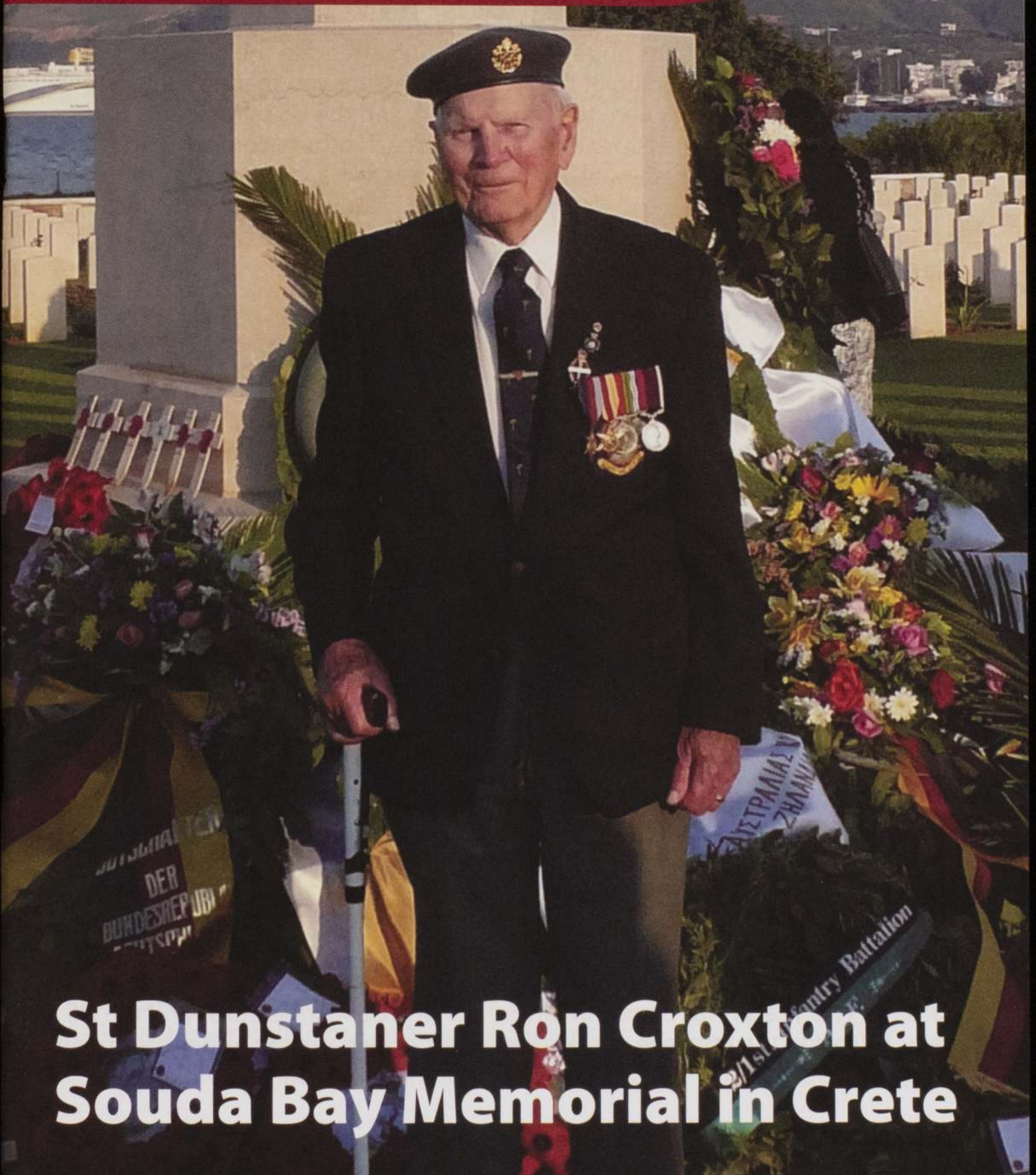


St Dunstan's

July 2011

# Review



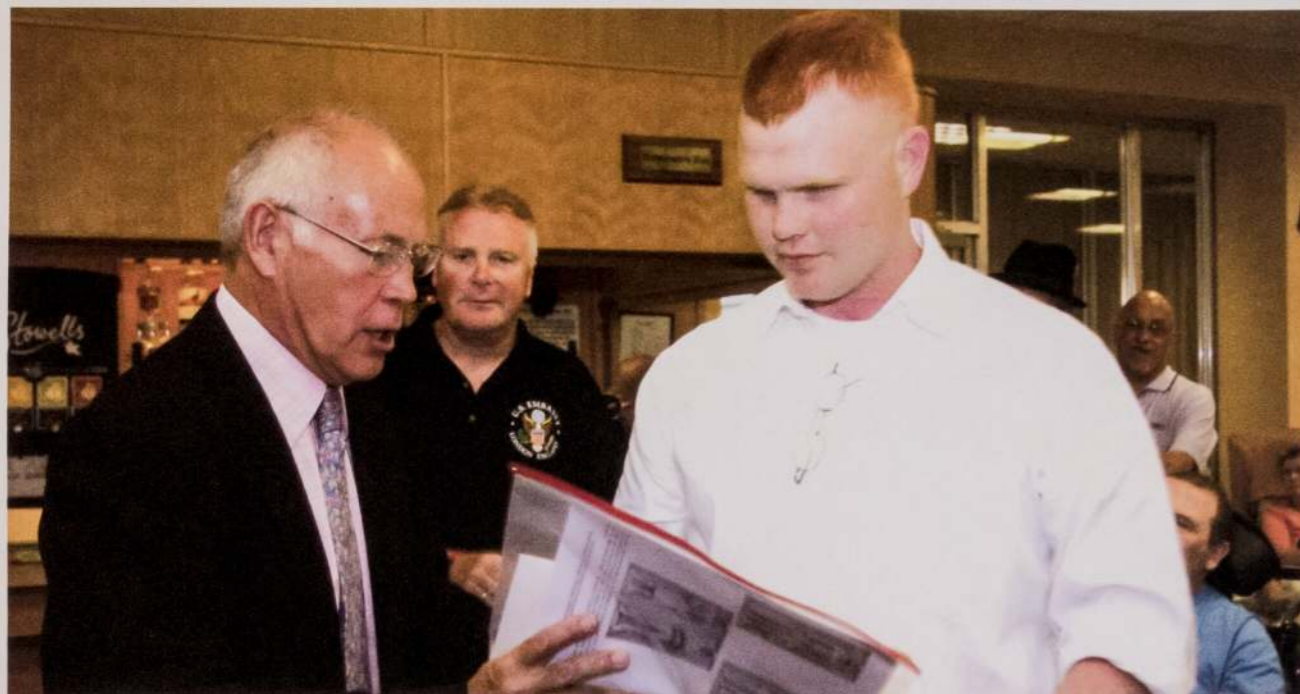
**St Dunstaner Ron Croxton at Souda Bay Memorial in Crete**



# From the Chairman.

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

Project Gemini, the peer to peer support programme between St Dunstan's and the Blinded Veterans Association of America, will doubtless feature prominently in this month's Review, but I want to start by warmly congratulating all those who contributed to its huge success. Having attended the Bar-B-Q at Ovingdean on the last evening of the week I can assure you that not only was morale sky high, but it was very clear that the UK and the US participants had all gained hugely from the experience and from each other's company, and that they are all determined that this is to be the first in a regular series of similar exchanges. I very much hope that this will be possible, not only because it has been so enjoyable, but also because I suspect that there are things that the BVA can learn from us, and things that we can learn from them.



Picture: Major General Andrew Keeling presents a Project Gemini Memento to 2nd Lt. Tim Fallon USMC.

I served with American forces several times in my military career and always enjoyed the experience. Large-scale, complicated multi-national amphibious exercises in North Norway and the Mediterranean were often preceded by lengthy planning conferences in the US. As Commander of the UK/NL Landing Force for two years I was closely involved with the US Marine Corps and the US Navy. I also had the privilege of taking a US Airborne battalion under command in my Brigade in Iraq in 1991, as part of a multi-national coalition which was

commanded by an American Army General. We were ably supported there by US aviation – fixed wing and helicopters. In fact the whole operation would have been impossible without the hugely impressive US military resources.

Several of those I served alongside reached the very highest echelons of command in the largest and most powerful military forces in the Western world. I always found American service people to be extremely conscientious, totally committed to the cause, and determined to succeed come what may. I also often found that in spite of the enormous differences between their country and ours there are some powerful similarities in terms of personal attitudes and aspirations. This was very apparent during the Gemini week, and it was clearly a source of much pleasure and pride to the participants.



Picture: President Ray Hazan and Chairman Major General Andrew Keeling accept a BVA Braille Flag from its President Dr Roy Kekahuna.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting the brand new Llandudno Centre Manager, Mark Lovatt. Straight from the RAF in North Wales, Mark is about to become a very significant person in our organisation. He is certainly most welcome and I wish him well as he embarks on his new appointment.

Finally I am sure you would like to know that St Dunstaner and Trustee David Stuttard has been awarded the MBE in the year's Birthday Honours for his work in Africa. Congratulations Dave - we all salute you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Keeling'.



# St Dunstan's Calendar.

## 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

## November

Cenotaph 12th – 13th  
Writers' Forum 19th  
Craft Days 24th – 25th

## St Dunstan's Review

July 2011 No 1,014



Contact: Catherine Goodier  
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### On the cover:

St Dunstaner Ron Croxton  
at Souda Bay Memorial in  
Crete

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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# Noticeboard.

Dates for your diary and useful information.

## Celebrate the Spirit of St Dunstan's.

Every year, we celebrate St Dunstan's pioneering approach to visual impairment and the spirit which we still embrace today. We pay homage to our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, and our heritage in two ways. The first is with the:

### Annual Memorial Ceremony at the Graveside of Sir Arthur Pearson

Our founder is buried in Hampstead Cemetery, London. We hold a short ceremony annually at Sir Arthur's graveside and lay a wreath. This will be carried out on the morning of Saturday 12th November 2011, the day before Remembrance Sunday. This year's ceremony will be limited to those St Dunstaners committed to staying at the hotel in London on Friday 11th November for Remembrance Weekend who will be contacted nearer the time and given the opportunity to attend.

The second way we celebrate the spirit of endeavour encouraged by Sir Arthur Pearson is through the:

### St Dunstan's Founder's Day Awards for 2012

To celebrate the achievements of St Dunstaners, other members of St Dunstan's family and volunteers, the Founder's Day Awards are made annually in eight categories. Certificates of Merit are presented on or near to 26 March each year. This celebrates the date in 1915 on which the first 16 war blinded ex-Servicemen entered the new training centre at St Dunstan's Lodge in London's Regent's Park.

The Awards will also honour staff and other individuals who have contributed significantly to St Dunstan's. The recipients of the 2011 Founder's Day Awards featured in the May Review and you may recall that Adrian Sach received the Innovator of the Year Award for his computer programme Guide, which has enabled more than 400 St Dunstaners to use a computer without assistance.

The awards ceremony takes place in rotation around the country at one of our three main locations – Ovingdean, Llandudno and Sheffield. The 2011 Awards



were presented to the winning individuals at St Dunstan's Centre in Sheffield on 25 March. The 2012 Founder's Day Awards Ceremony will take place in our new Llandudno Centre, with the date to be confirmed.

### **Categories**

The eight categories in which awards will be given are:

#### **1. Community Award**

For best contribution to their local community, or the family of St Dunstan's by a St Dunstaner, spouse, widow or widower;

#### **2. Training Achievement Award**

This will be bestowed on the best novice on learning new skills – St Dunstaner only;

#### **3. Award for Creative Art**

The Award for Creative Art will recognise endeavour in a creative activity and encompass art, handicrafts, sculpture and music – St Dunstaner only;

#### **4. Sports Person of the Year Award**

This award will celebrate an exceptional achievement of a sporting St Dunstaner during the award year – St Dunstaner only;

#### **5. Volunteer of the Year Award**

This award recognises outstanding voluntary contribution from any individual to the St Dunstan's family;

#### **6. Innovator of the Year Award**

The Innovator of the Year Award will honour a person or organisation which has successfully introduced to St Dunstan's a beneficial device or idea;

#### **7. Outstanding Achievement (new category)**

This award is made to a St Dunstaner who has achieved an outstanding level of independence via their participation in activities promoted or provided through and by St Dunstan's – St Dunstaner only

#### **8. Chairman's Commendation**

The Chairman's Commendation is for outstanding dedication and contribution over and above the call of duty by a St Dunstan's Staff member (Nominations to be made by line manager).

### **Procedure**

The award year will run from 1 January to 30 November each year.

Nominations must be in writing on the appropriate proposal form, available from Barry Porter, Director of Welfare Service at St Dunstan's Headquarters in London.

Each nominee must have a Proposer, who need not necessarily be connected with St Dunstan's.

The Proposer will provide in writing on the proposal form comprehensive reasons and examples as to why the nominee has been put forward. Brief notes may jeopardise the nominee's chances.

Nominations must be received by 30 November 2011 for the award ceremony in March 2012.

Nominees for the Creative Arts Award may send the work they wish to enter to be judged. If not practical, a photograph of the submission would suffice.

Nominees can be put forward for more than one category, but each nomination must have a proposal form.

Winners should not be nominated for the same category for two years following their win but may be entered for other categories.

You may re-nominate someone who was not successful previously. Nominations (excluding the Chairman's Commendation) may be made by any individual, including St Dunstan's staff.

A selection Committee made up of representatives from all facets of the organisation will meet in January 2012 to adjudicate.

The results will be reported on in the St Dunstan's Review.

Please support this scheme by applying to: Barry Porter, Director of Welfare Services, for a nomination form, by telephone on 020 7616 7922, or in writing to Barry Porter, Director of Welfare Services, St Dunstan's 12 – 14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.



## **Centre to Centre March to Launch Llandudno.**

In the last Review we gave details of St Dunstaners Billy Black, Steve Sparkes and Chris Lee who will set off on a 400 mile March from the Ovingdean Centre on 5th September. Their March will take them to Harcourt Street and onto the Sheffield Centre, before heading to Llandudno where they will open the new Centre at 10am on Monday 19th September.

If you would like to support them, perhaps marching with them for five minutes or five miles, or cheering them on as they March through your neighbourhood; or putting them up overnight please contact Chris Lee, the Logistics Co-ordinator by email: [chris103john@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chris103john@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone Catherine Goodier on 020 7616 8367.

## **Call for Your Stories.**

If you have something you would like to feature in the Review please do contact me on telephone: 020 7616 8367 or email [catherine.goodier@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:catherine.goodier@st-dunstans.org.uk)

I'm presently looking for people who served with Bomber Command during World War II to link to the opening of the new Memorial in London's Green Park in March 2012.

## **Talking Books.**

A selection of Talking Books on cassette has been donated to the charity. If you would like to have one or more of the stories listed below please contact Barbara Sweeney on telephone: 020 7616 7922. As they are unabridged versions each story is narrated over approximately 17 cassettes.

Available are: Dorothy L Sayers Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries read by Ian Carmichael, Caroline Graham's Faithful unto Death, Ruth Rendell's The Babes in the Wood, John le Carre's Tinker, Tailor, Soldier Spy, Georgette Heyer's The Unknown Ajax, Anne Perry's A Sudden Fearful Death, RD Wingfield's Hard Frost featuring DI Jack Frost, Ruth Rendell's Road Rage, Colin Dexter's The Remorseful Day and Anne Perry's The Twister Root.

## **Tipping' to staff.**

St Dunstan's tries to discourage people from giving 'Tips' to staff in the course of their work. However the Charity still receives quite significant funds each year for staff and at Christmas this money has traditionally been distributed to those staff working at Ovingdean and Sheffield. However, all staff contribute in some way to the services that St Dunstaners receive, not just those staff who deliver front-line services. So, starting from December this year this pool of money will be distributed at Christmas to all staff on the Charity's lowest three pay grades, only. This will continue to include quite a few people who are already in receipt of the money. Whilst the Charity recognises that St Dunstaners appreciate the work that staff do we would request that you do not give 'Tips' directly to individual members of staff as they are not permitted to accept the money.

## **Future Focus.**

Thank you for your continued feedback and input on all the aspects of Future Focus, ranging from ways in which we can make St Dunstan's better known, to your opinions on the shortlisted potential new names.

As previously mentioned no decision will be taken until the Board of Trustees meeting in September. The Trustees will then decide to either keep St Dunstan's or to adopt one of the other shortlisted names. Between now and September the shortlist will be reduced from Battle Blindness, Blind Veterans UK, St Dunstan's and Vision for Veterans to just St Dunstan's and one other name. This will be done through rigorous research by a third party to ensure we fully understand the likely impact of any of these names. The research will be conducted with groups of potential new donors, existing supporters, St Dunstaners, staff and volunteers. As always we will keep you informed, and we appreciate further feedback from you throughout the project.

Please do not hesitate to contact Susanne Lund via email, [FutureReview@St-Dunstans.org.uk](mailto:FutureReview@St-Dunstans.org.uk), or phone 020 7616 7949.



# Letters to the Editor.

As we welcome your letters please do send them in to us. They could be in response to an article in the Review, or something you feel to be of interest to your fellow St Dunstaners.

You can send letters by post to St Dunstan's Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. Please mark them Letter to the Editor.

Of if you prefer please send an email to Catherine Goodier at e-mail: [catherine.goodier@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:catherine.goodier@st-dunstans.org.uk)

Again with subject Letter to the Editor

## **A Debt of Gratitude to a Great Man**

I was saddened to learn of the death of Sir Henry Leach. I would like to acknowledge his passing as I had the honour to meet him on a number of occasions. One of my memories of him is at the annual Remembrance Sunday Parade to the Cenotaph. Ahead of the Parade he would take the time to speak with the St Dunstaners who were assembled at Horse Guards Parade. He was always affable, shaking our hands and asking how we were.

He also left a lasting legacy that we, the St Dunstaners still benefit from today. Perhaps the place we feel it the most is at the Ovingdean Centre, as it was under Sir Henry's guidance that spouses of St Dunstaners were allowed to stay there. Prior to that spouses had to leave the house by 10pm.

Yours faithfully

Jeff Parker  
Anstey, Leicestershire

# Maleme

by Ron Croxton.

St Dunstaner Ron Croxton of Lincolnshire writes about his Wartime Experiences at Maleme during the Battle of Crete in 1941. From 1935 to 1965 Ron served in the Royal Air Force in the UK, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt, Greece, Crete, Gibraltar, Cyprus, India, Pakistan and Northern Ireland.

Here Ron begins his account:

I joined 30 Squadron in Iraq in November 1938.

On the morning of 20th May 1941 we had manned the trenches as usual before breakfast. We, the Ground Crew, A Flight of 30 Squadron then went down to the Airfield. Our task was to dig into the bank against the road and pile the earth up at the sides to make pens for the Hurricanes we expected shortly.

Not long after reaching the Airfield the bombing started. We managed to find trenches where we stayed until the bombing finished, but on emerging from the trenches we looked up and saw gliders and parachutists descending. A number of us had a quick discussion and decided our best course of action was to make our way back to camp using a direct route. We called all the others and as we were at the eastern end of the airfield this entailed crossing the road and making our way through vineyards. These we discovered were criss-crossed with barbed wire, which we had to crawl under. Unknown to us this was protecting a position held by a Company of New Zealand 22nd Battalion. We called out to inform them who we were and were allowed to join them.

There we stayed doing very little until 5pm when the NZ Lieutenant called for volunteers to supplement his depleted company as they prepared to mount a counter attack, supported by two light tanks. At the instigation of LAC Stewart I volunteered along with another Airman, LAC Larter. We were deployed 20 each side of the road along which the two tanks proceeded. This action is described in a book entitled Greece and Crete 1941 by Christopher Buckley.

We almost reached the other end of the Airfield and our objective, the bridge



over the River Tavronitis. Unfortunately the leading tank broke down and the guns on the second tank jammed. Without their covering fire the counter attack broke down. Much of the action is now hazy but I remember the whistle of bullets and someone shouting 'hit the deck!' which I duly did. Next a New Zealand Corporal called to me: 'You're exposed, come and join us'. They were in a trench and I joined them with great alacrity.

In the trench I asked the New Zealanders for news of Stewart and Larter and was told that Stewart was dead and Larter was wounded. I subsequently met up with Larter again in Murree, a hill camp in northwest India. He had been a prisoner of war.

Shortly after we heard a tank returning and were told to crouch inside the tank as cover while returning to base. The book that I mentioned states that only three returned to base unwounded. Was I lucky? On return, due to a shortage of Army personnel, I, being a Corporal Armament Fitter at that time was asked to man a Browning machine gun position overlooking the airfield.

Sometime during the night we were ordered to remove our shoes as we were withdrawing to the southeast. Before leaving them I removed the breech blocks from the guns, dismantled them and threw the parts away.

At about dawn we met up with a party from Hill 107, RAF and NZ. After a short stop we proceeded southeast and soon came under fire. I remember the New Zealand Officer giving two grenades to Cpl. Horner (a wireless fitter) and telling him to knock out the machine gun post. Whether it was the look on Horner's face or another reason the order was withdrawn. At this time about eight of us seemed to lose the main group and after a while we came to a radio station (RAF) on a hill. Here we were welcomed and I was allotted to a Bren gun pit.

At about 2pm, I think, the hill came under attack by Stukas. I forget how long the attack went on for, but another airman with me noticed that everybody was making their way down the hill and out of the camp. We followed. At the bottom of the hill I found a ditch and took cover from the circling aircraft. As dusk fell we left the ditch and fourteen of us discussed what to do next. Six decided to head south, eight of us to go east and reach Chania. As night fell we reached a village and were offered shelter in the school. It was a cold night but we did manage to get some sleep.

Next morning we set out again, taking cover under trees when we heard an aircraft. I remember picking a few oranges to eat but cannot recall receiving any food, but I suppose I did. At about noon we reached Chania and found the RAF Operations HQ. During the afternoon Chania was heavily bombed and we spent a lot of time under a table. In the evening, when the danger of air attack was over, we were taken to a transit camp east of Chania.

We stayed in the transit camp until the evening of 27th May when we were loaded onto lorries. It was a dangerous route as we were taken over mountains on unlit roads and there was no moon to show the way. Some corners necessitated reversing to obtain a better look and those of us on the back would shout 'Whoa!' when the wheels got too near the edge of the mountain. Once over the crest of the mountains sidelights were used. When nearing the coast we left the lorry, the road finished two miles short of Sfakia, which was then pushed over the side of a cliff, as there was nowhere for vehicles to turn round. Two way traffic would also have caused more delay on the narrow roads.

We rested where we could, in caves or on over rises in the cliffs. Rations were short and I remember I was given two biscuits (hard tack) on the evening of 28th May and told they were my rations for the 29th if the Navy did not come in. I was hungry and ate them. Later that evening we were told that airmen from Maleme were to form a beach party for the evacuation. When the Navy arrived we were to bring ashore rations and assist the wounded into the waiting boats for transfer to the destroyers. Once all the wounded were evacuated we could go to one if there was room. At the cries of 'last boats', knowing all the wounded had gone, I also left on HMS Kandahar.

We only had one air attack on the journey to Egypt and I remember what a wonderful sight it was, four destroyers at full speed on a glassy sea, zigzagging their way south.

30 Squadron lost 29 who were killed and 58 were taken prisoner. About 50 were evacuated. Both 30 and 33 Squadron personnel accounted for many Paratroopers both killed and wounded as they descended.

Once in Egypt we were re-kitted but personal possessions were lost in Crete. To complete my misfortune, memorabilia and kit stored in the Depot at Aboukir during this time was lost when the SS Laconia was sunk on our homeward



voyage in September 1942. I survived the 28 days in the lifeboat. Twice lucky, I met the New Zealand Officer at the Parade in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Souda Bay in Crete in about 1985. We had a little chat.



Picture: Proud sons Ian Croxton (left) with Ron Croxton (centre), Souda Bay Standard Bearer Bill Southgate and son Barry Croxton.



Picture: Ron Croxton (right), Jack Baker (left) and 30 Squadron at the Memorial in Maleme.

In May Ron travelled with his sons Ian and Barry to the 70th Anniversary Reunion on Crete. Ian said: "Dad has never been one to say 'During the war son,' it's only been over the last few years that we've asked him about his experiences. He's described various things which have helped us to build a mental picture of his time on Crete during the Invasion.

"The 70th Anniversary celebrations were incredible and it was great to see how the people of Crete respect the veterans. On the day of the Red Arrows display we parked the car and an old man came rushing over to us as he'd seen Dad. He didn't really speak any English but he asked if he was a veteran. I put my arms out and said RAF Maleme and the man threw his hands up in the air, shook Dad's hand and kissed him on both cheeks; then he wandered off. It was completely unexpected and it wasn't the only time that happened to Dad.

"At the Commonwealth Memorial a young lad came up and shook hands with Dad and asked if he knew any of the RAF Airmen who volunteered to fight alongside the New Zealanders. Dad replied 'I was one'. At the Malame Memorial we met some other people from New Zealand who were gathering information for the Lieutenant that Dad mentioned in his article as he was unable to attend. When they discovered dad knew him they asked for a message and in true understated style he said: 'Let him know you've got one here who's doing well'.

"During our stay we drove round the Island with Dad, following the roads that were once the tracks he travelled on at night time in total darkness. Seeing the hills he went through was unimaginable. I kept thinking only 70 years ago my dad was here. We were also invited onboard HMS Sutherland which was docked at Souda Harbour and again it was a great honour to be included. My brother Barry and I found it incredibly humbling and it reinforced how great our Dad is."



Picture: Ron Croxton, Jack Baker with 30 and 33 Squadrons.



## Billy Baxter Scoops Another Award.

In the May edition of the Review we featured Billy Baxter with his Founders Day Award for Training Achievement. We predicted Billy should become accustomed to making acceptance speeches and we were quite right as he has just accepted his latest Award.

On 16th May Billy was presented with an Outstanding Individual Learner in the Eastern Region Award at the Adult Learners' Week National Awards Ceremony at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster.

Speaking of the Award Billy said: "Without the support, guidance and instruction I received at St Dunstan's from the staff who taught me to use a computer I would not have received this amazing Award. I cannot thank everyone enough and I am still in a state of shock at winning. You guys work miracles!

"Since 2009 I have been at Cambridge Regional College where I'm taking a National Diploma in Performing Arts. My dream is to be able to once again enjoy Army life. This time though I want to entertain the troops as a show-host and stand-up comedian."



Picture: Billy Baxter at the National Award Ceremony in Westminster on Monday 16th May, receives award from Carol Taylor, NIACE Director for Development and Research.

## Llandudno Update

by Helen Emmerson, Head of Centre Services.

I am pleased to report that work on our third Centre is moving full steam ahead. We have now recruited the full management team, which will include under the lead of Mark Lovatt; a Care, R&T and Facilities Manager. Several other positions such as Staff Nurses, ROVIs and Team Leaders have also been recruited too so the workforce is starting to take shape. The quality of experience and expertise of the staff we have recruited has been of a very high calibre.

Awareness of the new Centre is extremely high and this was demonstrated at a job fair we held recently when 2,000 people turned up to find out about job opportunities at the Centre.

We will be taking bookings from our beneficiaries for the Centre from the 12th July 2011. Initially the Centre will be open for holiday and care bookings which can be made either through your Welfare Officer (for Care) or direct to Claire Green at Ovingdean (for holidays) on 01273 391 422. The first Introduction Week will start on the 10th October (arriving at the Centre on the 9th). If you live in the North or North West, you may be contacted by your Welfare Officer in the near future about attending an Introduction Week at Llandudno.



Picture: Work progresses at the Llandudno Centre.



# Ten questions on...

The subject "100".

by Harry Beevers.

This month marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Quiz since this series began with 10 Questions on The Subject ... 'The Armed Forces' in July 2002. Here are ten questions on the subject... 100.

1. Who in 1960 became the first child to be born to a reigning British Monarch for 100 years?
2. On 10th August 2003, which airport became the first place in Britain to record a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit?
3. Of which building, opened in London in 1870, did Sir Thomas Beecham say, 'It's suitable for 100 things but music isn't one of them.'
4. The American tap-dancer Bill (Mr Bo Jangles) Robinson once set a world record of 13.2 seconds for the 100 yards. In what way was this a remarkable record?
5. Who was the first footballer in the world to win 100 International caps?
6. The first vending machine in 100 B.C. is mentioned in the works of Hero of Alexandria, an ancient Egyptian engineer and mathematician. His machine accepted a coin and then dispensed what?
7. In the standard English version of the board game Scrabble there are 100 tiles. How many of these are the letter E?
8. Around which British Island in 1851 was the first race held for the 100 Guinea Cup, later called the Americas Cup?
9. Which musical with a book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe tells the story of a mysterious Scottish village that appears for only one day every hundred years?
10. Which character, created by author A.A. Milne, is the most famous inhabitant of 100 acre wood?

Answers on page 34

## Extreme Jump as Nina Conquers Her Fear of Heights.

Nina Collingwood, a Support Worker at the Sheffield Centre, found an extreme way to conquer her fear of heights. On Saturday 21st May she leapt from a 150ft platform inside the Magna Science Adventure Centre in Sheffield. There to see her as she hurtled towards the ground were her fellow colleagues Terry Heaton, Marie Simmons and Sarah Browne.

Speaking of her daring deed Nina said: "It was a great experience and one I decided to do to try and conquer my fear of heights and all extreme activities. I thought it would be a good way to get over those fears and raise money for the St Dunstaners who are going through something which they often find very scary. To date I have raised £287 but the money is still coming in and I want to thank everyone who sponsored me." Nina's website is at [www.justgiving.com/ninacollingwood](http://www.justgiving.com/ninacollingwood)



Picture: And she's off as Nina Collingwood launches herself into a bungee jump for St Dunstan's.



# Project Gemini Cements Special & Lasting Relationship.

When President Obama addressed MPs and Peers from both Houses at Westminster Hall in London on 25th May during his state visit he said that the special and lasting relationship between America and the United Kingdom was founded not only on the bond of shared history and language but on common values and beliefs.

During that visit another special and lasting relationship was formed between the two countries, this time between members of St Dunstan's and their American counterparts from the Blinded Veterans Association of America (BVA), which is headquartered in Washington. It was a relationship that was further strengthened through their shared experience of military service and the common bond of blindness.

The historic meeting took place from 21st May for Project Gemini, a peer to peer support programme, when six American blinded veterans crossed the Atlantic Ocean. They enjoyed six days of educational exchange and the sharing of friendship, knowledge and insights with their British comrades.

Also part of the week were visits to the House of Commons, Hever Castle, Portsmouth Dockyard, a Duck Tour on the Thames and a final BBQ at Ovingdean when speeches were made and lifelong friendships sealed.



Picture: At The House of Commons with Stephen Hepburn. Labour MP for Jarrow.

Those who made the transatlantic journey were Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans Douglas Cereghin and Jeffrey Mittman. Together with 2nd Lt. Tim Fallon of the United States Marine Corps who was blinded in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and veteran Steven Beres, who is also the BVA's National Treasurer.

Other BVA officials were National President Dr. Roy Kekahuna, who was wounded in Vietnam and Director of Government Relations Dr. Tom Zampieri.

They were accompanied by Major Derek Johnson who for the past 10 years has lead soldiers in combat operations and knows the importance of camaraderie and peer support. Major Johnson is Executive Officer of the Department of Defence/Department of Veterans Affairs Vision Centre of Excellence in Washington.

Project Gemini was organised by St Dunstaners Colin Williamson, Simon Brown and Ray Hazan with Welfare & Grants Manager Alison Bradley and Sports & Recreation Manager Louise Timms. The British Peers were Steve Sparkes, Jamie Cuthbertson, Mark Threadgold, Peter Walker, Colin Williamson, Simon Brown and St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan.

Colin Williamson, St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge Project Officer, said: "The visit has taken over two years to plan but I consider it as time well spent as it was a very valuable, constructive and highly enjoyable week. We have forged bonds and friendships that will last a generation and we will work to ensure this partnership will continue to flourish as both organisations strive forward."

During the BBQ at Ovingdean on Friday 27th May there were more similarities between the two state visits. President Obama had joked that after 'Getting off on the wrong foot' with the Boston Tea Party, the War of Independence and the British burning of the White House in 1812, 'it has been smooth sailing ever since'.

His joke was echoed by Lieutenant Colonel Steve Beres, a former US Green Beret Special Operations Officer who served in numerous tours in the Middle East. As Steve presented St Dunstan's with a Special Forces flag he said: "We've had a special bond ever since we stopped shooting at you guys in red coats"

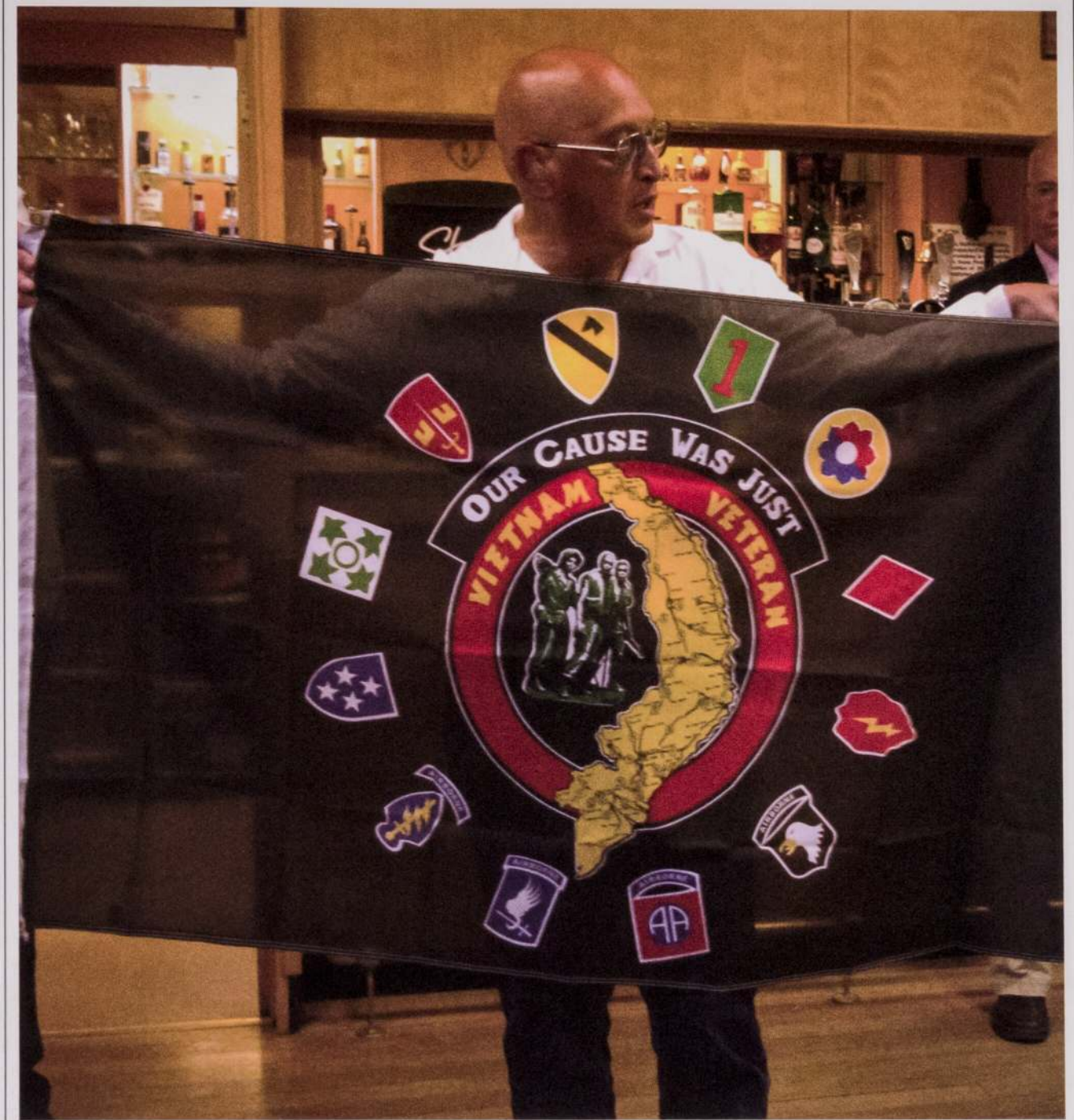




Picture: Steve Beres Presents His Units Special Forces Flag.

As BVA President Dr Roy W Kekahuna presented St Dunstan's with a Vietnam Veterans flag he said: "This has been a landmark week when new friendships have been formed and we have become one family. We've had fun but the week has also had a more serious side when we have discussed rehabilitation and readjustment training, vision research, and adaptive technology for the blind.

"We shared helpful hints about coping with blindness and the 'war stories' that are part of the adjustment processes. We also compared the British Veterans' healthcare system with that of the American system operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs and its dozens of component medical centres, outpatient clinics, and veterans' homes throughout the country. We were greatly impressed with everything we heard about at the Ovingdean Centre and we will also take away useful information from St Dunstan's fundraising strategy."



Picture: BVA President Dr Roy Kekahuna with the Vietnam Veterans Flag showing the troops who took part.

Earlier that day at the American Embassy in London's Grosvenor Square, US Defence Attaché, Brigadier General Tom Bergeson thanked those present for their sacrifice to their country. He said the American Government had learnt many lessons from their failure to adequately support the wounded troops who returned from Vietnam. He said the USA and UK were now working together to ensure they identify the best practices for each nation to work together for the care of their brave veterans.

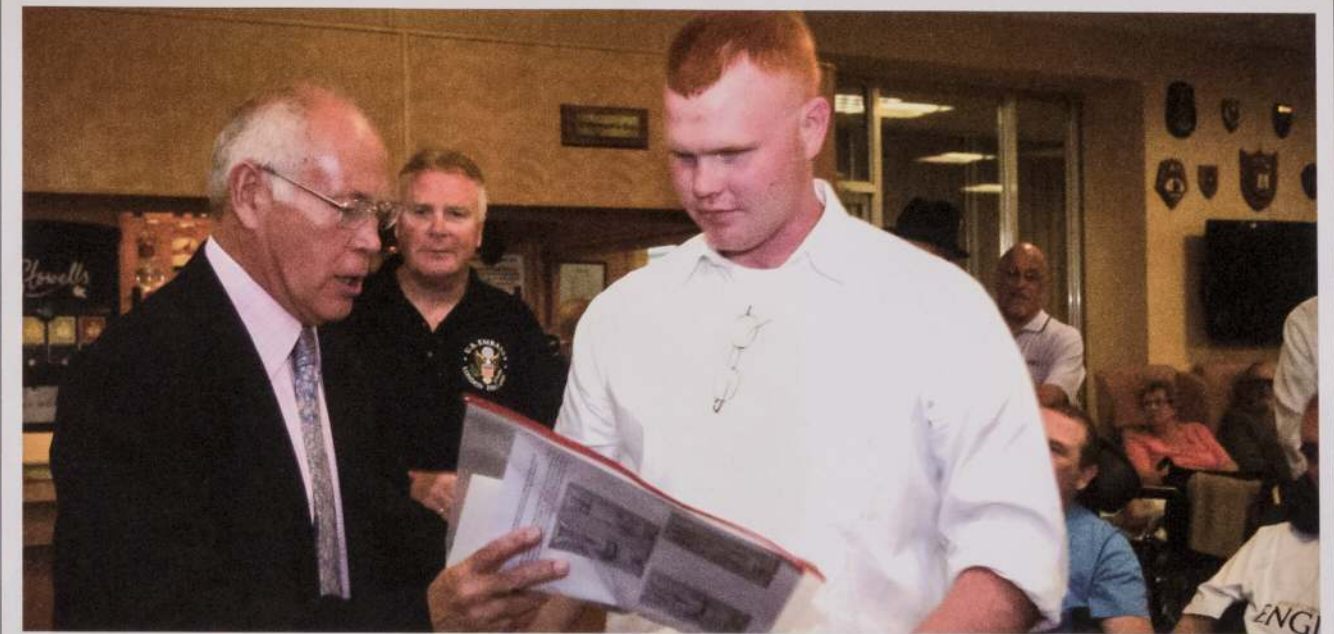




Picture: Major Derrick Johnson, US Defence Attaché and Tom Zampieri.

Figures from the BVA show that in the past year in Afghanistan, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blasts caused 78 percent of all battle injuries. As of January 30, 2011, a total of 41,983 US service members had been wounded or injured in either Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

One member of the American Forces who was wounded by an IED in Afghanistan is 2nd Lt. Tim Fallon, of the 2nd Battalion 9th Marines, an infantry Battalion of the United States Marine Corps. His first meeting with British Troops came in November 2010 after he was injured when he was airlifted to Camp Bastion and given lifesaving treatment by British medics.



Picture: Major General Andrew Keeling presents 2nd Lt Tim Fallon with a memento of the visit.

Speaking of his experience Tim said: "Like St Dunstan's the BVA has an established peer to peer support programme that begins as soon as a member of the military who has been injured returns home. I became aware of the BVA while in the Walter Reed Recovery Centre. A nurse came to tell me there was someone to see me called Tom Zampieri. I didn't know his name and didn't want to meet anyone right then, until she said 'he's blind'.

"I couldn't think about my future at that time and that initial meeting with Tom made me realise that I could still achieve things. I was impressed that Tom had taken a bus and train to get to the hospital and I learnt from him that he works for the BVA influencing state affairs.

"It made me reassess my future and I have now decided to return to University and study law. As I have adjusted to my sight loss so too have my parents and fiancée. To help them I adopted a very upbeat attitude, which has rubbed off on them. This has been a great week and I know that in America I will give my time to volunteering with the BVA to fit in around my studies."

We would like to thank the following individuals and organisations who hosted events throughout the course of the visit and provided free travel. They are:

Joady Frost from The London Eye. Shashi Verma of Transport for London. John Oliver of Southern Customer Services. Melissa Gerbaldi of Portsmouth Historic Dockyard Visitor Centre. Paula Loucao of The London Duck Tour Company, Andrew Keasler of the US Embassy and Stephen Hepburn MP.





Picture: Onboard the London Eye.



## Arthur Turner Places Wreath in Ypres for St Dunstan's.

After taking up an invitation from Chris and Milena Locke that featured in the April edition of the Review to attend a concert in Ypres in aid of St Dunstan's, Arthur Turner from Leamington travelled to the Battlefields where his father once fought. On 28th May he was Chris and Milena's guest of honour at the open air concert by the Ypres Surrey Pipes and Drums. On its conclusion they marched with the Band and St Dunstan's supporters to the nearby Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing for The Last Post Ceremony.

Arthur Turner said: "I signed up as soon as I read of the concert and the opportunity to attend the Last Post Ceremony as my father fought at what he called 'Wipers' in the First World War. I am grateful to Chris and Milena as they are great supporters of St Dunstan's and it is thanks to them that we were officially included in the Last Post Ceremony. I had the honour to place a wreath at the Memorial on behalf of St Dunstan's.

"They also gave me the opportunity to discover the area where my father fought as they took me on one of their battlefield tours and it is something I will remember for the rest of my life. It also gave me the opportunity to show how independent we St Dunstaners are as people were concerned that I was travelling to Belgium on my own. I told them I'd be fine as I have a white stick and a tongue in my head."

Chris and Milena Locke run the Lest We Forget WW I & WWII Battlefield Tours (Flanders) and their website can be found at: [www.lestweforget.vpweb.be](http://www.lestweforget.vpweb.be)



Picture: Arthur Turner at The Menin Gate with the Last Post Buglars.

## Recognition from the Reserve Forces.

Three members of St Dunstan's staff from Harcourt Street were invited to the Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo in early May by the Regional Director of SaBRE, Supporting British Reservists and Employers, for Greater London. This was in recognition of St Dunstan's support to Reserve Forces in allowing members of staff time off for Army training.

Before the Tattoo, guests were invited to supper in the Officers Mess at the TA Centre, Windsor and were presented with a certificate by Major General Greg Smith, Director of Army Reserves.

Niki Kokonas, Reunions & Cenotaph Manager and Inderpal Kallah, Medical Clinics and Reunions Co-ordinator are both currently training as Army Reservists. Before joining St Dunstan's Niki had a full time career serving in the regular Army AGC/SPS for just under eight years.



Picture: Maj General Greg Smith, Head of the Territorial Army with Niki Kokonis, Inderpal Kallah and David Habershon RN.



# Review of Journey's End.

by Clare Brotherwood, Arts & Theatre Critic.

It was fitting that a national tour of Journey's End should open in Windsor. For just down the road soldiers were well and truly in evidence at the Windsor Castle Royal Horse Show and Tattoo.

These are men who have chosen the services as a career, unlike those in RC Sherriff's haunting drama who had no choice in the matter.

But at the end of the day is there that much difference between them? While tough training separates the men from the boys, there is nothing quite like fighting for their country to bring out the best in most men. And whether it is in 2011 or 1918 they all go to war knowing that they might die.

Seeing Servicemen on parade at the Royal Windsor Tattoo is worlds away, however, from the dugout near St Quentin where Journey's End is set.

Lit only by candles and riddled with rats, the dugout is home for five Officers, and during the course of the production we get to know each of them, their strengths and their weaknesses and how they live behind the front line.

It is said that Sherriff suffered a major crisis of nerve during his 10 months active service in France and this is illustrated in many different ways.

Commander, Captain Stanhope, though idolised by his men for his courage, is short tempered and continually hits the whisky bottle. Second Lt Hibbert is a gibbering wreck who fancies illness so that he can be sent home. 'Uncle' Lt Osborne, though good at putting everyone at their ease, shakes so much before a raid that he has difficulty lighting his pipe, and Second Lt Raleigh soon finds that the war isn't a jolly good adventure and that the dugout isn't like his dorm at public school. In it Sherriff has created a world of coiled tension and heartbreak and, of course, of camaraderie.

Journey's End is a privileged look into the lives of the men of the First World War, and director David Grindley and his cast present it with the utmost conviction, charting as it does from Raleigh's arrival and his almost Boys' Own

view of the war through to the profoundly moving curtain call where the cast stand silently and respectfully before a roll of honour of the men who lost their lives all those years ago.

## Journey's End continues at:

Theatre Royal, Glasgow 5th -10th September

His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen 13th -17th September

Milton Keynes Theatre, 20th -24th September

New Victoria Theatre, Woking 26th September -1st October

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton 4th – 8th October

Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham 10th – 15th October

New Theatre, Cardiff 18th – 22nd October

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry 24th – 29th October

Lyceum, Sheffield 31st October – 5th November

The Lowry, Salford 8th – 12th November

Theatre Royal, Nottingham 15th – 19th November



Picture: Graham Butler as 2nd Lt Raleigh, Christian Patterson as 2nd Lt Trotter and Dominic Mafham as Lt Osborne. The second image is of 2nd Lt Raleigh.



# The Big Salute

by Paul Condon,  
TV Producer BFBS.

A record crowd of over 60,000 enjoyed an unforgettable day at Twickenham on Saturday 7th May for the biggest sporting event in the Forces calendar – the Army vs. Navy Rugby Match. For eighty minutes, the two sides engaged in some fierce rugby as they battled it out for the Babcock Trophy. The occasion also marked the launch of this year's Big Salute appeal, which was chosen as the official charity of the day. This is the annual fundraiser organised by British Forces Broadcasting Service. Patrons and supporters of the Big Salute include Andy McNab, Christina Schmid, and comedians Armstrong and Miller. And the beneficiaries are five Forces charities – BLESMA, Veterans Aid, Combat Stress, FAB (Family Activity Breaks) and St Dunstan's.

The match and the launch of the appeal is also one of the biggest events in the BFBS calendar. On the day, BFBS Radio and TV broadcast live from Twickenham bringing the unique atmosphere of the game to UK listeners on DAB, and around the Forces World on radio and TV. And BFBS regular and rugby fanatic Paul Bunker hosted a live television special for the Forces audience overseas and was joined by Sky Sports News presenter Charlotte Jackson.

During the show, live action from the match was interspersed with films about the five charities. For the piece about St Dunstan's, I filmed with Ranger Andy Allen of the Royal Irish Regiment who lost both legs in an IED attack in Afghanistan as well as most of his vision. The hardest part of what happened, he revealed, was not losing his legs but his sight. As a fanatical Manchester United fan, he found not being able to fully see his beloved team playing on television especially difficult. He said how St Dunstan's made every effort to help him meet the challenges he faced.

It was while he was recovering from his injuries in hospital that Andy first heard about St Dunstan's when they visited him in hospital and gave him a talking watch. Although a small gesture it made a huge impact, as Andy no longer needed to rely on others to tell him the time. He also spoke of the special wet room St Dunstan's built in his house to make showering less difficult. And how he was given an LED magnifier, which again is just a simple device but one with profound consequences. Andy told me how much it meant to him to be able to read and order his own meal from a restaurant menu instead of having to ask the person next to him for assistance. Put simply we were able to show how the support from St Dunstan's was enabling Andy to live an independent life.

Later on in the film, Barry Porter, Director of Welfare Services, encouraged viewers to contribute to the Big Salute; pointing out that just a £30 donation would buy a St Dunstaner a talking watch.

Another feature during the live show was the launch of the Big Salute online auction. If you fancied riding shotgun with *Top Gear's* The Stig, taking to the air with The Blades display team, enjoying a VIP visit to the set of Coronation Street, a behind the scenes tour of *This Morning* and a treasure chest of signed sporting paraphernalia, you could bid for these and plenty more money-can't-buy opportunities. The auction offered a unique chance to raise money for the appeal.

Over at Twickenham meanwhile, BFBS Radio presenter Nicky Smith was hosting a live radio show from the West Stand car park. And all around the stadium, teams of volunteers, some from St. Dunstan's, were busily filling up their collecting buckets with donations from boisterous and excited Army and Navy supporters. The day was gearing up to be a huge success for the Big Salute.

However, the day was probably one the Royal Navy may want to forget. Having scored first in a riveting first half, the Army eventually got into gear and scored seven tries winning back a year's bragging rights from the Navy. The final result: Army 44 Royal Navy 10.

So far, the 2011/2012 Big Salute campaign has raised £50,000 since its launch less than a month ago! The auction items alone raised over £9000. Since we



Picture: BFBS Presenter Nicky Smith interviews Patron Andy McNab.

started the BFBS Big Salute in May 2008, we've raised more than £230,000 and this year's effort is already getting off to a record-breaking start. And of course, part of the money raised will go to St Dunstan's.

But it doesn't end with the Army Navy Rugby Match. This is a year-round appeal and you can get involved in supporting the Big Salute. Why not organise your own fundraising event or simply text 'Big' to 70777 to donate £5? To find out more, visit [www.bfbs.com/bigsalute](http://www.bfbs.com/bigsalute) for more details.



## Beer of the Month.

by Colin Williamson.

Blanche of Namur was the daughter of John, Count of Namur. It is told that Magnus IV Eriksson, King of Sweden and Norway, was attracted by the young Princess's beauty, when he was travelling to France in search of a prestigious wife. The Princess embarked for Scandinavia in August 1335 and was never to see the Banks of the Meuse again. She would become Queen of Norway, Sweden and Scania.

In memory of her beauty, her sweetness and her delicacy, the Brasserie Du Bocq dedicated a wheat beer to her: The "Blanche de Namur".

Finally, after years of trying, I've managed to track down one of the world's finest wheat beers. This beer, called Blanche De Namur, was voted the best wheat beer in the world in 2009. I managed to capture her in Brugge a couple of weekends ago. It's a beautiful, refreshing, fruity white/pale yellow beer with hints of coriander and orange peel. A really top quality beer, this is a real thirst quencher ideal for those summer days just lazing around in the garden. It can be bought online from specialist beer suppliers.

## Answers to Ten questions on... The subject "100" from page 18.

1. Prince Andrew.
2. Heathrow Airport. (100.2 F. was first recorded at Heathrow then later that day an even higher temperature was recorded in Kent, making that day the hottest day since records began about 130 years ago).
3. The Royal Albert Hall.
4. He was running backwards.
5. Billy Wright, Wolverhampton Wanderers. (Wright won his 100th International Cap for England against Scotland on 11th April 1959).
6. Holy water.
7. 12.
8. The Isle of Wight.
9. "Brigadoon".
10. Pooh Bear or Winnie the Pooh. (The Pooh stories have been translated into many languages, including Alexander Lenard's Latin translation, Winnie Ille Pu, which was first published in 1958, and, in 1960, became the only Latin book ever to have been featured on the New York Times Best Seller List).

# Family News

### Congratulations to:

Proud Grandparents Paul & Pauline Palmer, who celebrated the birth of their grandson; George William Crowe on 4th April to their daughter Caroline and her husband Chris Crowe.

### Birthdays:

Mary Foulkes of Rudgwick in West Sussex who celebrated her 100th Birthday on 18th June.

Violet Wood of Uxbridge in Middlesex who celebrated her 100th Birthday on 29th June.

### Weddings:

#### Blue Sapphire (65th)

Eric & Laura Andrews of Wrexham in Flintshire & Derbyshire on 11th June.

George & Lillian Todd of Newark in Nottinghamshire on 20th June.

James & Eileen Smith of Turnford in Hertfordshire on 22nd June.

Derek & Win Wood of Chichester in West Sussex on 24th June.

Fred & Martha Robins of Kingswinford in West Midlands on 29th June.

#### Diamond (60th):

Ray & Olive Doak of Bromley in Kent on 2nd June.

David & Margaret Stack of Newton Abbot in Devon on 16th June.

Bill & Miriam Appleton of St Helen's in Merseyside on 16th June.

John & Irene Powell of Woodingdean, Sussex on 30th June.

#### Golden (50<sup>th</sup>):

June & Pat Riordan of Washington, Tyne and Wear on 9th June.

#### Pearl (30<sup>th</sup>):

Alf & Irene Marsh of Bognor Regis in West Sussex on 29th June.



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

**Janet Braithwaite** who died on 19th May 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Robert Braithwaite.

**Mary Clarkson** who died on 6th March 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Charles Clarkson.

**Eileen Charlick** who died on 20th May 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner, the late Frederick Charlick.

**Norman Collier** who died on 1st March 2011, he was the husband of St Dunstaner Barbara Collier.

**Nora Harris** who died on 24th October 2010, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Wyndham Harris.

**Grace Keating** who died on 11th May 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Samuel Keating.

**Dora Leat** who died on 15th May 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Charles Leat.

**Isobella Libby** who died on 10th May 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner William 'Alan' Libby.

**Dorothy Reynolds** who died on 30th May 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner, the late Alan Reynolds.

**Allan Simpson** who died on 25th March 2011, he was the husband of St Dunstaner Dorothy Simpson.

**Maureen Torkington** who died on 7th March 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Bernard Torkington.

**Marjorie Vincent** who died on 17th May 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner, the late John Vincent.

**Gwendoline White-Howes** who died on 25th May 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Douglas White-Howes.

**Mary Whitley** who died on 1st June 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner, the late Thomas Whitley.

# Welcome to **St Dunstan's**

**Hughbert Allman** of Astley in Leicester served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers from 1946 to 1948.

**Albert Baker** of Oldham, Lancs served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1946 to 1948.

**Alec Carter** of Battle, East Sussex served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1943 to 1947.

**Kenneth Claxton** of Manchester served in the General Service Corps and the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) from 1945 to 1948.

**Ian Cloke** of Rotherham, South Yorks served in the Royal Air Force from 1979 to 1984.

**Janet Cole** of Attleborough, Norfolk served in the Royal Navy from 1948 to 1951.

**Reginald Davey** of Dunstable, Beds served in the Royal Marines from 1941 to 1946.

**Leonard Dougherty** of Halifax, West Yorks served in the Royal Navy from 1937 to 1969.

**Horace Drake** from Crowborough, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1947.

**Colin Fenn** of Dursley, Gloucs served in the Royal Navy from 1949 to 1960.

**David Ford** of Accrington, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers from 1945 to 1948.

**Christopher Francis** of High Wycombe, Bucks served in the Royal Air Force from 1978 to 1987.

**Richard Gowlland** of Ashted, Surrey served in the Honourable Artillery Company and the Devonshire Regiment from 1939 to 1946.



**Constance Hatfield** of Barnsley, South Yorks served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

**Douglas Hopkins** of Southampton, Hants served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1952 to 1958.

**Frederick Jefferies** of Hemel Hempstead, Herts served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Artillery from 1947 to 1949.

**John Johnson** of Preston served in the King's Own Royal Regiment from 1973 - 1977.

**Stanley Jones** from Selby, North Yorks served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers from 1943 to 1946.

**Doris Lowe** of Kidlington, Oxfordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

**Brian Mahoney** of Lewes, East Sussex served in the Royal Artillery from 1948 to 1971.

**Alan Mays-Smith** served of Heathfield, East Sussex served in the Rifle Brigade, the Royal Green Jackets and the East Sussex Regiment from 1951 to 1957.

**Bryan Miles** of Southport, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1958.

**Kenneth Murray** of Kettering, Northants served in the Royal Air Force from 1938 to 1946.

**William Neeson** of Nantgarw, Cardiff served in the Royal Navy from 1936 to 1946.

**Winifred Niven** of Northallerton, North Yorks served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1950.

**Leslie Pentecost** of Crediton, Devon served in the Devonshire Regiment and the Lancashire Fusiliers from 1940 to 1946.

**Leslie Perkins** of Redcar, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

**Thomas Pike** of Horley, Surrey served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1941 to 1946.

**Gerald Ranson** of Witney, Oxfordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Charles Reece** of Solihull, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**James Rees** of Neath, West Glamorgan served in the Merchant Navy from 1942 to 1955.

**Ernest Sage** of Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex served in the Royal Artillery and the Territorial Army from 1949 to 1955.

**Joy Sanders** of Great Haywood, Stafford served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1945.

**Kenneth Scriven** of Westbury, Wilts served in the Royal Armoured Corps and the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry from 1952 to 1958.

**John Simcock** of Abergele, Clwyd served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1943 to 1946.

**Elsie Simms** of Barnsley, South Yorks served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

**Lewis Stanley** of Warwick, Warwickshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Trevor Tuddenham** of Welwyn Garden City, Herts served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1959.

**Margery Williams** of Ruthin, Clwyd served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1945.

**John Wilson** of Rayleigh, Essex served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1954.

**Henry Wood** of Leven, Fife served in the Royal Engineers in 1948 to 1949.

**Wilfred Yates** of Stafford served in the South Staffordshire Regiment and the Reconnaissance Corps from 1940 to 1946.



# In Memory

**It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of the following St Dunstaners and we offer our heartfelt condolences to their widows, family and friends.**

## **Robert Austin, Royal Air Force**

Robert Austin of Accrington, Lancs died on 7th May 2011, aged 88. Brought up in Morayshire and Aberdeen, he was first employed as a hotel barman. In 1942 he joined the RAF, trained at RAF Padgate and later in Blackpool where he met his wife. As a qualified armourer he was posted to Egypt. He was discharged in 1947. After the war he moved to Lancashire to work in a factory, making shop furniture for 20 years when he left to work as an airport taxi driver until his retirement at 65. He leaves his widow Mary, a son and grandchildren.

## **Francis Blackwell, Royal Air Force**

Francis Blackwell of Liverpool, Merseyside died on 4th June 2011, aged 94. He joined the RAF in 1940 training as a wireless specialist before he was posted to the Far East. He travelled throughout India preparing aircraft to receive radar. He also served in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and Burma, where he took part in the Arakan campaign. After he was demobbed as a Corporal in 1946 he returned to his pre war work with J&F Store, where he was put in charge of the company's operations in the North East of England. Widowed he and his late wife Dorothy had eight children and grandchildren.

## **Jack Booth, Royal Navy**

Jack Booth of Formby, Liverpool died on 20th April 2011, aged 90. Mr Booth initially worked at Archway Hospital where he trained as a laboratory assistant and completed his apprenticeship before the war. In 1942 he joined the Royal Navy Medical branch at Chatham. He worked for Royal Navy Laboratory Services mainly in Mombasa but also spent 18 months in Ceylon. After demobilisation as a Sick Berth Attendant in 1946 at Chatham he returned to Archway Hospital and subsequently moved to Liverpool to be in charge of laboratory services at Alder Hey Children's Hospital as Chief Scientist, where he stayed until his retirement 30 years later. Widowed in 1979 he leaves three sons as his daughter died at the age of 23.

## **William 'Bill' Bothomley, Royal Artillery, Royal Army Service Corps (TA) and the Army Cadet Force (TA)**

William 'Bill' Bothomley of Camberley, Surrey died on 12th January 2011, aged 90. Mr Bothomley worked for Jones the Bookmaker prior to joining the Territorial Army in Wales. He became a Staff Sergeant but at the outbreak of war in 1939, became a Regular. He served initially in a variety of locations around the UK until he was posted to Brussels in 1944 at GHQ British Army. He was discharged in 1946 and joined the Army Cadet Force where he remained for 20 years. He then joined the Probation Service where he worked until retirement in 1985. A widow Mr Bothomley leaves a son and daughter.

## **Derek Brown, Royal Navy**

Derek Brown of Plymouth died on 3rd June 2011, aged 81. Mr Brown joined the Royal Navy in 1947 when he trained on a number of ships in UK waters before serving in the West Indies and the South Pacific, Londonderry and the Mediterranean. He qualified on Deltic engines and served in Ton class minesweepers and onboard HMS Bermuda in the Atlantic. He finished onboard HMS Tiger in 1969 and retired as a Chief Petty Officer Stoker. After leaving the Royal Navy he became a tenant publican. Widowed Mr Brown has two children and three grandchildren.

## **William Burdett, Royal Signals**

William Burdett of Tamworth, Staffs died on 9th May 2011, aged 88. He was brought up in Tamworth and joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1942. He served in North Africa and Sicily returning to Northern Europe in 1944 prior to serving in Palestine from 1945-1947. Discharged as a Corporal in 1947 he returned to civilian life and took over the running of the family footwear business where he remained for his whole working life. The company is still run by the family. He leaves his widow Marion, whom he married on 11th July 1961.

## **Robert Carr, Royal Air Force**

Robert Carr of Wadhurst, East Sussex died on 31st May 2011, aged 91. Mr Carr worked as a clerk before the war. He joined the RAF in 1939 when he was involved in decoy locations prior to being posted to West Africa, serving in the Gambia and Ghana. Demobilised in 1946 he joined the Inland Revenue but at the age of 38 he qualified as a teacher and was promoted to Headmaster in 1969. His wife Doreen died in 1995 and they leave a son and two daughters and a grandchild.

## **Alfred Caulfield, Royal Artillery**

Alfred Caulfield of Rickmansworth, Herts died on 15th May 2011, aged 51. He served with the Royal Artillery in Dortmund from 1978 to 1985 and left as a



Gunner. After leaving the Army he had a variety of jobs which included security at the Bank of Scotland and the House of Commons. Twice married he has a son who is serving in the Royal Marines.

**Arthur Corley, Royal Army Service Corps**

Arthur Corley of Haywards Heath, West Sussex died on 7th May 2011, aged 95. He left school at 15 to work as a paper boy but in 1933 he took a job in the City with Lloyds Register of Shipping doing technical work. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1939 as a Territorial and after mobilisation went to France with the BEF and was evacuated from Dunkirk. He was commissioned in 1941 and took part in the defence of the South Coast. He subsequently landed with the 11th Armoured Corps at Normandy on D+10 and became Deputy Director of the Supply and Transport Corps on General Montgomery's staff, fighting through to Germany. He was discharged as a Major in 1946 and returned to Lloyds which had generously looked after him, keeping its employees on continuous pay during the war. In return for Lloyd's loyalty he remained with the company until he retired at 65 having worked in France, Germany and Poland. Widowed in 2001 he leaves four children and great grandchildren.

**Mark Cunningham, Royal Armoured Corps**

Mark Cunningham of Preston, Lancs died on 17th December 2010, aged 82. Mr Cunningham joined the Royal Armoured Corps in 1946 and served in Northern Ireland, Catterick and Bovington. He was discharged in 1949 but remained in the TA, attending annual training camps. He was recalled to service in 1951 and finally discharged in 1957 following the Suez Crisis. Mr Cunningham returned to Liverpool and worked for Tate and Lyle sugar refinery for 20 years. He bought a small holding, growing tomatoes and other vegetables, but sold the business when his sight deteriorated. Married to Marjorie they had four children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Ernest Day, Royal Air Force**

Ernest Day of Cambridge died on 18th May 2011, aged 101. He first worked at the Cambridge University Press before joining the RAF in 1941 where he served as a Medical Orderly and dealt with sick servicemen in the Cambridge, Redcar and Chigwell areas. Having been discharged in 1946, Mr Day returned to work for the University Press in Cambridge where he remained until his retirement. He married Louise in 1933 and they had a son. He leaves his son, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Norman Ellis, Royal Navy**

Norman Ellis of Burton-on-Trent, Staffs died on 6th May 2011, aged 87. He joined the Royal Navy in August 1942 completing radar training. He was

posted to India for three years with a Squadron of Barracuda Aircraft as a Radar maintainer. Having lost a lot of weight in the Far East after discharge in 1946 he went to Ireland to recover his fitness. On his return to the UK he became a paint salesman in Derby before inheriting his mother's agricultural engineering business with his brothers where he worked for 10 years before handing it over to his younger brother. He then worked for his father-in-law's joinery firm for 10 years, after which he went into retailing with his wife Sue, opening a shop in Derby which they ran until 1980. A creative person, he did pottery at Derby College of Art. He and Sue had three children.

**Phyllis Ferrow, Royal Navy**

Phyllis Ferrow of Eastbourne, East Sussex died on 10th May 2011, aged 96. Brought up in South Shields her father was a sea captain. She joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1943. She served in the shore HQ HMS Queen Charlotte on the Western Approaches and was discharged in 1946. After the Navy she worked in a solicitor's office and subsequently had a variety of other jobs.

**Martin Goodman, Royal Army Ordnance Corps**

Martin Goodman of Camborne, Cornwall died on 4th May 2011, aged 74. Mr Goodman served as a Bandsman from 1958 to 1964 after he joined as a National Serviceman when he decided to do a regular engagement. He did his training at Kneller Hall and was an oboe player who regularly played at many of the major sporting events and whenever massed bands were required. After his Army service he returned to his former employer before moving on to Royal Aircraft Establishment Bedford in 1967. He was involved with training apprentices until 1975 when he moved to the National Physical Laboratory where he remained until 1994 when he retired. He leaves his widow Jenny.

**James Graham, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Army Air Corps (SAS)**

James Graham of Locharbriggs, Dumfries died on 10th December 2010, aged 89. He joined the RAOC in 1939 before transferring to REME in 1942. He was posted to North Africa where he was attached to an Ack Ack Battery. He then joined the SAS which involved training back in the UK. He also served in Germany before he was discharged in 1946, returned to his original profession as a coach builder with Journeyman Coaches in Scotland. Mr Graham and his first wife Margaret divorced and he leaves his widow Enid and three daughters.

**Margaret Grant, Royal Navy**

Margaret Grant of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire died on 28th December 2010 aged 87. Before the war she worked as a legal secretary. She joined the Women's



Royal Naval Service in 1943, training at HMS Bembroke in Leeds as a Wren Writer. She was posted to the Orkney Islands and later to HMS Merganser in Aberdeen. She was demobilised in 1946 and returned to her job as a legal secretary. Widowed in 1985 she leaves a son.

**David Hardiman, Dorset Regiment and the Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's)**

David Hardiman of Bristol died on 24th February 2011 aged 81. He completed an apprenticeship in carpentry and joinery before he joined the 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment in 1950 for National Service and served in Eritrea, Cyprus and the Suez Canal Zone. He enjoyed the Army immensely although he damaged his hearing due to the use of anti-tank weapons. After discharge in 1952 he joined the Dorset Regiment (TA) and rode in the Army Motorcycle Association team with great success, until his discharge in 1967. In civilian life he was a self employed carpenter and joiner until he moved to Bath and ran a sub-post office until he retired in 1988. Married to Jean they had two sons.

**Vernon Harris, Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Vernon Harris of Tadworth, Surrey died on 21st May 2011, aged 90. He initially studied to be a vet but never completed the course due to the subsequent call up to the Army. He joined the RAOC in 1940 and transferred to the REME when it formed in 1942. He served in the UK and was later posted to India and the Far East. He was discharged in 1946. After the war he took an office job at Lambeth Town Hall followed by Croydon and Sutton before returning to Lambeth. He was in local government until he moved to the Cotswolds in 1982 to run a B&B. His wife Iris died in 1995 and he subsequently married Peggy (Pat) who has a son Robert from her first marriage.

**Donald Hart, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Donald Hart of Seaford, East Sussex died on 28th May 2011, aged 88. He started with his father's building company and later worked as a gardener and postman. He joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in 1942 before transferring to the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers in 1943. He was posted to North Africa, assembling military vehicles before landing at Anzio, Italy where, attached to the 8th Royal Tank Regiment, he continued to inspect vehicles which had been assembled or repaired. He returned to the UK to prepare for going to the Far East, but by then the war had ended. He went instead to Austria and later Palestine before being demobilised in 1947. He became an agent with Pearl Assurance and later a manager, where he remained until he retired. His wife Winifred died in 2007 and their son at the age of 61. Mr Hart leaves a daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Vernon Hawker, Intelligence Corps**

Vernon Hawker of Newcastle Upon Tyne died on 22nd May 2011, aged 88. Born into a military family, he was educated at a boarding school in Egypt before joining Egyptian Markets, a British company. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1941 but with an ability to speak fluent Italian, French, Arabic and colloquial Greek he soon transferred to the Intelligence Corps and with field security was posted with the 8th Army in North Africa, fighting at El Alamein. His language skills were useful while serving as an escort between Italy and North Africa - mostly plain clothes and counter intelligence work.

Mr Hawker was demobilised in 1945 as a Sergeant and joined Lucas Electrics as an apprentice for three years. He joined the commercial side and with his language skills worked for the overseas division. He became the European Director before moving to Girling as an Overseas Manager. He then went to Harvard Business School and set up on his own as a Business Consultant, working for GEC and Paxman until his retirement. Mr Hawker met his wife in Egypt during the war but was sadly widowed in 1998. He leaves a son and a daughter.

**William Heath, Royal Air Force**

William Heath of Liverpool died on 30th May 2011, aged 90. He initially worked in a shipping office in Liverpool before joining the RAF in 1941, qualifying as an Armourer. He served with the Fleet Air Arm and was on his way to the Far East in an aircraft carrier when the war ended. Discharged in 1946 he worked in the travel industry until his retirement. Widowed in 2005 he leaves two sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Fred Hines, Royal Engineers**

Fred Hines of St Neots, Cambridgeshire died on 13th May 2011, aged 91. He completed a joinery apprenticeship with AW Oakley his uncle's company. He rose in the firm and moved to another company called Neville's. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1940 and was initially posted around UK preparing for a possible German invasion. He subsequently deployed to Cyprus followed by oil well defence duties in Iraq. On moving to Egypt he was taken POW by the Germans and handed to the Italians at Benghazi who shipped him to Naples. Following the Allied invasion of Italy, the Germans took him to Brunswick. Following liberation he returned to Aldershot and was demobilised in 1946 as a Sapper.

After the war Mr Hines returned to Oakley's as a furniture maker, in his own words specialising in "pubs, banks and churches", and stayed until retirement in 1985. A widower he leaves three sons.



**Eunice Hoy, Women's Royal Naval Service**

Eunice Hoy of Littlehampton, West Sussex died on 17th April 2011, aged 84. Eunice Hoy initially worked as a trainee journalist on the local paper in Boston, Lincolnshire before joining the Women's Royal Navy Service in 1944. She trained at Chatham Barracks where she qualified as a writer and was posted to Suffolk. After the WRNS she became a full time wife and mother but when her two children became of school age she returned to part time work. Widowed in 2010 by Thomas she leaves two daughters, grand children and great grandchildren.

**Charles Jones, Royal Tank Regiment**

Charles Jones of Teignmouth, Devon died on 6th May 2011, aged 92. He joined the TA in 1936. His first 6 months were spent in training before he was posted to the 57th Heavy Training Regiment Royal Armoured Corps in Warminster. He served in the Kings Regiment (V) from 1936 and with the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment from 1938 until 1946, leaving as a Corporal Tank Commander. During the war he was in 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. At the end of the war he found employment with the Timber Trade in Liverpool, W H Caldwell & Company and worked his way up to Timber Inspector. He remained in the Timber business until his retirement at the age of 65. He leaves a niece and nephew.

**Walter 'Wally' Lethbridge, Royal Air Force**

Wally Lethbridge from Saltdean in East Sussex died on 26th January 2011, aged 89. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1945. He was blinded during his Service in Iraq in October 1944 when a booby trap device exploded; leaving him with extremely severe damage to his eyes and wounds to his arms, face and hands.

His injuries did not deter him from leading a full life. He was a member of St Dunstan's Blind and Handless Group and a keen bridge and chess player and a key member of St Dunstan's Bridge Club. He leaves his wife Pam, whom he was married to for some 37 years and his son Brian.

**Alexander McKay, Royal Artillery**

Alexander McKay of South Shields, Tyne & Wear died on 17th April 2011, aged 91. An apprentice mining surveyor in the North East of England before he was called up to join the Royal Artillery in 1939 he trained in Gateshead, completing specialist training in the UK and Egypt before deploying to Greece. He was evacuated to Crete and then to the desert in Tobruk prior to being posted to Syria and Lebanon where he surveyed the borders with Turkey. Mr McKay then returned to the Western Desert where he took part in the Battle of El Alamein. He was involved in the invasion of Sicily. Having being wounded twice by this

stage, he landed on Sword Beach on D Day with 50 Division. He subsequently moved through Europe and was in Bremen at the end of the war. Mr McKay stayed with the Royal Artillery to gain his commission in Winchester. He then joined the TA Royal Artillery until 1959 when he left as the Battery Captain. On discharge he rejoined the coal industry and became a surveyor in the North of England until he retired as the Head of the Works Study Department at 57. Widowed by Evelyn he leaves a daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Edgar Morris, Royal Air Force**

Edgar Morris of Wolverhampton died on 29th May 2011, aged 91. Before the war he was an apprentice engineer in Wolverhampton, later specialising in hydraulics and pneumatics. He joined the RAF in 1940 and trained at Cardington as an Air Gunner but was also a qualified Air Mechanic/Engineer. He served in the UK at a variety of Bomber Command locations before being discharged in 1946. He then returned to his original employment where he remained until he retired. Married to Betty they had three children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Robert 'Bob' Osborne, 2nd Btn South Wales Borderers**

Robert 'Bob' Osborne of Saltdean, East Sussex died on 29th May 2011, aged 87. Wounded in Normandy, Bob was married to Joan who has a lifelong association with St Dunstan's. Before he was sent to Normandy to take part in the D-Day Landings, Bob said his best six weeks in the Army came as his company, A Company, were sent to Chequers to guard Churchill.

Landing on the beaches he escaped death on two previous occasions before he was blinded at the age of 20 in Normandy in 1944, when he was caught in a blast which also resulted in him losing his right leg below the knee and his left lower arm.

He was taken to Stoke Mandeville Hospital and in August 1945 following discharge from the hospital he commenced training at Church Stretton in September 1945. He trained in Braille and typewriting, weaving, leather work and playing wind instruments. It was at Church Stretton that he met Joan when she was asked to take a young soldier to the cinema.

They married in 1948 at Blackburn Road Church in Bolton, the same Church where Joan's parents were married in 1919. Her father Jo Walch was a First World War St Dunstaner who had lost his sight, an arm and his remaining hand was badly damaged. Jo also went to the war time training centre in Church Stretton in 1941 where he taught Braille and shorthand.

After Bob and Joan married they ran a kiosk at Ian Fraser House for 20 years.



Deeply involved with St Dunstan's, Bob was a member of the Brighton Club from 1953, a group which meets every Wednesday afternoon in the Ballroom at Ovingdean.

With a passion for music he gained a place at the Brighton School of Music and with Joan and her father they became the Osborne Trio, for many years singing at The Dome in Brighton. Later, Bob and Joan with two other St Dunstaners became 'Joan and The Three Blind Mice', performing at many concerts.

A keen bowler Bob was the Captain of St Dunstan's Bowling Club for more than 30 years until his death. At the end of the Bowling Week he would lead the group in a sing-along. Bob and Joan had two sons, grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

#### **Albert Paradine, Welch Regiment and the Royal Signals**

Albert Paradine of Wherstead, Ipswich died on 24th April 2011, aged 93. Mr Paradine was a milkman in London before he joined the Welch Regiment in February 1940. Transferred to the Royal Signals in December 1940 he was posted to India where he joined the Air Formation Signals, where he remained until he returned to the UK in 1945. Following demobilisation he joined the telecommunications industry, working with Shiptons Telecoms until his retirement. Mr Paradine married in 1939 but his wife died in 1982. They had two sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

#### **John Robinson, Royal Air Force**

John Robinson of Buckingham, Bucks died on 31st May 2011, aged 96. Mr Robinson served with the RAF throughout the UK in bombers as a wireless operator and later in transport command from 1940 to 1946 and left as a Flight Officer V/R. After the war he trained as a secondary school teacher and went on to specialise as a remedial teacher, working in the Nottingham and later in the Canterbury area. He and his first wife had three children, two boys and a girl, sadly his first wife died. He met and married his second wife Una and they had one son.

#### **Terrence Setchell, General Service Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps**

Terrence Setchell of Leicester, Leics died on 11 May 2011, aged 67. He joined the General Service Corps in 1943 and a month later transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps. He landed in Normandy on D-Day + 2 and fought through Belgium to Germany, finishing in Wilhelmshaven prior to his discharge in 1946. He then returned to the same bricklaying company he had worked for before the war. His wife died in 1983 and he leaves two sons and five grandchildren.

#### **Robert Summerson, Royal Engineers**

Robert Summerson of Bognor Regis, West Sussex died on 1 December 2010, aged 83. He worked as a trainee architect before being called up to join the

Army for National Service in 1948. He served with the Royal Engineers in the UK and Malaya and was discharged as a Sergeant in 1953. After the Army he returned to his former employer and qualified as an architect and worked in a variety of locations around the world including Australia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Tanzania.

#### **Peggy Suttling, Women's Auxiliary Air Force**

Peggy Suttling of Theford, Norfolk died on 2nd June 2011, aged 88. Before joining the WAAF in 1942 she was the manageress of a newsagent's shop. She carried out her training at Wilmslow in Cheshire and was posted around the UK with the Barrage Balloons. She then became a parachute and dinghy packer at Leconheath before she retrained as a telephonist. At the end of the war she returned to civilian life, living in Australia for 11 years and to New Zealand before returning to the UK.

Married to Leonard they had three daughters, Caroline, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

#### **Haydn Styles, Royal Air Force and the Air Training Corps**

Haydn Styles of Epsom, Surrey died on 3rd June 2011, aged 87. Mr Styles left school at 16 to go to Trinity College in Carmarthen where he trained to be a teacher. He joined the RAF in 1942 and was posted directly to South Africa as he had already learnt to fly whilst in the University Air Squadron. He completed his flying training in South Africa and returned to the UK to retrain as a Flight Engineer and later as second pilot on Lancaster Bombers at RAF Swinderby. In 1956 he returned to teaching in Birmingham where he became a Deputy Head in Cheadle. He remained in education and before his retirement in 1978 he oversaw the amalgamation of Junior Schools and Middle Schools in Surrey.

Married to Honora (known as Nora) they have four daughters and grandchildren.

#### **Maurice Titman, Royal Air Force**

Maurice Titman of Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk died on 3 May 2011, aged 89. He worked in a firm of solicitors before joining the RAF in 1940. He qualified as a signaller and mainly served with RAF Bomber Command in Huntingdon. In 1944 he was posted to North Africa for 18 months and finished his service at the Air Ministry. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1946.

After the war he had several jobs before beginning his training as an architect with Peterborough City Council and subsequently with a private company.



He did not complete his training. Widowed he leaves a son and daughter and grandchildren.

#### **William Turner, Royal Air Force**

William Turner of Newport Pagnall, Bucks died on 5th May 2011, aged 88. He was employed as an apprentice with the De Havilland Aircraft Company in Edgware before he joined the RAF in 1943. He trained at RAF Cardington, undergoing aircrew training and becoming an air gunner. He spent time in Canada flying Wellington Bombers and various other aircraft. He was discharged in 1947 and returned to De Havilland for two years.

He remained in engineering throughout his working life, moving to Australia in 1959 for 20 years. Married to Vilma they had three children.

#### **Donald Waite, Royal Engineers**

Donald Wait of Drumnadrochit, Inverness died on 10th May 2011, aged 76. Brought up in Yorkshire he was employed as a farm worker before being called up in 1956 for National Service. He was trained by the Royal Engineers on heavy plant such as bulldozers and was posted to Osnabruck, Germany before his discharge in 1958. He was employed by a dairy company and when he was made redundant 30 years later he became a caretaker & gardener for North Yorkshire County Council, at a teacher training college until his retirement. He leaves his wife Shirley a son and grandchildren.

#### **William Watson, General Service Corps, East Lancashire Regiment and the King's Regiment**

William Watson of Colne, Lancashire died on 25 May 2011, aged 84. He joined the General Service Corps in 1945 and a month later transferred to the East Lancashire Regiment. He was then in the King's Regiment from 1947 and served in North Africa before discharge in 1948. Following service he joined the Police Force for 12 years. He then did a variety of jobs generally in the engineering field until retirement. Widowed in 2006, Mr Watson leaves two sons and two.

#### **Ernest Weatherill, Royal Army Service Corps**

Ernest Weatherill of Whitby, North Yorkshire died on 8 May 2011, aged 91. He worked as a trainee butcher before he joined the RASC in 1939 as a driver, carrying out his training in Aldershot and France. He was deployed to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force and was taken prisoner. He spent the remainder of the war in a Prisoner of War camp in Poland and was moved

around Germany, Belgium and Holland. He was finally released by the Cheshire Regiment and was demobilised in 1946. After the war he joined the Post Office where he remained until he retired. Widowed by his wife, Jean he leaves two sons and grandchildren.

#### **Anthony West, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and the Royal Signals**

Anthony West of Kings Heath, Birmingham died on 27th April 2011, aged 87. He worked as a junior clerk with a Birmingham insurance company before volunteering to join the Army in 1941, initially serving with the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry before he was transferred to the Royal Signals in 1942. He was then deployed to North Africa, Algiers, Tunisia, Sicily and lastly to Italy where he moved up the eastern side towards Milan. He was discharged in 1946 and returned to Birmingham where he worked for the Prudential. Lastly he became the MD of his own steel wire manufacturing company, retiring at 75. He leaves his wife Janete.

#### **David White, Royal Air Force**

David White of Attleborough, Norfolk died on 14th May 2011, aged 75. Mr White joined the RAF for National Service in 1954 and served at West Kirby, the Wirral, Wiltshire and RAF Tangmere, West Sussex. He was discharged as a SAC in 1956. He returned to work on motors and generators in a factory in St Mary's Cray for 31 years until the company was taken over by Lawrence Scott's of Norwich. He then moved to a job in a street lighting company for 12 years before retiring at 65. Married to Veronica (Ronnie) they had two daughters.

#### **Lewis Williams, Royal Signals**

Lewis Williams of Birmingham, West Midlands died on 30th May 2011, aged 92. Mr Williams worked as a typesetter, before he joined the Army in 1939, serving in the UK at outset before he landed in Normandy on Juno Beach. He moved through France to Belgium, Holland and finally Germany prior to being demobilised from the Royal Signals in 1946. On discharge he returned to the printing, setting up in business with a friend. Married to Cynthia they had two daughters.

#### **Christine Wright**

Christine Wright of Leicester died on 3 June 2011, aged 70. Mrs Wright was injured by a German V2 rocket in Kingston-upon-Thames at the age of 4 in 1945 and was awarded a war pension aged 15. She trained as a nurse and became the manager of an old people's home for 36 years. She leaves her husband Ken. Although Christine did not serve in the Armed Forces she qualifies as a St Dunstaner as she was blinded during war and receives a war pension.



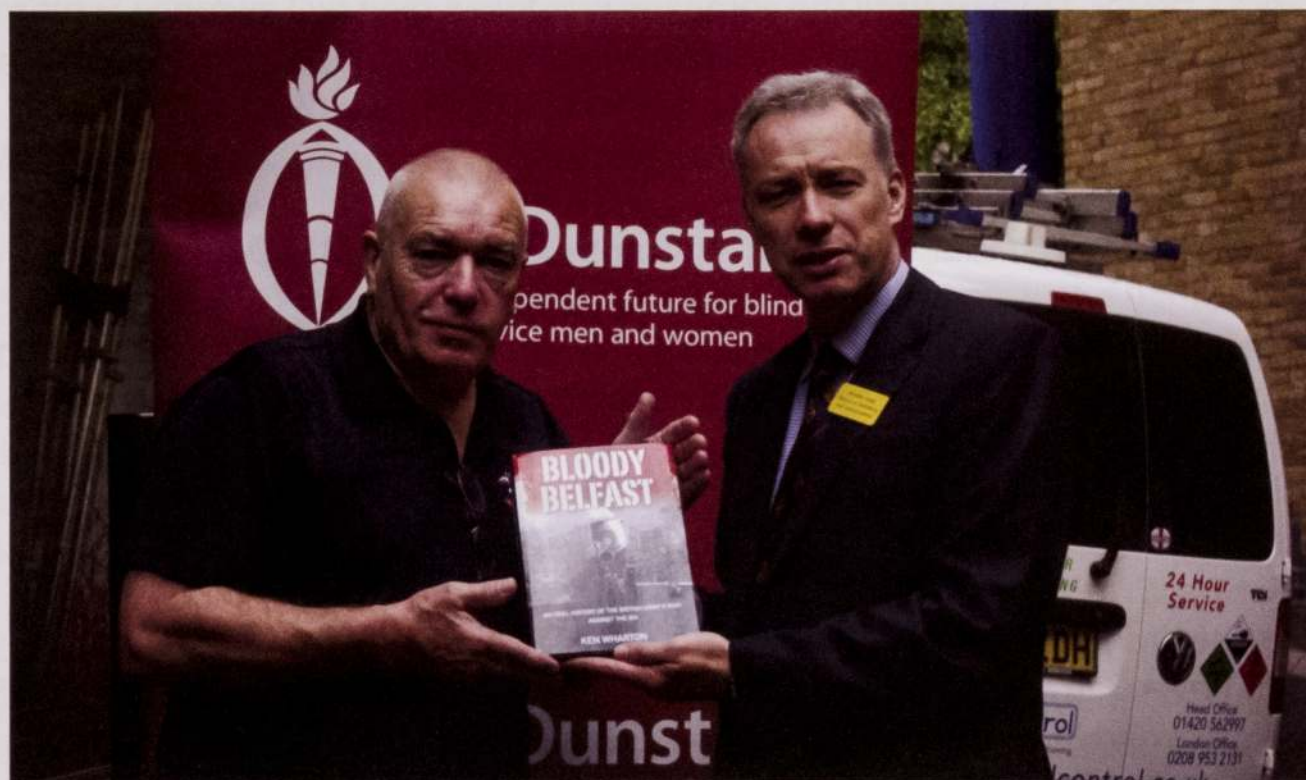
# Author Ken Wharton Presents Book to St Dunstan's.

During a visit to the UK, former British Soldier and author Ken Wharton stopped off at Harcourt Street to present St Dunstan's with a copy of his book *Bloody Belfast*. His latest book, *'The Bloodiest Year; Northern Ireland 1972*, which is published by The History Press Ltd, launched in June and is now available in hardback.

Ken's next book *'Sir, They're Taking the Kids Indoors'* will launch in 2012. In it Ken writes about St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan who was injured in Northern Ireland.

Ken has also written *'A Long Long War; Voices From the British Army in Northern Ireland, 1969-98'* and *'Bullets, Bombs and Cups of Tea; Further Voices of the British Army in Northern Ireland'* (Published by Helion Books) and *'Bloody Belfast'* (History Press).

Presenting his book Ken said "It is an absolute honour to be here at St Dunstan's." As Andrew Jones said, Ken the honour is ours.



Picture: Author Ken Wharton presents his book to Andrew Jones, St Dunstan's Director of Fundraising and Communications.