

St Dunstan's

November 2011

Review



The Llandudno Centre Opens.

From the Chairman

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

This month sees at least two major events for all St Dunstaners. The first is the long awaited announcement about our future branding following a decision taken recently by the Council. This includes our new name which will take effect early next year, and some information on what this means for our charity in the future. The second is Remembrance Day and all that it means to us individually and collectively.

This Review contains a detailed article on the future face of St Dunstan's, but I'd like to make a few points here. As you know we have carried out a lengthy and very detailed review of our brand because the hard facts are that at present not enough people know who we are or what we do. Talking widely to the public has shown us very clearly that the name St Dunstan's, although dear to our hearts, is frequently confused with other organisations and does not help people to understand or remember our charity. Ironically this includes ex-military blind and visually impaired people, who if only they knew about us could join us and benefit from us as you do. Furthermore our current supporters, on whom our future depends, are getting older, and it is really important that we now focus on people in their 40s and 50s as potential donors.

From a date to be decided soon, likely to be in February 2012, St Dunstan's will become Blind Veterans UK. Those who joined before that date may continue to refer to themselves as St Dunstaners and may continue to wear the badge, if they so wish. It is likely that Blind Veterans UK will have its own badge which you will all receive and, I hope, wear with pride. The reason for this is that in order to build our new name and the reputation that will go with it, we all need to play our part in publicising it.

I fully appreciate that some of you are not yet convinced that changing our name is necessary. I would simply ask you to trust those of us who have wrestled with this thorny issue for many months, which has included wide consultation with you the beneficiaries, with staff, volunteers, supporters and the general public. I assure you, again, that changes have been made with one, and only one over-riding consideration – *the future well-being of our charity and of the beneficiaries*. All the signs are that if we are to survive, and to continue to grow to serve the needs of yet more of the ex-military blind and visually impaired community, we **must** adapt to meet the standards of today and the expectations of our potential supporters.

And now, Remembrance-tide. For I think the third time over the past 15 years or so since I have been a Trustee I won't be marching with you at the Cenotaph this year. This is because I will be attending the inauguration ceremony of a new Garden of Remembrance in Scotland for members of 45 Commando Royal Marines – the unit I had the privilege to command 25 years ago. I am delighted to say that General Sir Peter de la Billière has kindly agreed to lead the St Dunstan's contingent this year with our President, Ray Hazan. I know that all of you who are marching will be proud to follow these two very fine people. I will, though, be turning my mind to remember the sacrifices made by St Dunstaners, as well as those made by a significant number of young Royal Marines and many others over recent years in foreign parts.

St Dunstan's Calendar

November

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

December

Music Week 4th - 10th
Christmas Concert, Marylebone 6th
Christmas Concert, Brighton 8th

St Dunstan's Review

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On the cover:

End of a long journey as Centre to Centre Marchers, Billy Black, Charlie Eastwood and Chris Lee present Mark Lovatt, the Llandudno Centre Manager with the key to the Centre.



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information.

The St Dunstan's Biennial Survey 2011 from Barry Porter, Director of Welfare Services.

Since 2003, we have commissioned an independent company, Clariant Research, to carry out a survey to help us understand the level of satisfaction St Dunstaners and other beneficiaries have with the services we provide. The survey runs every two years and aims to interview by phone a sample of 200 individuals chosen randomly from a larger sample of the St Dunstan's population including War Blind St Dunstaners or their Widow/ers, Non War Blind St Dunstaners or their Widow/ers and this year for the first time a small sample of new young War Blind St Dunstaners. If you were one of those chosen for interview by Clariant and agreed to take part thank you, we are grateful for your participation.

The questions we ask every two years remain broadly the same from survey to survey, this allows us to track responses over time and gives us clear indications about how people feel about the services we offer. We aim to understand the level of satisfaction with the delivery of the current services, to listen to what experience beneficiaries have of these services, what needs are met and not met, whether expectations of services have changed and what the overall satisfaction rate is.

Overall satisfaction with services remained high at 4.79 (each question is scored out of 5); this was the same as in 2009.

- The Admissions Services attained a satisfaction score of 4.85 (4.80 2009).
- The Welfare Service attained a satisfaction score of 4.50 (4.75) slightly down on 2009. 87 % of respondents thought the new Welfare Telephone Service provided by Welfare Support Officers to be good or excellent.
- The Grants Service attained a satisfaction score of 4.67 (4.85 2009).

- Our Transport Services attained an overall satisfaction score of 4.64 (4.85 2009). 83% of respondents who had used Transport Services since the 'Regionalisation', thought that it had not negatively impacted their stay at Ovingdean and/or Sheffield.
- Ovingdean obtained a satisfaction score of 4.78 (4.70 2009).
- Ovingdean Rehab and Training (Home visits) increased its satisfaction score very slightly to 4.94 (4.90).
- Sheffield Rehabilitation and Training (home visits) attained a satisfaction score of 5.
- Ovingdean Introduction Weeks attained a mean satisfaction score of 4.89 (4.76) slightly up on 2009.
- Sheffield Introduction Weeks attained a mean satisfaction score of 5 (5), the same as 2009.
- Ovingdean Training Weeks attained a mean satisfaction score of 4.92 (4.80) slightly up on 2009.
- Sheffield Training Weeks attained a mean satisfaction score of 5 (4.82) slightly up on 2009.
- The Estates Department attained a mean satisfaction score of 4.65 (4.60 2009) very slightly up.
- Communications attained a mean satisfaction score of 4.58 (4.70) slightly down on 2009.
- Over 92.5% (93.5%) of respondents said they read/ listen to the Review, slightly down on 2009.
- The Review attained a mean satisfaction score of 4.63 (4.52) slightly up on 2009.
- Reunions attained a mean satisfaction score of 4.84 (4.78) slightly up on 2009.
- Over 84.5% (88.6% 2009) of survey respondents said they felt that the services provided by St Dunstan's had exceeded their expectations since they joined.

Comments made by respondents emphasised that the practical and emotional support provided by St Dunstan's is important.

In the rare instance of negative comments being made, they relate to single, one off instances. All individual concerns or outstanding queries raised in the phone interviews have now been followed up.

Celebrate the Best of St Dunstan's.

This is your chance to tell us who has excelled during the past year and submit your nominations for the Founders Day Awards 2012. The deadline is 30th November 2011 for you to nominate St Dunstaners, other members of

St Dunstan's Family and volunteers. There are eight categories that recognise the spirit of endeavour encouraged by our founder Sir Arthur Pearson. Presentations for the 2012 Founders Day Awards will take place at the Llandudno Centre on Friday 23rd March 2012.

The categories are:

1. Community Award
2. Training Achievement Award
3. Award for Creative Art
4. Sports Person of the Year Award
5. Volunteer of the Year Award
6. Innovator of the Year Award
7. Outstanding Achievement (new category)
8. Chairman's Commendation

Full rules were published in the July Review and a reminder in the September edition. Nomination forms can be obtained from Barry Porter's office by telephone: 020 7616 7922. Or by writing to Barry Porter, Director of Welfare Services, St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.



Photograph of Terry Heaton hosting Founders Day in 2011.

A Night To Remember.

St Dunstan in the West, Fleet Street, London EC4A 2HR will hold a night of Words and music for Remembrance on 9th November from 7pm. Funds raised on the night will go to St Dunstan's and the Afghanistan Trust.

Tickets can be purchased on the door for £15, or in advance for £12.50 from www.gottickets.com/event/134632. Concessions are available. Enquiries can be made by email remembernovember2011@gmail.com

Veterans' Mental Health Helpline Launched.

Round the clock telephone support for veterans with mental health problems is now being provided following the launch, in March, of the Combat Stress Support Helpline, delivered by Rethink Mental Illness and funded by the Department of Health. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 0800 138 1619, the helpline allows veterans and their families to access expert advice from people trained and experienced in dealing with ex-Service personnel and their mental health needs.

Dr Andrew Murrison MP, whose independent review into the provision of mental health services for veterans supported the setting up of a veterans mental health helpline added: "It is great to see that with the help of the Department of Health, Combat Stress and Rethink this 24-hour helpline has been launched. I am confident that it will give ex-Service personnel the support they not only need but deserve, given the sacrifices they have made for this country."

The launch of the new helpline is supported by a range of psychological therapies that veterans experiencing mental health problems will be able to request to help them improve their mental health and well-being. Alongside the helpline, the Department of Health is also working with the Royal College of General Practitioners to develop training tools for GPs to better recognise the needs of veterans and provide the best support. The helpline is part of the Government's 'No health without mental health' strategy, which will invest £7.2 million to deliver additional mental health services for the Armed Forces community Veterans' mental health helpline launched.

St Dunstan's Christmas Cards 2011.

As featured in the September Review, our Christmas card selection is available to order. All of our Christmas cards carry the St Dunstan's logo and the greeting 'With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year'

To receive your cards before Christmas, please order by Friday 9th December.

Please place telephone orders on:

0845 450 8446 or visit website:

www.supportblindheroes.org.uk



Picture: Moonlight Bethlehem.



Picture: Building Snowman.



Picture: Thumbs up Santa.

Events for Blind and Partially Sighted Visitors at the V&A, London.

Venetian Visions - Tuesday 22 November 11am to 12 noon

Discover the Venetian arts of the eighteenth century, an age of stylistic splendour. See a display of key prints, drawings, textiles, ceramics and glass from the V&A.

To book telephone: 020 7942 2211 or email: bookings.office@vam.ac.uk

All V&A events are accessible to blind or partially sighted visitors, and an accompanying friend or carer may claim free entry.

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. Or if you prefer please send an email to Catherine Goodier at email:

revieweditor@st-dunstans.org.uk

To the Editor

Since I became a St Dunstaner in June 2007 I have achieved the following goals:

Cooking skills which I learnt at the Sheffield Centre

Basic computer courses, which I also completed at the Sheffield Centre

I have taken part in the London to Brighton cycle ride on a tandem

The Hove to Hove cycle ride, which I have twice completed on a tandem

And the London Triathlon, which I have also completed twice.

I could not have achieved these goals without the professionalism of the St Dunstan's staff. Together with the amount of support and encouragement I have received from my fellow St Dunstaners. I would like to thank everyone in connection with my achievements and St Dunstan's staff in general. All the very best for the future.

Yours sincerely

St Dunstaner David Cranson

Dear Editor

Having recently gained my ITQ qualification I would like to thank the IT training staff in the Rehab and Training Department for their help. Special thanks go to Teresa Morgan-Gane and Anna Brownlie for putting up with me since 2009. I would like to mention the Craft Workshop where my interest in painting was rekindled. The whole St Dunstan's experience gave me the confidence to go to college to further my IT skills. I would like to thank all the staff and volunteers at St Dunstan's for all their good work through the years.

Hope to see you all again soon.

Yours sincerely

Matt Mc Gowan.

Dear Editor

I am writing in connection to Hilary Brown's article in the Septemer edition of the Review regarding Charles Bonnet Syndrome. It was such a relief to read her article and to discover there was a logical explanation for the visions my husband has been experiencing and that he did not have a mental illness.

My husband lost his sight over three months ago and he started to experience the visions described in Hilary's article shortly after that. We both found it pretty scary, but what a relief to know it may pass in time.

With thanks for your article.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Giles

Future Focus Update.

by Susanne Lund Conway, Project Manager.

As you will have read in the Chairman's message, the Trustees have taken the decision for us to become Blind Veterans UK from early 2012. This means much more than just a name change. It is a step in turning the organisation into one that is better known and understood, engages more people and attracts support for the long-term future.

Many of you may ask: "Why it is necessary to change the name of the organisation in order to achieve that?" One answer is that the name is only one aspect of the change that is required, but a very important one. When we started this project, almost two years ago, initial research told us that very few people were aware of St Dunstan's.

The research also said that the name St Dunstan's caused confusion for all those people who heard the name but did not know who we were. They often thought we were; a school, a church or a religious organisation. In today's environment where there are thousands of charities competing for attention, support and donations, it is imperative to be clear about who we are and what we do. External research has demonstrated that Blind Veterans UK does that. Based on this research the Trustees decided that Blind Veterans UK be the name to take us forward into the future.

The path to reaching the name Blind Veterans UK has been long and thorough. Changing the name of an organisation with so much rich history and proud heritage is not something we are taking lightly. Following the initial research we developed a clear set of criteria as to what a new name would have to achieve. The key principles included:

1. Be descriptive and refer to sight loss and our military side
2. Refer to who the charity supports
3. Be short

4. Other criteria such as be memorable, be unique, encourage action and fit with St Dunstaners, current supporters and potential donors.

The full criteria were used to narrow down the list of around 250 names that were suggested by staff, St Dunstaners and the project team.

A list of around 25 names were then analysed and rated by a number of focus groups, which brought the alternatives down to six names. These were evaluated by the Senior Management Team (SMT) and narrowed down to a shortlist of three alternatives (Battle Blindness, Blind Veterans UK, Vision for Veterans) and St Dunstan's.

The four shortlisted names were taken through rigorous testing to ensure we understood what the various names meant to the people we are trying to attract and to those who already are a part of our charity. We spoke to 12 different focus groups in total, with:

1. Members of the public, within the relevant age groups and including family and friends of people who serve or have served (three focus groups)
2. Corporate partners, current and potential (two groups)
3. Supporters (two groups)
4. St Dunstaners (two groups)
5. Staff and volunteers (three groups)

The focus groups gave us great insight into the strengths and weaknesses of each name, in particular what they said about who we are and what we do as an organisation.

There were strengths and weaknesses with each name. Vision for Veterans was well liked, but less distinctive. More importantly, the name did not make it clear that we were a charity for sight loss. Instead, it was perceived as more of a medical research organisation.

Battle Blindness was seen as a clever name, but it was unclear if it was a charity or just a campaign. For people who did not know us, Battle Blindness did not show an obvious military connection. For those who did see the military link, the name was associated with 'blinded in battle'.

Most commonly however, this name indicated that it was a research organisation working towards 'finding a cure'. In many ways the name was misleading.

Blind Veterans UK was found to be clear and descriptive, telling people who the charity is for and 'saying what it does on the tin'.

The research found that the word 'blind' was highly emotional and equally understood as sight loss or registered blind. 'Veterans' – although sometimes associated with old age – immediately drew a link to the Forces. The research also uncovered an opportunity to re-educate the public on what the term 'veteran' actually means, which is something we may focus on during our public launch at the start of next year.

The term 'UK' made people immediately understand that this was a charity, and a national charity rather than just local. This is important, as we are often perceived, in certain areas, as a local building or home rather than a wider organisation. It also gave the name a modern feel. 'UK' refers to anyone who has served our country, rather than where they are from or where they live.

All our international St Dunstaners will still be very much a part of Blind Veterans UK.

Blind Veterans UK fulfils, as far as possible with one succinct name, the criteria set out at the start. The very reason we reviewed the name St Dunstan's in the first place was the confusion and lack of clarity. Blind Veterans UK is a clear name, on which we can start to build a more relevant and exciting brand that will inspire more people to get involved with our organisation as we prepare to move into our second century.

The logo for Blind Veterans UK will be different to that of St Dunstan's. Logo alternatives have been developed and are undergoing research and testing in the same way as the shortlisted names. It is important that we develop a visual and verbal identity that speaks to all the people involved with our charity, including future supporters. The identity should also portray us as an organisation that is modern and pioneering, proactive and engaging, confident and friendly. We want a vibrant image that will become a unique symbol for Blind Veterans UK for years to come.

The new name and brand will not be launched and used until early 2012. We are asking you all to not discuss the new name outside the St Dunstan's community. This will help us to introduce our new image in the right way to the right groups of people at the same time for maximum impact. We wanted to let you know as soon as possible after the Trustees made the decision to ensure that you are the first to know along with all the staff and volunteers.

We appreciate your discretion with this information until we launch in 2012.

The name and brand identity are just the first steps towards solving the task ahead. Our ultimate aim is to ensure more people are aware of us and want to support us so that we can continue to be there for blind veterans during the next hundred years too.

Over the next five years we are aiming to raise an extra £7million as a result of our new brand. We also want to attract new members of the charity. This can only be done by reaching out to people who have previously not known about us or felt connected to us.

To address this we are developing a public campaign, which will work in selected areas through specific media to spread our message and build awareness of blind veterans and the charity Blind Veterans UK – St Dunstan's since 1915. This campaign will launch in early 2012 to coincide with and tell the story of the new brand.

We want you to rest assured that what St Dunstan's stands for will always be at the heart of Blind Veterans UK. The spirit of this fantastic organisation will continue, and we want to take a lot more people with us on our journey.

We would like to thank and congratulate those of you who suggested Blind Veterans UK, or a version there of. There were many ideas around the same theme, and the research has proven that this name captures what we are about. Thank you also to everyone who has provided other feedback, ideas and suggestions so far during this process. We look forward to continue working with you all over the next few months to become Blind Veterans UK!

Triumphant Centre to Centre Marchers Finish in Llandudno.

We are proud to announce that St Dunstaners Billy Black, Chris Lee and Charlie Eastwood finished their epic Centre to Centre March at 10am on Monday 19th September. Presented with the 'key' to the Llandudno Centre at Ovingdean on Monday 5th September, by Helen Emmerson, Head of Centre Services, they set off on their 327 mile journey. En-route to Llandudno they marched into HQ at Harcourt Street where they were greeted by Robert Leader, Ray Hazan and St Dunstan's staff. Then it was off to the Sheffield Centre where they were welcomed by Terry Heaton, their fellow St Dunstaners and staff before starting the final onslaught to Llandudno. For 14 days they ignored physical discomfort as they marched through sunshine, wind and pounding rains. It was all worth it when they reached the Llandudno Centre, marching past cheering crowds of staff and well wishers to hand Centre Manager, Mark Lovatt and R&T Support Worker Billy Baxter the key.



Picture: Helen Emmerson, Head of Centre Services, hands the 'key' to Llandudno to Charlie Eastwood, Chris Lee and Billy Black.



Picture: Setting off from Harcourt Street cheered on by Chief Executive Robert Leader, Robbie Hazan, President Ray Hazan, Graham Raphael of Motorsport Endeavour and staff.



Picture: At the Sheffield Centre, Chris Lee, Billy Black, Charlie Eastwood and Cpl Jonathon (JJ) Davies, REME.



Picture: Approaching heroes as Chris Lee, Charlie Eastwood, Billy Black and Cpl JJ Davies march past cheering crowds of St Dunstaners, staff and well wishers towards the Llandudno Centre.

The Llandudno Centre Opens Its Doors.

It was a proud day for St Dunstan's when the doors to the Llandudno Centre opened at 10am on 19th September 2011.

Fresh from 27 years of service with the RAF Centre Manager Mark Lovatt said: "It's great to see people in the building after all the work that's been done. It's been a massive team effort with staff from Ovingdean, Sheffield and London working together to get everything ready. We will continue as we mean to go on. We've had the first people in and we look forward to welcoming more people."



Picture: The Llandudno staff pose proudly outside the new Centre.



Picture: From left to right: Centre Manager Mark Lovatt with R&T Support Worker Billy Baxter, Ann and Trevor Berry, Craig Lundberg with his guidedog and front row Charlie Eastwood, Billy Black and Chris Lee.



Picture: St Dunstaners and staff relax in the Poppy Wing.



Picture: St Dunstaner John Robinson is put through his paces in the Help for Heroes Gym by Paula Sartain, Sports & Rec Instructor.



Picture: Ann and Trevor Berry celebrate their 58th wedding anniversary at St Dunstan's with a week long holiday.



Picture: ROVI Naomi Davidson runs through the glasses with Keith Roberts.

A Star Is Born

by Arts & Theatre Critic, Clare Brotherwood.

Lachlan Nieboer, soon to take the leading role in the film *Comrade with Rupert Grint*, talks to Clare Brotherwood about why, following his performance in ITV1's *Downton Abbey*, he has given his support to St Dunstan's.

Lachlan Nieboer's eyes fill with tears.

Over lunch in a London pub he is hearing about young soldiers who have been blinded in combat in such places as Afghanistan and who will now look to St Dunstan's to teach them the skills to rebuild their lives. Lachlan has his sight, but in the second episode of the new series of ITV's award-winning *Downton Abbey* he played the part of Lieutenant Edward Courtenay who, blinded by mustard gas, eventually kills himself.

The episode had been shown just the night before, so what did the 30-year-old actor think of being part of a series which is so highly thought of and which is reported to have attracted between eight and 12 million viewers?

"I find it humbling that amount of people are seeing my work, which I love, but I don't feel overwhelmed or grandiose," he says. "I just did some scenes and worked on my part."

His obvious sensitivity helped make his four appearances memorable, but they added up to less than four minutes. And yet, in order to accurately portray an officer who has lost his sight, he practised living blindfolded, and also sought the help of Ray Hazan and beneficiaries and staff at Ovingdean.

"The moment I got the part I knew it would take something more than I did usually so I invested a lot of time in it. The bombshell moment was when I felt that, whatever happened, it was a gift in itself."

Lachlan has now become an Ambassador for St Dunstan's after meeting with Ray and Robbie Hazan. So impressed was he with his meetings with Ray,

St Dunstan's President who was blinded in Northern Ireland when a parcel bomb exploded, and Robbie, who until her retirement in September 2011 was in charge of St Dunstan's Collections and Archives. Lachlan will run the 2012 Virgin London Marathon for St Dunstan's and work schedules permitting spend time with young St Dunstaners as they drive Land Rovers, go karts and military vehicles.

"If I had not got the part (of Lt Courtenay) I probably would not have got involved with St Dunstan's, but it wasn't a sudden choice. I wanted to get involved from the beginning," he explains. "I was at St Dunstan's because of my job. I didn't want to give a poor representation of someone who has lost their sight so it was key for me to get a sense of the right thing to do. But I got so much out of meeting Ray and visiting Ovingdean that it stayed with me and it still stays with me."

Like his *Downton* character, Lachlan went to Oxford, where he read Classics, and also considered a career in the services. "I thought about going to Sandhurst, and I thought about the RAF and even went for an interview, but as soon as I told them I wore contact lenses, that was it."

As the son of a solicitor and a mother who, at 40, turned her back on global touring as opera singer Fiona Darroch to become a barrister specialising in environmental and human rights, Lachlan also looked briefly at a career in law but after school it was a straight choice between going to university or pursuing an acting career. And just after his finals a two-week visit to New York changed his life.

"In New York I went to the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute and, having read up about *The Method* I just felt totally at home." A few months later he started a two-year course at the Institute and says that, for the first time he was 'really, really happy about everything'.

And it is plain to see that he still is. Talking enthusiastically about his recent run at the Royal National Theatre in *After the Dance*, he goes into character as Cockney toy boy Cyril Carter and even goes on to demonstrate just why Cockneys sound the way they do. It's enlightening and very entertaining. "I turned up for the audition in full costume and a moustache and gave it my all," says the former pupil of St Paul's School in London, who grew up in Sussex and the capital.

Lachlan reckons he gets his love of acting from his grandmother's father Conrad Carter who was a playwright in Scarborough, and from his grandmother. "I bet my grandmother wanted to act. She's my greatest supporter," he enthuses.

If *Downton Abbey* is a high profile vehicle for Lachlan's talents, it's not his first. In the cult *Dr Who* spin-off *Torchwood* he played Captain Jack Harkness's younger brother Gray, the main antagonist of the final series. But although he loved working with John Barrowman and the *Torchwood* cast he admits to having been quite green.

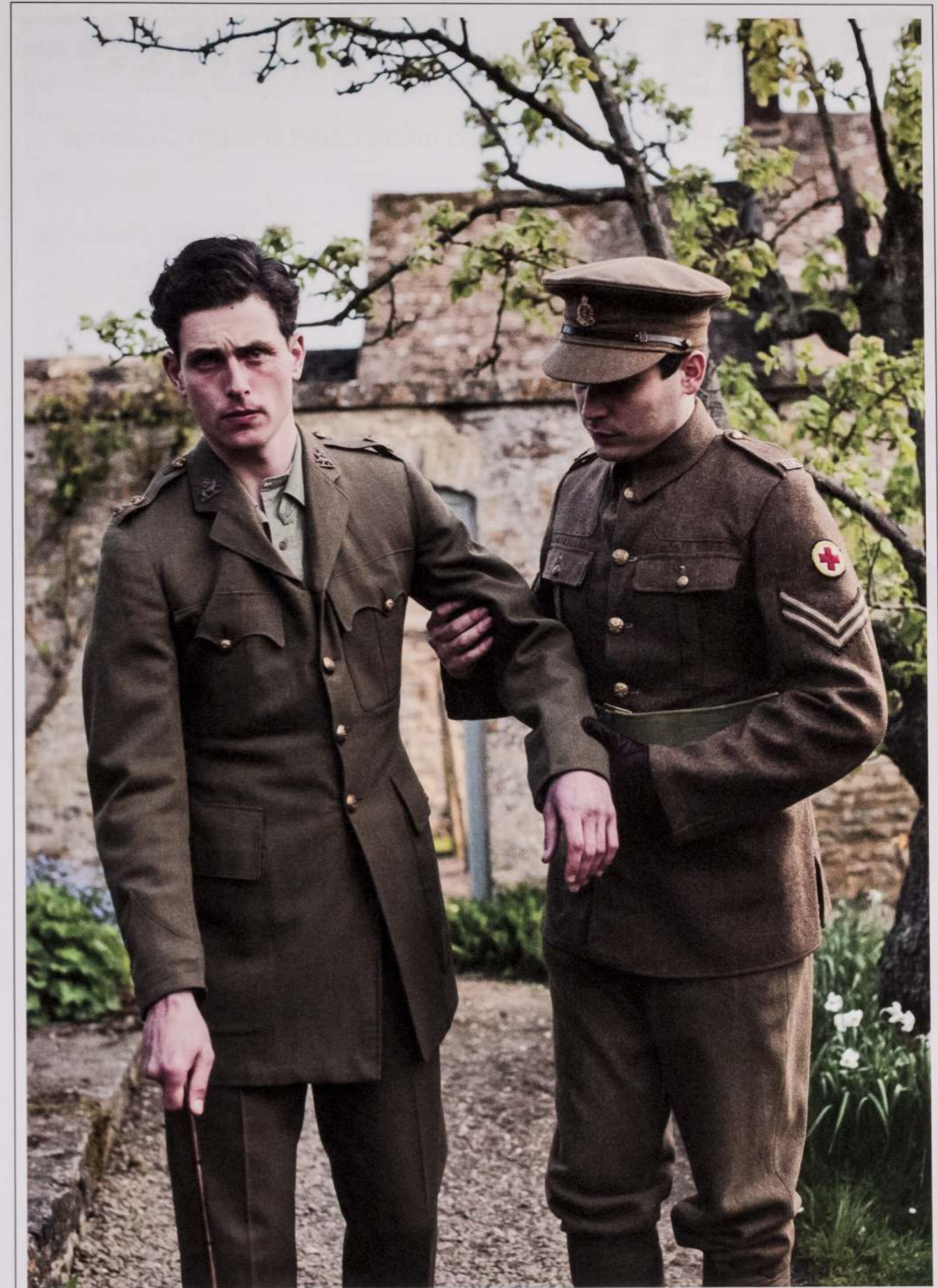
Lachlan's other credits include the 2009 film *Vivaldi: The Red Priest* and two fringe plays, *A Yorkshire Tragedy* at the White Bear Theatre in Kennington in which he played a violent husband, and *Country Magic* at the Finborough Theatre. "Strangely enough I played a man who lost his arm in the First World War and was helped by a blinded soldier come to terms with his disability."

He has also written a short film called *Good Medicine*, which he is planning to shoot this winter, and for a year ran a permanent theatre company with one of his colleagues from drama school.

"In the end I would love to be part of or run a permanent theatre company of my own, but for now, having had a shot at it early on in my career. I am focussing on films and television."

Comrade, his latest film, due for release next year, is based on the true story of a Royal Marines Flying Corps captain, his gunner and their German counterparts who, in 1940, shot each other down in Norway and then had to share an isolated cabin. "They crash landed four or five miles from each other and both found this cabin, spent the night together and then went their separate ways, but later became friends," Lachlan explains.

Lachlan plays the captain with Harry Potter star Rupert Grint as his gunner, and despite Rupert being eight years younger than Lachlan he said he really learned from him. "He's got a great sense of humour and we did sometimes get the giggles, but he is a brilliant actor, a true professional, and it was awesome to work with him."



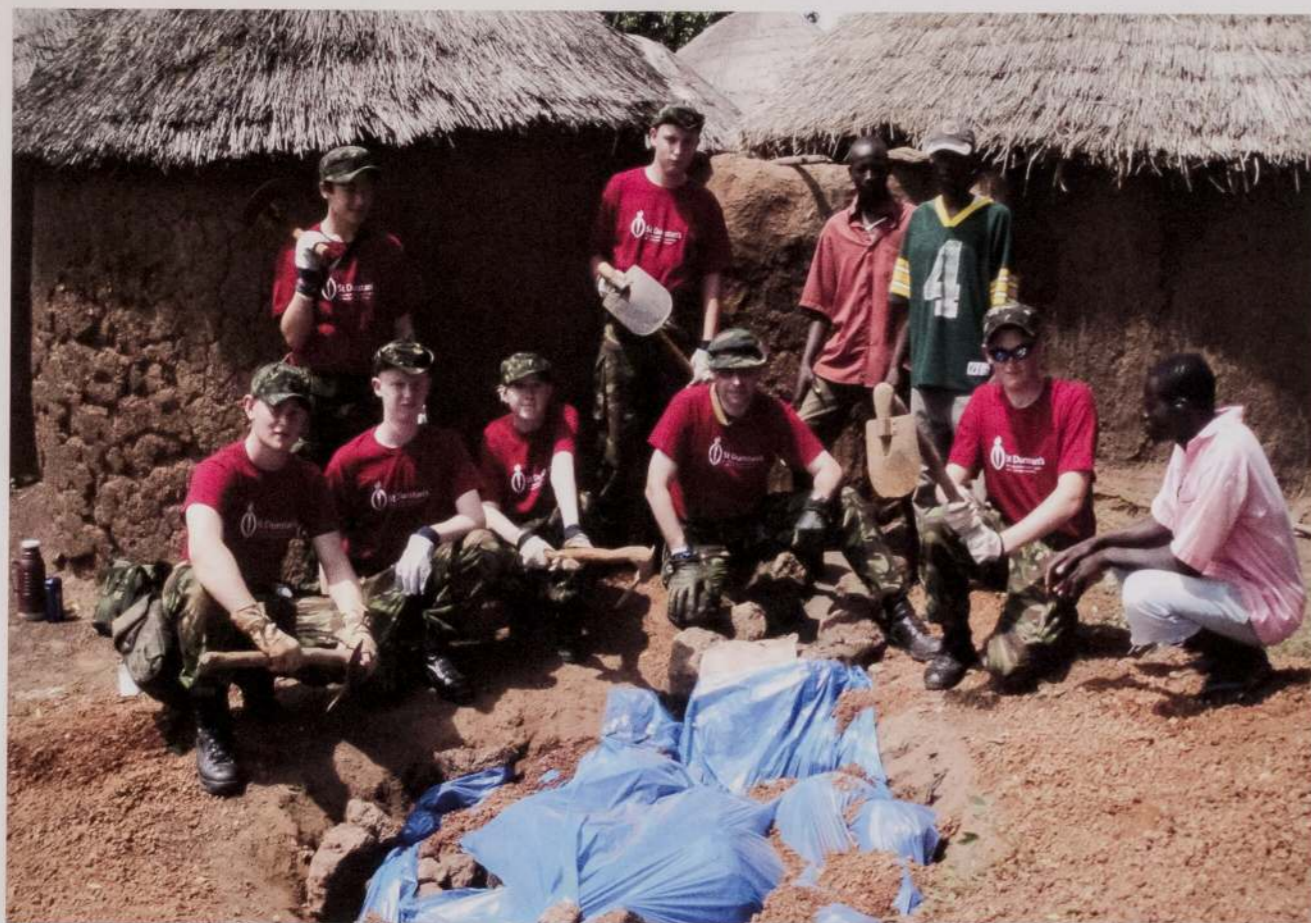
Picture: Lachlan Neiboer as Lieut Courtney with Rob James Collier who plays Thomas Barrow in ITV's *Downton Abbey*.

Going the Distance.

Colin Williamson, Project Officer reports on his Cadet & Youth Challenge Competition.

It has been an exciting time for the 'Go the Distance' Cadet & Youth Challenge Competition. Already in 2011 there have been some really imaginative challenges involving cadets from areas across the UK and beyond. The challenges have taken us far and wide. Army cadets from Strood in Kent climbed the infamous Pen-y-Fan in the Brecon Beacons in Wales. And for the first time we had cadets from a Royal Marine company participate in the competition.

Another first was a Sub Saharan cadet challenge when Air Training Corps from Blackpool took part, whilst working on a water aid project in Ghana. They were of course working on the WATSAN programme that is run by our very own St Dunstaner Dave Stuttard MBE through his charity Myubique!



Picture: Blackpool Cadets dig soakholes in Ghana.

Cadets from 226 Brighton Squadron Air Training Corps literally pushed the boat out for St Dunstan's on Sunday 14th August at Dunorlan Boating Lake in Royal Tunbridge Wells. They were joined in their pedalos by St Dunstaner Mark Threadgold and Ovingdean staff members Stan Bowers and Geraldine Plaw.



Picture: St Dunstaner Mark Threadgold with Cadets from 226 Squadron.



Picture: The Cadets with the Mayor of Newtonabbey, Andy Allen, Colin Williamson, Chris Bennett and Garth Long.

Army cadets from Belfast's Glengormley detachment thought up an unusual challenge. They pushed a hospital bed, which was resplendent in St Dunstan's paraphernalia, from their drill hall in Newtownabbey to the historic seaside town of Carrickfergus, along the coast in County Antrim. They were joined by St Dunstaners Andy Allen, Chris Bennett and Garth Long and his partner Sandy from Cobh in the Irish Republic.

We have also seen an Army cadet detachment based in Germany pull on their running shoes and take part in a half marathon race around Gutersloh Garrison. They were joined by regular soldiers from the garrison who were eager to support St Dunstan's.



Picture: Gutersloh Challenge IV.

Cadets from Hull pulled a Landover along a course set up at their local TA Barracks. Catterick based cadets took part in a speed march at Spean Bridge in the Scottish Highlands, volunteer police cadets from London cycled to Harcourt Street, and other events have taken place in Castleford, Twickenham, Newcastle upon Tyne, Winchester and Folkestone.

Later on in the year, we have a challenge taking place in France which will see members of Bromley Police Cadets visit 13 Commonwealth War Cemeteries.

We also have a rather imaginative challenge taking place in Cleethorpes and other events are scheduled to take place in Llandudno, Brighton, London, Kent, Shoreham, Northwich, Surrey, Dorset, Chorley and Basingstoke.

It's been a great year with thousands of Cadets taking part. Here's to more in 2012.

Ten questions on...

The subject "Footwear".

by Harry Beevers.

1. A socus was a form of footwear worn in ancient Rome, is that true or false?
2. In which country did stiletto heels originate?
3. What is the four letter name of the moulded block inserted into a shoe to retain its shape when not in use?
4. In the 1925 film "The Gold Rush", Charlie Chaplin famously ate one of his boots. What was the boot made of?
5. Which leather boot reaching above the knee originally worn by cavalymen has become synonymous with brutal military oppression?
6. Which animal shares its name with a type of heeled backless shoe?
7. Who was the former Filipino First Lady who became well known for her collection of 2,700 pairs of shoes?
8. Who was the foreign politician who waved his shoe in front of the United Nations Organisation General Assembly in October 1960?
9. What was the invention of Whitcomb L. Judson introduced in 1893 in the manufacture of boots and shoes?
10. What term for a ploughman or the heavy boots he wears has become a byword for a clumsy, awkward person?

Answers on page 36

Meet the Team.

As we head towards the Cenotaph weekend, for those of you who may not have met them at the Admissions Clinic at Harcourt Street, or the many Reunions, here's a brief introduction to David Habershon (RN), Head of Admissions and Pensions and his team.

The Admissions and Pensions staff Sarah Clark, Jenny Barley, Suzanne Walker and Wendy Graves have been in post unchanged for over five years. Between them they have acquired a wealth of experience dealing with UK wide hospital ophthalmic departments, opticians, optometrists and MoD departments. They have established a strong rapport with VI people applying for help.

In that five year period they have organised and managed over 250 inhouse ophthalmic clinics and processed the admission of over 4000 new beneficiaries, keeping close tabs on a further 650 applicants who do not currently meet the criteria for admission. Included in this number, Admissions have dealt sensitively with applications from 45 young soldiers and Royal Marines who have received eye injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan - of whom 16 have become St Dunstaners.

Niki Kokonas has been in the department for seven years and Inderpal Kallah for five. In the last five years alone they have masterminded more than 175 St Dunstan's reunions (a lot of name badges and invitations!), plus the annual Cenotaph parade and fortnightly medical clinics at Harcourt Street. They have established a strong liaison with the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency to deal with war pension queries from beneficiaries.

Niki and Inderpal 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.

As for David Habershon, he joined the RN in 1968 and a special early memory as a midshipman was supervising the last rum issue onboard ship before it was abolished in 1970 (sailors used to get 1/8th pint per day). He served in minesweepers, frigates (Cod war) and destroyers, plus HMS Blake, the last 6" gun cruiser.

He commanded an Omani gunboat in 1977, when seconded to the Sultan of Oman's navy. He spent two winters on Falkland Islands patrol and finally served in the Royal Yacht Britannia which included her last world circumnavigation in 1988 covering the Australian Bicentennial celebrations attended by HM The Queen and HRH Prince Philip.

Finally sent ashore in 1988 he had a variety of Ministry of Defence and NATO staff appointments, the latter included living in Norfolk, Virginia and Naples, Italy with his family. He was also on the Directing Staff at RN College Greenwich. His final four years were spent happily with the Directorate of Naval Reserves - this busy period saw the start of the Iraqi conflict involving the first compulsory mobilisation of RNR personnel since the Suez crisis.

David retired as a Commander in 2004 after 36 years service and joined St Dunstan's

He is married to Libby and has three adult sons Edward (a tv news presenter in Sydney, Australia), James (a schoolmaster in Surbiton) and Charlie (a director of a volunteer organisation in Sierra Leone). He lives in Emsworth, Hampshire and has an allotment and a share in a Cheshire based narrowboat.



Picture: From left to right: Jenny Barley, Sarah Clark, Inderpal Kallah, Suzanne Walker, Niki Kokonas and David Habershon (RN). And you can find Wendy Graves on P.16 behind Graham Raphael.

Second Instalment of Tetley's Tips.

In the September Review we brought you the first instalment of Tetley's Tips by St Dunstaner Mike Tetley MBE, who was blinded in the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya almost 60 years ago.

Taken from the Battlefields to St Dunstan's, Mike was given the skills and confidence to live independently as a totally blind man. He trained as a physiotherapist and today still runs a successful practice. He married, raised a family and now lives independently as a widow. Here Mike shares more of his tips for living a full, successful and independent life.

Stamps: After having typed an address and wishing to affix a stamp to the envelope most people do not know that when you buy a book of stamps they are contained within a cover. If you feel down the short edge of the back cover your fingers will detect a little rectangular notice indicating that the book contains first class stamps. There are two notches indicating 2nd class and wider notches for larger stamps. Having removed the stamp from the cover feel the perforation missing towards the bottom of the stamp on either side as this indicates which way round the stamp is. The missing perforations are at the bottom.

Hotel Keys: If I am staying at a hotel where they issue me with a key like a credit card, which has an arrow printed on it to show sighted patrons which way to insert the card into a slit, I always cut off the top right corner with my Swiss Army knife and this orientates the card. Of course be careful when doing this.

Paper: I use the same idea if I have printed note paper on which I hope to print my letters. This time I cut off the upper left corner using a guillotine, just enough to orientate me

Mobility: St Dunstaner Walter Thornton introduced the long cane into England from America and I like to use a rolling tip. However the Rolls Royce of getting about is with a guide dog and I have had five dogs in 50 years. I wanted to see how clever they were and when I lived in Luton 50 years ago I decided to walk

by myself from Luton to Marble Arch, which is 33 miles and he took me all the way.

Dogs can learn a big vocabulary. At the old St Pancras station I sometimes used the Piccadilly line and sometimes the Circle and I taught him to obey the command "Find the Circle". If you did not use this command for six months he could get rusty and you would have to reinforce it. I taught him to "Find Boots" in Luton and then when I moved to St Alban's tried to teach him to find Boots here, but he concluded that you could not have Boots in Luton and again in St Alban's. You cannot teach an old dog new tricks. A useful command was to tell him to spend a penny against a urinal when they were vertical bits of china but now with the bowls he cannot get his leg high enough to cock a leg.

Dog boots: Dog's paws can get caught in escalators so you have to pick them up but as I have got older picking up a dog weighing 90lbs and stepping on to a moving escalator was getting dangerous so I bought him dog boots which they place on Police dogs when working near fires. He takes size 4 on his front paws and 3 on his back feet.

The trouble with boots is that they are fiddly to put on in a crowd, but they can get you down the escalator when the staff will not stop it during peak times. I calculate that Sweep guided me 25,000 miles safely in 12 years, 3½ miles each way from my home to the hospital where I worked.

Country walking: This is easy provided the path is wide enough for two people to walk side by side but when the path is very narrow and you have to fall in behind your guide it can become uncomfortable to walk behind him with arms outstretched so that you do not walk on his heels. I solved this problem by putting a thin strap round my guides waist or haversack as shown and clipping on my guide dogs harness.

The beauty of the handle is that when the guide stops you do not cannon into him and you can still use your stick to balance when necessary.

Once again don't forget that although these work for Mike they may not be right for you and you may wish to speak with a ROVI or IT Instructor.



Picture: Mike demonstrating his ingenious device for country walking.

Looking for Rosie

by David Dent, IT Instructor.

**If you're a P-V-T, your duty
Is to salute to L-I-E-U-T
But if you brush the L-I-E-U-T
The M-P makes you K-P on the Q-T
Johnny Mercer, G.I. Jive, 1943**

In whatever field of human ingenuity and endeavour you care to look there is specialised form of language that can seem barely comprehensible. Fortunately we no longer have to concoct technical terms from Latin, Greek and Norman French to bewilder and bamboozle, we have acronyms and initialisms to do that for us, as Johnny Mercer noted in the song lyric shown above.

Some acronyms are so familiar that we forget that they have another meaning: how many of us hear the word 'scuba' and feel the need to decode that into 'Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus'?

Mind you, some people like to make things more complicated: in 1928 Oscar Deutsch opened the Odeon cinema, a name common to French and Italian cinemas of the 1920s and derived from ancient Greek; his publicists later circulated the story that it was actually an acronym for 'Oscar Deutsch Entertains Our Nation'!

However useful, an abbreviation can seem exclusive and unfriendly; we can, at times, sound bafflingly technical here in the R&T Dept, Rehabilitation and Training Department, too, but the intent is never to confuse: it's simply shorthand we use, sometimes unconsciously.

One piece of equipment, with which we frequently deal, has been saddled with an unfortunate, initialised moniker: the CCTV. Already, the name puts you in mind of cameras on poles in shopping centres that are used for crime prevention surveillance; yet you might be persuaded by us to give one pride of place in your sitting room or study! Why on earth might a person with sight loss want one of these – not on the outside of their home but inside it? 'CCTV' just means 'Closed Circuit TeleVision' and is a catch-all term for any camera system that delivers a picture directly to a specific place through a wire. In our case, this refers to an illuminated device that magnifies your letters and documents and

displays them on a screen; typically with a moveable tray to help you scan your documents more precisely. It is an undeniably excellent device with a truly awful name that does not describe what the device does, nor how a modern one functions. It is also a name that few people remember!

If you ever need to talk to us about a CCTV, or indeed any device we recommend, please don't worry if you can't recall the full technical name: a description of what it does, or perhaps a brand name like 'SmartView' or 'ReadEasy' will help us to help you more quickly. And if we lapse into esoteric technical jargon when talking to you, just ask us to explain: we will be happy to do so.

Oh, and 'Rosie'? Well a Rehabilitation Officer for Visually Impaired people is a long job title that is always abbreviated to ROVI, pronounced 'roe vee'. It sounds a lot like the name Rosie on first hearing and leaves many newcomers quite perplexed.

If you want to contact a ROVI call the 'ROVI on Duty' on 01273 3911447, or if you are staying at any of our training Centres, ask a member of staff to pass on a message to ROVI on Duty.

Answers to Ten questions on... The Subject of Footwear from page 29.

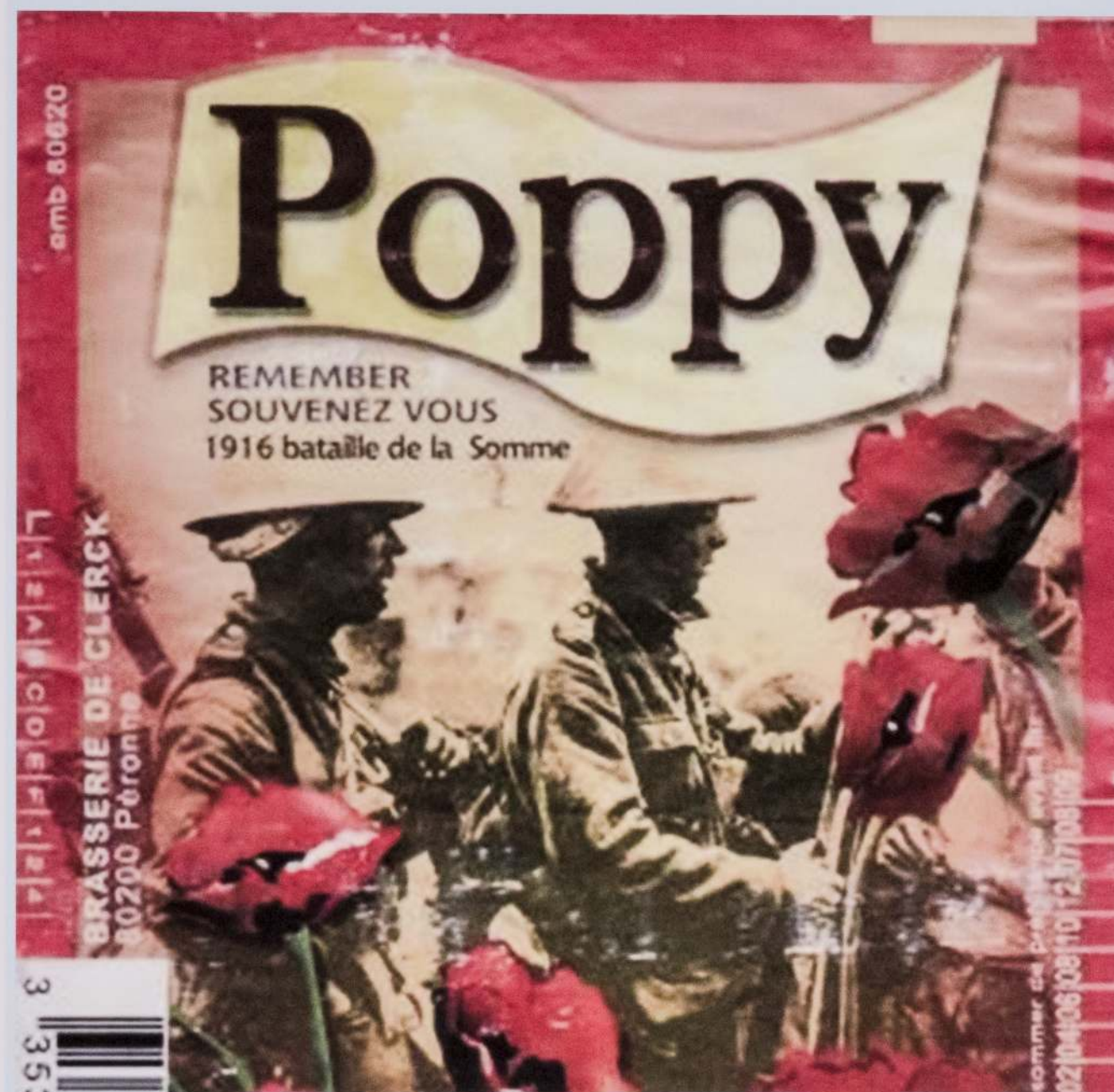
1. True, it was a type of low-heeled shoe worn by actors.
2. Italy.
3. Tree.
4. Licorice.
5. Jackboot.
6. Mule.
7. Imelda Marcos.
8. Nikita Khrushchev.
9. Zip-fastener.
10. Clodhopper.

Beer of the Month.

by Colin Williamson.

De Clerck Poppy Blonde.

This is a delightful French ale that I discovered on a battlefield tour of the Somme. Poppy Blonde pours a cloudy yellow colour with a thin white head and the nose is very 'grainy'. The carbonation is very evident in the pouring and I detected hints of pineapple and passion fruit with an ever so slight 'peppery' touch. It is a really refreshing beer and easily drinkable at 5.5%. This beer is often difficult to track down but, if you're a beer label collector, well worth the effort as the label depicts First World War Tommies at the Somme surrounded by Poppy flowers.



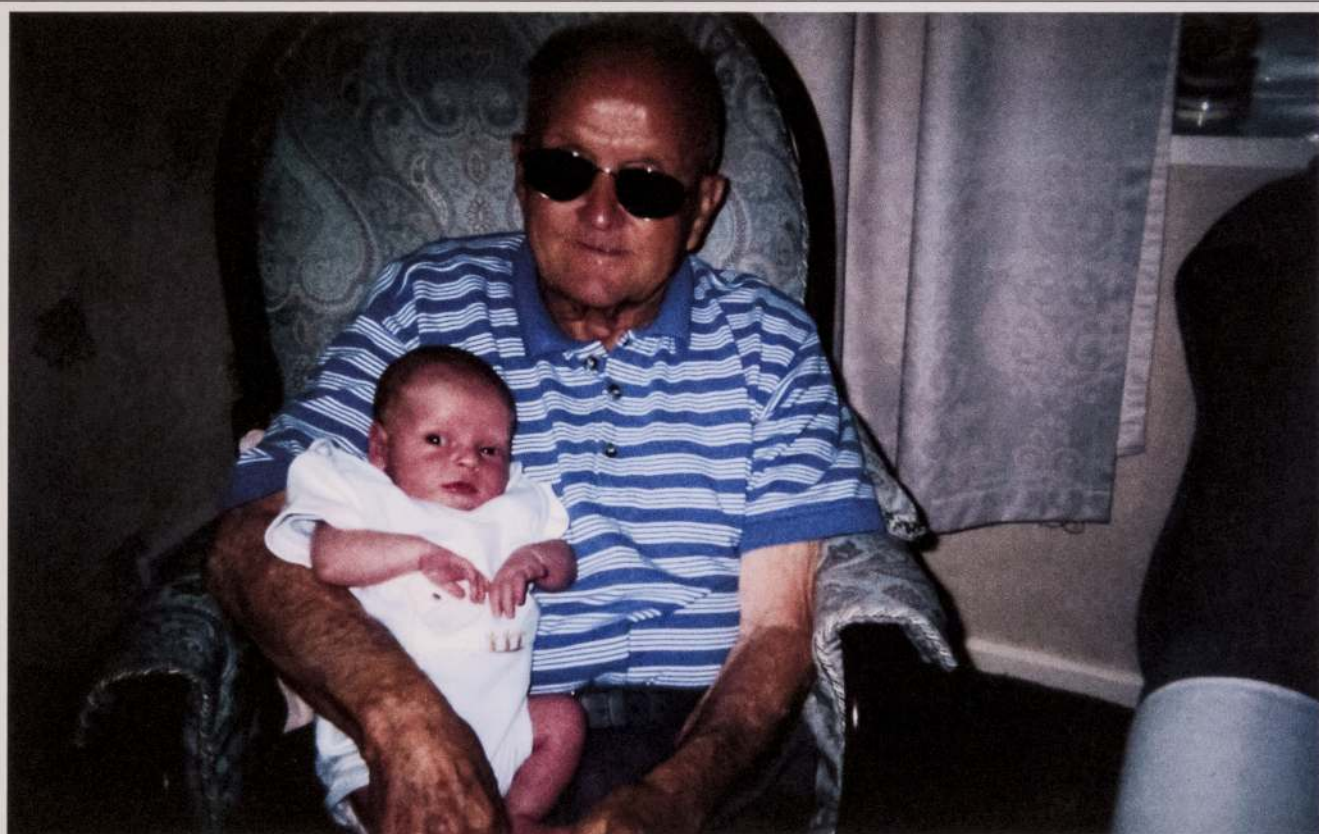
Family News

Congratulations to:

Birthdays:

Joan Trench who celebrated her 104th birthday on 16th October 2011.

St Dunstaner Frederick Wheeler on the birth of his great grandson Charlie David Wheeler on 12th June 2011. Charlie was born to his grandson Craig and partner Lauren.



Picture: Frederick Wheeler with Charlie.

Anniversaries:

Blue Sapphire (65th):

Morris and Florence Slade of Yateley, Hampshire on 5th October.
Davina and William Valentine of Edinburgh on 26th October.

Diamond (60th):

Ron and Kath Ward of Walton On the Naze, Essex on 27th October.

Golden (50th):

Russell & Dorothy Baylis of Isleworth, Middlesex on 7th October.
Leslie and Pauline Tudor of Flint, Clwyd on 28th October.

Ruby (40th):

John and Daphne Gilbert of Wimborne, Dorset on 9th October.
Don and Christine Hollis of Chingford, London on 12th October.
Colin and Valerie Tarn of Basildon, Essex on 16th October.

Silver (25th):

Garth and Monica of Cobh Co Cork, Republic of Ireland on 4th October.

We regret to announce the death of:

Elsie Beskaby who died on 5th October 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Cyril Beskaby.

Nigel Booth who died on 18th September 2011, he was the husband of St Dunstaner Julie Booth.

Lilian 'Ruth' Bradley who died on 27th September 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Alfred Bradley.

Clair Ferguson who died on 7th September 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Donald Ferguson.

Albert Freestone who died on 2nd October 2011, he was the husband of St Dunstaner the late Martinne Freestone.

Mary Quinn who died on 5th October 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Edward Quinn.

Elsie Roberts who died on 2nd October 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late George Roberts.

Jean Ryan who died on 13th May 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Barry Ryan.

Winifred Smith who died on 14th September 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Roy Smith.

Kevin Ward who died on 26th September 2011, he was an Overseas Affiliate.

Joan Williams who died on 22nd September 2011, she was the widow of the late St Dunstaner James Williams.

We bring you an obituary for Margot Burns, written by her son Alistair.

Margot Burns, widow of St Dunstaner 'Mickey' Burns, Physio and Liberal parliamentary candidate, passed away peacefully in Reigate on 19th September 2011 after a short illness at the age of 84. She had served as a VAD at Ovingdean from 1948 to 1952 where she met her husband to be, Mickey. Their first meeting was purely by chance. Mickey was training in a hospital in London and living in a St Dunstan's home in Hampstead. One evening, in London, he went to a 21st birthday party and woke up the next morning in a bed at Ovingdean with Margot standing over him saying, "You deserve everything you've got", she was not impressed! How Mickey got from London to Brighton without a penny on him is a mystery. All he remembered was being 'poured' into a taxi and the driver being told that he was living at St Dunstan's. He couldn't recall anything else. St Dunstan's has played a huge part in the lives of our family, whether providing full training for Mickey as a physio, or annual 'Camps' at HMS Daedalus from which he always returned with a 'husky' voice – too much singing, we suspect; to helping us have a roof over our heads. For this and much, much more Margot's family will always be eternally grateful and we shall always hold St Dunstan's in very high regard. Thank you.

We were sent the following message and photograph from John and Audrey Perfect who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on 14 September 2011:

It's the little thoughts that mean so much.

The headline in a recent edition of the Daily Telegraph read 'By eck! Yorkshire folk are the happiest in the country.'

We are two very happy Yorkshire folk (now living in Devon) celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary and admiring, with many thanks and great joy, the flowers from St Dunstan's.



Picture: John and Audrey Perfect admire their flowers. Photograph courtesy of Keith Cook.

Welcome to **St Dunstan's.**

George Aston of Newton Aycliffe, County Durham served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1947.

Florence Bantin of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1945.

Richard Boothman of Preston, Lancs served in the Lancashire Regiment and the Reconnaissance Corps from 1939 to 1945.

James Bourge of Cardiff served in the General Service Corps, the King's Own, the Border Regiment, the Manchester Regiment and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1944 to 1981.

Arthur Braniff of Workington, Cumbria served in the Border Regiment from 1951 to 1956.

Irene Bell-Brown of Epsom, Surrey served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1954.

Ernest Brown of Bournville, Birmingham served in the Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's 87th and 89th Foot) and the Royal Engineers from 1942 to 1947.

John Browne of Woking, Surrey served in the General Service Corps, the East Surrey Regiment and the Lovat Scouts from 1945 to 1948.

Patrick Bune of Camberley, Surrey served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Albert Coffen of Seaford, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Dennis Collins of Weybridge, Surrey served in the 23rd Hussars from 1941 to 1945.

Peter Collinson of Rotherham, South Yorks served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

George Connolly of Prescott, Merseyside served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1958 to 1961.

John Crawford of Paisley, Renfrewshire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1975 to 1977.

Alastair Dewar of Bath served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

William Emans of Belvedere, Kent served in the Royal Artillery, the Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment), the Gloucester Regiment, the Middlesex Regiment and

the Royal Army Service Corps from 1938 to 1963.

Reginald Enever of Peacehaven, East Sussex served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

Kennett Facal of east London has served with the 1st Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment since 2004.

Arthur Hales of Braintree, Essex served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1939 to 1946.

Frank Harrop of Harold Wood, Romford served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1948.

David Heale of Cardiff served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1954 to 1959.

Eileen Hewitt of Bangor, Gwynedd served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1946 to 1949.

Peter Johns of High Wycombe, Bucks served in the Royal Engineers from 1954 to 1957.

Douglas Johnson of Middlesbrough, Cleveland served in the General Service Corps and the Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales Own Yorkshire Regiment) from 1946 to 1948.

Thomas Miller of Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the Gordon Highlanders from 1939 to 1946.

William Mitchinson of WalleSEND, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

John Morgan of Worthing, West Sussex served in the Royal Armoured Corps and the Royal Fusiliers from 1943 to 1947.

Thomas Prior of Liverpool served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1960 to 1964.

Joseph Richardson of St Helen's, Merseyside served in the Royal Artillery from 1960 to 1966.

Gerald Rogan of Hexham, Northumberland served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1959.

Enid Scillitoe of Highnam, Gloucester served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1943 to 1946.

Kenneth Scott of Mickleover, Derby served in the Royal Air Force from 1955 to 1957.

James Smith of Liverpool served in the General Service Corps, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1943 to 1955.

Frances Verity of Swindon, Wilts served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1960.

Graham Wain of Chesterfield, Derbyshire served in the Royal Signals from 1955 to 1960.

Frank Walsh of Blackburn, Lancs served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1942 to 1947.

Jeffrey Warn of Barnard Castle, County Durham served in the Royal Navy from 1967 to 1974.

Jean Williams of Fleetwood, Lancs served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1942 to 1945.

Sydney Wilson of Fleetwood, Lancs served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Signals from 1946 to 1949.

Charles Wrigley of Preston, Lancs served in the Royal Artillery, the Royal Military Police, the King's own Royal Regiment and the Territorial Army from 1952 to 1958.

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.

Barbara Wellesley Appleton, Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Barbara Wellesley Appleton of Hythe, Kent died on 10th May 2011, aged 96. From 1939 to 1941 she worked as a VAD prior to service with the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945, serving in the UK and Germany as a WAAF(G) Officer. She later worked as a warden at Bristol Royal Infirmary in charge of the Nurses Homes before moving to Canada and the USA to attend university. After returning to the UK she held a number of position in education before moving to the College of Further Education at St Leonards in Hastings to teach law. She leaves two nieces and a nephew.

Ronald Aspin, Royal Army Service Corps

Ronald Aspin of Washington, Tyne and Wear died on 19th September 2011, aged 77. He was called up to do his National Service in 1952. He joined the RASC and was the unit ration storeman for the duration of his service until 1954. He returned to Gateshead based engineering company Armstrong Whitworth until retirement. He leaves his widow Joan and their two children.

Harold Beecroft, Royal Air Force

Harold Beecroft of Maldon, Essex died on 24th September 2011, aged 87. He volunteered for the RAF in 1941 and trained as a wireless operator. He became aircrew and was with 265 Flying Boat Squadron. He served in India, East Africa, Madagascar, Suez, Palestine and North Africa before discharge in 1946. He returned to the grocery business in Essex before joining the GPO where he worked for 28 years. Widowed in 2009, Mr Beecroft leaves their two children.

Arthur Burns, Royal Marines

Arthur Burns of Southampton, Hampshire died on 22nd September 2011, aged 86. Mr Burns joined the Royal Marines in 1943 serving at home and in Germany. He worked for British Railways for 27 years. He leaves his widow Elizabeth, three sons and a daughter.

Patricia 'Pat' Cormack, Women's Royal Army Corps

Patricia 'Pat' Cormack of Fakenham, Norfolk died on 31st August 2011 aged 78. Commissioned in the WRAC in 1956 she served in the UK, Gibraltar and Berlin before discharge as a Captain in 1965. Following service she trained as a teacher and taught in primary schools in London and Bromley. She leaves a son and daughter.

Arthur Davies, Royal Air Force

Arthur Davies of Neath, West Glamorgan died on 28th September 2011, aged 94. He joined the RAF in 1940, serving in the UK and India prior to being discharged as a Corporal in 1946. He returned to Port Talbot and worked on the busses for 19 years and at British Steel for 20 years, retiring in 1980. He leaves his widow Minwell and a daughter.

Cyril Edwards, Royal Navy

Cyril Edwards of Bedworth, Warwickshire died on 28th September 2011, aged 89. He volunteered for the Royal Navy at the outbreak of the war, training in naval gunnery. He served on destroyers and submarines in UK and Mediterranean water. After the war he became an engineer. Widowed in 2008 when his wife Betty died he leaves their son.

Bettina 'Penny' Flower, Women's Royal Air Force

Bettina Flower of Haywards Heath, East Sussex died on 13th September 2011, aged 91. Working as a legal secretary just before the war she volunteered for the Royal Air Force on in 1940 and after completion of training joined No2 Balloon Centre (BC). She served in a variety of units in the South of England and was in London during the Blitz, before joining a Central Interpretation Unit on photo reconnaissance. She was promoted and became a Physical Training Instructor before she was commissioned and became a Balloon Unit Officer. At the end of the war she moved to Belgium and Paris before being discharged from the RAF in 1946. After the war she became a personnel officer and worked for a variety of commercial organisations before later joining the civil service. Widowed following the death of her husband Magnus she leaves their daughter.

Alan Gresswell, General Service Corps and the Royal Army Medical Corps

Alan Gresswell of Cirencester, Gloucestershire died on 28th September 2011, aged 87. He joined the General Service Corps in 1942, transferring a month later the Royal Army Medical Corps. After D-Day he was deployed to France and after VE Day he was sent to India for two years. He was discharged in 1947

as a Private. He became a poultry-man in Gloucestershire, where he remained. He leaves his widow Margaret and their two sons.

Mark Harden, East Surrey Regiment

Mark Harden of Epsom, Surrey died on 21st September 2011, aged 80. He joined the Surrey Regiment in May 1950 and after service worked as a coal merchant at Rickett & Cockerell, where he remained for his working life. He leaves his widow Eileen and their six children.

Gordon Hayes, Royal Armoured Corps

Gordon Hayes of Sheffield died on 3rd June 2011, aged 75. He joined the Royal Armoured Corps for National Service in 1954 and was attached to the Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. He signed on for a further three years and moved to 20 Armoured Brigade in 1957. Discharged in 1961 he rejoined the Royal Hussars in 1962, as a Sergeant in October 1978. He became a self employed plumber fitting central heating systems. Widowed in 1998 he leaves four children.

Alexander Hill, Royal Artillery and the Royal Army Service Corps

Alexander Hill of Ellesmere Port, Cheshire died on 28th September 2011, aged 90. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1942 and was initially posted around the UK with an Anti-Aircraft Unit before transferring to the Royal Army Service Corps in 1945. He was an air dispatcher until he was discharged in 1947 as a Private. In civilian life he worked in the Portsmouth Dockyard, a firm of shipbuilders in Havant before joining Shell. He leaves his widow Nora and their five children.

Geoffrey Jarratt, Royal Signals

Geoffrey Jarratt of Oxford died on 18th September 2011, aged 85. He worked for the Post Office until he was called up for his National Service, when he served with the Royal Corps of Signals from 1946 to 1948 leaving as a signalman, serving in the UK and Egypt. He then worked for the Prudential Insurance Company. Widowed following the death of his wife Jean he leaves their son.

David Jones, Royal Artillery

David Jones of Bridgend, Glamorgan died on 22nd September 2011, aged 75. He worked at the GPO for 32 years before working with BT. He joined the Royal Artillery for National Service in 1957, serving in the UK and Hong Kong. He was discharged in Nov 1962. Mr Jones returned to his pre National Service work with the GPO where he remained until retirement. He leaves his widow Jill and their two sons.

Geoffrey Jones, Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve

Geoffrey Jones of Goring by Sea, West Sussex died on 10th September 2011, aged 95. In 1933 he joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserves, Mersey Division and in 1939 joined the Reserve Fleet, serving in HMS Adventure in the Home Fleet. He served in minesweeping trawlers in Scapa Flow, and in the arctic convoy HMS Wastwater. He finally served in HMS Guardsman. He was awarded the DSM and VRD. He remained in the RNVR after the war and on moving to Hove joined HMS Sussex until his discharge in January 1966 as a Lieutenant Commander. He went into teaching and was Head of a Primary School in Hove for 22 years. He leaves his widow Gladys and their two children.

Joan 'Jo' Lake, Auxiliary Territorial Service

Joan 'Jo' Lake of Dawlish, Devon died on 24th September 2011, aged 89. Mrs Lake joined the ATS in 1941. She served at Beaconsfield on code breaking having started at Pembroke College with the organisation which formed the Intelligence Service. She was commissioned and was eventually discharged as a Junior Commander in 1945. Mrs Lake's husband had a distinguished career flying Lancaster bombers in the RAF; he took part in the Dambuster raids. Unwell after the war he lost his sight and Mrs Lake spent many years caring for him, and did not return to work. He died in 1994 and their only child, a son died in 2009.

Thomas Ernest 'Ernie' Lealman, Royal Air Force

Thomas Ernest 'Ernie' Lealman died on 16th September 2011, aged 81. He was first employed as a professional technology officer with the MOD, Royal Navy division and, on joining the RAF in 1951, served at RAF Wheaton. After service he returned to work for the MOD where he remained until retirement. He leaves his widow Margaret.

William Lockert, Royal Artillery

William Lockert of Brighton, East Sussex died on 30th September 2011, aged 90. He served in the Royal Artillery from 1941 until 1946, leaving as a Bombardier. He leaves his widow Rose and a daughter.

Alan McCathie, Black Watch, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales Own Yorkshire Regiment), General Service Corps.

Alan McCathie of Wellingborough, Northants died on 5th October 2011,

aged 84. He joined the Black Watch in 1945 before transferring to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and in 1947 to the Green Howards, with whom he served in Khartoum. He returned to the Duke of Wellington's before discharge in 1952. Civilian employment included jobs with the South Eastern Electricity Board, on a farm in Essex and a pharmaceutical company in Herefordshire. He leaves his niece Carol.

Marjorie Pendleton, Women's Royal Naval Service

Marjorie Pendleton of Mildenhall, Suffolk died on 24th September 2011, aged 87. She joined the WRNS in 1943, specialising as a Steward. She was discharged in 1945. She later became a teacher and then a secretary for the MOD at RAF Lakenheath. She leaves her widower Paul and their two sons.

Kenneth Piper, Royal Air Force

Kenneth Piper of Alfriston, East Sussex died on 24th September 2011, aged 91. He joined the RAF in 1940 and trained as an aircraft electrician at RAF Henlow. He was posted to 224 Squadron Coastal Command, dealing with Hudson's and later Liberator bombers. He later became a member of the Specialist Aircraft Service Team serving in the USA, the Middle East, Iceland and India.

He worked for 19 years with HM Customs and Excise in London where he remained in the Evaluation Division until he retired in 1980. He leaves his widow Margaret and their son.

Walter Savage, Royal Air Force

Walter Savage of Dorking, Surrey died on 27th September 2011, aged 85. He joined the RAF in 1943 and was selected for aircrew training. He was sent to India in the administrative division where he worked for Mountbatten's staff in New Delhi until he was discharged as a Corporal in 1948.

He worked for Reuters, rising to become Economics Desk Editor, where he remained until retirement in 1980. He leaves his widow Margaret and their four sons.

Walter Scott, Royal Signals

Walter Scott of Hartlepool, Cleveland died on 2nd August 2011, aged 84. Mr Scott served in the Royal Signals from 1945 to 1948; he was posted as a wireless operator to 8th Army HQ in Northern Italy. He moved with the unit to Venice

and when the war ended was posted to the military mission in Budapest. After leaving the services he returned to the retail clothing industry and became a travelling internal auditor. He leaves his widow Thelma and their three children.

Robert Douglas Stanger, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and the Reconnaissance Corps

Robert Douglas Stanger of Elland, West Yorks died on 14th September 2011, aged 91. He joined the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (TA) in 1939 and went to France with the BEF at the outbreak of war. He was evacuated from Dunkirk and in 1942 transferred to the Reconnaissance Corps. Posted to India, he fought in the Burma Campaign, had malaria twice and was awarded the Burma Star. Following discharge in 1946 he returned to Elland and worked for Dempster Iron Works, retiring at 63. Widowed he leaves two sons.

Stanley Taverner, Royal Navy

Stanley Taverner of Westgate-on-Sea, Kent died on 13 April 2011, aged 90. He enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1939 as a Stoker. 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 Stoker Petty Officer.

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. He leaves his widow Muriel, their daughter and a son and five grandchildren.

William Williams, Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) and the Reconnaissance Corps.

William Williams of Poulton Le Fylde, Lancs died on 22nd September 2011, aged 91. He joined the Territorial Army in 1938 with the Loyal Regiment, before transferring to the Reconnaissance Corps in 1941, serving in the UK. He was demobilised as a Quarter Master Sergeant in 1946. He was Northern Sales Manager for Lea & Perrins for 27 years. Widowed in 2008 he leaves a daughter.

Frank Wooldridge, Royal Engineers and the Inns of Court Regiment

Frank Wooldridge of Bromley, Kent died aged 95. Mr Wooldridge joined the Inns of Court in 1938 before transferring to the Royal Engineers in 1939,

serving largely in India. He was demobilised as a Major in June 1946 and returned to London.

On discharge he worked as a self-employed chartered surveyor in the Holborn area of the City of London retiring in his 60s. He leaves his wife Elizabeth a son, daughter and grandchildren.

John Woolford, Royal Air Force

John Woolford of Swindon, Wilts died on 22nd September 2011, aged 86. He joined the RAF in 1943 and became a wireless operator. He served in a variety of RAF stations around the UK, in Halifax Bombers with 640 Squadron and later flew in Dakotas in India.

He was discharged as a Flight Sergeant in 1947 and returned to his family poultry farm in Wiltshire. He leaves his widow Beryl and their two daughters.

Kenneth 'Ken' Wragg, Royal Horse Artillery

Kenneth Wragg of Mansfield, Notts died on 23rd September 2011, aged 93. He joined the Royal Horse Artillery in 1939 when he was deployed to France as part of the BEF. He was evacuated from Dunkirk and later posted to Greece, North Africa and Egypt. He was injured outside Cairo, hospitalised and evacuated to South Africa before returning to the UK for discharge in 1946.

After the war he trained to be a joiner and worked for a variety of companies in North Lancashire and Yorkshire area. Widowed he leaves three children.

John Kidd, Royal Army Service Corps.

John Kidd of East Sussex died on 11 October, aged 91. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1939. After training he was posted to East Africa and Madagascar where he met his wife and they married in 1945 in Nairobi. He was discharged in 1946 as a Major.

After the war, Mr Kidd did a mechanical engineering degree at Imperial College. He and his wife moved returned to Nairobi where he worked for Mitchell Cotts Group and subsequently became a technical representative for 3M (Mining and Manufacturing Company for Minnesota), retiring at 62. Widowed Mr Kidd leaves two daughters.

Here's St Dunstaner Graham Draycott who achieved his ambition to sail a yacht when he joined with Blind Sailing to sail onboard the good ship Starfish for a week from Southampton. The website is at <http://www.blindsailing.net>

