Like the fictitious characters Scarlet O'Hara, Edward Rochester and David Copperfield, Kings Henry I, John, Edward I, Richard II, Henry IV, Henry VIII and James II were all digamists. What are digamists?

Answers on page 38.

# The Not Forgotten Association Put on a World Class Show at Ovingdean.

by Catherine Goodier.

World Class performers brought together by The Not Forgotten Association put on an outstanding Concert of Music from the 1950s at the Ovingdean Centre on 9 March that had the audience singing along.

The talented Mickie Driver headed up the programme which included singing duo The Swingtime Sweethearts, Violinist Victoria Yellop, Pianist Janet Beale and original Tiller Girl Jackie Simmons who all entertained and dazzled the audience.

St Dunstaner Alf Lockhart said: "It was a smashing concert and as the performers are all world class, the type of performance you would expect to see at the London Palladium, or any top venue."



Picture: Alf Lockhart with Swingtime Sweetheart Annie Riley.



Picture: Victoria Yellop entertains the audience.



Picture: Pianist Janet Beale and Jackie Simmons.

# Steve Pendleton - Probably the Best Motivational Speaker in the World.

First instalment

by Catherine Goodier.

A turn of the cards has the power to change lives. A gambler could leave the casino on a high, or with their finances, relationships and life in tatters. But for Steve Pendleton a turn of the cards led to a horrific event few people could imagine that robbed him of his sight and almost took his life.

I had the outstanding good fortune to meet Steve and hear him address 100, 17 and 18 year old students at Whitgift School in Croydon. Seated at the back of the hall I watched the young men as he spoke for 1½ hours. As they sat still, listening in total silence I have never seen a group so immersed in a narrative. Whitgift is one of the country's leading schools and the boys I met that day may go on to become this country's future leaders, or captains of industry. But their rapt attention went beyond that of students who know the importance of paying attention in class.

Steve takes you on an emotional rollercoaster – one moment you feel faint as you relive the senseless loss of life and carnage on that snow covered hillside in Northern Ireland. Then he makes a wisecrack that shatters the tension and his audience dissolves in laughter. An author would call it a turn in the story, but it is something Steve does quite naturally making him one of the most compelling raconteurs. What you are about to read is a report of Steve's talk that day and an earlier conversation I had with him. We realise as former Service men and women you will know it's never good to hear a loud bang when you're in a helicopter.

Born in Salisbury, Steve was bought up in Wiltshire, apart from a period when he and his family lived on the Isle of Wight. Today he lives in Kent with his wife Michala and their daughters Bethany 13, Shannon 12 and 8 year old Amy. Apart from his work as a professional speaker he is also a Braille instructor and the only blind Chef in the country.



Picture: Steve Pendleton in his Chef's Whites.

Steve began: "My grandfather, father and uncle served in the Army and it seemed the logical path for me to join up when I left school at the age of 16. I wanted to be a front line soldier but looking to the future I realised it would work in my favour later in life if I got a trade first.

"It was the 1980s and I decided on carpentry and signed up to an apprenticeship, but from the very first day I knew I absolutely hated carpentry. However as I had been brought up to stick with things I did exactly that until I qualified three very long years later. I have never worked as a carpenter, which is just as well as I would have been some kind of builder from hell and ended up on Watchdog, or being chased along the street by BBC reporters on motorbikes.

"On the day I qualified I went straight to the Army Recruitment Office in Salisbury where I joined the Royal Green Jackets, the Regiment my uncle had Served with. I was sent to Winchester to train and it was the complete opposite of the carpentry apprenticeship as I knew on the very first day I loved it. I loved

the physical fitness side of it and every aspect of life in the Army and I would have happily served the full 22 years.

"After Winchester I went to Dover but I had only been there for a week before I was posted to Omagh for 2½ years. It was real soldier stuff and exactly what I'd signed up for. We'd go on patrol and it was on one of those patrols on 14 November 1991, that my life changed forever.

"On 13 November 1991, I was serving in Anti-Tank Platoon, B Support Company, 2nd Battalion Royal Green Jackets. There were three sections of eight men in the Platoon, one section was devoted purely to searches and I had been trained to go to Omagh or Strabane and break into terrorist's homes and search them for raw materials.

"On 13 November after a routine search in Omagh we flew back to base. As I walked from the helicopter to Barracks Chris the Section Commander came up to me and Tony, a soldier in the same section. Chris was a soldier down for patrol the following day and he wanted one of us to come along, this was something that happened on a weekly basis and I was always happy to step in.

"Tony said he didn't want to go but Chris said he wanted to do things fairly and we would cut cards and whoever picked the lowest card would go on patrol. I picked first and pulled out a 3 and Tony an 8. I wanted to go but my fate was sealed that day by one card.

"On 14 November I got up early for the patrol and as I walked to the briefing room I saw it had snowed during the night, not heavy duty snow just a dusting. There were seven of us at the briefing, plus Chris the Section Commander who told us it would be a routine sweep patrol in Plumbridge, a little village 15 miles from base in Omagh, where there were a lot of known terrorists. We would be there to support the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC).

"As my pen ran out during the briefing when it had finished and we had been dismissed I went to the QRF Room to see my friend Andy to borrow a pen, he's still my best friend today. With the other lads we made our way to the helipad where we waited and watched two Lynx helicopters come in. They came in

quiet high and landed on the snow, whipping it up as they prepared to land. "One of the helicopters was for our patrol team and the other for the RUC. We legged it to our helicopter and I was the first one to reach it, only to be told by the door gunner that we were flying in the other helicopter. We legged it to the other one and I was once again the first to reach it. I jumped onboard and got a seat at the back in the rear three bench seat and strapped myself in. Two soldiers sat beside me and the rest on the floor. With eight soldiers in the back with guns and kit it was packed. I had the med kit and other guys had radios.

"We lifted up vertically and spun round and the pilot started the contour flying at around 30 to 40 feet as we followed a road. I remember flying along as we went up and down and from side to side. I looked out of the gunner's open door as he scanned the ground for terrorists and I can still see the snow on the ground. We flew over huge hillsides that were hundreds of feet high, it was a beautiful day with a big blue sky and golden sun, it could almost have been a summer's day but it was freezing and you could see your breath in the air. I looked down and saw a telegraph pole 10' below.

"Everyone at the back of the helicopter was muttering as they weren't happy with the way the pilot was flying. We came to a pine forest and were below the level of the trees when the pilot lifted up to get over the forest and pick up the road again as we weren't far from our destination. We were just above the forest and there was the biggest bang you have ever heard and you really don't want to hear bangs in a helicopter, as believe me it does not make for a good day. The helicopter had been straight and level but it suddenly flipped right over and a split second later I was looking down at the B road that ran between the hillside and forest.

"I blacked out at that time but there was a lot of noise, engines screaming like mad and then we were going down. I can't say for definite what happened next but I do remember the impact on the hillside when the helicopter hit the side of the hill really hard as we had been flying at over 100mph.

"The only thought that went through my head is that Army helicopters don't crash, especially when I'm in them. I'm not being flippant by saying that as it was a feeling of total and utter disbelief at the situation. Due to the speed and

the angle, we ricocheted off the hillside, bounced along the ground and shot straight back up into the air. The rear rota blade and tail had come off and only the transport cabin where we were sitting bounced back into the air. As the tail rota had gone there was nothing to keep the helicopter stable as the main blades turned. The transport cabin began to spin, mimicking the rota blades and it spun incredibly fast and incredibly violently.

"I blacked out again but the force and violence of the spinning threw the guys who weren't strapped in out of the helicopter and through the gunner's open door. Some of the guys were thrown out from a low height and others from higher up, those who were thrown out at a low height were uninjured but the others weren't so lucky. I had a lap strap on which meant I stayed in the transport cabin whirling around so violently that I blacked out again.

"As it spun round Chris the Section Commander was thrown out and catapulted straight into the rota blades. He would have been dead before he even realised but the impact of his body hitting the blades broke them, which meant the transport cabin went down and smashed on top of the hill.

"The last thing I saw clearly was that hillside coming towards me. In that split second the helicopter rolled down the hill and I was inside, held in by the lap strap. I don't remember but apparently the transport cabin rolled halfway down the hill before the seatbelt broke and I rolled out. I didn't roll far and the wreckage of the helicopter rolled over me.

"The bottom half of the hill was a peat bog which saved my life as it was soft and the weight of the helicopter pushed me into the bog. I have no memory of that, I just know what people have told me and what's in the Army Air Corps Accident Report as it was a year before we discovered the accident was the result of Pilot error."

It was at this stage in his talk that Steve made one of his wisecracks, breaking the tension in the room. I watched rows of shoulders relax after Steve made the understatement of the century – 'I was in a right old state'. He then continued and once again their rapt attention was like a separate entity sitting beside each boy.

## Computer Club - Can you hear me, Dragon?

by Ray Hazan.

A varied and interesting programme awaited the group of ten St Dunstaners who attended the meeting on 23rd and 24th February. Whatever the knowledge or experience of any individual, we all know we are going to learn something new.

ROVI Bryan Kilburn was not to let us down yet again. He demonstrated a range of Olympus iPods, which, in some cases, have speech recognition or have talking menus and Daisy book software. Anyone contemplating purchasing one should definitely seek advice from the ROVI team at Ovingdean. Bryan went on to discuss and demonstrate the following:

### Milestone 212

This is a simple version of the Milestone 312. It doesn't have the clock, radio or speak out functions. It is not able to have the software add-ons installed such as Agenda. It has a voice recorder with five folders, working in the same way as the older Milestone 311. It has a books function which is the familiar Daisy interface. The third and last function is 'Audio'. This is the MP3 player, text to speech from .TXT plain text files and general audio file player. It supports many more audio formats than just MP3 and seems to work very well. It is the familiar size and layout of all Milestones, but red. The price comes in at around £200 from RNIB.

### ReadEasy plus

This is a new text scanner. The device is about the size of a digital radio and has a pull out camera. This will take a picture of an A4 sheet of paper and read it as long as it is print. The controls are quite simple and voice settings for speed, volume and accent are available. It is semi portable but needs to plug into a wall socket. This item is brand new and only just released. The price is £1595 from VisionAid technologies, the same as most stand alone scanners. This seems to be the direction that stand alone scanners are moving towards and more alternatives to the flat bed scanner designs are being released.

The Computer Club is very open minded in its choice of subjects. We were very pleased to welcome Mr Bob Cristofoli, who was Mayor of Brighton in

1985. It was that year in which he accompanied our Patron to open the newly completed south wing.

Bob talked to us about the University of the Third Age (U3A). Branches exist all over the country and run courses on a host of subjects ranging from archeology to singing for pleasure; art or music appreciation to walking. Courses are run in people's homes if the group is small, to village halls. Charges vary enormously and range from £1 a time to £23 for a whole year. The U3A provides an excellent opportunity to keep the mind active and a chance to make friends.

Brad Crawshaw, despite having a busy business to run, generously gave us a whole afternoon of wisdom, advice and knowledge, which is still faultless after many years visiting us! Amongst much other information, Brad mentioned CCleaner, a register cleaning tool and is freely available - see Google.co.uk. He also mentioned Bootvis, available from Microsoft. This program gives indication on bootup status, the length of time various programs take to load, etc.

The Wednesday evening buffet is a delight of comradeship conviviality conversation and this time, curry! We are indebted to PBK for an excellent spread, served up by the wives - thank you all very much.

Thursday started with an excellent talk by David Dent of the IT Department on voice recognition. This is when the computer converts your speech into text on the screen or commands to the computer - well, that is the theory! David warned us that you cannot just sit in front of the screen and say, "take a letter to Bill"! On the one hand the user has to train the software to get used to any specific pronunciation. This involves reading many sentences into the computer to improve accuracy of understanding. The user must also know the computer commands to open or save a file, etc. It is a steep learning curve.

David amply explained the problems the software had of choosing the correct spelling. For example, if preceded by the definite or indefinite article, the word bear is likely to be spelt with 'ea'. But you can write about 'the bare facts', so that rule does not stand up. Many words will sound phonetically correct to those who use screen readers, but will, in fact, be incorrectly spelt in the context.

Although the software, Dragon Naturally Speaking has come well down in price to around £70, some 60% of purchasers give up using the program within a month. Notes on David's talk are available from him.

The meeting finished with the usual quiz devised by Harry Beevers, which underlined the ignorance of some, but engaged us all. Our grateful thanks.

The next gathering is on 19th and 20th October 2011. Please contact me if you have any suggestions for speakers or subjects.

Thanks to David, here are some useful tips and links:

Additional References from David Dent, IT Instructor.

If you are a computer technology enthusiast, you might consider joining the British Computer Association for the Blind (BCAB)\*; they describe themselves as 'a lively community of blind and partially sighted computer users' and they offer a range of services to their members. They also have a discussion list to which you can subscribe, whether you are a member or not: <http://www.bcab.org.uk/bcab-discussion-list>.

Fact sheets from AbilityNet

<http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/myway/Factsheets/Voice%20Recognition%20Software%20-%20An%20Introduction.pdf>

<http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/myway/Factsheets/Voice%20Recognition%20Software%20-%20Advanced.pdf>

AbilityNet's guide to using Windows 7 voice recognition

<http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/myway/Speech%20Recognition%20in%20Windows%207.php>

JSay (a speech recognition package for use with JAWS)

[http://www.tandt-consultancy.com/pages/j-say\\_information.php](http://www.tandt-consultancy.com/pages/j-say_information.php)

Dolphin Guide Hands Free

<http://www.yourdolphin.com/productdetail.asp?id=32>

Dragon Naturally Speaking

[http://shop.nuance.co.uk/store/nuanceeu/en\\_GB/Content/pbPage.landing](http://shop.nuance.co.uk/store/nuanceeu/en_GB/Content/pbPage.landing)

MacSpeech/Dragon Dictate for Mac

<http://www.macspeech.com/>

Sources of cheaper software:

Software for Students

<http://www.software4students.co.uk/>

Serif

<http://www.serif.com/>

# Amateur Radio Society

by Ray Peart.

St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society gathered from 25th February to 5th March to operate under the Callsign GX3 STD. Although somewhat depleted in numbers it was good to see longstanding friends. Everyone arrived safely at varying times with special thanks to St Dunstan's who provided transport where needed.

The Committee meeting was duly held on Friday 25th February in the Blue Room where various issues were discussed. Those in attendance were Secretary Ted John MBE, Ray Peart, Ray Hazan, John Bell, Dick Hardy and accompanying spouses.



Picture: Secretary Ray Hazan and Chairman Ray Peart.

Apologies were accepted from members who were unable to attend, including Edna McGoff. A special debt of gratitude was paid to Mary Frith for her kindness in assisting Ted. Sincere thanks were extended to John Houlihan and Eddie Wilson for their dedication and commitment in maintaining the station.

PBK Catering provided a very tasty luncheon, once again their staff excelled in the level of service provided. A secret ballot had been organized by Ray Peart to discuss the awarding of the G3 MOW Memorial Trophy. The vote was carried unanimously in favour of Ted John in recognition of 35 years of loyal service to the Society. Ted gracefully and emotionally accepted this accolade with enthusiastic applause.

Prior to luncheon the committee meeting was held. Ted had already expressed his wish to resign his position of Secretary/Treasurer which was accepted. Nominations were made for Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Unanimous voting resulted with the following elected: Chairman Ray Peart, Secretary Ray Hazan and Treasurer Claire Peart. The Committee now includes John Bell, Dick Hardy and Ted John.

The Station was well attended and operated by Ray Peart, Ray Hazan, John Bell, Dick Hardy, Ted John and new member Peter Barron. Special thanks are owed to Peter and Julia Hardy for their kindness and invaluable assistance during the event. A total of 327 contacts were made. Looking forward to the next one.



Picture: Ted John with the G3 MOW Memorial Trophy and Plaque.



# Matt Rhodes Presents Painting to RCDM Selly Oak

by Catherine Goodier.

Group Capt Wendy Williams, Commanding Officer, Royal Centre for Defence Medicine Selly Oak, was thrilled to accept a painting created by St Dunstaner Matthew Rhodes on behalf of the Unit. Matt visited RCDM Selly Oak on 16 February, with his guide dog Karlo when he addressed staff at the Unit telling them about St Dunstan's and how he discovered his talent as an artist thanks to the staff at St Dunstan's Craft Workshop in Ovingdean.



Picture: Matt Rhodes with Gp Capt Wendy Williams.

# Reunion Roundup.

by Donna Kantaris, Welfare Support Officer.

The first Reunion of the year took place at Ovingdean on 23 February and was attended by 22 St Dunstaners, one widow, 14 escorts and carers and St Dunstan's staff. The Presiding Officer was Tim Bacon, who gave those present an update on the Centre in Llandudno, which was met with interest. Ray Price a resident at Ovingdean made the response, gamely rising from his wheelchair to do so.

The second Reunion of the year was held at Ovingdean on 1 March. It was attended by 25 St Dunstaners, three widows and 19 wives and escorts, along with St Dunstan's staff. The Presiding Officer was St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan who spoke of the younger war blinded St Dunstaners and how they demonstrate what can be achieved with willpower, courage and support. He used Paul Jacobs' successful ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro to underline his speech – but then Ray knows all about achievement. The respondent was David Weltman.

The menu for both Reunions was green bean soup with minted croutons, beef Wellington, and a lemon gateau. The food was very well received and thanks go to PBK.

## And from Barbara Sweeney, PA to Welfare Services

Where else but a St Dunstan's reunion are you given the opportunity to chat (and laugh) with a WWII widow whose ties to the organisation go back to 1943? Or share with a St Dunstaner his vivid memories of how WW1 affected his parents' generation. You can meet up with those you have not seen for several years, those that you see every year, or those who have just joined. And don't forget the escorts, who have their own pasts.....has anyone else out there sipped mint tea with Colonel Gadaffi in the middle of the dessert in the mid-1970s? Reunions are made up of the St Dunstan's family, and like most family gatherings we leave with smiles on our faces – and stories to dine out on for the next few months!

# Cadets Clean Up.

by Colin Williamson, Cade Challenge Project Officer.

Colin Williamson, Cadet Challenge Project Officer, presented Cadets from 177 (Blackpool Airport) Squadron ATC with certificates, medals and the Winner's trophy for the 2010 Cadet & Youth Challenge Competition.

As this is the third year in succession the Squadron has won the trophy they have decided to give someone else a chance this year. They will take a sabbatical from the competition and come back refreshed and reinvigorated for 2012! The Cadets will travel to Ghana in October to assist with the clean water and sanitation project set up by St Dunstaner Dave Stuttard, reported on in the March edition of the Review.



Picture: Cadets from 177 (Blackpool Airport) Squadron ATC receive their certificates.

# A Date with History.

An interview with David Eyton-Jones.

by Catherine Goodier.

**We bring you the concluding part of David Eyton-Jones story from his time with the SAS in Italy in 1945.**

In the foothills near Reggio Emilia was the Botteghe di Albinea, the wine bottling place for the local wine Lambrusco. Two villas were the homes and a huge barn was where local farmers brought their wine to be bottled and effervescence added to make a sparkling flavoursome aperitif.

The Villa Rossi and Villa Calvi were at that time occupied by the German 51st Corps HQ and the force of some 30 British and Partisans selected for their aggression were to attack by night. The previous day they had reached a farmhouse called Casa Da Lupo 'The House of the Wolf' and they overlooked Albinea. All were expectant of their attack on the target.

Whilst there a wireless message came from SOE HQ in Florence to abort the attack as the area could be an easy target for American bombers. The Italians were horrified that their expectations of a direct attack on German HQ would be lost and realised that American bombing could devastate the village of Albinea.

They convinced Roy Farran that he should not give up the direct attack and the message from Florence was ignored. Lieutenant Riccomeni led the attack on the Villa Rossi. He was killed along with two of the British force. Ken Harvey led the attack on the Villa Calvi while the Germans carried out their resistance from the rooms above.

Mike Lees and Corporal Langburn were injured during the attacks. Both parties withdrew carrying the injured before it became daylight. From the House of the Wolf they could view the German transport loading and removing the Corps HQ across the Po Valley. It was a successful attack and the Germans pulled out.

"The German's rastrellamento focused on the sacking of Villa Minnotso. All the Partisans combined together to form a large force to prevent the Germans crossing the river at the bridge at Gatta. Easter Sunday the Germans did a head long retreat being somewhat discouraged by the massive advance of the Partisans towards them.

"To finish our mission a Spanish interpreter serving with the SAS and I had the sombre task to reclaim the bodies of those members of the SAS who were killed in the attack on the villas.

"Only when Operation Tombola had been deemed a success did we return to England onboard a troop ship. After the SAS were disbanded in September 1945 I rejoined the Royal Sussex Regiment, returning to Northern Italy when I was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain before going on to serve in Palestine. I stayed with the Royal Sussex Regiment until I was demobilised in 1947.

"After the war I had to start again and I was lucky enough to meet my wife Diana who had been a WAF in the war. We married and at the age of 27 moved to Assam in India where I was fortunate in obtaining the Managership of an estate of 1500 acres early in my career. We had some 750 workers and I introduced a crèche, school and medical centre making it a community as people lived on the plantation as their housing was provided. They were good years producing a heavy crop of quality tea and my wife's production was four children during those years."



Picture: David Eyton-Jones (far right) at the Partisan Reunion in Bologna.

## Poet's Corner.

St Dunstaner Alexander (Sandy) Donnelly from Dunfermline in Fife penned the poem we have pleasure to reproduce.

Here at St Dunstan's for an introductory week,  
To help change our lives in the way we seek,  
Learning new ways to do things we have always done,  
Trying new things from a scanner to a gun,  
With brains full of knowledge our lives start anew,  
For partners and wives their lives change too.

Heartfelt thanks we give to St Dunstan's staff,  
Now we have hope and can smile and laugh.  
With all the changes life will be better,  
Now sit and write St Dunstan's a thank you letter.

Five days, a whole week of induction,  
To teach you new ways in which to function,  
It changes your life in many a way,  
Helps you to work, rest and play.

Breakfast, dinner and evening meal,  
Even your travel is part of the deal,  
All the staff really do care,  
They look after you well when you are there.

From IT with Teresa to sport with Mandy,  
Gadgets from ROVI that are very handy.  
Big Martin to guide you around,  
If you get lost you'll always be found.

Come back again for some time by the sea,  
If a better person you want to be.  
With so much to do in different places,  
People to meet but not see their faces.

Always remember whatever you do,  
Those two important words 'Thank You',

## Beer of the Month.

Colin Williamson has gone Continental for the April Beer of the Month

Lefte Bruin is a splendid Belgian Brown Ale which is readily available here in the UK from most major supermarkets and Off Licenses. It pours a lovely dark brown with a tan, foamy head which tends to last throughout leaving nice lacing on the glass. The choice of glass to use when drinking Belgian beers is considered very important by beer enthusiasts but for the average drinker a nice, smooth large Brandy type glass will suffice. This ale has a lovely chocolaty, nutty, dark fruits and spicy nose to it and it is deceptively strong but hides it well due to its complex flavours. A very nice beer which is easily drinkable.



Picture: Lefte Bruin.

## Answers to Ten questions on... The subject "Royal Marriages" from page 18.

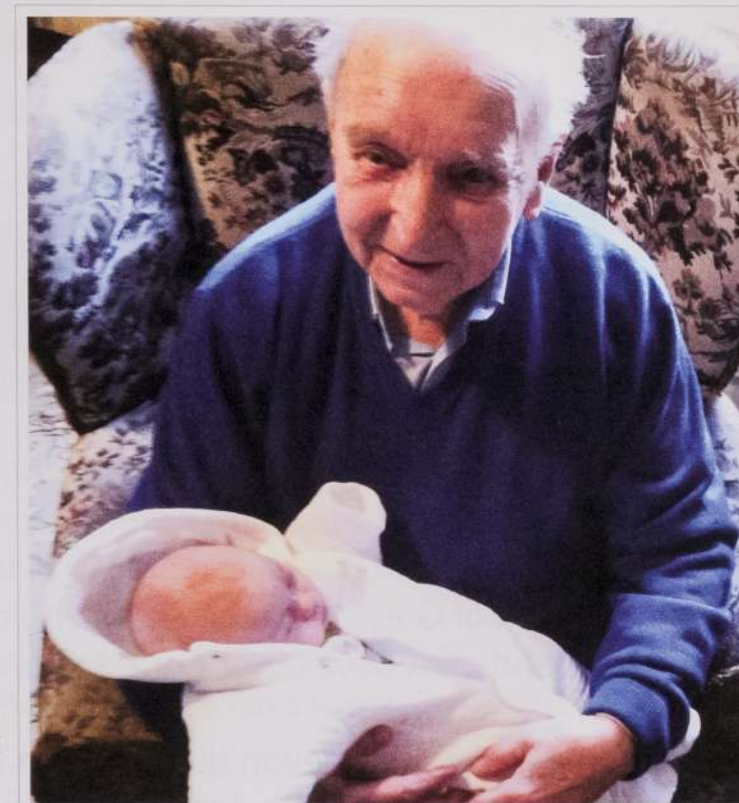
1. Queen Victoria.
2. They all married wives named Catherine.
3. Armstrong Jones.
4. Macbeth.
5. Sweden, she married Carl 16, Gustav.
6. York Minster.
7. Princess Anne when she married Captain Mark Phillips.
8. Princess Margaret and Antony Armstrong-Jones.
9. Princess Margaret and Princess Alexandra.
10. A digamist is someone who has more than one legal marriage.

## Family News

### Congratulations to:

St Dunstaner William Allgood who recently became a great-grandfather for the first time when Lucy and Richard gave birth to Lola Grace on November 17th 2010.

Steven and Angelina Caskin on the birth of their daughter, Isla Danielle on 22nd February in Minot, North Dakota, who weighed in at 6 lbs 9ozs. Angelina is the daughter of Maria Bullingham of Smethwick, West Midlands, wife of St Dunstaner, Terry Bullingham.



Picture: Great Grandfather William Allgood and Lola.

### Weddings.

#### Blue Sapphire:

Jim & Valerie Lile of Newton Abbot, Devon on 7th March.  
John & Violet Holloway of Droitwich, Worcestershire on 9th March.

#### Diamond:

Jacob & Dorothy Morgan of Swansea, West Glamorgan on 8th March.  
George & Mary Hewitt of Upwell near Wisbech on 28th March.  
Cyril & Margaret Catchpole of Pulborough, West Sussex on 31st March.  
Tony & Helen Armshaw of Southampton, Hampshire on 31st March.

#### Golden:

Leslie & Jenny Davy of Romford, Essex on 18th March.  
Colin & Eileen Green of Barnsley, South Yorkshire on 18th March.

Robert & Marjorie Dawson of Trimdon Station, Durham on 18th March.  
Robert & Anne Grainger of York, North Yorkshire on 22nd March.  
Alek & Sylvia Skiba of Blackpool, Lancashire on 27th March.

**Ruby:**

Francis & Marie Murphy of Brighton, East Sussex on 20th March.

**Silver:**

Alan & Ruby Breeze of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire on 11th March.  
Clive & Sharon Holman of Burgess Hill, West Sussex on 22nd March.

**We regret to announce the death of:**

**Sylvia Adams** of Barry, South Glamorgan who died on 15th February 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner John Adams.

**John Ainsworth** of Gosport, Hampshire who died on 15th January 2011, he was the husband of St Dunstaner Anne Ainsworth.

**Joyce Davis** of Northam, Devon died on 11th December 2010, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Archibald Davis.

**Martha Davies** of Blackwood, Gwent died on 5th March 2011, she was the widow of the late St Dunstaner Thomas J. Davies.

**Queenie Dupree** of Thetford, Norfolk died on 27th February 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Stanley Dupree.

**Rebecca 'Bett' Hall** of Haywards Heath, West Sussex died on 24th February 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Richard Hall.

**Doris Haslam** of Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire died on 4th March 2011; she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Roy Haslam.

**Violet Hadley** of Edgware, Middlesex died on 5th February 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Malcolm Hadley.

**Helen Miller** of Brighton, East Sussex, who died on 16th February 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner, the late Mr Aubrey Miller.

# Welcome to **St Dunstan's**

**Norman Ashworth** of Norwich, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**Darren Blanks** of Egremont, Cumbria served in the King's Royal Hussars from 2003 to 2008.

**Julie Booth** of Melton Mowbray, Leics served in the Royal Air Force from 1966 to 1969.

**Richard Bullock** of Liverpool served in the Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment from 1939 to 1946.

**Norman Charlton** of Barnsley served in the General Service Corps from April 1943 to May 1943 and in the Royal Army Medical Corps from May 1943 to October 1947.

**Kingsman Anthony Cooper** of Chorley, Lancs who is serving with the 1 Lancashire Regiment.

**Cyril Cornbill** of Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

**Charles Dodman** of Fakenham, Norfolk served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1949 to 1954.

**Harry Etherton** of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk served in the Royal Artillery from February 1938 to September 1942, in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from September 1942 to October 1942. He then served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from October 1942 to April 1946.

**Frank Greenhalgh** of Burnley, Lancs served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1946 to 1948.

**Joseph Hallett** of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire served in the South Staffordshire Regiment from January 1951 to January 1953 and in the Mercian Brigade from January 1953 to July 1956.

**Bryan Harris** of Coleford, Glocs served in the Royal Signals from 1951 to 1956.

**Neil Harris** of Lytham St Anne's, Lancs served in the Royal Air Force from 1937 to 1970.

**James Haworth** of Leigh, Nelson Lancs served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1946.

**Bernard Marsden** of Nelson, Lancs served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1953.

**Harry Miners** of Plymouth served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**William Monck** of Hexham, Northumberland served in the Royal Navy from 1948 to 1955.

**Raymond Murcott** of Wokingham, Berks served in the Grenadier Guards from 1942 to 1947.

**Reginald Neighbour** of Windsor, Berks served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Betty Oliver** of Thetford, Norfolk served in the Voluntary Aid Detachment from 1942 to 1945.

**William Perry** of Seaford, East Sussex served in the General Service Corps from June 1943 to July 1943 and in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from July 1943 to October 1947.

**Kelvin Platt** of Ilkeston, Derbyshire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from January 1982 to April 1992 and in the Adjutant General's Corps from April 1992 to October 1995.

**Kenneth Rigby** of Colchester served in the Royal Artillery from 1952 to 1958.

**Frederick Robson** of Ashington Northumberland served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1953 to 1958.

**Ian Shepherd** of Ashted, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Stanley Thomas** of Leeds, West Yorks served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

**Sylvia Watts** of Lincoln served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 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.

## **Stanley Cooper, Royal Army Service Corps**

Stanley Cooper of Horley, Surrey died on 19th February 2011, aged 87. Called up in 1942 he carried out his basic training in Aldershot and joined the Royal Army Service Corps, specialising as a driver. He served in the UK before landing on D+3 on Sword Beach, Normandy. Mr Cooper moved through France into Holland and Germany before returning to the UK. He was posted to Egypt and demobilised in 1946. On discharge he returned to the building trade before he went into furniture manufacturing. He subsequently had a variety of jobs in engineering prior to working for the Post Office where he remained until he retired.

## **David Currie, Royal Engineers and Territorial Army**

David Currie of Rotherhithe, South East London died on 7th February 2011, aged 84. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1946 and trained at Aberdeen before he was posted to Düsseldorf, Germany prior to discharge as a Sapper in 1948. He was then in the Lowland Brigade 6/7 Cameronians TA in Scotland from 1958 to 1959 and in the London Irish Rifles TA from 1962 to 1964. Widowed he had lived with his partner Sylvia for many years. He had five children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

## **Harry Downes, Royal Air Force**

Harry Downes of Lancaster, Lancashire died on 28th February 2011, aged 90. He joined the RAF in 1941 and served in UK Air Stations. As he had poor eyesight he didn't qualify for aircrew but qualified as an airborne radar operator and later became a radar instructor. He was discharged as a Corporal in 1946. Widowed in the 1990s, Mr Downes married his second wife Jayne in 2001.

## **Edwin Forster, Hampshire Regiment, Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Air Force**

Edwin Forster of Swaffham, Norfolk died on 19th February 2011, aged 93. Mr Forster joined the Hampshire Regiment in 1940 and served in the Middle East. He was later in France, Italy and Greece before discharge in 1946. After the war he joined the RASC briefly from 1948 to 1950 before transferring to the RAF, finally leaving as a Corporal in 1955. In civilian life he was a driver for an office company, delivering office furniture. He was later a minder for 20 years.

**Eric Goodwin**

Eric Goodwin of Sheffield died on 5th March 2011, aged 96. He joined the Royal Scots in 1940 and remained with the training establishment as a Sergeant Training Instructor. He continued in this role in various locations around the UK including GHQ at Clacton before discharge in 1946. He then settled in Sheffield having trained as an engineer. Married to Marion, they had a daughter and grandchildren.

**Arthur Hanna, Royal Air Force**

Arthur Hanna of Maids Moreton, Buckingham died on 15th February 2011, aged 84. He worked for Windsor & Newton artist's materials in Harrow before he joined the RAF in 1944, serving in the UK and Germany. He was discharged in 1947 and returned to Windsor & Newton where he stayed for the remainder of his work life. He was married to Evelyn.

**Laurence Holt, Royal Air Force**

Laurence Holt of Bicester, Oxfordshire died on 13th February 2011, aged 97. He joined the RAF in 1936 and trained at RAF Hendon before he joined 600 Squadron as an Air Frame Fitter, working on the Hawker Hart. He served in North Africa, Italy and the UK before discharge in 1945. Widowed in 1988, Mr Holt had two sons.

**James Hoy, Royal Navy**

James Hoy of Bootle, Merseyside died on 22nd February 2011, aged 87. He joined the Engine Room branch of the Royal Navy in 1942 and served initially in Hunt Class destroyers and later in HMS Cavalier and HMS Armada. He was briefly in submarines. He served in Russian convoys but was invalided out due to severe dermatitis caused by diesel fuel. He was treated in a hospital in Cairo and was discharged in 1951 when he returned to Kirkdale.

**John 'Jack' Humphrey, Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment)**

John 'Jack' Humphrey of Long Eaton, Nottingham died on 20th February 2011, aged 87. He joined the Sherwood Foresters in August 1941 and carried out his basic training at No 7 Recruit Training Unit at North Camp, Lincoln. He was based in the UK as a qualified Anti-Tank Instructor at the Small Arms, High Town, Liverpool. He landed in France from a glider on D-Day 'Off course and in the wrong location'. He injured his hand and was evacuated back to the UK. He was then attached to the Green Howards and continued with the advance through Belgium after which he returned to the Sherwood Foresters before he was demobilised in 1946. He married Cynthia in 1947 but sadly she died in January 2002. He leaves a daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Martin James, Pioneer Corps**

Martin James of Jarrow, Tyne and Wear died on 11th February 2011, aged 91. He joined the Pioneer Corps in 1941. He was in the Army Fire Service serving in the UK and India prior to his discharge as a Staff Sergeant in 1946. Mr James then worked as a bricklayer and in various manual jobs. Widowed in 1996 he had four sons and three daughters, 16 grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**John Janes, Royal Sussex Regiment**

John Janes of Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex died on 16th January 2011, aged 91. He joined the 7th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment in May 1939 and was in the British Expeditionary Force. Evacuated from Dunkirk he eventually joined the 109th Light Ack Ack Regiment. He took part in the invasion of France where he moved through Holland and Belgium before getting to Hamburg. He was discharged in May 1946. Following discharge, Mr Janes joined the building trade covering many different skills. He married Marjorie in Brighton in 1944 and they had two daughters, grandchildren and a great granddaughter.

**Douglas Lewis, Manchester Regiment**

Douglas Lewis of Hessle, North Humberside died on 16th February 2011, aged 92. He joined the Manchester Regiment in 1939 and served in the UK, France and Belgium prior to medical discharge as a Lance Corporal in 1945. Widowed in 2008 he had three children, two daughters and a son, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**William Malins, Royal Air Force**

William Malins of Bicester, Oxfordshire died on 2nd March 2011, aged 95. Brought up on his Father's farm Mr Malins was commissioned into the RAF in 1938. He served in Squadrons all over the world, including Northern Europe, Australia, Africa and the UK, both during and after WWII. He retired as a Wing Commander on 8 May 1952. Following service Mr Malins returned to Bicester to take over the family farm from his father. Mr Malins' wife died in 2009 and he leaves five children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Agnes Milne, Women's Royal Air Force**

Agnes Milne of Nairn, Nairnshire died on 24th February 2011, aged 87. She volunteered and joined the WRAF in 1941, training at RAF Bridgnorth and RAF Redcar, specialising as a driver before moving to stores and supplies where she remained for the duration of the war. Following her service in the UK, including a three year period at Andreas in the Isle of Man, she was discharged in 1946. Following discharge, Mrs Milne joined the Meteorological Office in Inverness. She met her husband George in the forces and they married in 1949. Widowed in 1992 they had a son and two daughters.

**Leon Monkman, Royal Navy**

Leon Monkman of Grange over Sands, Cumbria died on 15th February 2011, aged 86. During the war he was a Navigator's Yeoman 1st Class and his job was to plot the U-Boat positions in the Irish Sea on a chart. Hedgehog bombs were then used to bring the U-boats to the surface. He later went to the Far East on HMS Anson and visited Hong Kong, Japan, Australia & Tasmania. Married to Eva for 53 years until her death they had three sons.

**Albert Pearson, Royal Tank Regiment**

Albert Pearson of Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex died on 6th March 2011, aged 95. He served in the Royal Tank Regiment from 1940 to 1945 holding the rank of Corporal. He served at home and in Egypt, Palestine and South Africa. He fought at El Alamein. At the end of the war he returned to civilian life and was employed at Harrods in the offices where he remained until he retired in 1980.

**Donald Pilgrim, Royal Marines**

Donald Pilgrim of Braunstone, Leicestershire died on 7th March 2011, aged 86. He joined the Royal Marines in 1943 but as a result of hearing loss from Bren gun discharge early in his service he was never deployed abroad. His colleagues went to Normandy, which was a great disappointment to him and as a result he was reluctant to wear his WWII medals. He served in Rosyth, Scotland, and later Wales and London before he was discharged in 1946. After the war Mr Pilgrim returned to work as a painter and decorator, eventually running his own business. Mr Pilgrim married Sheila in 1952 and they had two daughters and three grandchildren.

**John Thompson, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

John Thompson, of Seaham, Co. Durham died on 9th February 2011, aged 86. He worked as a mechanic at the Northern General Bus Company in Gateshead before commencement of his National Service in 1946. He trained with the Buffs in Canterbury, Kent and then with the REME in Reading prior to being posted to 7 Command Workshops at Warminster where he completed his National Service. He was discharged as a Craftsman Grade 2 in 1948. He returned to the Northern General Bus Company where he remained for 47 years. He was married to Elizabeth.

**Joyce Vince, Nursing Service**

Joyce Vince of Chelmsford, Essex died on 4th February 2011, aged 90. Mrs Vince served in the Nursing Service from 1939 until 1956.

**Jack White, Royal Navy**

Jack White of Letchworth, Hertfordshire died on 18th February 2011, aged 85. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 at Chatham and served in LST421 in Burma. The vessel operated between Burma and Cochin, India and was near Bangkok when Mr White was captured by the Japanese. He became a PoW in Changi Jail and following repatriation was discharged as a 1st Class Stoker in 1946. After his return to the UK and following a period of convalescence he worked as a driver with ICL, a computer systems and software company, for 26 years. Mr White married Hilda in 1943 but sadly she died, he leaves a daughter and two grandchildren.

**Roger Dunford, Royal Navy**

Roger Dunford of Hove, East Sussex died on 2nd March 2011, aged 88. He joined the Royal Navy in December 1940 and trained at HMS Collingwood in Fareham where he qualified as a gunner and commissioned at HMS King Arthur in Hove. Having served as Navigating Officer in HMS Verdun, a destroyer and Loch class frigates, Mr Dunford was discharged as a Temporary Lieutenant in August 1946 having served in Malaysia, Ceylon and Scotland. He returned to Brighton where he worked with his father as a small credit trader. He eventually took over and ran his father's business for 26 years before selling it. Mr Dunford's was married to Veronica and they had three children.

**Sydney Guy, Royal West Kent Regiment**

Sydney Guy of Basildon, Essex died on 8th March 2011, aged 91. Mr Guy joined the Royal West Kent Regiment in April 1940. He served in the Middle East, Egypt, Palestine and the Sudan. He fought in Italy and was wounded in the right leg by shrapnel. He ended the war in Austria and was demobilised in September 1946. He resumed employment as a hairdresser in Basildon but at the age of 45 he changed careers to work at the Ilford film factory, where he remained until he retired. Widowed in 1998, Mr Guy had two children.

**Peter Palmer, General Service Corps, Border Regiment and the South Wales Borderers.**

Peter Palmer of Westminster, West London died in May 2010, aged 83. Mr Palmer joined the Border Regiment in September 1944, training in Scotland. He went to Normandy, attached to the US Army and fought through to Germany. He then transferred to the South Wales Borderers in March 1945 and was in intelligence in Rimini, Italy where he helped to run a POW camp. He was discharged in March 1948 as a Sergeant when he returned to Worcestershire to become a driving instructor. He later emigrated to America and lived in Washington where he bought two petrol stations and ran a Renault/Peugeot dealership. He returned to London in 1998. Mr Palmer was widowed and his three children live in America. He leaves his partner Angie.



# Alf Meets The Swingtime Sweethearts.

St Dunstaner Alf Lockhart enjoyed a concert put on by The Not Forgotten Association at Ovingdean on 9 March when he met performers Le'arna and Annie The Swingtime Sweethearts.

The Grand Finale: The Swingtime Sweethearts with Victoria Yellop and Mickie Driver and pianist Janet Beale in the background.



Picture: The Grand Finale



Picture: Alf Lockhart with The Swingtime Sweethearts