

St Dunstan's

June 2011

Review



**Matt Rhodes's Portrait of
Dame Vera Lynn, DBE**

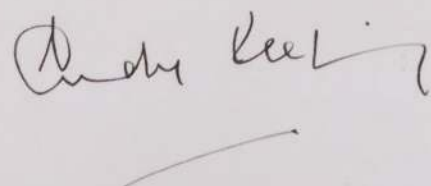
From the Chairman.

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

It is sad to have to report that Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach died recently. He was a strong and committed Chairman of St Dunstan's for several years and will be remembered by many of you. A tribute to him is included later in this Review.

As you probably already know I am very keen for as many of us as possible to do what we can to raise the profile of St Dunstan's in the country at large. I am therefore really delighted that Billy Black and Steve Sparkes are planning a 400-mile trek from Ovingdean, via Harcourt Street and Sheffield, to Llandudno to coincide with the long-awaited opening of our new Centre. This will provide a wonderful opportunity for publicity and media coverage, as well as a very good excuse for any of you that live on or near their route to join them for a bit of exercise, or simply to encourage them. Well done Billy and Steve – and all of you who support them. More information on this appears on pages 24 and 25.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have participated in the Future Focus project that Susanne Lund is running for us from Harcourt Street. The response to the survey which came to you in the March Review was tremendous, and very, very helpful to this important work that is going on concerning our future 'look'. Above all it is very noticeable that an overwhelming majority of those who responded to the Survey are so enthusiastic about the organisation and what it does for you. To some extent this reflects the marvellous spirit that exists amongst you, but I feel sure that all of you St Dunstaners would like me to record here my and your, huge gratitude to the staff and volunteers that serve the charity around the country in such an exemplary fashion. Congratulations, and thanks, to them all.



St Dunstan's Calendar.

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

October

Dance Week	2nd – 8th
Widow's Week	9th – 15th
Computer Club	19th – 20th
Amateur Radio Club	21st – 29th
Bowling Club	30th – 13th Nov

St Dunstan's Review

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

On the cover:

Matt Rhodes's Portrait of Dame Vera Lynn, DBE



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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Noticeboard.

Dates for your diary and useful information.

Sign up for the October Dance Club.

The time has come to book for the next Dance Week which will take place from 2nd – 8th October 2011. To book onto the week please contact Claire Green, Booking Co-ordinator at Ovingdean on telephone: 01273 391422 or email: claire.green@st-dunstans.org.uk Make sure to book your place in good time as the Dance Week fills up quickly.

I would like to invite the Widows as guests as there was a shortage of ladies at the last dance.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Housekeeping Team at Ovingdean for preparing the lounge for the dance on Thursday and Friday during the week. They are never there to thank personally and they do an excellent job and Glenys and I want to thank you on behalf of all the dancers.

Looking forward to seeing you all in October and keep dancing, David and Glenys Schofield.

For any dance related enquiries please contact David Schofield on telephone: 0115 932 3517.



Picture: Dance Week.

Tribute to Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, GCB DL.

by Ray Hazan, St Dunstan's President.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach passed away on 26th April, aged 87. He was Chairman of St Dunstan's for 15 years, retiring in 1998.

His first encounter with St Dunstan's was during World War II, when he came ashore to do a torpedo course at the then recently completed building at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, which was used by the Royal Navy, H.M.S Vernon.

The son of the distinguished Naval Captain John Leach, RN, Sir Henry went to the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth in 1937 at the age of 13. However, the advent of war meant his training had to be completed at sea.

In 1941 Sir Henry was a Midshipman serving on H.M.S Mauritius. A design fault kept the ship in dock in Singapore for refitting, preventing him joining the Prince of Wales accompanied by Repulse when they set out on their final voyage to meet the Japanese fleet. Over 100 enemy aircraft heavily attacked both ships. His father who was commanding the battleship Prince of Wales was lost with his ship.

Sir Henry spent most of the war at sea. He specialised in Gunnery and went on to command a Destroyer, a Squadron of Frigates and a Commando Carrier before being promoted to Flag Rank.

He held several key posts at the Ministry of Defence, becoming Chief of the Naval Staff and First Sea Lord in 1979. Much has been made of his 'dash to the House of Commons on March 31st 1982 to convince the Prime Minister that it was possible to retake The Falklands. The Independent described it as a 'unique personal intervention.'

Sir Henry joined St Dunstan's Council in October 1982, and became Chairman in 1983 on the retirement of Mr Ion Garnett-Orme. He steered the charity through a period of great change.

One of his first acts as Chairman was to ask St Dunstaners their opinions about the modernisation and future of the then Ian Fraser House, now St Dunstan's Ovingdean. Following a vote, 85 per cent of those St Dunstaners who responded were in favour of admitting wives to the house. He subsequently saw the conversion of the building from an establishment catering for St Dunstaners only, to the home we know now with its high standard of accommodation and facilities. The new South Wing was officially opened by our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen in 1985.

In 1987 a reunion was held at Church Stretton where a Service of Dedication took place at the Church of St Laurence. Here a tablet was unveiled in gratitude from St Dunstan's to the people of Church Stretton for the warm friendship they gave to the war-blinded men and women who lived there between 1940 to 1946. Our Chairman gave the address in which he reiterated the debt owed to Church Stretton.

In the early 1990's, he introduced the proposition to increase the intake of Gubbay beneficiaries - a pre-cursor to the change in our Constitution, of 2000, but our financial position put this on hold. St Dunstan's was faced with diminishing income (there was an agreement with the Charity Commission that we would not fundraise), increasing expenditure and longer living St Dunstaners.

Sir Henry led the financial re-organisation and in January 1993 he obtained the Charity Commission's agreement for St Dunstan's to return to fundraising. Less happily the re-structuring involved the sale of Pearson House, our then nursing home. It was a case of hard pruning to ensure strong growth in the future. He met hostility from many St Dunstaners, which greatly affected him. He bravely accepted responsibility for what had been a Council decision.

Less contentious were the 75th Anniversary celebrations in August 1990. A garden party was held at Buckingham Palace in the presence of HRH Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy. In the evening, 750 people attended a celebration dinner at the Hilton Hotel. In 1995 St Dunstan's not only commemorated the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, but also celebrated the 80th anniversary of our foundation. Sir Henry together with The Ambassador of the United States of America hosted an anniversary reception at Winfield House, Regent's Park the site of St Dunstan's first training

Centre. In the following year a similar reception took place attended by HRH the Princess Alexandra.

Lady Leach was a great support to him and Sir Henry was deeply affected by her loss. The great esteem with which she was held by all who knew her was demonstrated by the overwhelming attendance at her Memorial Service in July 1991.

Sir Henry never failed to command from the front as personified by his leading the St Dunstan's contingent at the Cenotaph, a parade he never missed in all his years as Chairman. He enjoyed gardening, fishing and antique furniture restoring and was kept busy attending many official functions. He wrote a book on Naval recollections called 'Endure No Makeshifts', which is on the RNIB talking book catalogue number 10435.

We extend our sincere sympathies to his two daughters, Henrietta and Philippa.



Picture: Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach.



Picture: Sir Henry in relaxed mood at a Ladies reunion.



Picture: Sir Henry with St Dunstaners Phil Duffee and Terry Bullingham.

Llandudno Update

by Helen Emmerson, Head of Centre Services.

At a recent site meeting with our construction company, it was confirmed that work on our Centre has been slightly delayed due to the poor weather over the winter. We can now confirm that the Centre will open in the middle of September, the actual date will be announced in coming months.

As reported previously, Mark Lovatt a former RAF Squadron Leader will commence work as the new Centre Manager on 24th May. No doubt some of you may get a chance to meet Mark when he visits Ovingdean and Sheffield before September.

It has been really pleasing to hear that there is such enthusiasm from our beneficiaries about the new Centre as we are very happy with the building project so far. Having been involved in many of the working and planning groups myself, I feel confident in assuring our beneficiaries it is going to be another fantastic Centre, providing a much needed service to our growing number of beneficiaries.



Picture: Extension roof with the majority of slates fitted.

Llandudno Job Opportunity Rehabilitation & Training Support Worker.

Our new Centre in Llandudno will provide a full Rehabilitation and Training service for St Dunstaners and as such will require a specific R&T Support Worker. We would welcome applications from St Dunstaners for this unique and exciting position.

The main purpose of this job is to provide practical and emotional support to St Dunstaners visiting the Centre for an Intro Week, Training or R&T activity. From meeting people at the door, to outlining what to expect during their stay, part of the role of the R&T Support Worker is to make a strange new experience, into a familiar, comfortable and potentially inspirational one.

This role is pivotal in assisting our beneficiaries with regaining their confidence and ultimately their independence. For those of you who have visited Ovingdean, you are sure to be familiar with Martin Shail who works as the Ovingdean R&T Support Worker. For many who meet him, Martin is the living embodiment of the St Dunstan's principles of confident independence, but he would take issue with anyone who suggests he is in any way remarkable. It is, he believes, simply a case of 'Getting on with it', and that is the message he hopes people will take from their week.

Patience, understanding and empathy are key attributes for this role and having a St Dunstaner in this role is what makes it a truly exceptional position and one that can assist us to change lives.

The ideal candidate will have good written and oral communication skills, be tactful and diplomatic and have the ability to manage their own workload whilst being part of a Departmental Team. They will have good time-keeping and organisational skills and the ability to maintain a professional manner at all times when representing St Dunstan's as an employee. Further details of requirements can be found on the person specification.

This is a full time permanent job paying a salary of £16,275 per annum. Benefits include Group Personal Pension Plan, subsidised staff restaurant,

interest free season ticket loan and an employee assistance programme in an excellent working environment.

This post is subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

A job pack including job description and person specification is available from Amy Hardner in the HR Department at Ovingdean. Amy will be happy to answer any questions you may have about accessibility to these documents and to provide guidance on any other aspect of the selection process you may have questions about. You can contact her at amy.hardner@st-dunstans.org.uk or by phoning 01273 391498.

If you wish to be considered for this job you should make contact with Amy no later than Thursday 23rd June 2011. The closing date for applications will be Thursday 30th June; interviews will take place at Llandudno in July.



Picture: Work in Progress - The extension at Llandudno.

The Friends of St Dunstan's (Llandudno) Group

by Colette Gribble, Secretary.

As I'm sure most of you will already know the Centre in Llandudno was originally built in 1902 as the Lady Forester's Convalescent Home in memory of the 3rd Baron Forester. The convalescent home opened its doors in 1904 to those who sought the restorative properties of the North Wales seaside town, which were advocated by doctors at the time. The family is still in existence in Shropshire where they have several care homes. Set in 18 acres of land one of the members of the Friends of St Dunstan's (Llandudno), Brian Williams, remembers the kitchen garden in all its glory.

Keith Roberts, our treasured St Dunstaner who set up the Friends of St Dunstan's (Llandudno) has a historical link to the home as he is part of the family who had the contract for maintaining the heating system. The fact that the previous use of this magnificent Grade II listed building, designed by the architect Edward Blakeway, was a convalescent home and then a private hospital and that St Dunstan's has seen the potential to resurrect it is both fitting and appropriate.

During the period following the departure of its use as the North Wales Medical Centre, there was much concern in the locality about developers wishing to demolish it or divide it into apartments. However, all the reasons why it was such a wonderful place to recuperate when it was first built remain the same. This is why it is so suitable for the ex-Service men and women who will visit St Dunstan's, Llandudno, in the future.

I realise you will have read Helen Emmerson's monthly updates in the Review and a detailed construction report by Mick Byrne, St Dunstan's Project Manager responsible for the refurbishment at the new Centre, but as someone who is based in Llandudno I want to say that is wonderful to see that the work is being undertaken with sensitivity, flair and creativity. This approach focuses on the circle of renewal and revival for a very appropriate and exciting future for this beautiful old building and its amazing setting.

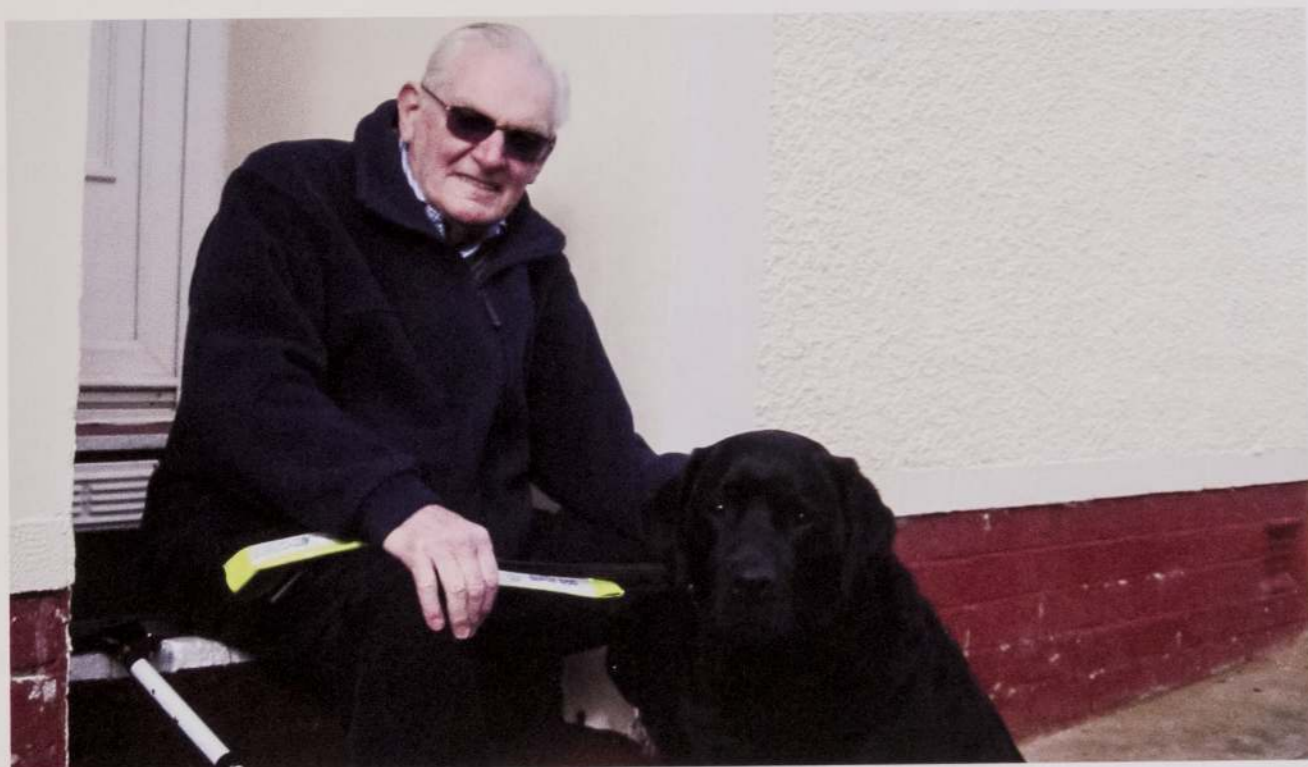
In preparation for the new Centre opening, a local community group has been

set up. Called The Friends of St Dunstan's (Llandudno) Group it is the brain child of Keith Roberts, a St Dunstaner, who currently resides in nearby Penrhyn Bay.

In August 2010, Keith wrote an article for the local newspaper, The North Wales Weekly News, calling for volunteers to meet with a view to forming the group. The response was very pleasing and the meeting was attended by more than 30 people, including the current Mayor of Llandudno.

Subsequently, a Committee was formed and Officers duly elected. A recent meeting has included introductory talks from Andrew Jones, St Dunstan's Director of Fundraising and Communications and, more recently, the newly appointed Regional Fundraiser for St Dunstan's, Llandudno, Penny Growcoot.

We are now a thriving group and we had a very successful Llandudno Victorian Extravaganza over the first May Bank Holiday weekend when Penny organised a stall to raise the profile of St Dunstan's. Several of our group joined Penny and her lovely daughter, Sophie, in manning it and we had a wonderful response from visitors to the town. There are also several coffee mornings arranged over the coming months in Trinity Church in the centre of town. Finally I would like to say how much we look forward to meeting St Dunstaners who come to Llandudno.



Picture: Friends of St Dunstan's (Llandudno) Founder Keith Roberts with guide dog Cooper.

Your Future Focus

by Susanne Lund, Project Manager.

"What's in a name?

That which we call a rose

By any other name would smell as sweet."

Romeo and Juliet 11 ii 1-2

There is a lot of truth in Shakespeare's famous words. Even with a different name St Dunstan's would be the same strong community and continue to be there for life for people who have Served and lost their sight. Sir Arthur Pearson's spirit will still carry on as it will be kept alive by you through your actions and courage.

Yet, it is not that simple. The name St Dunstan's is part of our heritage and identity. One St Dunstaner told me that the quirky way in which the name came about is also one of its strengths. It reflects life and how many things seem to happen by pure coincidence.

The reason we are reviewing the name is that we want to make sure the future is not left to chance. St Dunstan's is at a milestone. We are fast approaching our 100th Anniversary, when we want to celebrate not only our history but also the prospects of our next century. In order to secure that future we need to make sure more people know about us and in turn help us carry on by committing their financial support or their time.

There are different ways of addressing this, and it is about so much more than the name. The biggest focus of our efforts is a new programme of activities to raise more awareness and clarity about what we do. This is something we will roll out regardless of any changes to the name, and is the most important part of the Future Focus project.

Many of you have asked how changing the name would make St Dunstan's better known. This is a very valid question. Any changes to the name would need to help describe better what we do. Many other charities, such as Guide

Dogs and Cancer Research UK, immediately convey what they are about, in particular to new groups of people. There are of course exceptions with more abstract names, such as Barnardo's, however they tend to be larger charities with more to spend on advertising. St Dunstan's is smaller and exists for a much more defined group of people.

Despite this argument no conclusion has yet been reached about the St Dunstan's name. The Board of Trustees will decide after the summer. The decision will be based on rigorous testing of the name St Dunstan's and alternative names. The research will involve St Dunstaners, St Dunstan's staff, donors and prospective supporters.

The names that will be tested have been taken from suggestions made by St Dunstaners, staff and consultants.

In total we received approximately 250 suggestions. These were thoroughly scored and reviewed before a shortlist of the following seven names was proposed to the Senior Management Team:

1. Action for Blind Veterans
2. Help Blind Veterans
3. St Dunstan's Blind Veterans
4. Battle Blindness
5. Blind Veterans UK
6. Vision for Veterans
7. St Dunstan's

We would appreciate it if you do not share any of this information outside of the St Dunstan's community.

The final shortlist consists of the last four names on that list. Keeping St Dunstan's is still very much a realistic option. It would also be possible to keep St Dunstan's within a new name. As we have said before we could also keep the term St Dunstaner.

We will continue to tell you about further progress in the next issue of the Review. If you have any questions in the meantime please do not hesitate to email FutureReview@st-dunstans.org.uk or call Susanne Lund on 020 7616 7949.

We leave you with the list of naming suggestions made by you, the Review readers and listeners, through the Future Focus survey. Your suggestions were, in alphabetical order and some grouped together:

1. After Services Support
2. Aid for Blind Service Personnel (ABSP)
3. All Encompassing
4. All Saints
5. Armed Forces Blind Association of St Dunstan's
6. Arthur Pearson Trust / Pearson / Pearson's Pilgrims / Sir Arthur Pearson Rehab Centre for Blind Ex-Service Personnel
7. Association of... St Dunstan's / Blind Veterans
8. Beacon - "We Guide the Blind" or "We light the way for the Blind"
9. Blind Ex-Service... Men / Men and Women Association / Personnel (BEP) / Sight Support (BESS) / Support (BLESS) / Training (B-ES-T) / Veterans
10. Blind Heroes / Blind Heroes GB / British Blind Heroes
11. Blind Service Personnel of St Dunstan's
12. Blind Veterans UK / Association / Organisation / Blinded Veterans UK
13. Blind Vision
14. Blind Vision for Veterans
15. Blind War Veterans Association / National Service Blind Veterans Association (NSBVA)
16. British Blind Veterans Association (BBVA) / British Forces Blind Association (BFBA)
17. British Services Society
18. Care for Comrades
19. CCTV - Comradeship, Care and Training for Veterans
20. Centre for the Support of Blind Ex-Services Personnel
21. Chipping Sodbury Crushers
22. Comrades in Arms
23. Dunstan / Dunstan's / Dunstaners / St D's / The Dunstan Family / The Dunstaners
24. Dunstan's RSVHSP (Royal Society for Visually Handicapped Service Personnel)
25. Dunstanable (To Live Again)
26. Dunstan's Ex-Serviceman Blind Institute / Dunstan's for the Blind / Dunstan's Supporting the Blind

27. Dunstan's VIVA (Visually Impaired Veterans Aid)
28. Ex-Armed Forces Charity for the Blind & Severely Sighted
29. Ex-Service Blind Aid / Association / People with Sight Loss
30. Ex-Servicemen's Association
31. ExSightAble
32. Eye Charity for St D's Blind and Visually Impaired for Ex-Service Men and Women
33. Eyes Right Association
34. Fight for Sight
35. Forces Rehabilitation Service
36. Forcesight
37. Help 4 Blind Heroes & Veterans UK / Help for Ex-Service People
38. Helvet St Dunstan's
39. Injured Servicemen Care Centre
40. Knights of the Realm
41. Light' for Blind Ex-Servicemen
42. LIVAGEN
43. Old Comrades
44. Organisation for the Rehabilitation and Support of Blinded Servicemen and Service Veterans
45. Place of Duty
46. Rehabilitation for Blind Veterans
47. Royal Comrade
48. Royal Society for Blind Ex-Servicemen and Women (RSBE)
49. Royal St Dunstan's / Royal St Dunstan's Conquering Blindness (RSDCB)
50. Shine a Light
51. Sight Aid UK
52. Sight Through Service
53. Society of Veterans
54. SOS (Save our Servicemen)
55. SSA Services Sight Aid
56. St Dunstan's DVA (Disabled Veterans Association)
57. St Dunstaner... Blind Veterans Association / Blind Veterans League
Blind Veterans Members / for Blind Service Personnel / The
St Dunstaner Charity
58. St Dunstan's - A Guiding Light

59. St Dunstan's - Charity for Blind Service People
60. St Dunstan's - Continuing support for Service Personnel
61. St Dunstan's - British War Blinded / Helping War Blinded Heroes
62. St Dunstan's - Heroes for Heroes / Blind Heroes
63. St Dunstan's - Provider of Independent Living for the Blind
64. St Dunstan's - Supporting Ex-Service Personnel / Supporting the
Blind
65. St Dunstan's - The Blind Ex-Service People's Charity / Ex-Service
Blinded
66. St Dunstan's - The Care for Heroic Blind Ex-Service Men and Women
67. St Dunstan's - The Forces Charity for Sight Impaired
68. St Dunstan's - the Society which helps blind Ex-Service men and
women / The Society for Sightless Service Personnel
69. St Dunstan's - Who Share the Care for Ex-Service Men & Women
70. St Dunstan's Aid for Blind Veterans / Caring for War Blinded Veterans
71. St Dunstan's Army
72. St Dunstan's Association of Blind Ex-Servicemen
73. St Dunstan's Blind Veterans / St Dunstan's Blind Veterans Association
74. St Dunstan's Caring for the Visually Impaired Military Personnel
75. St Dunstan's... Charity for the Blind / Charity for Blind Ex-Service
Members
76. St Dunstan's Ex-Service... Blind / Blind Association / People's Prime
Rehabilitation Centres
77. St Dunstan's for Active Blind Life
78. St Dunstan's for... Blind Heroes / all Blind Heroes / Blind Comrades
79. St Dunstan's For Blind Ex-Service Men and Women / Personnel
80. St Dunstan's for Ex-Service Men and Women
81. St Dunstan's for Service Vision
82. St Dunstan's for the Blind / Society for the Blind
83. St Dunstan's for the Visually Impaired in the National Service
84. St Dunstan's for War and Service Blind Personnel
85. St Dunstan's Help for the Visually Impaired
86. St Dunstan's Helping Blind & Partially Sighted Veterans
87. St Dunstan's Organisation for Blind Ex-Service Men and Women
88. St Dunstan's Still Serving / Serving Blind Service Personnel
89. St Dunstan's Sight Impaired Veterans / Support for Blind Veterans

90. St Dunstan's Supporting Those Blinded in the Service of the Country
91. St Dunstan's Veterans / Veterans Society / Vision for Veterans
92. St Dunstan's VIVA - Visually Impaired Veterans Agency (VIVA)
93. St Dunstan's War Blind Association/Organisation/Charity
94. St Dunstan's War Heroes
95. St Dunstan's Working to Support Ex-Service Men and Women
96. St Dunstan's... Carers of Comrades
97. Stardust For Blind and Visually Impaired Ex-Service Men and Women
98. STROBES (Support & Training Rehabilitation Organisation for Blind Ex-Servicemen)
99. The Achievers
100. The Armed Forces Association
101. The Beacons
102. The Blind Hero Charity (also known as St Dunstan's)
103. The Blind Services for St Dunstaners
104. The Blind Veterans Association of St Dunstan's / The British Blind Veterans Association or Organisation
105. The Dunstan's Blind Foundation - 'The DBF'
106. The Dunstan's Trust (For Blind Veterans)
107. The Ex-Service Blind Society
108. The Forces Aftercare
109. The Guiding Hand
110. The League of St Dunstan's
111. The Not Forgotten Brigade / The White Stick Brigade
112. The Royal Charter of Ex-Service Men and Women
113. The Royal Military Blind Society
114. The St Dunstan's Inspiration / The Strength of St Dunstan's
115. UK VIP's (Visually Impaired Persons)
116. UK Warriors / Warriors of the UK
117. Veterans Association for Ex-Servicemen / Veterans Association for the Blind
118. Veterans Blind Vision
119. Visionaries
120. Visual Impaired Service People Association (VISA) / Visual Impaired Veterans' Society
121. Wartime Veterans Residents

St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War Reunion.

**by Ray Hazan,
St Dunstan's President.**

"For their tomorrow, we gave our today"

It was a small but distinguished group of St Dunstaners who met up at Ovingdean from 15th - 18th April to honour and remember the friends they left behind in the prison camps. This is a group of people who deserve the utmost respect in view of what they endured and, in many cases, must continue to do so today.

General Sir Peter de la Billière, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, DL, President of the POW group, chaired the AGM, held on Saturday morning, 16th April. He was accompanied by Lady de la Billière.

In attendance were Andrew Howard, Stefan Ciesla, Joe Hirsh, Robert Cass, Sydney Tavender, Charles Blockley, John Holloway, Henry Sheridan, John Sharpley, Alf Lockart and Peter Brice.

After the exhortation, the meeting discussed the date and timings of these reunions. It was stated that the date had to fit in with a busy Ovingdean programme but that the move to a lunchtime function was acceptable.

A list of fifteen POW St Dunstaners who had died over the year was read out.

The elections were held and the following Committee members were re-elected:

Chairman/Secretary:	Mr Sydney Tavender
Treasurer:	Angie Blake, Cashier Ovingdean
Assistant Secretary:	Mrs Beryl Gardner

The gathering then moved upstairs to the Winter Garden for a very pleasant lunch. The Guest Speaker was Martin Bell, OBE; 'the man in the white suit', Independent MP, BBC War Correspondent and reporter and Ambassador for UNICEF. We had last met Martin in June 2010 at the Church Stretton reunion.

Martin mentioned the many commitments confronting British Forces these days and the high level of casualties. Although many of the returning Servicemen and women appeared untouched, the average time span before PTSD, post traumatic stress disorder, started showing itself, was 12 years, "so we are building up a backlog".

Martin went on to talk about his representation as President of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors Association. They were not seeking just financial compensation, but, more importantly, an apology. Reverting to his theme of the current conflicts, he felt that society was much closer to the military than ten years ago. "Today, we are bringing our casualties home, rather than leaving them buried and forgotten in a foreign land". Martin assured the audience that he was still working on behalf of the ex-FEPOW's. He was reassured by the public support given to Service people but was still concerned about the mental health aspect of the future.

Amongst his many careers, Martin had added that of poetry and quoted from his book due to be published this autumn:

Iraq, Afghanistan, now Libya too,
We've learned one lesson and we've learnt it well.
Going to war is an easy thing to do,
But getting out of it is as hard as hell!

Ray Hazan presented Mrs Violet Holloway, wife of POW John, with flowers at the lunch on 16th April as it was her birthday on 15th April. The next Ex-POW reunion will take place from Friday 13th to Monday 16th April, 2012.



Picture: POW reunion Sir Peter de la Billiere and Ray Hazan listening to Martin Bell.

Ten questions on...

The subject "Horses"

by Harry Beevers.

1. Who was the rider of the horse Goodwill in the 1976 Montreal Olympics?
2. What in a circus is a liberty horse?
3. The famous Spanish Horse Riding School is in the capital city of which country?
4. What term, the Spanish word for rough or rude, is used in the United States, northern Mexico and Canada to refer to an untrained horse or one that habitually bucks?
5. What name is given to the unpaved road along the south side of Hyde Park in London, intended for riders of horses?
6. Which horse of fiction had a half brother named Ginger?
7. As seen in the film Ben Hur, how many horses pulled a Roman racing chariot?
8. Which famous mythical horse was adopted as the badge of the Parachute Regiment?
9. What was the name of the horse in the "Steptoe and Son" television series?
10. During a game of polo, how many horses are on the field of play?

Answers on page 37

The Glitterati Choose Rhodes over Dali.

by Catherine Goodier.

In the December edition of the Review we predicted that Matt Rhodes was a rising star and we were on the money. In fact £1,300 on the money, as that's the amount Matt's portrait of Dame Vera Lynn DBE, raised at her star studded ball on Saturday 2nd April at the Lancaster Hotel in London.

Actor Christopher Biggins, who played 'Lukewarm Lewis' in the television sitcom Porridge and co-presented Surprise Surprise with Cilla Black, auctioned the portrait which sold for more than an original by Salvador Dali.

Speaking of his night, Matt said: "To introduce my painting Christopher Biggins said 'And the next lot is a painting by Matt Rhodes, a blind artist.' The audience laughed as they thought he was joking but it was soon down to business as he started the bidding at £400, finishing minutes later at £1,300.

"I felt delighted and still can't believe my portrait outsold a Dali. As half of the proceeds will go to St Dunstan's and half to the Dame Vera Lynn Trust for Children with Cerebral Palsy it only added to the magic of the evening."



Picture: Matt Rhodes with Dame Vera Lynn, DBE.



Auctioneer Christopher Biggins with Matt Rhodes and his portrait of Dame Vera Lynn in the background.

Call to Support St Dunstaners in September as they March to Open Llandudno.

by Catherine Goodier.

The length St Dunstaners will go to in support of this great charity is wonderful, and I am deeply impressed with Billy Black, Steve Sparkes and Chris Lee and the momentous challenge they will undertake for St Dunstan's.

From 5th September they will undertake a 400 mile march with one mission in mind – to open the Llandudno Centre to their fellow St Dunstaners.

On 5th September at Ovingdean Helen Emmerson, Head of Centre Services will present Billy, Steve and Chris with the key to Llandudno. Cheered by their fellow St Dunstaners, staff, family and friends they will set off to march to HQ at Harcourt Street in London before heading to the Sheffield Centre. After a good night's rest they will set off to their destination, the new Centre in Llandudno.

The exact route has yet to be finalised but we are asking you to support them – perhaps by joining them for a while as they march through your locality, or perhaps to put them up overnight.

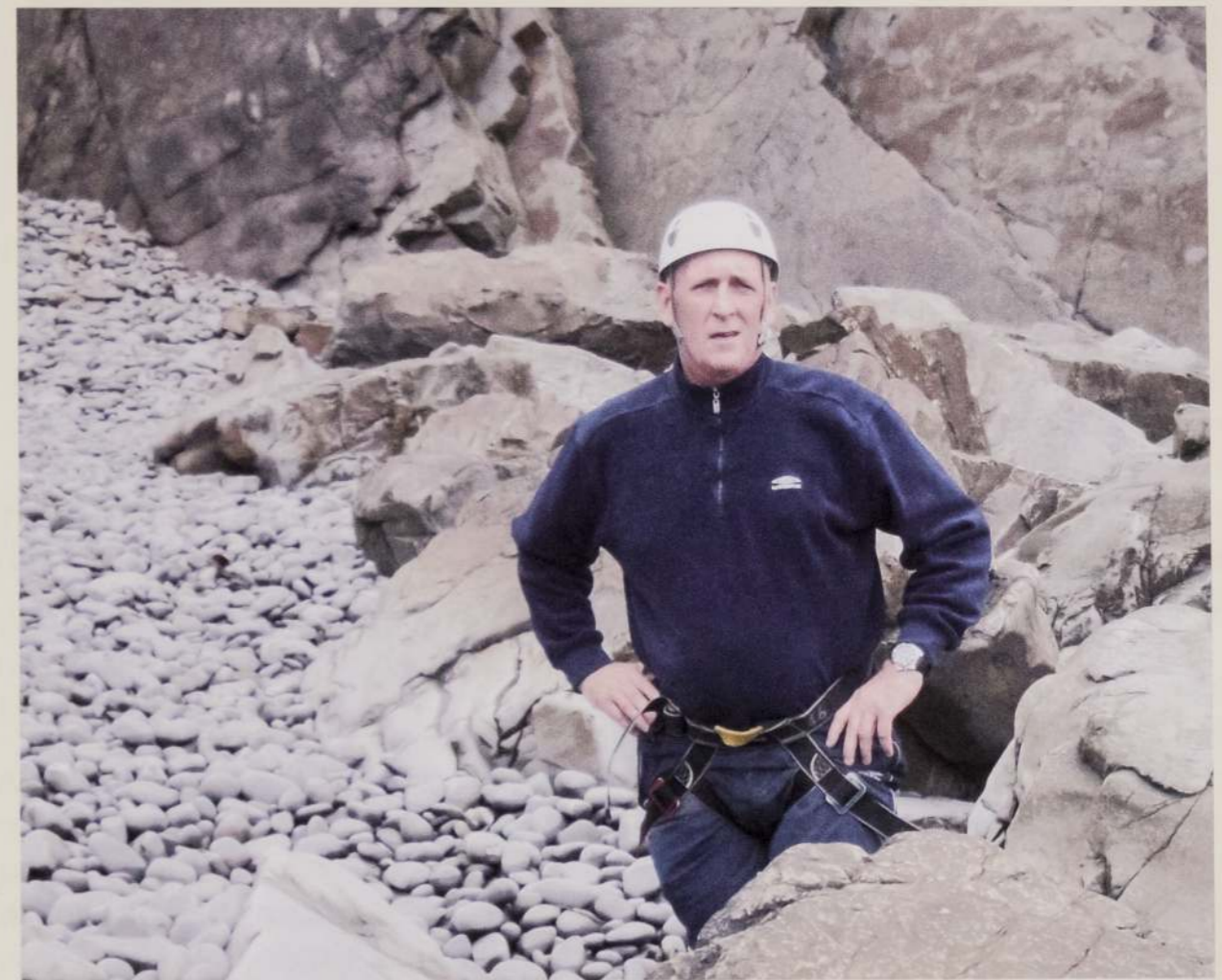
Chris Lee is the Logistics Co-ordinator and in the July edition of the Review we will provide contact details for Chris should you wish to take part, or put them up overnight.

Billy Black explains how he got the idea for the March: "Steve Sparkes, or Sparkey as he's known, had been on at me for a while to do something as we both needed a challenge. I'm at college studying for an NVQ in Sports and Leisure to become a Physical Training Instructor and as Steve is super fit the idea of a Centre to Centre March to draw attention to St Dunstan's and open the new Centre struck me as the logical challenge. Steve who is a former Royal Marine has kept himself fit by doing marathons, triathlons and just about any sporting event going.

"We want to invite our fellow St Dunstaners and their family and friends to join us en-route. You don't need to be fit and if you can only walk with us for 5 minutes, or for 5 hours we would value your support and comradeship. We would equally value people turning out to say hello, or cheer us on, as we march through your neighbourhood."

The route, which has yet to be finalised is:

5th September start at Ovingdean on Day 1 to finish in Redhill; Redhill to finish in London at Harcourt Street, St Dunstan's National HQ; London to Watford; Watford to Bedford; Bedford to Leicester; Leicester to Nottingham; Nottingham to Sheffield; Sheffield to Macclesfield; Macclesfield to Chester; Chester to Rhyl; Rhyl to Llandudno.



Picture: Billy Black.

Sink the Bismarck!

By Harry Beevers.

We bring you an intriguing article by Harry Beevers relating to the sinking of the Bismarck on 27 May 1941 that is linked to a most interesting St Dunstaner.

One of the great pleasures of being an ex-quizz man is that I regularly receive telephone calls and emails with the opening words, 'Here's one for you Harry!' There usually follows a very difficult and complicated question, the answer to which I have not the slightest idea. However, the enjoyment begins as I get out the reference books, or delve into Google, and try to come up with an answer.

One of the best examples of such a message recently arrived from St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge Project Officer and beer connoisseur Colin Williamson. Here is the question he posed and I quote:

'Harry old boy, answer this one. He appeared in numerous films that included Superman 4 where he worked alongside Christopher Reeve and Gene Hackman; Robin and Marian with Sean Connery and Richard Harris. Where's Jack with Tommy Steele, Anne of a Thousand Days with Richard Burton and The Spy Who Came in From the Cold, again with Burton.

'One fitting role was in Sink the Bismarck! alongside Kenneth Moore, when he played the Commanding Officer onboard HMS Prince Of Wales. The film told the story of how the Prince of Wales was badly damaged when the German battleship Bismarck turned its guns on her. The role was fitting as he had been a Gunnery Officer onboard the Prince of Wales during the battle when he was virtually blinded.

'Further films included The Prince and the showgirl with Marilyn Monroe and Helen of Troy with Brigitte Bardot. He worked alongside such greats of stage and screen as Laurence Olivier, Peter Finch, Errol Flynn, Ralph Richardson, Googie Withers and Deborah Kerr. He was also a St. Dunstaner. Name him!'

Now that's what I call a very interesting question and of course I had no idea as to the answer.

However, after five minutes consulting Halliwell's Film Guide and Film Companion the answer became obvious. It was the well-known actor Esmond

Knight who played mainly small roles in countless films. Like Alec Guinness he had the ability to absorb himself in his characters with chameleon like skill.

I had heard of Esmond Knight but I had no idea he was partially sighted and that it was a shell from the Bismarck which had caused his injury. Furthermore, he had become a St Dunstaner and trained at Church Stretton before he played the Captain of the battleship Prince of Wales in the film Sink the Bismarck!

It's surprising what memories can be aroused by a question in an email.



Picture: Esmond Knight as Captain Leach in Sink The Bismarck!

Note from Ed:

We would like to thank John Hughes who so kindly supplied the photograph of Esmond. John has set up a splendid website which can be found at www.esmondknight.org.uk

As John Hughes told the Review "Of particular interest might be the image of Esmond in the film Sink The Bismarck! This photograph shows Esmond playing Captain Leach, standing on the compass platform of HMS Prince of Wales which has just been wrecked by a shell from the Bismarck. It was this very shell that blinded Esmond and at this very moment he would have been lying on the ground next to Captain Leach seriously wounded. I don't think there are many actors who can say they have re-enacted in a film such a traumatic moment from their own life."

Highly Commended in St Dunstan's Short Story Competition.

This month we bring you the second short story which was chosen 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 this story Sue Townsend wrote: I would like to Highly Commend Pre-War Memories by George Oliver for evoking the delights that public parks provided for poor children.

Pre-War Memories by George Oliver from Brighton.

I was born in Liverpool in September 1930 the eighth child of a family of eleven children, two of whom died during childhood. I was not aware of the poverty that prevailed at that time until I was evacuated at the start of the war.

My earliest recollections of my childhood were of sitting in a pram with a smell of dried urine and the feel of biscuit crumbs on my legs. Another memory is of sitting on the edge of the pavement in the summer with my feet in the gutter bursting bubbles in the tar coating on the road's surface. At about the age of four I learned to ride my elder sister's bike. The bike itself was a girl's model which had no crossbar so my legs were long enough to reach the pedals but the gear wheel carrying the chain was rubbing my crotch, so to mount the bike I had to lean it against the nearest lamppost and stand on the two pedals, holding the handlebars which were above my head. I would push off from the lamppost with one hand and pedal down the street. My method of dismounting was to pedal up to a lamppost and fling both arms around it, take my feet off the pedals and slide to the ground allowing the bike to carry on until it fell.

One day I decided to go for a bike ride. Upon going outside I found my elder brother had the bike upside down on the pavement furiously turning the pedals to make the back wheel spin. I leaned forward to apply the brake but my brother pushed my hand away, unfortunately the index finger of my left hand was caught in the gear chain and was badly damaged. A bread delivery van was parked outside my parents' shop, the driver had seen the accident and put me into the passenger seat of his van and took me and my sister to the hospital, where the doctor cleaned and stitched my finger and put it into a splint and bandages.

Just before my fifth birthday I started at St Paul's Infant School. On my first day I was seated next to a little girl named Vivienne S, whose first words to me were 'Show me yours and I'll show you mine'. I had no sooner obliged, when the teacher stormed over and promptly threw me out of the school.

In November of the same year my mother gave birth to a little girl named Norma. In December of that year my Aunt Annie won a hamper full of food and goodies which she generously shared with our family. My share of the goodies was a large box of lead soldiers; all were models of mounted Household Cavalry holding drawn swords.

All through my childhood most of my free time was spent either playing in the treeless streets of the Dingle or in one of the following locations; they were Sefton Park, Princes Park and The Cast Iron Shore. My favourite place was Sefton Park because it was so huge covering hundreds of acres. Some of the facilities within the park included a large boating lake where rowing boats and speedboats could be hired, on one side of the lake there was a Swiss chalet type building which was used by the model yacht club to store their boats and equipment, there were also several shelters around the lake and a small island in the middle. In the winter the lake usually froze over making it a popular place for ice-skaters to show their skills. There was a Palm House containing tropical plants and the building was surrounded by statues of famous people. Along the path from the Palm House to the iron bridge, which crossed a stream was a magical place called The Fairy Glen. This was a large pool with three sides covered by bushes and rocks which rose as high as the iron bridge, between the rocks and the bridge was a flight of stone steps meandering up to the

bridge. It was possible to clamber over some of these rocks to enter a small cave which was hidden from view.

The boating lake was fed by a long stream with a path running alongside, the path joined the boating lake to the café and halfway between was a Bandstand built in the middle of the stream with a gated bridge connecting it to the path. This path joined four other paths outside the café, one of which led you directly to the Aviary which contained many exotic birds including peacocks. Following on from the Aviary the path took you to Peter Pan's statue which was a copy of the statue in Kensington Gardens, London. On the stream next to the statue was a large model of Jolly Roger which is Captain Hook's boat in the story of Peter Pan, on the banks of the stream was Wendy's House which had a top hat as a chimney and a shoe as a door knocker.

During the summer holidays a theatrical company performed the play Peter Pan, this was a very exciting day. The whole length of this stream was landscaped with trees, shrubs and flowers. Near to Peter Pan's statue on the outer drive of the park was Robin Hood's cave. This was set into a grassy slope the entrance was at the bottom of the slope. Inside this large cave was a flight of stone steps leading to an escape hole which brought one out at the top of the slope.

Along the western side of the park there was a wide strip of sand which ran half the circumference of the park. This sand was used for horseback riding and was called the Jockey Sands. Facilities for most sports were also provided and there was ample open space to accommodate visiting circuses and fairgrounds.

Princes Park was separated from Sefton Park by Ullet Road, this road connected Aigburth Road on the west side of the park to Wavertree on the eastern side. Princes Park was a more formally laid out park and was used mostly by retired people and mothers with their babies. There was a landscaped lake with very low railings running along the edge of the path which could easily be jumped over allowing access to the lake which was well stocked with fish. If one kept ones eye on the whereabouts of the park keeper many hours of fishing could be enjoyed.

On the southern side of the park was a large bowl shaped area called the Daily Field, this had a path running from the northern rim of the bowl down to the bottom of the bowl on the west side and then up to the rim of the south side, making this an ideal area for cycling, roller skating and go-carting. When the field was snow covered it was an ideal place to enjoy tobogganing.

The Cast Iron Shore was the bank of the River Mersey, which ran between Aigburth Vale and Otterspool Park. This was a lovely sandy beach scattered with large slabs of sandstone which we loved to leap from one to another, there were high cliffs to climb, making it an ideal playground for children. There were plenty of comings and goings along the river with boats and big ships heading for the Manchester ship canal and plying between the docks and shipyards on the Wirral side of the rivers. There was also a ferry service connecting Liverpool Pier head to Birkenhead Woodside, Seacombe and New Brighton. One of the treats we enjoyed was to travel on the ferry from Liverpool across to New Brighton and back again without paying as the pay stations were all on the Wirral side of the river, this later led to the downfall of the ferries.

Liverpool had a fine overhead railway, which ran from the Dingle in the south to Seaforth in the north, which gave one panoramic views of the city, the dock system and the river, you could even see as far as the Welsh mountains. There was also a wonderful tram car system where you could travel almost anywhere in the city for a few pence.

In 1937 due to a slum clearance programme most of the Dingle was to be demolished and lots of new houses and flats were to be built by the Council. New estates were also being built outside of Liverpool at Fazakerly, Garston and Speke. My parents did not want to leave Liverpool so we rented a house near Princes Park.

In 1939 at the start of the Second World War most school children were evacuated out of the city. In the first week of September of that year my brother Stanley, my sister Lily and I boarded a train to Northwich in Cheshire. This was the start of an exciting new life as now we had hot running water, a bathroom, electric lights and new clothes.

Poet's Corner

To mark Armed Forces Day on 25th June 2011 we have great pleasure including a poem written by Elsie Hunter, a St Dunstaner from Kirkcaldy. Elsie served as a Lance Corporal in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1950 when she served in England, Belgium and Germany.

I thank the Armed Forces in Afghanistan
As they fight the Taliban
To protect me and many others
Also this beautiful British Land

They march and slog daily
In that dreadful heat
Their hearts may be very heavy
And so must be their feet

Our thoughts are always with them
And pray that this war will cease
Back home to their loved ones
And an everlasting peace

I pray for someone to watch over them
And bring them safely back
May God Bless the Armed Forces
And also Bless the Union Jack

I am so proud of the Black Watch
I should shout it loud and clear
For all the courage they have shown
To make the Taliban disappear

We extend our gratitude to all British Troops serving around the world.

The Pitmen Painters

by Clare Brotherwood Arts and Theatre Critic.

Remember Yasmina Reza's Art?

Who would have thought that a play in which three men agonise over a rectangle of white paint would be such a hit?

And who would have thought that a play about Northumbrian miners who find fame as painters would end up at the National Theatre and on Broadway? It was beyond my imagination - until I was privileged to see the opening night of its six month national tour at the Theatre Royal Windsor. I loved Art but The Pitmen Painters is Art in full, glorious colour - and I don't just mean the paintings. It's packed full of humour, guts, inspiration and poignancy. It's packed full of life!

And even though it is set in the thirties and forties its message is just as relevant today: take part in the best that life has to offer, and you'll grow with it. The subject matter may not have originally grabbed me as a stage play, but at the pen - or should I say keyboard - of Lee Hall, who created Billy Elliot, the true story of miners who joined a WEA Art Appreciation class and became famous as painters, really comes to life.

The journey of discovery begins in 1934 when three miners, a dental technician and a youngster on the dole turn up at The Hut in Ashington to learn about art from Art Historian Robert Lyon. They know absolutely nothing about art, which makes for much humour, but they are fearless in their pursuits and the play is such that, as their knowledge and their passion for art grows, so do ours.

There are stirring and sometimes moving performances from Christopher Connel as Oliver; Deka Walmsley as George, whose adherence to rules and regulations makes today's health and safety nonsense's pale into insignificance; David Whitaker as Jimmy, who has been going down the pit since the age of 10 and thought the Sistine Chapel was in Tynemouth; and Brian Lonsdale as 'the young lad' (and artist Ben Nicholson) - all of whom were members of the original cast at the Live Theatre, Newcastle.

Trevor Fox is every bit their match as dental technician Harry, while David Leonard as the posh Mr Lyons and Caroline Faber as the softy spoken (too softy at times) benefactor Helen Sutherland, draw sharp contrasts to the earthiness of the workers.

The most thrilling of moments occur between scenes! Sound designer Martin Hodgson and lighting designer Douglas Kuhrt do wonders to create the miners' working environment, so much so that I almost smelt the coal dust.

I know they did wear them in those days, but I also liked seeing the workers going to their class in suits, ties and polished shoes, as if they respected education – and each other... which they did. When Mr Lyons brings a life model into their studio there's outrage - and yet another funny but totally real situation.

The play ends on the eve of nationalism, and I dare anyone not to have tears in their eyes as the entire cast join the local brass band in the miners' hymn - a fitting end to an extraordinary work of art!

The Pitmen Painters is touring until September 2011 when it will visit:

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton 30th May – 4th June

Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne 6th -11th June

Theatre Royal, Nottingham 13th – 18th June

Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford 20th – 25th June

Grand Theatre, Blackpool 27th June – 2nd July

Theatre Royal, Plymouth 4th – 9th July

Richmond Theatre 11th -16th July

Civic Theatre, Darlington 18th – 23rd July

King's Theatre, Glasgow 25th – 30th July

Festival Theatre, Malvern 1st – 6th August

Tyne Journal Theatre 8th - 13th August

Palace Theatre, Southend 15th – 20th August

Grand Theatre, Leeds 22nd – 27th August

Theatre Royal Brighton 29th August – 3rd September

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells 5th -10th September

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry 12th – 17th September

Churchill Theatre Bromley 19th – 24th September



Picture: The Pitmen Painters.

Family News

Congratulations to:

Congratulations to Emma Munro-Smith from Grove, Oxfordshire who was presented with her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award at St James's Palace by Prince Edward. Emma is the granddaughter of St Dunstaner William (Bill) Smith.

Weddings:

Diamond (60th):

Alan & Jo George of Solihull, West Midlands on 12th May.

Golden (50th):

Lesley & Leslie Milne of Lee on the Solent, Hampshire on 20th May.

Ruby (40th):

David & Eileen Jordan of Hindhead, Surrey on 11th May.

We regret to announce the death of:

Joan Blake-Davies who died on 26th April 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Horace Blake.

Margaret Chadwick who died on 18th April 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Ernest Chadwick.

Edith Dadswell who died on 25th April 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Edward Dadswell.

Marjorie Harrison who died on 16th May 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Keith Harrison.

Mary Kelly who died on 12th April 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner the late Joseph Kelly.

Eileen MacKenzie who died on 4th May 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late James MacKenzie.

Kathleen Martin who died on 1st October 2010, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Frank Martin.

Edna Parker who died on 15th April 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Ernest Parker.

Barbara Pearce who died on 14th April 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Norman Pearce.

June Shepherd who died on 3rd May 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late George Shepherd.

Gaynor Watkins who died on 15th April 2011, she was the sister-in-law of St Dunstaner the late Edward Kitson.

Beer of the Month.

by Colin Williamson.

Desperados.

A very unique lager type beer infused with Tequila. Surprisingly, this beer is brewed in France, but differs greatly from many of the French beers I've tried. This golden coloured thirst quencher has an added touch of lime, which unsurprisingly makes it taste like lager and lime but with a noticeable kick to it. It's quite a decent ABV, coming in at 5.9%, and when chilled it is a very refreshing drink as it's citrusy and slightly tangy. Ideal for those summer barbeques, this beer can be found in most large supermarkets.

Answers to Ten questions on... The subject "Horses" from page 21.

1. Princess Anne
2. One that performs without a rider.
3. Austria, in Vienna.
4. Bronco.
5. Rotten Row.
6. Black Beauty.
7. Four.
8. Pegasus.
9. Hercules.
10. Ten, eight players and two umpires.

Welcome to **St Dunstan's**

Mark Abel of Worcester served in the Royal Corps of Transport and the Royal Logistics Corps from 1982 to 1996.

Christopher Andrews of Poole, Dorset served in the Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Artillery and the Prince of Wales's Division from 1949 to 1969.

William Barnes of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire served in the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1940 to 1946.

James Bruce of South West London served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1947.

Norman Booney of Barry, South Glamorgan served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1948 to 1950.

Peter Burbery of Brighton, East Sussex served in the Royal Sussex Regiment from 1954 to 1959.

Roy Burgess of Wirral, Merseyside served in the Scots Guards and the Royal Engineers from 1950 to 1957.

Sheila Clune of Emsworth, Hampshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1945 to 1947.

Norman Craven of Dighton, Huddersfield served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1947.

Robert Dixey of Didcot, Oxfordshire served in the Royal Navy from 1949 to 1959.

Raymond Dodd of Petersfield, Hampshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

Gladys Edey of Worthing, West Sussex served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1944 to 1946.

Griffith Evans of Luton, Bedfordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Terrence Fearn of Northalleraton, North Yorkshire served in the General Service Corps, the Royal Artillery and the Royal Army Service Corps from 1945 to 1965.

Reverend John Finch of Preston, Lancs served in the East Lancashire Regiment from 1940 to 1946.

William Gasson of Burgess Hill, West Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1948 and in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1953 to 1965.

Ellis Gold of Liverpool served in the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1954.

Kenneth Hack from Northampton served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

Betty Hallett of Godalming, Surrey served in the Royal Navy Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service Unit from 1941 to 1946.

Dorothy Harper of Salisbury served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1939 to 1941.

Ronald Hawkins from Fordingbridge, Hampshire served in the Royal Signals from 1951 to 1957.

Serviah Hughes of Cwmbran served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1945 to 1948.

Robert Irons of Wirral, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1948.

Norman Jones of Ilkley, West Yorks served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1947 to 1949.

Alan Kilby of Folkestone, Kent served in the General Service Corps, Royal Armoured Corps and the Intelligence Corps from 1946 to 1973.

Stanley Knight from Lymington, Hampshire served in the Coldstream Guards from 1944 to 1946.

Francis Macaulay of Grantown-On-Spey served in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders from 1939 to 1946.

Ian Marks of Solihull, West Midlands served in the Royal Military Police in 1975.

John McEvoy of Sevenoaks, Kent served in the Scots Guards from 1957 to 1959 and in the Royal Engineers from 1976 to 1980.

John McGinn of Llandudno, Gwynedd served in the Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Signals from 1940 to 1945.

John Merrall of Preston, Lancs served in the Royal Air Force from 1960 to 1962.

David Morgan of Accrington, Lancashire served in the Royal Signals from 1971 to 1978.

Enid Morgan of Cardiff served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

Donald Osborn of March, Cambridgeshire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Armoured Corps from 1942 to 1946.

Harold Richardson of Newcastle Upon Tyne served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1946.

Harry Talbot of Sheffield served in the Royal Engineers from 1941 to 1946.

Gordon Truman of Birmingham served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 to 1946.

Derek Turner of South East London served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1952 to 1959.

Clifford Tweats of Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Armoured Corps from 1946 to 1948.

Stanley Vickers of Doncaster, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1941 to 1946.

Margaret Vincent of Lymington, Hampshire served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1946.

Peter Watkins of Tredegar, Gwent served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

Ronald White of Taynult, Argyll served in the Grenadier Guards from 1950 to 1955.

Donald Widdowfield of Epsom, Surrey served in the Royal Green Jackets and the East Surrey Regiment from 1949 to 1954.

Kathleen Williams of Lewes, East Sussex served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

Keith Wood of Towcester, Northamptonshire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1961 to 1983.

Eric Woolley of Looe, Cornwall served in the Royal Air Force from 1936 to 1945.

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.

David Collingbourne, Royal Air Force

David Collingbourne of Brighton, East Sussex died on 7th April 2011, aged 81. Brought up in Brighton he joined the RAF in 1947 for National Service and served in the UK before he was discharged in 1949. After National Service he became a wood turner and joiner at the Sussex Joinery Works in Brighton and he worked for Allen and West as a maintenance carpenter. He also did volunteer work helping the blind. Mr Collingbourne leaves his widow Gladys and a son.

Keith Crosby, Royal Air Force

Keith Crosby of Seaford, East Sussex died on 4th April 2011, aged 91. He left school at the age of 18 and joined the Society for Sacred Mission and was a monk for four years. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1942 and served until 1974. He trained at Cardington and became aircrew when he trained as a pilot. He then joined Flying Control and oversaw the early development of Flying Control through to the modern Air Traffic Control. He served in North Africa, Europe and Singapore. Commissioned in 1943 he left as a Group Captain. At the end of his military service he returned to civilian life and was employed in Local Government in Cleveland. Married to Helen they had two sons and a daughter who sadly passed away. He had one grandchild.

Alison Crump, Auxiliary Territorial Service

Alison Crump of North West London died on 20th March 2011, aged 91. She read History at Edinburgh University before she joined the ATS in 1942 and served in Plymouth, Corsham and the War Office before she was discharged in 1947. After discharge she moved to Germany with her husband, an Officer in the Education Corps whose job was setting up British schools for service personnel. On her return to the UK she taught in Hendon and worked as a Head of 6th Form until her retirement at 65. She was widowed.

Charles Dancer, Royal Engineers

Charles Dancer of Bexhill, East Sussex died on 7th April 2011, aged 91. Mr Dancer served with the Royal Engineers from 1938 to 1960, leaving as a Staff Sergeant. He served in Belgium, Germany, India, Burma and France. Married to Valerie he also leaves a daughter, Caroline.

Gerald 'Gerry' Fitzgerald, Royal Navy

Gerald 'Gerry' Fitzgerald of Hull, North Humberside died on 28th April 2011, aged 92. He joined the Royal Navy in 1937 and trained at HMS Drake. He initially served in frigates and destroyers. He then served in HMS Black Prince under Captain Walker on anti-submarine duty protecting convoys. He was later in the Mediterranean and the Far East. He was discharged in 1946 and qualified as a plumber. He worked for a company for 45 years, retiring at 65. Married to his second wife Jean, Mr Fitzgerald had three sons in the UK and one daughter in Australia.

Brigid Flanagan, Royal Tank Regiment

Brigid Flanagan of Winchester, Hampshire died on 9th April 2011, aged 83. She served in the UK in the Royal Tank Regiment from 1945 to 1954. She was living in Limerick, and wanted to join up but as she was underage she applied using the name of her older sister. She served in Doncaster at Catterick having completed her training in Ballymena.

After service she returned to Limerick and ran a small shop for a while before she returned to Chiswick and worked at the American Greeting Cards Company. She spent a couple of years in the USA at Fort Lauderdale and also lived in Chicago for a while. She had two sons and a daughter, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Joseph Howard, Royal Navy

Joseph Howard from King's Lynn, Norfolk died on 29th March 2011, aged 85. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and trained at HMS Scotia. He joined HMS Treador which received two direct hits in France during the Normandy Landings. He then joined HMS King George V where he was wounded by shrapnel whilst off Crete. After service in HMS Black Prince, operating between Alexandria and the Far East he returned to UK and was discharged in 1946. He ultimately settled working at the International Stores in Warrington for 40 years, retiring at 65. Married to Irene Mr Howard also leaves two sons and one step daughter.

Charles Victor Jones, Territorial Army and the Royal Tank Regiment

Charles Victor Jones of Teignmouth, Devon died on 9th May 2011, aged 92. He joined the Territorial Army in 1936. His first six months were spent in training before he was posted to the 57th Heavy Training Regiment Royal Armoured Corps in Warminster. He was then transferred to North Africa where he joined the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment as a Wireless Operator. He then took part in the D-Day Landings on Gold Beach. He was demobilised in 1946, leaving as a Corporal Tank

Commander. At the end of the war he found employment with the Timber Trade in Liverpool. He worked for a number of other companies before he became a Timber Inspector. He remained in the Timber business until his retirement at the age of 65.

George Jones, Royal Artillery and the South Wales Borderers

George Jones of Cwmdru, Swansea died on 1 May 2011, aged 91. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940, training at Devizes and was posted to the Middle East for three years. He served in Egypt, Syria, Greece and Crete with a Heavy Ack-Ack Battery. In 1945 he transferred to the South Wales Borderers and was finally discharged in 1945 as a Bombardier. After the war he worked for the Ford Motor Company, retiring in his early 60s. Widowed in 2007 he leaves two children.

Leopold 'Len' Kaye, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Leopold 'Len' Kaye of Mill Hill, London died on 4th May 2011, aged 87. He served in the REME from 1943 to 1949. His first job after leaving school was as an apprentice sewing machine mechanic where he remained until he volunteered for the RAF. He was turned down because of colour blindness and ended up joining the Home Guard.

He then joined the Army and carried out his training in Ballykinler. He returned to Aldershot where he completed various courses and was posted to the REME. He was deployed to India and disembarked in Bombay and went on to Delhi. He was promoted to Sergeant and ended servicing and maintaining coding equipment. He was also posted to Agra and Poona and ended up in Calcutta. At the end of the war he returned to civilian life and was employed again in the tailoring business. Some years later he became a factory maintenance engineer where he remained until he retired in 1991, leaving as Production Director. He was married to Pearl and they had two children and two grandchildren.

Peter 'Angus' MacDonald, Royal Engineers

Peter 'Angus' MacDonald of Swindon, Wiltshire died on 4th April 2011, aged 75. After leaving school Mr MacDonald went to college before he joined the Frigadaire Company. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1956 for National Service, training at Perham Down. He was posted to Osnabrück where he completed his service, discharging in 1958 as a Sapper. He rejoined Frigadaire. He then joined his brother-in-law as an interior decorator before moving to Swindon to work as a builder. Divorced twice, Mr MacDonald had three children.

Eric Newman, Royal Navy

Eric Newman of Whitecross, Hereford died on 13th April 2011, aged 85. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 when he served around the UK in Minesweepers and the Patrol Boat Service. He achieved the rank of Signalman and was discharged in 1946. On discharge, Mr Newman moved to Hereford where he returned to his previous occupation designing and fitting kitchens until his retirement. Mr Newman was widowed in 1999 and he leaves a son, a daughter and two grandchildren.

Victor Morgan, Home Guard

Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancashire died on 25th April 2011, aged 96. He joined the Home Guard in 1940 and worked every night on fire watch, guarding key bridges and dealing with German bomb damage. He was discharged in 1944 and returned to his work as an engineer with the company Metropolitan Vickers where he later worked as a technical author, writing instruction and maintenance manuals on power station equipment in various languages. He retired at 64. Mr Morgan leaves his widow Margaret and two children, a son and a daughter.

Harris Newman, The Inns of Court Regiment and the 1st Royal Dragoons

Harris Newman of Pershore, Worcestershire died on 28th April 2011, aged 89. He joined the Inns of Court Regiment in 1941 and landed at Normandy in June 1944, fighting through France to Germany. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1947 and was on standby with the 1st Royal Dragoons to go to Korea but wasn't called up. He returned to his civilian career with Austin-Morris which became BMC and later British Leyland. He was a production line Foreman for the Austin Westminster car and retired at 59. He is survived by his widow Dorothy, whom he married in 1943.

Derek Oakley, Royal Air Force, General Service Corps, Royal Fusiliers and the Royal Army Educational Corps

Derek Oakley of Bognor Regis, West Sussex died on 11th April 2011, aged 85. He was 17 and at Manchester University when he was called up for National Service. He joined the RAF briefly in 1945, transferring to the Army to serve in the Royal Fusiliers. He completed his National Service in the UK and on discharge he undertook various catering jobs before he opened his own restaurant in Chester, before he moved into the fruit and vegetable business where he became the UK Managing Director for Francis Nichols. When he retired he became a Government Advisor on small businesses. Mr Oakley married Sheila in 1954, and they had two children, before they divorced. He married Barbara in 1976.

Dennis Organ, General Service Corps and Royal Armoured Corps

Dennis Organ of Birmingham died on 1st May 2011, aged 81. He was called up for National Service and joined the General Service Corps in 1947. He joined the Royal Armoured Corps with the 17/21 Lancers and was posted to Palestine, stationed in Haifa. He was discharged in 1949 and returned to his previous employment as a metal polisher in the Midlands until he retired. Married to Mary they had four children, their son David sadly passed away.

Raymond Price, Royal Air Force

Raymond Price of Brighton, East Sussex died on 9 April 2011, aged 86. He served with the Royal Air Force in the UK, South Africa, and Palestine from 1942 to 1947; he left as a Flight Sergeant. He qualified as a Navigator Air Bomber and later achieved his Flying Wings. After the war he returned to his civilian profession as a toolmaker with G Lucas in Birmingham. A widower his wife Olive died in 2000.

Nellie 'Nell' Slicer, Women's Royal Air Force

Nellie 'Nell' Slicer of Leeds, West Yorkshire died on 18th April 2011, aged 85. She joined the WAAF in 1944 and, following training in Manchester; she ended up running the unit tailors shop at 61 Maintenance Unit. She was later posted to the Midlands and eventually demobilised as an ACW2 in 1947. Following discharge Mrs Slicer worked in the Credit Account Department of a Bookmakers during which time she met her husband, Norman. They had two daughters and three granddaughters.

Charles Smith, Royal Air Force

Charles Smith of Stockton-on-Tees died on 20th April 2011, aged 87. He joined the Royal Air Force at the age of 19 and served from 1943 to 1947 leaving as a Warrant Officer. He was an Air Gunner and flew on Avro Anson, Wellington Bombers and later, in India, he flew on the Liberator Aircraft. He was stationed in Bhopal and other locations in the Bombay area. At the end of the war he returned to civilian life and returned to his civilian profession working on the railways, becoming a steam engine driver on the LNER. In 1960 he became a diesel driver and then an Instructor. In 1970 he went to Liberia and instructed on diesel engines for four years. He then returned to British Rail. He later went to Jordan and helped to build their railway. A widower after his wife Nancy died in 2010 he leaves a son and two daughters, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Stanley Swindon, Polish Army

Born in Brzezinki, Poland, Mr Swindon was first employed in a local council. He later went to Agricultural College for a year. He joined the Cadet School in Poland and at the outbreak of the war he was made a prisoner by the Russians. He joined the Polish Army in 1942 as a result of the agreement between General Anders and Stalin and moved across Russia into the Middle East. He was trained in Heavy Ack Ack and eventually moved into Italy, seeing active service at Monte Cassino. He then trained as an electrician before discharge in 1948. He moved to the UK and found employment in Milford with a small holding/restaurant. He later moved to Weyburn Engineering where he was an inspector of the electrical works. He remained in the electronics business until he retired. Married to Sheila, they had two sons.

Stanley Taverner, Royal Navy

Stanley Taverner of Westgate-on-Sea, Kent died on 13th April 2011, aged 90. He enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1939 as a Ateward. He served in several ships throughout World War II, including HMS Formidable, HMS Liverpool, HMS Resolution, HMS Hursley and HMS Medway, a depot ship. He also served with the Army in the North African desert for a short while. He was demobilised in 1946 as a Leading Steward.

After the war he worked in a brewery and then started up a mobile fish and chip shop and a general store. He also started a taxi business which he handed over to his son and ran a gift shop in Margate. Married to Muriel they had a daughter and a son and five grandchildren.

Archibald Taylor, Royal Army Medical Corps

Archibald Taylor of Bromley, Kent died on 28th April 2001, aged 95. He was a research worker for Glaxo Laboratories before he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1939. Posted to Australia's Gold Coast he ran a field laboratory. Discharged as a Sergeant in 1946 Mr Taylor returned to Glaxo.

He later diversified into car insurance and worked for a Canadian company before setting up on his own. After a merger Mr Taylor retired at 72. Mr Taylor's wife died in 1996 and he leaves three children.

Charles Thorn, General Service Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Charles Thorn of Lincoln died on 8th April 2011, aged 95. He joined the General Service Corps in 1942, before he transferred to the REME. After training in Essex he specialised as a vehicle mechanic. He was later posted to India via South Africa, moving from Bombay to Quetta. He was transferred to the Indian Army and moved from Chittagong to Burma via Kohmia and on to Imphal. He returned to the UK as a WO and was discharged in 1947. He returned to his civilian profession in the building trade in the Essex Area and later set up his own Building Contractors, before he moved to Basildon where he opened a fishing shop called Charlie's where he remained until retirement. Married to Phyllis he also lives grandchildren and great grandchildren.

George Tytler, Royal Navy

George Tytler of Darlington, County Durham died on 23rd January 2011, aged 89. Mr Tytler served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946 when he saw Service in many parts of the world, including the Ganges, Pembroke, Atlantic, Indian Ocean and Home Waters. Demobilised after the war he returned to his former firm working in the floral section at the Green Market. He was promoted to Manager and part of his role was to travel to the continent to look at the flowers he would order. A keen gardener he designed his garden which never failed to impress everyone.

John Walker, Royal Artillery

John Walker of Weald, Sevenoaks died on 17th April 2011, aged 89. He joined the Royal Artillery direct from school in October 1939. After training at Dover and Aldershot he was posted to India but ended up in Leicester. Gaining a Commission he joined the 1st Airborne Division spending time in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. Wounded at Foggia he returned to UK and took part in the Arnhem Landings where he was again wounded. He was then deployed to Norway, followed by Palestine, and left the Army in 1946. After the war he joined Amalgamated Anthracite Holdings (AAH) where he remained until his retirement on his 60th birthday.

Married Evelynne they had two children and one grandchild.

Royal Wedding Support for St Dunstan's.

by Laura Luxton, St Dunstan's Press Office

For many businesses in London the Royal Wedding was a lucrative opportunity, and none more so than for the only pub en route of the wedding procession – The Red Lion Pub in Whitehall. For this historic drinking establishment, Friday, 29th April 2011 was a whirlwind of mayhem and excitement, and I should know, my partner Peter is the Landlord!

Leading up to the Wedding Peter found himself to be in demand by the media and undertook interviews with national newspapers, international TV stations ranging from Cuban to Japanese, plus ITV Daybreak and BBC Radio Five Live. I rather got used to turning up at the Pub to find my boyfriend with lights and cameras trained on him.

On the Big Day there were cameramen hanging out of all the Pub's windows and banks of people lining the street outside, while on the inside there were long snaking queues for the take-away breakfasts and to use the toilets. But most remarkably, in between serving breakfasts at 3am and pulling pints at 7pm, Peter and his staff also managed to pass St Dunstan's collecting tins under the public's noses, raising £618.07.

It helped the cause that American tourists were rather impressed with the mini display Peter erected featuring a photo of the Duke of Cambridge posing with St Dunstaner Simon Brown taken when he visited our Llandudno Centre. And Jim, a Red Lion regular and WW II veteran, also helped pass the tins around.

A big thank you to Jim, Peter and his team.



Picture: One of many TV interviews with Peter Cliffe and St Dunstan's flags in the background.