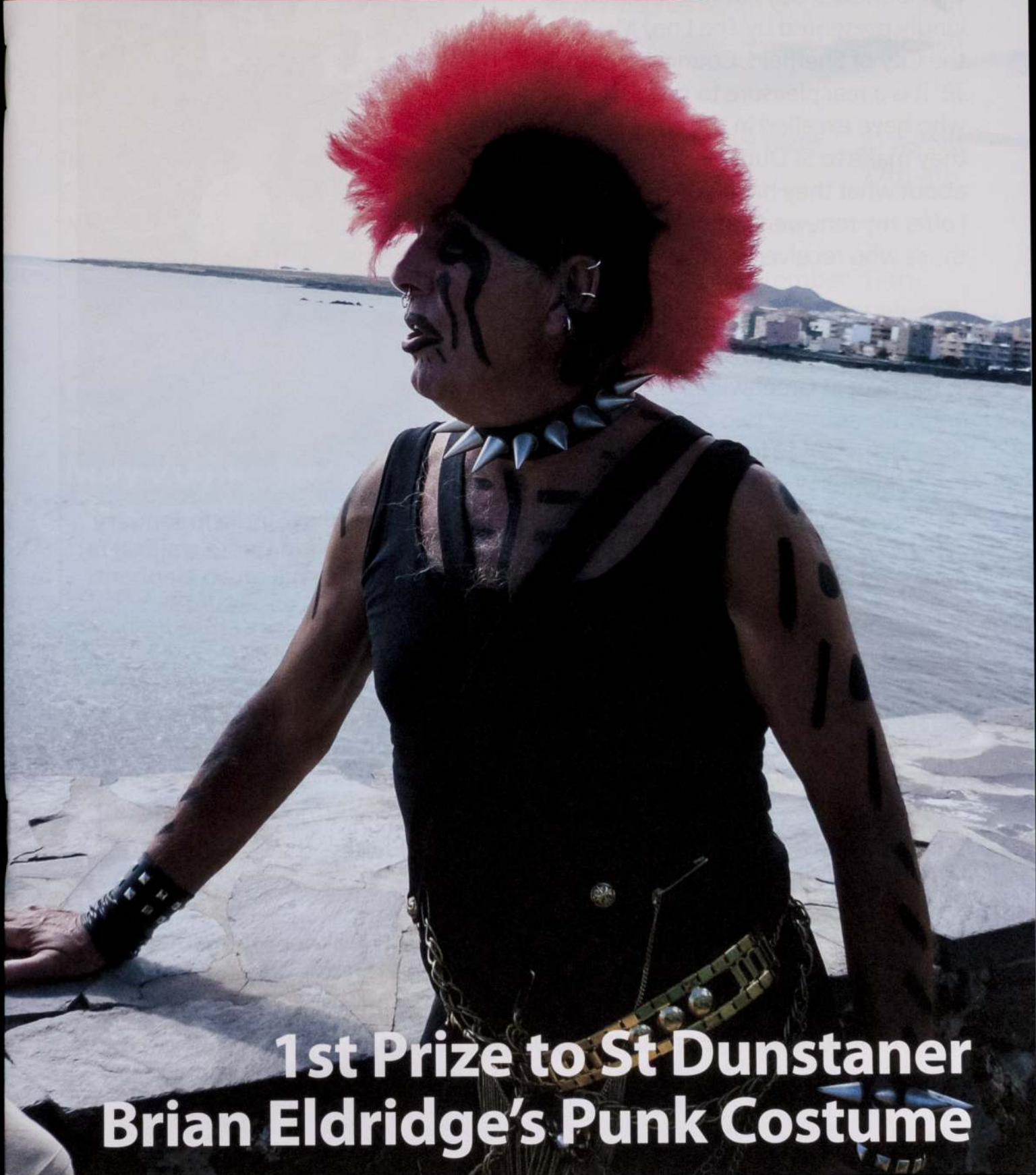


St Dunstan's

May 2011

# Review



**1st Prize to St Dunstaner  
Brian Eldridge's Punk Costume**



# From the Chairman.

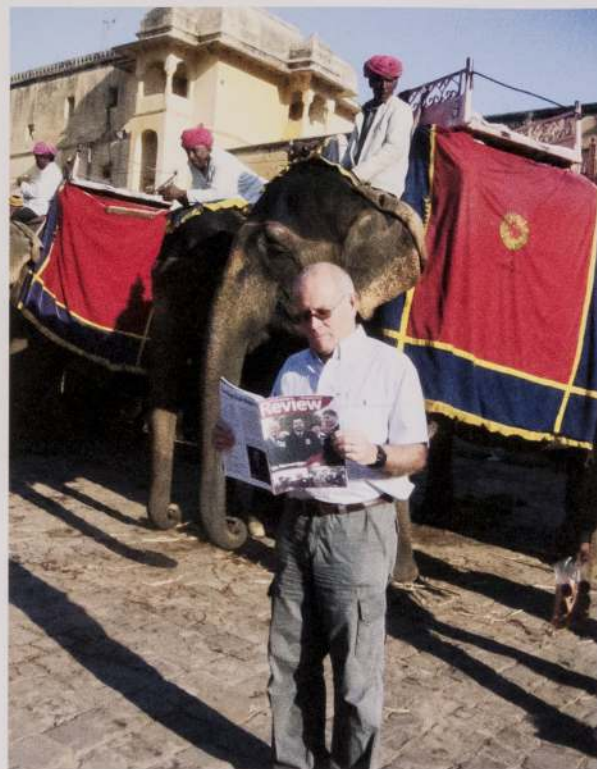
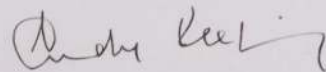
Your message from Major General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE, RM.

It was a great joy to be in Sheffield for the Founder's Day Awards last month, kindly presented by The Lord Mayor of the City of Sheffield, Councillor Alan Law JP. It is a real pleasure to meet those who have excelled in the contributions they make to St Dunstan's, and to hear about what they have done for us all. So I offer my renewed congratulations to all those who received certificates that day.

I also had the good fortune to join a few St Dunstaners on a visit to HMS Bulwark in the river at Greenwich. Having served many times in her two predecessors, HMS Fearless and Intrepid, including in the Falklands War, it was fascinating and very reassuring to see how much more capable this new Landing Ship is. Since that visit her sister ship, HMS Albion, has deployed to the Mediterranean to cover the crisis in Libya, so maybe Bulwark will follow suit quite soon.

Following the retirement of two Trustees last year I am pleased to tell you that we now have two new Members of Council. Major General David Rutherford-Jones was commissioned into the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, he later commanded The Light Dragoons, then commanded 20 Armoured Brigade in Kosovo and Iraq and was subsequently Commandant at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Colonel Mike Brooke was commissioned into the Royal Marines then transferred to the Royal Engineers where he stayed for over 30 years in a variety of interesting and varied appointments around the world. Mike is also an extremely accomplished sailor. We are lucky to have them both.



Picture: Reading the Review in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India in January when Woppy and I were waiting to hitch a lift up a hill on an elephant!

# St Dunstan's Calendar.

## May

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

## June

Church Stretton 50 Year Badge Holders 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

## August

Sports & Activities Week 21st-26th  
Archery Club 27th-4th

## September

Writers' Forum September 17th  
History Week 18th-24th

## St Dunstan's Review

May 2011 No 1,012

Contact: Catherine Goodier  
Tel: 020 7616 8367  
E-mail: catherine.goodier@st-dunstans.org.uk

### On the cover:

The photograph features St Dunstaner Brian Eldridge who won first prize in a fancy dress competition.



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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



# Noticeboard.

Dates for your diary and useful information.

## **Concert by The Band of H.M. Royal Marines Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011, Ovingdean.**

It is approaching that time again when we will soon have the pleasure of the company of the Band of H.M. Royal Marines at St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

We at St Dunstan's are privileged each year to experience the magic of this Concert; a day which is always immensely enjoyed by all. This special event is a highlight amongst our annual programme for local and visiting St Dunstaners. However hosting this event also provides an opportunity to invite and give something back to our volunteers, VIPs and supporters and to demonstrate our ongoing connection with this group of people.

As you are aware it is a popular event and we only have a limited number of seats available for local St Dunstaners and their spouses. If you wish to apply for a place please contact: Charlotte Davies on 01273 391412.

There will be a limited bus service for St Dunstaners living in the immediate vicinity of Ovingdean who require the assistance of transport. If you do live locally and are able to make your own way in this would help to alleviate unwanted pressure on the Transport Department.

Lunch Bookings will not be accepted on the day except for those already staying in house.

Order of Events for the Afternoon:-

1330	Pimms served in the Inner Garden
1400 – 1515	Band of H.M. Royal Marines Concert
1520	Afternoon Tea in the Inner Garden
1600	Guests Depart

## **Biennial Satisfaction Survey.**

Once again St Dunstan's has commissioned an independent survey to monitor our services and to seek views and comments from St Dunstaners and widows. Clariant Research will carry out the survey by telephone, asking a series of questions with each interviewee, which should last from 15-20 minutes.

Those who might be contacted will receive a letter notifying them to that effect. Clariant researchers will select interviewees at random and the telephone surveys will take place during June. All information gathered will be confidential to St Dunstan's and no comments will be attributable to individuals. Your co-operation is appreciated. Results will be published in the autumn.

## **Royal Military School of Music to hold a Concert in aid of St Dunstan's.**

From 7.50pm on 15th June 2011 a concert will take place at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 7DU in aid of St Dunstan's.

The concert entitled Swift and Bold will be performed by The Band & Bugles of the Rifles and the Band of the Royal Logistic Corps.

The concert represents a valuable training opportunity for Student Bandmasters and Trainees from the Royal Military School of Music to perform a varied programme of music that includes classical, show, and military, pop, vocal and novelty acts.

As it is an outdoor concert bring your own picnics and refreshments, blankets and chairs. Refreshments are also available on site and chairs and blankets are available to hire in the concert shop on the night.

Gates open at 6pm and the concert runs from 7.50pm until 9.40pm. Fireworks may feature throughout the concert.

Free tickets are available for injured personnel and ex Service men and women, plus one carer.

Otherwise tickets cost £10 and £8 for under 16s and OAPs, and £5 for MOD personnel. For group bookings of 10 plus, one member of the party goes free and there is free car parking.

To book telephone: 020 8744 8633.



## 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 on 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.

## Events at the V&A for Blind & Partially Sighted Visitors.

All V&A Events are accessible to blind or partially sighted visitors and an accompanying friend or carer. Touch tours in May and June include:

### The Cult of Beauty Tuesday 10 May from 2pm to 3pm

Enjoy a touch tour of the major new exhibition on the Aesthetic Movement 1860-1900, including works by William Morris.

### Ironwork Gallery Thursday 9 June 2pm to 3pm

Join a touch tour of outstanding examples of contemporary and historic ironwork.

To book: Phone: 020 7942 2211 or Fax: 020 7942 2524 or  
Email: [bookings.office@vam.ac.uk](mailto:bookings.office@vam.ac.uk)

## Artist Open House Weekends at Ovingdean throughout May.

Artist Open House is nearly upon us, starting 7th May and running for four weekends. The Art and Craft department is delighted to host this event as part of the Brighton Festival Artist Open House when we will open our doors to St Dunstaners, plus the wider and local community.

At this free event we hope to raise awareness of art and visual impairment in the wider community, showcasing the wonderful work produced by the fantastically creative St Dunstaners and staff in an exhibition, including drawings, paintings, mosaics, sculptures and many other items.

We will also invite visitors to explore the idea of what it is like undertaking creative activities when visually impaired.

We will highlight the importance of access to art activities for all visually impaired people and encourage an engagement with the arts.

There will be an opportunity to join a timed tour of the historic listed building in addition to a lunchtime relax in our garden! Refreshments will be available throughout the day and there will be interactive activities for all.

Doors open at 10am to 4pm on May 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 21st, 22nd, 28th & 29th  
Please get in touch if you have any questions. Esther Freeman, Art & Craft Manager,  
Tel: 01273 391466.

## Correction.

In the Computer Club report published in the April Review, the impression may have been incorrectly given that 60% of purchasers of Dragon Naturally Speaking ceased using the program within a month. The author apologises to Nuance, manufacturers of Dragon Naturally Speaking. The figure quoted referred to a past survey of users of several voice recognition products, not to Dragon Naturally Speaking.



Picture: Example of the work by St Dunstaners at Artist Open House.



## Latchetts Garden Open Day on 1st June.

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



Picture: Latchetts Garden.

Latchetts Garden, at Danehill near Haywards Heath in West Sussex is the home of St Dunstaner Laurence and Rebeka Hardy. Fascinating and beautifully kept the country garden covers eight acres and there will be opportunities to learn about the colourful borders and unusual plants. There will be time 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)

## If you like to be beside the seaside.

Join us on 12th June for a four mile sponsored Seaside Saunter starting at the Peace Statue on Hove Lawns at 11am. Enjoy the four mile walk along the coastal path which will take you from Hove to the grounds of St Dunstan's Centre in Ovingdean.

Once you arrive at St Dunstan's why not stay awhile and relax with a cup of tea and piece of cake and listen to some music.

It costs £10 to take part in the Seaside Saunter. To register please contact: Melinda Dixon on 01273 391455. The event in the grounds is open to all and starts at 12.30pm.

## Calling All ex RAF 'Erks' Reunion Parade Sunday 3rd July.

A Reunion Parade will take place at the RAF Museum at Cosford, Shropshire on Sunday 3rd July 2011 organised by the National Service (RAF) Association, with the support of the RAF Museum and RAF Cosford.

All ex RAF personnel, including WAAF and ex WRAF, National Service or Regulars are invited to come along for the day. Try and arrive by 9.30am and ATC displays start at 10.00 hours.

A Parade and March Past, with the Central Band of the RAF will take place at 11.00hrs – under the tender care of ex 1950s Drill Instructors – true! And it will give you the opportunity to once more march and salute the Ensign under which we all once served. Reviewing Officer: Air Vice Marshall M G Lloyd (Air member for Personnel).

Join us, with your families for a free memorable day of nostalgia and all things Royal Air Force, including input from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at 13.00 hrs.

At 14.00 hrs the unveiling of the New National Service Exhibition – including the National Cold War Exhibition Hangar will take place, to be unveiled by a Senior Govt Minister. There will also be 30 stands.

For further information/local accommodation etc please contact Pat Honey: on tel: 01782 516887, email: [pgh87@talktalk.net](mailto:pgh87@talktalk.net) - Visit website [www.nsrafa.org](http://www.nsrafa.org)

## Many Happy Returns:

To St Dunstaner Bernard Holden from Ditchling in East Sussex who celebrated his 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday on 15th March.



Picture: Celebrating 103 years.

## Short Story Competition.

We will feature the Highly Commended short story Pre-War Memories by George Oliver from Brighton in the June edition of the Review.



# Llandudno Update

by Helen Emmerson, Head of Centre Services.

As the weather gets hotter, so does the work on our third Centre. The building works continue at full pace, with many of the internal rooms and areas now starting to take shape. Working groups of key staff are busy planning and preparing work plans to ensure all the required systems for setting up this exciting new venture are covered. A recruitment schedule has commenced and our first few positions have been successfully recruited.

Mark Lovatt who had a distinguished career with the RAF, rising to the rank of Squadron Leader has accepted the the position of Centre Manager and is looking forward to starting in May. We have also recruited a new Regional Fundraiser, Penny Growcoat and Stacey Short a temporary HR Officer. The coming months will see many more interviews and positions filled. All of the new staff at Llandudno will receive a thorough induction process and many will spend time at both Ovingdean and Sheffield to gain an insight into the Charity's operations and how our Centres work.

As reported previously, there are many St Dunstaners interested in staying at Llandudno. Bookings for the Centre will be taken from the 1st July 2011 through the bookings office at Ovingdean.



Picture: St Dunstaner John Robinson at the Llandudno Centre in March 2011.

# You've Been Punked!

St Dunstan's fundraising supremos Brian and Margaret Eldridge have been at it again. During a break in Tenerife they seized the opportunity to fundraise when they took part in a Petanque competition. Unveiling St Dunstan's banner and collection pots they raised between £60 to £80.

At the same competition each person who entered donated one euro towards a charity of their choice. Needless to say St Dunstaner Brian and Margaret were on the front line collecting their Euro's and promoting the name of St Dunstan's, raising just over 200 Euro's. Taking part in Petanque means Brian can enjoy a sport that is unique to his very limited vision.

And if you were wondering about the photograph on the front cover – while in Tenerife they took part in a fancy dress competition and won. The theme was to wear your national dress and they opted for the head turning punk costumes.



Picture: Brian and Margaret Eldridge with Dunstan the Dog.



# Your Future Focus

by Susanne Lund, Project Manager.

The response to the Future Focus survey in the March Review has been overwhelming and we thank all of you who participated! Well over 1700 of you have responded, which is more than 37% of all who received the survey. In this article we want to share with you the results and some of the next steps for Future Focus. So, without further ado, here is the outcome from your survey:

You will find that the percentages on each question do not add up to 100%. This is because some questions were left unanswered on some forms.

## About you

86% of those of you who responded are St Dunstaners, followed by 11% widows or widowers, 4% spouses and dependants and 0.3% Ovingdean permanent residents.

The majority of you (42%) have been with St Dunstan's between 4 and 10 years, followed by 28% at 1-3 years, 10% 11-30 years, 11% less than a year and 8% for more than 30 years.

In terms of age groups, more than half of you (51%) are in the 80-89 category, 21% over 90 years old, 19% at 70-79, 7% are aged between 50-69 and 2% are 30-49.

## About you and St Dunstan's

Firstly we asked you what it means to you to be part of St Dunstan's. In order of popularity your answers were:

It provides useful training and support (53%)

I feel part of a family (49%)

It has helped me become more independent (46%)

It provides comradeship and an ex-Service community (41%)

It has given me a sense of achievement (25%)

It is just one of many organisations of which I am a member (9%)

Please note that we asked for the top three statements here, therefore the percentages don't add up to 100%.

We were overwhelmed by the positive response to the next question:

**Q:** 'How likely would you be to recommend St Dunstan's to a friend or a family member if they were eligible to join?'

**A:** 82% of you are extremely likely, while 14% are likely to recommend St Dunstan's. 1.7% don't know, 0.9% are unlikely and 0.4% answered extremely unlikely.

**Q:** We next asked you what the St Dunstan's badge means to you.

**A:** 57% said you are proud to wear it, 26% enjoy wearing it at special occasions and 16% don't wear the badge.

This is what you told us you would think if the badge were to change:

42% don't want the badge to change at all

38% don't mind a change as long as the badge shows that you are part of St Dunstan's

11% don't mind as long as the badge doesn't change much

9% don't know

From the badge to the website – the survey showed that 57% of you never access the St Dunstan's website, while an additional 32% don't use the internet or a computer. 13% have accessed the website once or twice, and 5% access it regularly.

## About St Dunstan's public profile

You are St Dunstan's key local ambassadors, and we were very interested to hear how well St Dunstan's is known in your community. We asked:

**Q:** 'When you talk about St Dunstan's for the first time to people outside the organisation what is the most common reaction?'

**A:** Your responses told us:

They have heard of St Dunstan's, but are not sure what it does (54%)

They have not heard of St Dunstan's (34%)

They know St Dunstan's well (12%)

They think it is something else, like a school or a church (3%)

Although some of you said it was difficult to select just one option, the survey told us that the one thing making St Dunstan's unique is:



The fact that St Dunstan's will support us for life (36%)  
The rehabilitation and training that teach independence (23%)  
Being an ex-Service charity working with blindness (21%)  
The people who work at St Dunstan's (11%)  
The heritage and how long St Dunstan's has been around (9%)  
The family ethos (6%)

**Q:** In terms of using the word "hero" in fundraising material

**A:** The outcome was:

58% of you think it is appropriate, while 38% do not.  
71% think the word 'veteran' describes St Dunstaners against 26% who disagree.

**Q:** We then went on to ask you about the St Dunstan's name. One question that has come up when talking to supporters is that the name St Dunstan's can be confusing to the general public. We asked you what you thought.

**A:** The opinion on this was split as you answered:  
40% of you said "I agree"  
36% of you said "I disagree"  
22% said "I don't know"

**Q:** We also asked you what you thought of the possibility of St Dunstan's changing its name.

**A:** To this you responded:  
I think it is a bad idea (60%)  
I think it is acceptable if reference to St Dunstan's is kept (33%)  
I don't know (5%)  
I think it is a good idea (3%)

Despite this we received from you 182 unique alternative names for St Dunstan's. Some of the names were suggested by more than one person. Many of the names are also similar, or the same as, names recommended by St Dunstan's staff and external consultants. Your suggestions will be going through a rigorous scoring process and assessed to see if they rival or surpass St Dunstan's according to set criteria.

We will share the progress with you in the next Review, along with the alternative names you have put forward through the survey. We will of course also take into careful consideration your comments for and against any changes to the name, the badge and the term St Dunstaner.

### **Raising awareness and understanding**

We are impressed by the well thought through suggestions of initiatives to raise awareness of St Dunstan's. Many of them, such as approaching TV and newspapers for media coverage, are ongoing through our Marketing & Communications team. Others, such as advertising on TV and billboards, can be very costly.

However, a lot of you have volunteered to help build awareness of St Dunstan's in your own local communities. We are very grateful for this. In our efforts of increasing support for St Dunstan's we will rely heavily on the St Dunstan's community. To help make this more accessible and consistent we will put in place programmes and practices to enable you to promote the organisation in any way, big or small. This will happen over time so please bear with us while we develop this.

One of the other key priorities for Future Focus is to create a brand that clearly conveys who we are and why people should support us – without the need for too much extra explanation and money spent on advertising. We need to ensure that when St Dunstan's is mentioned that our name and message are clear and impactful.

We look forward to continuing to keep you up to date through the Review. In the meantime if you have any further suggestions or questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with Susanne Lund via email [FutureReview@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:FutureReview@st-dunstans.org.uk), by calling 020 7616 7949 or by writing to 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

Finally, we cannot thank you enough for all your positive feedback about the organisation and the staff! Thank you again for your contributions to the survey.



# Ten questions on...

The subject "Silver".

by Harry Beevers.

1. Who is the Patron Saint of Goldsmiths and Silversmiths who, according to tradition, tweaked the nose of the devil with red hot tongs?
2. Which country, the eighth largest in area in the world, gets its name from a Latin word meaning 'Silver'?
3. Quicksilver is an alternative name for which metal which has the chemical symbol Hg?
4. The head of which animal is the silver hallmark for London?
5. Who were the last three British monarchs to celebrate Silver Jubilees?
6. Silver Ghost, Silver Cloud, Silver Wraith, Silver Shadow and Silver Seraph are classic car models made by which manufacturer?
7. Which Italian opera involves the theft of a silver spoon, a silver fork and a silver coin?
8. In the children's nursery rhyme, apart from the silver nutmeg what is the only thing the little nut tree would bear?
9. According to Robert Louis Stevenson's famous novel Treasure Island, what was Long John Silver's favourite weapon?
10. Which mythological monster with skin supposedly proof against steel, can only be killed by a silver bullet?

Answers on page 41

# St Dunstan's Celebrates Founders Day in Sheffield.

Once again Founders Day celebrated the very best of St Dunstan's and showed that the spirit of endeavour, encouraged by our Founder Sir Arthur Pearson still runs strong. Terry Heaton and his staff at the Sheffield Centre opened their doors to host the Awards ceremony when the role of Master of Ceremony was conducted by Barry Porter, Director of Welfare Services. He brought warmth and humour to the proceedings as he introduced the winners who were then presented with their Awards by The Lord Mayor of the City of Sheffield, Councillor Alan Law JP.

Major General Andrew Keeling presented the Chairman's Commendations and there was also one surprise Award that drew a shocked look from a certain President.

The Winners Were:

## Community Award – Harry Beevers

Proposed by fellow St Dunstaner Ron Skidmore the Award went to Harry Beevers in recognition of the hundreds of talks he has given for St Dunstan's and his involvement with Cadet Challenge Events, Military Open Days and the many fundraising activities he has taken part in.

Harry Beevers said: "The Award was a complete surprise to me and I couldn't have done what I have done without the help of my wife Joan. Apart from my cycling and parachute jump she has



Picture: Harry Beevers with Ron Skidmore.



been with me all the way. We volunteered to be speakers when the group was formed back in about 2003, mainly because we wished to give back something to St Dunstan's in return for the help, care and training I have received. When I joined St Dunstan's in 2001 I didn't realise how much our lives would be changed. I would like to express my thanks to Ron Skidmore who put my name forward and to the panel who decided to give me this honour which I greatly appreciate."

### Creative Art Award – Ray Khan

Nominated for the Creative Art Award, by Craft Manager Esther Freeman, Ray from Marlowe in Bucks said "I was amazed I won as so much good work comes out of the Craft Workshop. I'm really grateful to Esther and all the staff. I continue to use the skills I learnt at Ovingdean as I have a new shed at home which I have set up to do basket making, mosaic tiles and soap stone carving. As everything I make goes to St Dunstan's it's great to be able to give something back."



Picture: Ray Khan Winner of the Creative Art Award with The Lord Mayor of the City of Sheffield, Councillor Alan Law MP.

### Training Achievement Award - Billy Baxter

Nominated by Welfare Officer Jennie Hammond Billy said "I feel so proud to be a recipient of this Award for many reasons. Since becoming a St Dunstaner I have been given help, guidance, inspiration and support from many good people. These people being my fellow St Dunstaners and the dedicated, professional and amazing staff we have in this organisation. Jenny Hammond and Julie Shale packed me off screaming and kicking to college to gain experience and academic qualifications to further my journey in my dream of becoming an entertainer and presenter. I have these ladies to thank who believed in me and it is a privilege to have been selected for this Award."



Picture: Billy Baxter with WO Jennie Hammond.

Note from Ed: With a future in Performing Arts I'm sure this won't be Billy's last acceptance speech!

### Sports Person of the Year Award – Billy Black

In his submission for Billy, Welfare Officer Alan Hay, wrote:

I would like to nominate Billy because of the level of commitment he has shown to fundraising for the charity through sporting events and street collections. Billy is studying for a combined NVQ in Sports and Leisure with an IT training course at the National Blind College in Hereford. Billy was introduced to the Sports & Recreation team on Intro Week and within weeks he was volunteering as a street collector and soon after ran his first marathon in aid of St Dunstan's. He has since continued to do full and half marathons. He also assists with the Cadet Challenges and is a member of the younger St Dunstaner group. In my view the successful outcomes of his marathons and studies are a tribute to his determination to support the charity that has helped him to begin again.



Billy Black said: "I want to thank Alan Hay for nominating me and I have to thank Louise Timms and her Sports & Recreation team at Ovingdean as I have immense respect for them. If Louise hadn't pointed me in the right direction I wouldn't have achieved any of this and be at college now."



Picture: Alan Hay WO and Billy Black.

### Volunteer of the Year Award – Elizabeth Baddiley

The Award went to Elizabeth in recognition of her years of work as a reliable, popular and versatile volunteer at the Ovingdean Centre. As Elizabeth was on holiday she was unable to attend and her award was accepted by Ovingdean based Social Worker/Welfare Officer, Lynn Powling.

### Innovator of the Year Award – Andrew Sach

Nominated by Russell Price, IT Instructor at Sheffield, Andrew developed the computer programme Guide, which has benefited over 400 St Dunstaners. Without Guide they may not have been able to use a computer without assistance.

### The Chairman's Commendation Award went to

Julie Shales, Rehab & Training Manager at Sheffield. Christine Carlton, Health Care Assistant at Ovingdean and to Terry Greenough and Ray Brooker, Maintenance Technicians at Ovingdean.



Picture: Much mirth as Christine Carlton accepts her Award from Major General Andrew Keeling.



Picture: Julie Shales receives the Chairman's Commendations for Outstanding Service.



Picture: The Ovingdean Stars with their Awards.

### Outstanding Achievement

A special Award went to Ray Hazan for his Outstanding Achievements, of which there are too many to list in this 48 page Review.



# The BFBS Big Salute and St Dunstan's

by Paul Condon.

Every year BFBS – the Forces broadcaster – raises funds and awareness for essential Service charities. Since 2008, when the BFBS Big Salute began, the appeal has encouraged British Forces communities, families and friends from around the globe to raise money for members of the military family who find themselves in need. St Dunstan's has been one of those beneficiaries and we're delighted to say that this year will be no different.

The other four are BLESMA, Veterans Aid, Combat Stress and FAB – Family Activity Breaks – a new project that offers adventure holidays to Service families who have recently suffered bereavement.

This year promises to be our biggest yet. The Big Salute has been chosen as the charity of the day for the Army vs. Navy Rugby Match taking place at Twickenham on Saturday 7th May. This is probably the biggest event in the military sporting calendar with tens of thousands going to the match as well as viewers and listeners across the Forces world who tune in. So as well as being an ideal opportunity to raise money it's also a unique chance to highlight and promote the essential work these charities carry out.

As a television director with BFBS TV my role is to produce a short five-minute film about each of the charities we are supporting, including St. Dunstan's. This year will be my fourth Big Salute film about this organisation and I never stop being amazed by the extraordinary men and women I've met along the way, not only the devoted members of staff but, of course, the St Dunstaners themselves.

In 2008, I met Corporal Craig Lundberg, a sniper in The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment. In the previous year, while serving on his second tour of duty in Iraq, he took a direct hit in the chest from a rocket-propelled grenade during a firefight with insurgents. The impact caused severe injuries. Although doctors managed to keep Craig alive they couldn't save his sight. I filmed Craig at his home in Liverpool which had been specially adapted thanks to St Dunstan's.

And he also completed the London Marathon where I struggled to keep up with him (my camera's not that heavy!). What struck me was his lion-hearted passion for life despite losing his sight at such an early age.

And Billy 'The Whizz' Baxter was no different. This Royal Horse Artillery veteran is clearly a legend. Despite losing his sight in 1997 to a viral infection that destroyed his optic nerves, he has since gone on to set the blind solo world land speed record on a motorbike with a speed of 165 miles per hour. He's also starred in *Top Gear* no less and joined a list of A-list celebrities by driving a lap in the show's 'Star In A Reasonably-Priced Car'. But he's still humble and I laughed out loud with his story of how his kids like to take a St Dunstan's talking can lid, speak 'chicken stew' into it and then place it mischievously on a tin of opened cat food!

My film in 2009 featured Chris Nowell, a former Lance Corporal in the Kings Royal Hussars who sustained a serious head injury at FOB Inkerman in Afghanistan when a Taliban rocket hit their base. As well as treatment at Selly Oak and numerous operations, Chris received a great deal of support from St Dunstan's. Local to the Sheffield area, Chris attended the Sheffield Centre regularly and it's where I caught up with him. He was busy learning how to cut vegetables safely as his big ambition was to cook for his family the ultimate Christmas dinner. He also had hopes to climb Snowdon.

And last year I filmed Matt Rhodes complete the inaugural Brighton Marathon over two days. (What is it about St Dunstaners and running marathons? Why can't they settle for being couch potatoes like me?) Matt, who had served with the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, lost his sight following a motorbike accident in Germany. He spent two months in a coma and it took a long time to rebuild his life. Now, thanks to his art teachers at St Dunstan's, he's producing note-worthy paintings and recently received a commission to paint Dame Vera Lynn.

My next St Dunstan's film will be about Ranger Andy Allen of the Royal Irish Regiment who lost both his legs in an IED attack in Afghanistan as well as much of his vision. Andy's story was brought to a wider audience when he featured in the powerful and moving BBC documentary *Wounded*. I'm very much looking forward to meeting him and like Craig, Billy, Chris and Matt, he'll no doubt leave me humbled with his courage, determination and optimism.



The film will also feature the work of your Centres in Ovingdean and Sheffield and will include an update on your new Centre in Llandudno. By the way, when I film in Brighton I'll meet up with my sister Pat who has just started working with St Dunstan's as a nurse. She loves it and, like me, has nothing but endless admiration for St Dunstaners.

Note: The 2011 Big Salute is a year-long campaign which launches on BFBS TV, Radio and Online on Saturday 7th May during the Army vs. Navy rugby match at Twickenham. If you're in the UK, you can watch us online at [www.bfbs.com/bigsalute](http://www.bfbs.com/bigsalute) or listen to our coverage on BFBS Radio on DAB Radio, Sky Guide Number 0211 and Freesat Channel 786. Or why not go to the match!

To donate £5 to the Big Salute just text BIG to 70777.



Picture: Billy The Whizz Baxter.

## Part II – Steve Pendleton Probably the Best Motivational Speaker in the World.

by Catherine Goodier.

We bring you the final part of the interview with Steve Pendleton. In the April edition Steve was lying on a hillside in Northern Ireland following a helicopter crash that killed a member of his team and left him and others wounded.

Steve continued: "Lying there I knew I was dying and I needed to get someone's attention but I didn't know who was there. All of a sudden there are shapes and I'm trying to get their attention but I'm blind, only I didn't realise it at that time. All I can see is a black thing and dark gray shapes moving in the blackness. To get their attention I opened my eyes as wide as I could.

"It was then I felt pain as I opened them and all of a sudden someone shouted 'look his eyes are open, hold on Steve'. My life was saved on that hillside by Tony, another soldier in the section, and he worked harder than he ever had in his life as he ran up and down the hillside treating the wounded. Again it was another strange twist of fate as I had only just trained him as a medic.

"The second helicopter landed as the pilot had seen the accident but he still had to drop the RUC at Plumbridge. He gunned it to take the wounded to hospital. After that my next recollection is at Tyrone County Hospital speeding through the hospital on a trolley. Major Penrith, the Second in Command was at the hospital, he later told me that the Priest had given me the last rites as I was not expected to survive.

"The Doctors put me into a medically induced coma for nine days as they had a lot of work to do. While I was in the coma I was transferred to a trauma unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast. When they brought me round I had retrograde amnesia and I couldn't remember anything about the crash.

"As I came out of the coma my dad was there and a woman from the Red Cross and my friend Andy, the soldier I'd borrowed the pen from. My dad told me



what had happened and listed all of my injuries. He told me my ankle had been smashed and put back together with pins; I felt the stitches, then he said my arm had been badly broken and a metal rod put through it. My shoulder had been broken but it only needed one big plate to hold it together and there was only a small scar on top of my shoulder. I felt the stitches then said 'Great that'll give me something to impress the birds down the pub'; but I was high on morphine at the time.

"He hadn't finished and continued to say that my skull had been fractured in three places at the base, cranium and the right sargoma (temple) and I was totally deaf in one ear. My jaw had been broken and it was repaired with a metal plate. The D ring on the strap of the helmet left a scar on my cheek where the helmet was ripped off in the crash. They'd removed my spleen and I had other internal injuries. My left leg had been amputated above the left knee as it had been hanging on by a bit of flesh. As he told me I could still feel my leg and didn't believe it had gone until I felt what was left.

"I thought my dad was trying to protect me from everything and told him that I wasn't squeamish and he could turn the lights on as I wanted to see what I looked like. He just said: 'The lights are on Steve'. I had no idea the fracture at the base of my skull had left me completely blind. It was total blackness. One minute I was a big rough, tough 22 year old soldier, a short while later I was a blind, one legged, half deaf man. I just thought this can't have happened as I have a 22 year career ahead of me – what the hell am I going to do?"

And once again I watched as Steve took a turn in his talk. He started pacing saying 'I just thought 'What are you going to do Steve?' – 'What are you going to do Steve?' – What are you going to do Steve?' At that time a member of the audience asked 'So what did you do Steve?' and when Steve replied 'I'm glad you asked as that could have gone on all day the audience dissolved in laughter. Everyone was 100% with Steve as he continued.

"I thought you lose a leg and you get a false one and carry on but what do blind people do? What careers do they have?' I was petrified in the hospital as I knew the Army would kick me out and I wasn't ready. I'd lost everything in the crash and had to rebuild my life.

"A few days after waking up from the coma I was transferred to Musgrove Park

Hospital in Belfast. After a week I was transferred in an RAF Hercules to RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire and taken to The Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital in Woolwich in south east London on 1st December 1991.

"In the hospital I concentrated on my rehabilitation but at the beginning of 1992 I started to think about what I would do. I kept thinking – I'm blind, I've got one leg, I'm half deaf and I've got more metal in me than Rochester Bridge. I just didn't have a clue. So when the Matron came up to me and said 'Steve you're blind, you're got one leg, you're half deaf, you have more metal in you than Rochester Bridge – have you given any thought to what you're going to do?' I just racked my brains so much it made my head hurt. I was thinking – telephony - as I'd heard blind people do that well but I didn't want to sit behind a desk. All of a sudden it came to me in a flash and I told the Matron I was going to become a male escort and because I couldn't see what the women look like I'd have all the ugly ones and make loads of money."

Dear Reader or listener do I need to tell you the affect that had on the audience and on me?

"Physically I might have been a bit of a mess but in my head I was exactly the same person I had been before. I had the same ambitions and aspirations and once I realised that a huge weight lifted.

"The main priority at the hospital was to get me walking but my stump had to heal before I could get a false leg. In February 1992 I was fitted with a new leg. It was my first false leg. It was a strange experience sitting in the fitting room as someone came in and put the leg in my hands. It felt like a big dolls leg as it was made of plastic and rubber and foam. I felt emotional as it hit me all over again that I had lost my leg.

"The first time I put the leg on it was really awkward. I stood up between the bars and the physio gave instructions to put the weight through the stump, bend the knee and walk. As soon as I put my full weight on it really hurt and the pain was like standing on a razor blade. I told myself to persevere and I made it to the end of the parallel bars but then I didn't know how to turn and I had to hobble round to go back along the bars. We were there for an hour and I made sure I walked as many times as possible along the parallel bars. Back at the hospital I practised walking every chance I got.



"After I learnt how to walk again my main focus was to learn how to live without sight and that's when the Army contacted St Dunstan's. I was no longer black blind as I had regained 8% of my vision and on 28 April 1992 I went to Ovingdean as I needed the skills they could teach me. I was still a young man with my life in front of me and I had a lot to achieve.

"As soon as I started the training it was great. The first lesson was in touch typing and I was given Braille training. I learnt to do my own washing and ironing again. I also learnt how to cook, which was amazing as I'd never cooked before, I got stuck in and found out I was good at it. I stayed at Ovingdean for three months with other injured Servicemen before I went to college to learn other skills.

"After St Dunstan's I went to the Royal National College for the Blind in Hereford to get my qualifications up to scratch and ready for the employment market. I studied Psychology, Sociology and English.

"I got my qualifications, left Hereford and moved to Calne in Wiltshire where I brought my first house and kitted it out. In 1993 I started at Chippenham Technical College to study journalism and radio.

"By February 1994 during the second term my heart wasn't in it and I decided to take some time out to sort my life as I wanted more than just a job I wanted a wife and kids and a nice home. St Dunstan's had given me the training to live independently and I needed someone to share that with. Cooking became a real hobby and I learnt how to bake bread and make Bolognese sauces and chilli. I loved cooking and like writing I found it really therapeutic. It was at that time I decided to spend the rest of 1994 on holiday and put my life in order.

"I had three wonderfully holidays when I did parascending and other sports, the first in France, then a two week cruise, then later in the year I went to Cyprus. I took time in between to do homely things like cooking as I was really proud of my house. I wasn't Steve the soldier anymore I was different and it was during that time I accepted my disabilities. By the end of 1994 I was happy but I still wanted to meet someone.

"In April 1995 I phoned a friend in Kent who asked me to speak with her friend Michala. We got on really well and she came to visit me on the May Bank

Holiday, we had a barbeque and we haven't been apart since as I knew the first time I met her I was going to marry her."

Michala felt the same and Steve sold his house in Calne and moved to Kent where he and Michala bought a house in Who near Rochester and moved in together in October 1995. They married in July 2000 and its obvious how in love they are almost 16 years later. Their daughters are doing well at school and the Pendleton family is a strong one.

Steve went on to speak about learning Braille and working as a Braille instructor and training at the North West Kent College in Gravesend, when he became the only blind chef in the country. After that it was time for questions and the hands shot up into the air.

So what do I make of Steve Pendleton? Well the words inspirational and unstoppable force come to mind and I along with everyone in that hall was impressed with the way he just got on and rebuilt his life. Three of the students told me afterwards that after hearing Steve speak they feel motivated to deal with any unforeseen events life may throw at them.



Picture: Steve Skydiving.



# Review of Flare Path at the Theatre Royal Haymarket.

by Clare Brotherwood Arts and Theatre Critic.

Playwright Terence Rattigan was serving in the RAF when he felt he wanted to record his admiration for the men and women with whom he was serving; for their courage in the face of their fears, and the effect of the Second World War on their lives and on the lives of the people closest to them.

That was in 1941 and, 70 years later, little has changed as Service men and women go to war in Afghanistan and Iraq and don't always come back. They still put their lives on the line for their country while those at home deal with it the best they can. So it is perhaps fitting that Rattigan's record is enjoying a revival in London's West End.

Flare Path may now be a period piece but its message is still the same, and while respectful crowds at Wootton Bassett line the streets to honour the dead, and charities like St Dunstan's help the living, in the hands of the new artistic director of the Theatre Royal Haymarket, Sir Trevor Nunn, this tribute to Bomber Command brings home the stresses of wartime and how different people deal with it.

The play is well crafted, with every one of its characters entirely believable. Sarah Crowden is the stony-faced landlady of the Falcon Hotel, where the action takes place, while Emma Handy, best known for five series of Wire in the Blood, is unrecognisable as edgy Maudie Miller.

Sheridan Smith's portrayal of the cockney Countess lights up the stage, however. Reminding me of Gracie Fields in her mannerisms, she switches with ease from flirtatious good time girl to a grieving wife who is putting on a brave face.

The men are not to be outshone. In particular, Harry Hadden-Paton, as Flight Lieutenant Graham, hits the nail on the head as the jolly good, all-round sport who puts his men before his own welfare - resulting in a most moving scene;

and Clive Wood is down-to-earth and sympathetic as Squadron Leader 'Gloria' Swanson.

Mark Dexter, however, is up there with his stage wife, the Countess, as Flying Officer Count Skriczevinsky. His lack of English is the source of both great poignancy and entertainment and certainly lessens the growing tension in this most moving of plays.

Sienna Miller pulled off with aplomb the role of the Flight Lieutenant's actress wife involved in a secret rendezvous with a Hollywood actor, played with tortured elegance by James Purefoy.

The Wellington Bombers, around which the play is based, are also undoubtedly stars of the show. Often droning in the background, they come to the fore as they take off on a raid, swooping over the stage on a cinematic screen - a most thrilling moment.

Flare Path is at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, 18 Suffolk Street, London SW1Y 4HT until June 4. Audio described performance on May 3. Booking office: 0845 481 1870.



Photo by Johan Persson

Picture: Mark Dexter (Count Skriczevinsky) Sheridan Smith (Doris) in Flare Path at the Theatre Royal Haymarket.



# St Dunstaners Board HMS Bulwark

by Catherine Goodier.

I find when I tell people of the St Dunstaners I meet in the course of my work and their daring deeds there is one standard response. 'That is incredible.' One who elicits this response each time is Tony Eldridge DSC. I wait before they say: 'He's like James Bond' and I must say I wholeheartedly agree. Perhaps if Ian Fleming had met Tony, the legendary Secret Intelligence Service Agent would hail from Tunbridge Wells and be a submariner.

An inveterate volunteer Tony signed up for 'Special and Hazardous Service' during World War II in the belief he who volunteers gets the best jobs. He was right as he found himself part of the elite submariners group of charioteers, or as they were named by the press, human torpedoes. In 1944 Tony took part in the successful Ceylon Secret Operation 51, launching from HMS Trenchant to a target in Puket, Siam.

On 18 March 2011 Tony rediscovered his sea legs when he stepped onboard HMS Bulwark, The Royal Navy's advanced amphibious assault ship, which was moored in Greenwich on a five day visit.



Picture: Chris Humphrey, Tony Eldridge and Simon Brown.

He was joined by his fellow St Dunstaners who had served in the Royal Navy. The distinguished group included Chris Humphrey, Andrew Hussey and Mike Scholes, along with St Dunstan's Chairman Major General Andrew Keeling and Woppy.

Simon Brown, who served with the Royal Electrical Mechanical Corps from 1997 and has become one of St Dunstan's most high profile ambassadors, brought two distinguished guests with him who would remain onboard Bulwark.

Whilst in the capital HMS Bulwark played host to a number of visitors and it is with thanks to St Dunstan's Council Member, Lady Walker who had launched HMS Bulwark at BAE Systems shipyard at Barrow-in-Furness on 15th November 2001, that the party was included.

The group enjoyed a tour of the ship which was carrying a large variety of boats, land vehicles, amphibious landing craft and helicopters. They met Royal Marine Commandos and learnt of HMS Bulwark's capabilities, including how the military, in particular the Royal Navy, can rapidly deploy in times of need. HMS Bulwark's Commanding Officer, Captain Alex Burton, said: "Bulwark is the country's very own Swiss army knife. Totally indispensable and phenomenally versatile, she packs a punch with our Royal Marines and delivers proven essential support to the softer humanitarian and disaster relief operations and homeland defence.

"It is extremely fortunate we have found time in the busy generation programme to demonstrate to the capital what we can deliver. In these uncertain times we are totally focused on our commitments to the country's interests and responsibilities and expect to be very busy once fully operational later this year."



Picture: Simon Brown with Dunstan the Dog.



To end the tour Lady Walker presented CO, Captain Alex Burton with two Dunstan the Dogs who were made by Simon Brown's mother. Dressed in the uniform of the Royal Navy and RM Commandos, the Dunstan's were gratefully received to warm applause.



Picture: Trustee The Lady Walker presents Dunstan the Dog to HMS Bulwark CO.



Picture: Mike Scholes, Tony Eldridge and Andrew Keeling.

# Family News

## **Congratulations to:**

Margaret Smith has a new great grandson George Paul, born on Sunday 20th February, weighing 9lb 7½ oz, a baby brother for Grace and Ellie. Parents Paul and Emma and all the family are delighted. George is the fifth great grandchild of Margaret and St Dunstaner, the late Les Smith of Lancing.

Rifleman Paul Jacobs GM on his marriage to Louise Smith at the 16th Century Grafton Manor in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire on 2nd April 2011.

## **Weddings:**

### **Platinum (70th):**

Douglas & Gwen White-Howles of Colchester, Essex on 7 April.

### **Blue Sapphire (65th):**

Leonard & Violet Barber of Ipswich, Suffolk on 20 April.

Kay & Ron Hope of Manchester on 20 April.

Mary & Joan Leggett of Andover, Hampshire on 24 April.

George & Vera Ward of Rochester, Kent on 27 April.

### **Diamond (60th):**

John & Phyllis Andrews of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk on 2 April.

John & Daphne Dix of Barmouth, Gwynedd on 7 April.

Frederick & Betty Doyle of Thetford, Norfolk on 14 April.

### **Ruby (40th):**

Harry & Florence Brown of West Garstang, Preston on 24 April.

### **Pearl (30th):**

Paul & Leesa James of Peacehaven, East Sussex on 18 April.

### **Silver (25th):**

Arthur & Maggie Pilgrim of Ipswich, Suffolk on 19 April.

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

**Michael Edward Arnold** who died on 2nd February 2011, he was the son of St Dunstaner Ted Arnold and his wife Joan. He knew St Dunstans well and often



visited Ovingdean. The funeral was well attended by many friends and family and he will be sadly missed.

**Sybil Bond** who died on 19th March 2011, was the widow of Overseas St Dunstaner, the late William Bond.

**Ethel Boulton** of Petworth, West Sussex died on 16th March 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Thomas Boulton.

**Betty Ford** of Middlesborough, Cleveland died on 22 March 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner, the late Ernest Ford.

**Mary Glover** who died on 16th March 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Bernard Glover.

**Jean Hatter** who died on 10 February 2011, she was the daughter of St Dunstaner, the late David Hatter.

**Olive Hill** of Stafford, Staffordshire died on 22nd March 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Phillip Hill.

**Ellen Hughes** of Solihull, West Midlands died on Wednesday 23rd March 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Sidney Hughes.

**Agnes Jervis** of Swinton, Manchester who died on 28 March 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Charles Jervis.

**Thomas Kerrison** of Hove, East Sussex died on 25 March 2011, he was the husband of St Dunstaner Edith Kerrison.

**Margaret Horseman** of York, North Yorkshire died on 21st March 2011, she was the daughter of St Dunstaner the late Arthur Horseman.

**Joan Mills** of Fleetwood, Lancs died on 29th March 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Brian Mills.

**Florence Rickard** who died on 12th March 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Stanley Rickard.

**Doreen Roberts** who died on 1st January 2009, aged 92. She was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Alfred Roberts.

**Marion Roper** who died on 1 April 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Joseph Roper.

# Welcome to **St Dunstan's**

**John Abrahams** of Maidstone in Kent served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**William Allison** of Hartlepool, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

**Eleanor Baldwin** of Whyteleafe, Surrey served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Mildred Bamber** of King's Lynn, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1943.

**James Barrett** of Downham Market, Norfolk served in the Home Guard until it was disbanded at the end of WWII.

**Derrick Barrey** of New Milton, Hants served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 to 1946.

**Nellie Beat** of Scarborough, North Yorkshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1945.

**Richard Bell** of Abergele, Clwyd served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Signals from 1946 to 1948.

**Ronald Blaber** of Hove, East Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1947.

**Edward Cachart** of Belper, Derbyshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1953.

**Alan Carter** of Droitwich, Worcestershire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1954 to 1960.

**Richard Charters** of Wirral, Merseyside served in the Merchant Navy and Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1966.

**Eric Cook** of Felixstower, Suffolk served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

**Alan Connolly** of Durrington, Salisbury served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1953 to 1959.

**Kenneth Cotterell** of Bristol served in the Royal Air Force from 1955 to 1957.



**Robert Curtis** of Waterlooville, Hampshire served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1968.

**Clarence Dockrell** of Ty Croes, Gwynedd served in the Royal Engineers from 1938 to 1947.

**Jane Duncan** of Kirkcaldy, Fife served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

**Peter Finch** from Redhill, Surrey served in the Royal Artillery and the Bedfordshire Yeomanry from 1954 to 1967.

**Andre Fisher** of Leeds served in the Royal Armoured Corps and Queen's Royal Lancers from 1974 to 1978.

**Leonard Fisher** of Sutton-In-Ashfield, Notts served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1941 to 1945.

**John Florence** of Birmingham, West Midlands served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1945.

**Bertram Ford** of Exeter served in the General Service Corps and Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1947.

**Neil Fox** of Accrington, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1957.

**Anthony Halliday** of Lancing, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1956.

**Peter Hartley** of Batley, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Bryan Hopkins** of Maidstone, Kent served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1948.

**William Hughes** of Liverpool served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

**Ronald Hutchinson** of Carlisle served in the Royal Signals from 1965 to 1987.

**Wilfred Jones** of Redcar, Cleveland served in the Home Guard in 1941.

**William Jupp** of St Albans, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Navy from 1950 to 1952.

**Arthur Kearney** of Liverpool served in the Royal Navy from 1946 to 1949.

**Robert Kinch** of Chichester, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Raymond Leveson** of Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps and the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment from 1945 to 1948.

**William Libby** of Minehead, Somerset served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1977.

**Reginald Mandeville** of Woking, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**Arthur Markie** of Oakham, Rutland Served in the North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) and the Intelligence Corps from 1942 to 1947 He went on to Serve with TA Army Cadet Force from 1947 until 1975.

**Douglas May** of Swindon, Wiltshire served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1952 to 1962.

**Charles Melia** of Liverpool served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

**David Memmott** of Andover, Hants served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1954 to 1986.

**Joseph Metcalfe** of St Helen's, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Eric Morley** of Barnsley, South Yorks served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**David Owens** of Liverpool served in the Royal Artillery from 1949 to 1955.

**Alice Packham** of Crawley, West Sussex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1944.

**Albert Parlour** of Crawley, West Sussex served in the Royal Engineers in 1949 and 1950.

**Leslie Phillips** of Weybridge, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1947.

**Dorothy Pullman** of Exeter served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1946.

**Philip Richmond** of Emsworth, Hampshire served in the Merchant Navy from 1942 to 1954.



**William Pullin** of Bath served in the Royal Artillery from 1941 to 1946.

**Brian Robey** of Spennymoor, County Durham served in the Royal Signals from 1964 to 1973.

**Carol Sadler** of Stone, Staffordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1965 to 1969.

**Phylis Seabrook** of Westcliff-On-Sea served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1939 to 1945.

**Frank Sharples** of Nelson, Lancs served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1950 to 1955.

**George Sheppard** of Spalding, Lincs served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1954.

**David Smith** of Corby, Northants served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Douglas Smith** of Mountain Ash, Mid Glamorgan served in the Royal Engineers from 1951 to 1974.

**Kenneth Smith** of Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1941 to 1946.

**Harry Starbuck** of Shotton Colliery, Durham, served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**William Stephenson** of Preston, Lancs served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1949 to 1955.

**Henry Stevenson** of Washington, Tyne & Wear served in the Royal Artillery, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1949 to 1960.

**Archibald Taylor** of Bromley, Kent served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 to 1946.

**Brian Taylor** of York served in the Royal Artillery and the Royal Signals from 1956 to 1963.

**Herbert Thomas** of St Helen's, Merseyside served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Reginald Warner** of Felixstowe, Suffolk served in the Middlesex Regiment and Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1946.

**Donald Whiting** of Doncaster, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Evelyn Wilcock** of Lancaster served in the Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1944.

**Gordon Winter** of Worksop, Notts served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1946 to 1948.

**Peter Wyman** of Honiton, Devon served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1943 to 1947.

## Beer of the Month.

by Colin Williamson.

### Innis & Gunn Blonde.

This is a very complex beer, brewed by Innis & Gunn at their brewery in Edinburgh. It is a fruity beer, with hints of vanilla and oak; the 'oaky' flavour coming from it being aged in a barrel. It is a light golden colour with an off white head which lasts to the end and is quite 'hoppy' but with a nice malty sweetness.

This beer comes in at 6% which makes it quite a strong tippie but it's well worth checking out. They also do a splendid beer which has been aged in a barrel that used to contain Navy Rum. Found in Morrisons, Asda and other large stores.

## Answers to Ten questions on... The subject "Silver" from page 16.

1. St Dunstan
2. Argentina.
3. Mercury.
4. Leopard.
5. Elizabeth 2 in 1977, George 5 in 1935 and Queen Victoria in 1862.
6. Rolls Royce.
7. "The Thieving Magpie" by Gioachino Rossini.
8. A golden pear.
9. His crutch.
10. Werewolf.



# 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.

## **Terence Stanley Ahern, Royal Signals**

Terence Stanley Ahern of Thames Ditton, Surrey died on 31 March 2011, aged 97. He first worked at the Stock Exchange before he joined the Royal Signals (TA) in 1936 and transferred to the Royal Artillery in 1938. He served in London until 1942 and then moved to the Far East where he fought in Burma with distinction, being mentioned in Despatches twice. Discharged as a Major in February 1946 he returned to the Stock Exchange where he remained until retirement. Married to Mary they had a son and daughter.

## **Alfred Allen, Royal Navy**

Alfred Allen of Hillsborough, County Down died on 2nd March 2011, aged 90. He joined the Royal Navy in 1939 and carried out his training at HMS Drake in Devonport where he qualified as a Telegraphist. His first ship was HMS Diomede, a Light Class Cruiser based at Scapa Flow. He later moved to the West Indies and spent three years in Trinidad at the Observer Training school at HMS Goshawk. He returned to the UK and remained in Home Waters until the end of his service in 1946.

He took up employment with the Post as a Telegraphist where he remained for a period before becoming an overseas Telegraphist working for GCHQ, Cheltenham. During his career which spanned 40 years, he spent some time in Istanbul, Singapore, Hong Kong and Cyprus. Mr Allen's wife Winifred died in 2007 and he leaves a son and daughter and a grandchild.

## **Frederick Appleyard, Green Howard's (Alexandra, Princess of Wales Own Yorkshire Regiment) & the Royal Army Ordnance Corps**

Frederick Appleyard of Middlesbrough, Cleveland died on 23 March 2011, aged 94. He left school at 17 and went on a sea voyage to Australia. He joined the Green Howards in 1939 and spent 2½ years in Iceland. He transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1942 and worked as a cinema projectionist as part of his duties. He was discharged as a Private in 1946. After the war Mr Appleyard became a cinema projectionist in Middlesbrough. He was married to Kathleen and they had two daughters.

## **Grace Carroll, Royal Air Force**

Grace Carroll of Harrogate, North Yorks died on 2nd December 2010, aged 90. Mrs Carroll joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1941. She trained at Cranwell and served at Oakington and several other RAF stations specialising as a Teleprinter and Radar Operator. Discharged as a LACW in 1945 she returned to Northampton to work in a number of local firms.

Widowed she has a stepdaughter who lives in Australia and four children and grandchildren.

## **William 'Bill' Casely, Royal Air Force**

William 'Bill' Casely of Maidenhead, Berks died on 23 March 2011, aged 90. He joined the RAF in 1940 and worked as an aircraft engineer. Posted to Singapore and captured by the Japanese he was a PoW in Malaya and Japan until 1945. After liberation he returned to the UK via Canada. Following Service he returned to Somerset and shortly afterwards got a job with City Airlines based in Maidenhead. He subsequently worked in a garage and was also a coach and lorry driver. Married to Joan they had two daughters.

## **Frederick Clarke, Royal Navy**

Frederick Clarke of Gillingham, Kent died on 2nd April 2011, aged 97. He joined the Royal Navy in 1929 and trained as an apprentice onboard HMS Fisgard before he joined the Home Fleet Battle Cruiser HMS Renown in 1934. He then served in HMS Woolwich – a repair ship, followed by HMS Wolfhound – a destroyer and later HMS Kingfisher – a corvette. During WWII his ship HMS Phoebe was torpedoed off the Congo River en route to the North Africa landings. He transferred to the RNVR and was discharged as a Lieutenant. After the war he taught at Eastbourne Training College. He then taught Maths and Science at Rainham Secondary School until he retired in 1974.

Widowed in 2004 he leaves two daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

## **Herbert 'Harry' Florence, Royal Welch Fusiliers & Royal Army Service Corps**

Herbert 'Harry' Florence of Brixworth, Northampton died on 16th February 2011, aged 94. He was called up in 1940 and trained with the Royal Welch Fusiliers in Victoria Barracks, Belfast. He served in the UK with the Royal Army Service Corps in the Air Composite Platoon and later with the RASC freight organisation in Welwyn Garden City. He was then deployed to Normandy, moving through Belgium and Holland in to Germany prior to discharge in 1946. Widowed by his first wife Ena and subsequently by his second wife Evelyn, he leaves a son, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



**John Freeman, Royal Air Force**

John Freeman of Doncaster, South Yorks died on 18th March 2011, aged 87. Mr Freeman left school at 14 to take up an engineering apprentice. He applied for the Royal Navy but as he was in a reserved occupation, working 12 hour shifts in a munitions factory in Doncaster which produced fittings for the Admiralty, he was not accepted. When he was called up he couldn't join the Navy as the RAF was short of personnel. He joined the RAF in 1945 and was with Transport Command in Cairo, Egypt, he stayed in the Middle East looking after equipment. On return to the UK he served at an Air Station near Doncaster where he remained until March 1948 as a Corporal.

After discharge he joined a US company where he remained until he retired in 1982. Mr Freeman was married to Nancy.

**Cecil 'Cec' Green, Royal Air Force**

Cecil 'Cec' Green of Middlesbrough, Cleveland died on 31st March 2011, aged 89. Mr Green served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1945, holding the Rank of LAC at discharge. He leaves his companion Jenny Wetherall, his daughter and six grandchildren.

**William 'Bill' Green, Royal Artillery**

William 'Bill' Green of Stourbridge, West Midlands died on 9th March 2011, aged 86. He joined the General Service Corps in 1942 and transferred to the Royal Artillery in 1943. He went to Normandy on D+3 and fought through to Germany and the Baltic, ending up in Kiel. He stayed in Germany with the occupation Army until he was discharged in 1947.

After the war he started a clothing business which he ran until retirement at 57 when he worked part time for Age Concern and managed the centre in Stourbridge. A widower he leaves a daughter and grandson.

**Edward Higgs, Royal Artillery**

Edward Higgs of Wokingham, Berks died on 4 April 2011, aged 87. He served in the Royal Artillery as a Gunner from 1942 to 1945. His wife Winifred died in 2000 and he leaves three daughters and two sons.

**Yvonne (Jean) Kingdon, Auxiliary Territorial Service**

Yvonne Kingdon of Eastleigh, Hampshire died on 23 March 2011, aged 90. Mrs Kingdon left school at 16 to train as a short hand typist. She later joined the Territorial Army in 1938, becoming a regular member of the Auxiliary Territorial

Service at the outbreak of war. She served in Winchester and in the Isle of Wight dealing with clerical and administrative matters before medical discharge as a Company Sergeant Major in 1945 due to pregnancy. She then became a full time wife and mother. She travelled briefly to Czechoslovakia with her first husband but was repatriated to the UK and losing all her possessions after the communists took over. She later went to work with the railway at Eastleigh.

**William Kirkup, Royal Corps of Signals**

William Kirkup of Durham, County Durham died on 6th March 2011, aged 93. He served with the Royal Corps of Signals from 1936 to 1946, leaving as a Signaller. He was in Gibraltar during the Spanish Civil War. He then served in the UK until D Day when he moved through France, Belgium, Holland and finally Germany where he remained for 12 months after the end of the war. At the end of his military service he returned to civilian life and was employed in the grocery business. He then joined the Post Office where he remained until he retired as a local Postman.

Married to Esther they had two daughters and four grandchildren.

**Dennis Lane, Royal Navy**

Dennis Lane of Maidstone, Kent died on 13th March 2011, aged 83. He joined the Royal Navy as a cook in September 1945 aged 17. He served mainly in HMS Bramble, a minesweeper which served in UK waters and the North Atlantic. After discharge in 1948 he trained as a butcher and worked for a butcher's company for 20 years before he became a Postman until he retired. Widowed Mr Lane had three children.

**Frank Martin, Royal Air Force**

Frank Martin of Tadworth, Surrey died on 26 March 2011, aged 94. He joined the RAF in 1940. Following training at Allsop he was posted to the Shetland Islands on Airfield Defence Duty with 20mm cannons. After 22 months he returned to Redhill where he joined the newly formed RAF Regiment and was posted to RAF Valley in Anglesey with the Air Sea Rescue. Mr Martin also served at RAF Andover and was eventually discharged as a Corporal in 1945. Following service he returned to his civilian job as a storeman where he remained until retirement.

His wife died in 2010 and he leaves two sons, five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.



**George Ogden, Royal Air Force**

George Ogden of Wokingham, Berkshire died on 10th March 2011, aged 81. He joined the RAF in 1947 and served in the UK and Hong Kong. He was discharged in October 1952 as a Corporal and returned to Manchester where he worked for various companies. He later moved to Wokingham where he became Assistant Treasurer to Wokingham Council. Married to Marjorie they had three children.

**Cyril G Phillips, Royal Artillery and the Army Catering Corps**

Cyril G Phillips of Westbury, Wiltshire died on 22nd March 2011, aged 89. Brought up near St Dunstan's in St George's Road, Brighton he would escort WW1 St Dunstaners. He initially worked as a butcher before joining the Royal Artillery in 1939 and transferred to the Army Catering Corps in 1942. He served in Scapa Flow with an Ack-Ack Battery and after D-Day he fought in France, Holland and Germany before he was discharged as a Corporal in 1946. He then worked on the buses in London prior to building houses in Watford until his retirement. Widowed they had three children.

**James Plater, Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps**

James Plater of Hull, East Yorkshire died on 13 March 2011, aged 91. He served in the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps in 1940 and 1941. He was married to Enda and they had a son and a daughter.

**Frederick Rideout, Royal Navy**

Frederick Rideout of Broadstairs, Kent died on 21 March 2011, aged 87. His first employment was in the Civil Service War Office before he joined the Royal Navy in July 1942. He served on the minesweeper HMS Sharpshooter, on Arctic Convoys to Russia and later on Malta Convoys. He qualified as a coder. He was discharged in 1946 and returned to the War Office in the main building as a Civil Servant. He leaves his wife Jean and their daughter.

**James 'Jim' Robinson, Royal Signals**

James 'Jim' Robinson of Preston, Lancs died on 12th March 2011, aged 95. Mr Robinson served in the Royal Corps of Signals from 1939 to 1946 as a driver. He served in the Middle East, the Suez Canal Zone, Malta, Sicily, Italy and Germany. He was a member of TOC H. After the war he lived in Australia and New Zealand, returning to the UK at the age of 74.

**Percy Saywell, Royal Navy**

Percy Saywell of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire died on 10th March 2011, aged 93. He served in the Royal Navy as an Air Fitter from 1940 to 1942. He was married to Dilys and they had three daughters.

**James Selfridge, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders**

James Selfridge of Kirkcaldy, Fife died on 7th March, 2011, aged 91. He joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in 1939 and was deployed to France with the British Expeditionary Force. He was captured at Dunkirk and taken to Germany where he remained a POW until the end of the war. He was released by the Americans at Lüneburg Heath and was discharged as a Lance Corporal in September 1946. Widowed in 2002, Mr Selfridge leaves two children.

**Ian Spence, Royal Air Force**

Ian Spence of Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire died on 12th March 2011, aged 46. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1989 to 1995.

**John Kenneth Thompson, Merchant Navy**

John Kenneth Thompson of Lambeg, Lisburn died on 17th March 2011, aged 90. Mr Thompson went into further education as a Merchant Seaman completing radio training in Chiswick. He joined the Merchant Navy in June 1940 and began in Light Oil Tankers on a variety of transatlantic routes, travelling the world's oceans in a variety of vessels. He remembers being bombed in the Bay of Biscay by the Germans and later by the Japanese in Colombo. Throughout the war he worked as a Radio Officer, with a brief period as an Oerlikon gunner and was discharged in 1946. When the Welfare State was set up he joined the Ministry of Labour in 1948 where he remained with the Department of Health and Social Security, finally leaving as a Deputy Principal. He was widowed.

**John Walker, General Service Corps & Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire)**

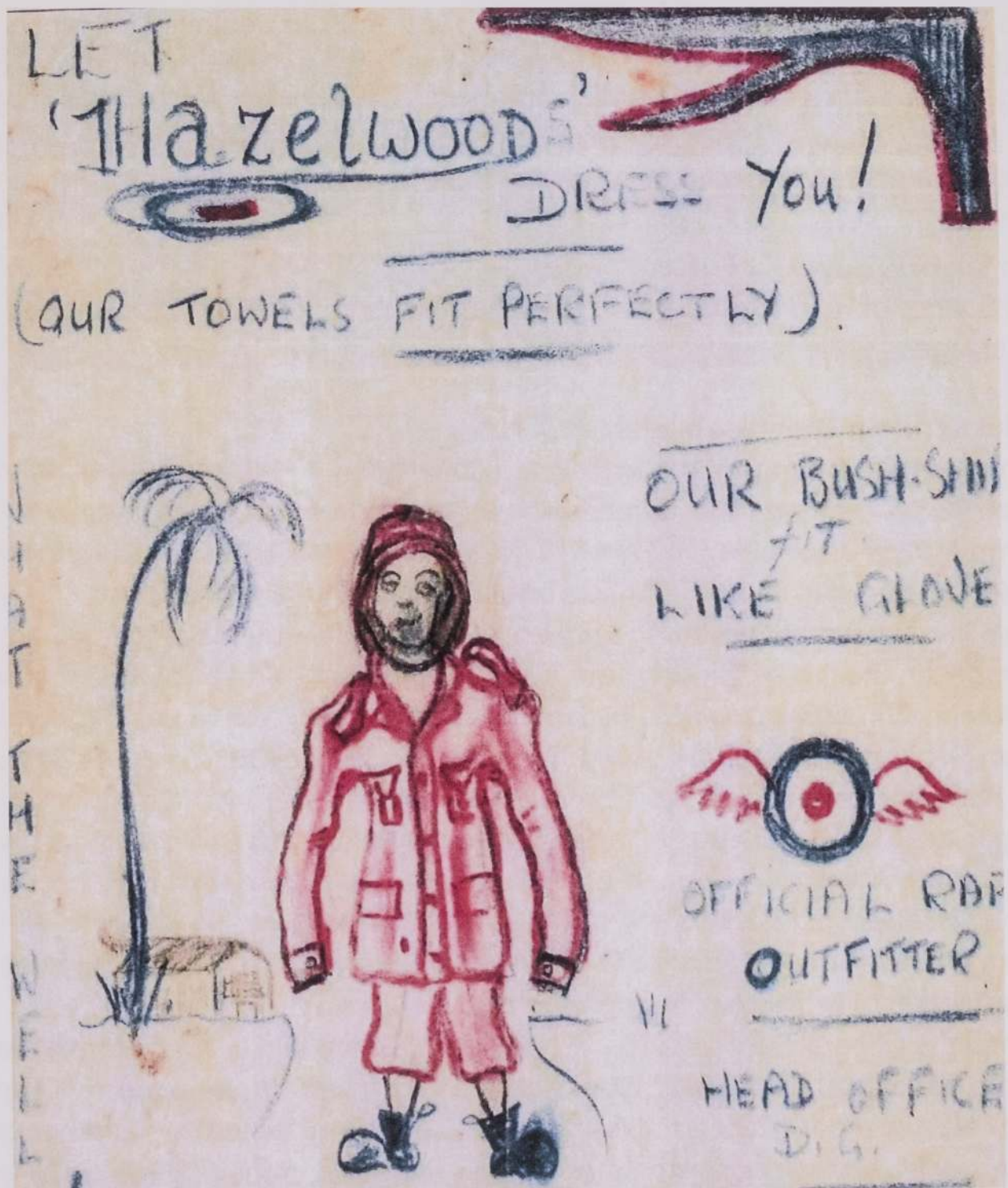
John Walker of Felixstowe, Suffolk who died on 4th April 2011, aged 82. He joined the General Service Corps as a National Serviceman in 1946, transferring to the Loyal Regiment in May 1946. After training in Retford he served in Egypt and Palestine and was demobilised in 1948. He then became an oil and gas pipe welder with various companies around the world in the Middle East, South Africa and Singapore. He leaves his ex-wife, two sons, three daughters and 14 grandchildren.



# The Panic.

by Ron Wilson.

This month we bring you the spoof advert below which St Dunstaner Ron Wilson created for his newspaper The Panic while serving on the Island Base of Diego Garcia during WWII.



Picture: Ron Wilson's The Panic.