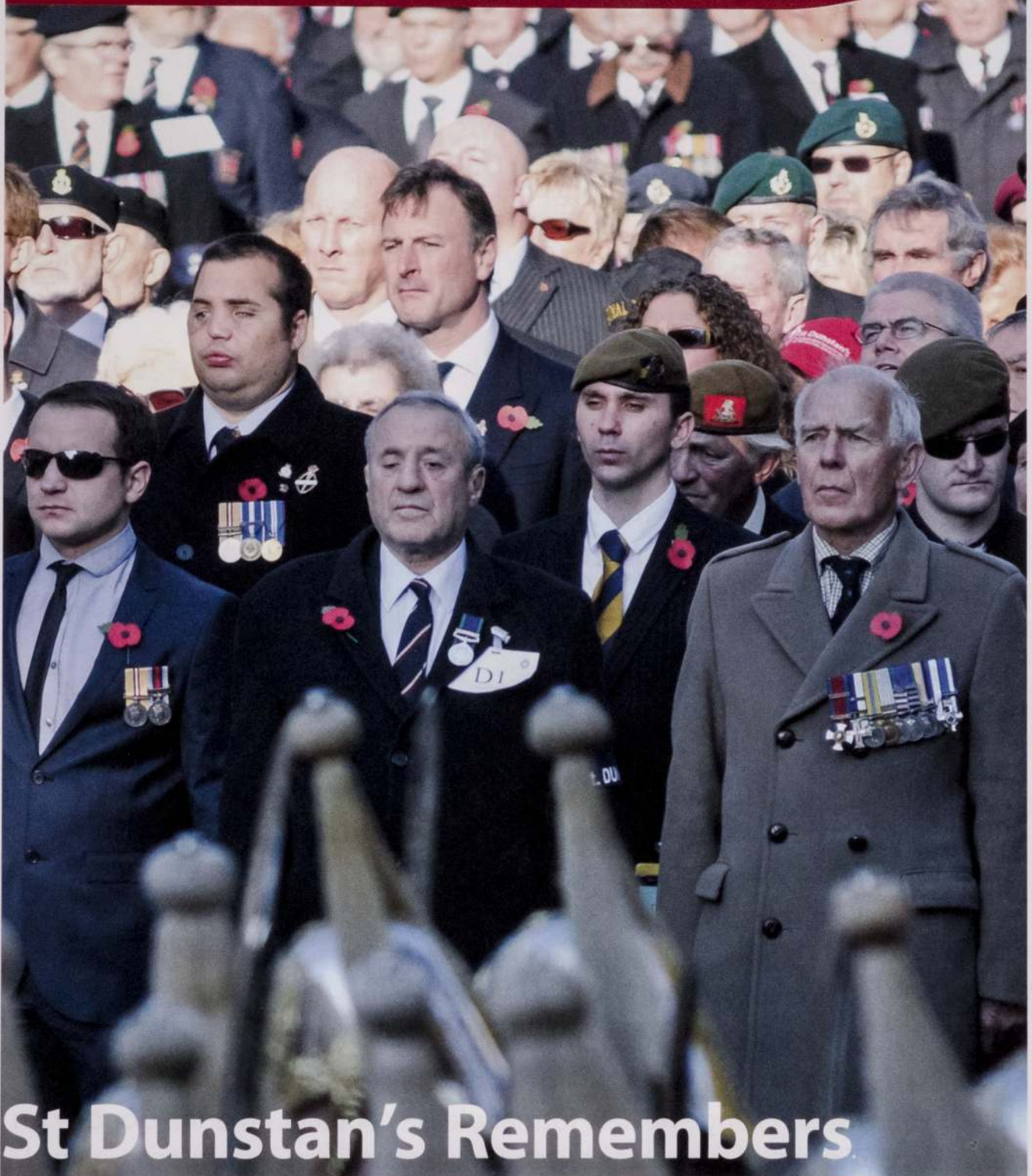


St Dunstan's December 2011

Review



St Dunstan's Remembers

St Dunstan's Review December 2011 No 1,019

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On the Cover:

LCpl Bill Drinkwater, Simon Brown, Tim Davis, Ray Hazan, Terry Desmond, Brigadier Johnny Walker OBE OStJ, General Sir Peter de la Billiere KCB, KBE, DSO, MC & Bar and Lance Bombadier Rob Long.

Photography by Alex Beaton.



Seasons Greetings

Peace and Goodwill to All

All staff at Headquarters, Sheffield, Ovingdean, Llandudno and working around the country wish the members of the St Dunstan's family a very Happy Christmas. We trust everyone will enjoy good health and happiness during the coming year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Please remember the St Dunstan's Review is not published in January. We will be back in February 2012.

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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From the Chairman

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

I found the November Review particularly exciting. Quite rightly there was good coverage of the fantastic march from Ovingdean to Llandudno, via Harcourt Street and Sheffield, by Billy Black, Charlie Eastwood and Chris Lee. What a brilliant achievement! What a tremendous statement by three St Dunstaners about their approach to their visual impairment. Their initiative, energy, dogged determination and indomitable spirit are all hugely impressive, and hopefully equally contagious.

I also found the article "The Llandudno Centre Opens Its Doors" to be really exciting. Much has been spoken and written about Llandudno over the past few years, but now it's actually up and running. People are in it, using it, learning, benefitting and enjoying, and the staff there are doing what they have been waiting for months to do. Wonderful!

The "Future Focus Update" article was not only eagerly awaited but also, in my view at least, gave a comprehensive explanation for the changes that are now underway. It provides a comprehensive and very clear rationale for what is happening and I hope it has answered all your questions.

"A lot of people get impatient with the pace of change" James Levine
(Conductor, pianist)

"The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress"
Charles Kettering (Inventor, engineer, businessman)

"If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we aren't really living" Gail Sheely (Writer, lecturer).

"He who rejects change is the architect of decay. The only human institution which rejects progress is the cemetery" Harold Wilson (Labour Prime Minister).

"In a progressive country change is constant; change is inevitable" Benjamin Disraeli (Conservative Prime Minister).

My wife, Woppy, and I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your message from Ray Hazan.

Message from the President.

The October Review made me feel proud to be associated with St Dunstan's. The article written by Billy Drinkwater, expressing the feelings of a new St Dunstaner, was very moving. This, together with the articles by Vanessa Young and Julie Shales describing the help given to the new young St Dunstaners, underline how the organisation remains true to the objectives of assisting newly blind ex-Service men and women integrate back into society and lead useful and challenging lives.

We are about to witness a change to the image we present to the general public, but the core of our work remains faithful to our Founder's vision.

My wife Roberta, joins me in sending warmest best wishes for a Happy Christmas and an interesting and exciting New Year.



Ray Hazan leads the Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson on Saturday 12th November 2011. Robbie Hazan delivers a reading.

An end of year message from Robert Leader

From the Chief Executive

I know that I must be getting old as time doesn't just go faster than it used to, it simply flies by and I can't believe that Christmas is here again! We have had a fantastic year with the opening of Llandudno and now our exciting rebranding, coming in 2012, as Blind Veterans UK.

We will not lose or forget our heritage any more than we will forget our childhood memories of Christmases past. I still love Christmas and I still love this Organisation, the memories I have gained of both, over the years, are treasured memories that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Many of us are grandparents or even great grandparents now and are therefore definitely 'the older generation' in our families. Some of you will also be the older generation in the family of St Dunstan's; indeed it is possible that St Dunstan's is your family.

This sense of belonging to the family of St Dunstan's is unique and very special to St Dunstaners, other beneficiaries and staff alike. As we go forward in the world this special sense of belonging will not change.

Like a family we need new life to survive and I am asking you to reach out to those people whom we may be able to welcome to our family. People like you who have bravely Served their Country and are now living with a visual impairment. They do not need to face their blindness alone so please speak with former comrades, or people where you live, who you think may join us.

We are proud to announce HRH Prince Pavlos of Greece is now a Vice Patron. As you will no doubt be aware he has been a great supporter for a number of years.

On behalf of all the staff, I say that we are proud to serve you and we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a joyful new year.

Robert Leader.

St Dunstan's Calendar.

December

Music Week 4th - 10th
 Christmas Concert, Marylebone 6th
 Christmas Concert, Llandudno 7th
 Christmas Concert, Brighton 8th

February

Archery Week 3rd - 11th
 Writer's Forum 18th
 Computer Club 29th - 1st
 March

March

Amateur Radio Club 1st - 10th
 Writer's Forum 17th
 Bowling Club 18th - 31st

April

Widows Week 8th - 14th
 Ex PoW Reunion 13th - 15th
 Golf 14th - 15th
 Writer's Forum 21st
 Masonic Weekend 27th - 29th

May

Golf 12th to 13th
 Writer's Forum 19th

October

Golf 13th - 14th
 Computer Club 17th - 19th
 Amateur Radio Week,
 Llandudno 19th - 27th
 Writer's Forum 20th
 Widow's Week 11th - 12th

June

Archery Week 1st - 9th
 Music Week, Llandudno 3rd - 9th
 Writer's Forcum 16th - 17th
 Golf 16th 17th
 Ladies Week 17th - 23rd

July

Gardening Week 1st - 7th
 Writer's Weekend 5th - 7th
 History Week 15th - 21st
 Golf 21st - 22nd
 Computer Club 29th - 31st

August

Amateur Radio 1st - 4th
 Race Week 12th - 18th
 Writer's Forum 18th
 Golf 18th - 19th
 Archery Week 24th - 31st

September

Sports & Activities Week 2nd - 7th
 Writer's Forum 15th - 16th
 Golf 15th - 16th
 History Week, Llandudno 16th - 22nd

November

Bowling Week 4th - 7th
 Cenotaph 10th - 11th

Noticeboard.

Dates for your diary and useful information.

A thank you from Future Focus.

In the first issue, number 1,009, of the Review in 2011 Robert Leader introduced the notion that "If we are to continue to go from strength to strength over the twenty first century we need to make it very clear who we are and what we do. In short what is our 'Brand'?"

In last month's Review the Chairman answered part of this question by announcing that from early 2012 we will become Blind Veterans UK.

We would like to thank you all for your involvement with Future Focus during 2011. Your feedback, ideas, suggestions and constructive criticism have been invaluable in helping to develop our brand into something that communicates better what our organisation is about. Please continue to share your views with us – all feedback is good feedback.

In the next Review, in February 2012, we will describe to you what our new logo and visual brand will be like. We will also share more details around how we are launching our story to the public and raising the awareness of our charity.

In the meantime we would greatly appreciate if you do not share this information outside of St Dunstan's.

Please remember that you may keep your St Dunstan's badge. You will also receive a new Blind Veterans UK badge next year, which we hope you will wear to help us build our profile to the level which we all feel this organisation deserves.

Radar Toilet Key Available.

The national key scheme covers 7,000 locked public toilets: This offers independent access for disabled people to around 7,000 locked public toilets across the country. RADAR would like all providers of accessible toilets to keep their toilets unlocked if possible, but introduced the scheme where the provider concerned has to keep the toilets locked to stop vandalism and misuse. Keys should be available through your local authority.

St Dunstan's currently holds a supply of keys issued under RADAR's National Key Scheme (NKS) at a cost of £3.50. The key for accessible toilets can only be ordered for St Dunstaners personal use. To apply for a RADAR NKS toilet key, please send a cheque for £3.50 made payable to St Dunstan's to Barbara Sweeney at St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. Please note that toilets are the property of the providers concerned, and as such, any queries or problems concerning a toilet should be directed to that provider, rather than to RADAR or St Dunstan's.

An Apology.

The Review would like to apologise to Mrs Kathleen Sullivan for an incorrect entry in the September edition. In the obituary for her late husband John Henry, it was stated he was widowed and had three children. Mrs Sullivan survives her husband and their four children. We extend our sympathies and apologies.

St Dunstaner Walter Scott died on 27th August and not 2nd August as stated in the November Review. We extend our sympathies and apologies.

Join St Dunstan's Masons.

Any St Dunstaner who is a Freemason is eligible to join the St Dunstan's Masonic Society. All those interested should contact Ron Freer on telephone : 01843 601421. Or write to him at: 23 St Michael's Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate, Kent CT9 3UH.

St Dunstan's Day.

In Memory of our founder 9th December will mark 90 years since the death of our founder Sir Cyril Arthur Pearson. It was his determination and inspiration that laid the foundation for the organisation that continues to help visually impaired veterans achieve independent lives.

Warm Home Discount Scheme.

The Warm Home Discount Scheme provides £120 rebate on your electricity bills in winter 2011/12. Find out below if you qualify, when you'll get your rebate and how the scheme works.

Who can get the Warm Home Discount: Pension Credit customers who are automatically considered for the rebate

You may qualify for this energy rebate if on the qualifying date of 11th September 2011 all the following apply:

You got only the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit (no Savings Credit).

Your name, or your partner's name was on your electricity bill

Your electricity account was with one of the energy suppliers participating in this scheme – see 'Energy suppliers participating in this scheme' below

If you meet the conditions above you do not need to do anything now to get your rebate. If you do not qualify automatically because you get the Savings Credit element of Pension Credit see "Can other people get a Warm Home Discount" below.

Can other people get a Warm Home Discount?: Energy suppliers may also give a £120 rebate to some other customers in vulnerable groups (called the broader group). Each electricity supplier has different eligibility criteria they will use to decide who may get the rebate. See 'Financial support from energy suppliers' to find out more.

What you need to do: If you were only on the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit on the qualifying date (11th September 2011) you don't need to take any action now.

How much you can get

If you qualify you'll receive £120 towards your electricity bill in winter 2011/12.

When you'll get your rebate: Energy rebates for 2011/12 will be made during the winter months. If you qualify you'll get a letter this winter to confirm this. If you were on the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit on the qualifying date (11th September 2011) you should receive a letter. You should get this letter between mid November 2011 and the end of February 2012. If you may be eligible, but an automatic rebate can't be made, your letter will ask you to provide further information as soon as possible. This must be received by 28th March 2012 at the latest. All the information you need will be on your electricity bill.

How the Warm Home Discount Scheme works: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and participating electricity suppliers will share some limited information about their customers. This allows participating electricity suppliers to give the energy rebate automatically to customers who qualify. The Warm Home Discount Scheme will run for four years from winter 2011/12. Rebates will be paid and funded by participating electricity suppliers.

Energy suppliers participating in the scheme: The electricity suppliers involved in this scheme are: Atlantic, British Gas, EDF Energy, E.ON, Equipower, Equigas, Manweb, M&S Energy, npower, Sainsbury's Energy, Scottish Gas, Scottish Hydro, ScottishPower, Southern Electric, SSE, Swalec and Utility Warehouse.

Energy Rebate Scheme: The Energy Rebate Scheme helped some people to get a one-off rebate for 2010 on their electricity bill. This scheme closed on 1st September 2010. The Energy Rebate Scheme also shared limited information between the DWP and electricity suppliers to identify who qualified for a rebate on electricity bills. But the rules for the Energy Rebate Scheme and Warm Home Discount Scheme are different.

Cold Weather Payment and Winter Fuel Payment: Rebates paid under the Warm Home Discount Scheme will not affect any Cold Weather Payment or Winter Fuel Payment you may receive.

Further help

For further information about the scheme call the Warm Home Discount Scheme Helpline on 0845 603 9439. Lines are open from 8.00am - 6.00pm, Monday to Friday.

The Building – St Dunstan's Short Story Competition 2012.

They say everyone has a book in them, but for the 2012 St Dunstan's Review Short Story competition we want to find out how many people have a great short story in them.

We invite you to send a fictional work on the theme: The Building – if a building could tell its story what would it be. So please get super creative and think up an interesting and intriguing history to a building you know, or make one up and create a history for it. What would the building reveal if it could speak? Who has passed through its doors and what has the building witnessed?

All submissions should be an original work and not previously published. The competition is open to St Dunstaners, or members of the Diana Gubbay Trust, their wives, husbands, widows or widowers. The judge's decision will be final.

Prizes will be announced in 2012, and the winner will have their work published in the Review next year. Please follow these steps when submitting entries for the competition:

Entries should be typewritten and should not exceed 1,500 words.

Only one submission per person.

Entries must be received by the Editor, St Dunstan's Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD by 16th January 2012.

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 the Review at email: revieweditor@st-dunstans.org.uk

Dear Sir

Blind Veterans UK

I have to say that, from a personal standpoint the selection of this name (despite the arguments put forward in your article) is perhaps the worst possible choice.

When I was first introduced to St Dunstan's in the early 1980s I was accepted as a beneficiary of the Diana Gubbay Trust. At the time it was made clear that this was a subsidiary level of benefit, and this was both understandable and acceptable. My eyesight had been poor from birth, preventing me from doing National Service and instead I served for some several years in Cadet Forces, both CCF and ACF. Thus I held a TA Schedule B Commission.

Over the years efforts have been made within St Dunstan's to reduce the perceived differential between 'real St Dunstaners' and beneficiaries of the Gubbay Trust, the philosophy being, apparently 'we are all blind together after all'. I have welcomed this attitude but have always felt that I was sailing under false colours, as it were, and have therefore tried to make as little use as possible of the excellent services and facilities on offer, believing that there are many others who have a greater need for entitlement.

This feeling has been reinforced from time to time when visiting Ovingdean and hearing conversations of a somewhat unedifying nature when members have been comparing 'entitlements' based upon their level of visual impairment and how this was acquired.

With the introduction of the new name I once again find myself feeling as if I am masquerading. By no stretch of the imagination (apart from age) can I claim to be a Veteran and I feel most uncomfortable at having such an appellation applied to me.

Perhaps it is the baldness of the new title which worries me. For reasons I cannot quite identify I find the title 'Blind Veterans' UK (St Dunstan's) more acceptable.

Finally, in these days of spoken acronyms, BVUK will become an extremely ugly sound. Surely something less offensive to the ear can be produced?

Yours faithfully

FRM Elgood

PS Did I really hear a reference to three alternatives? Shame on you?

Response

Dear Mr Elgood

I am saddened to hear of your feelings and conversations sometimes over heard at our Centres. The organisation has always been made up of different constituent groups, these may be; wives, partners, widows, widowers and dependents, very few of these would have served.

But within the St Dunstaners group, there is the war blind and those who have served and lost their sight in later life. The one aspect that bonds the "family" together is that all have directly or indirectly experienced the effects of sight loss. As an organisation our prime aim is to develop a life beyond sight loss for all.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Jones
Director of Fundraising & Communications

Dave Stuttard MBE

Dave Stuttard MBE, was presented with his award by Her Majesty The Queen at Buckingham Palace on 12th October 2011. The MBE was in recognition of his charitable work with St Dunstan's and his own charity MyUbique, which he set up in 2005.

Through MyUbique Dave uses the skills he learnt as a Royal Engineer to improve water sanitation in Ghana. To date 50,000 people have been given access to clean drinking water through the work. The WATSAN project has also helped to reduce blindness as the water borne parasites that cause Trachoma are filtered out.

Dave said: "I was accompanied to Buckingham Palace by my wife Dot, our son Steven and sister in law Eleanor. On arrival at the Palace we went through the Choirmaster's Door where we were escorted by an Equerry to the Ballroom. I asked if it would be possible for my family to be seated where they could see the ceremony and we were thrilled when they were placed in the middle of the front row.

"I've always been a Royalist and it was great to be presented with my MBE by The Queen. When she heard it was partly in recognition of my work with St Dunstan's, Her Majesty said 'Oh you're a St Dunstaner'. After she had placed the MBE on the hook on my lapel she held out her hand and I shook it, took a step back, turned to the right and left the Ballroom.

My medal was then removed, put in a box and presented to me. It was a lovely day and the MBE now takes pride of place with my Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and Military Service Medals. I shall wear it with pride at the Remembrance Sunday Ceremony Dot and I will attend."

Dave reported that work in Ghana is going well. Representatives of the British High Commission opened a water point for 1,600 people but a further eight villages in the area have also used the point to draw water. The new clean water source is now used by 8,000 people.

To meet the demand from so many people large water tanks were installed in the village to ensure when people turned up to collect their water they would have a manifold, rather than waiting to draw water from one tap.

Dave is presently raising money to lay a pipeline to four villages.



Dave Stuttard MBE receives his Medal from Her Majesty The Queen in the Ballroom at Buckingham Palace.

Remembrance Day 2011 by Harry Beevers.

Remembrance Day is a very special day for me. Until I became a St Dunstaner I had not had an opportunity to take part in the parade in London but this year was my tenth visit. I never knew my grandfather's youngest brother Mark, he was a Sergeant in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and he was killed at Arras in 1917. I have not been able to visit his grave but I do have a video of the small cemetery taken by a friend and which features his gravestone. It is situated in a small meadow, literally "in the corner of a foreign field". This year along with my escort, ex-R.A.F. friend Gordon I'll be remembering my great Uncle Mark along with the millions who made the final sacrifice for our country. Gordon will be wearing his medals after his service in Malaya along with those of his grandfather who was yet another casualty of the 1914-18 Great War. I'm sure my colleagues in the St Dunstan's contingent will have very similar thoughts during the very moving ceremony. Those who gave their lives in the two great wars and the various conflicts since will not be forgotten. We will remember them.

For the record, on Remembrance Sunday 2011, 101 St Dunstaners and three widows along with 87 escorts joined the thousands on parade in London. Many others were attending similar but smaller ceremonies in cities, towns and villages throughout the country. Those in the London march had unbelievably warm, sunny weather, certainly the best I have experienced over the past ten years. Once again it was a moving, prodigious occasion with even bigger supporting crowds than in previous years. It was the last such ceremony under our present name St Dunstan's for we will be known as Blind Veterans UK in 2012. So once again we remembered our former colleagues and all those who have given their lives for their country. We experienced something of the camaraderie of our service days. We renewed old friendships and made new ones. We heard stirring speeches from General Sir Peter de la Billiere and from St Dunstaner Stephen (Sparky) Sparkes. We were even featured for a mini-second on the national TV coverage. Many thanks to St Dunstan's for giving us the opportunity to be present at this annual event, I thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and now look forward to Remembrance Day 2012.



Harry Beevers with Gordon Claughton



Diane Williams with Ian Sheriff, Jeff Rundle and Steve Nixon.

During the Remembrance weekend I was lucky enough to catch up with one Tony Eldridge DSC, a former submariner, whose life long motto has been 'He who volunteers gets the best choice.' Sitting with Falklands Veteran Terry Bullingham and his escort Tim Smart we listened as Tony told us of his successful and daring mission during WWII.

An inveterate volunteer Tony signed up for Special and Hazardous Service and became a member of the elite submariners group of charioters – or human torpedos - as they were named by the press. In 1944 Tony took part in the successful Ceylon Secret Operation 51, launching from the submarine HMS Trenchant to a target in Puket, Siam, a Japanese craft.

To get to their target Tony piloted the chariot for six miles underwater with Butch, his No 2, sitting at the rear of the craft. Reaching the target they started work to attach a bomb to the bottom of the boat. As it was covered in barnacles and the bomb wouldn't stick they worked to attach it with a clamp. Once attached and the timer set, Tony and Butch turned to face one another, shook hands, got onto the chariot, which Tony turned around and piloted back towards the sub. Pausing to watch the explosion from a safe distance.

Tony finished by saying he had phoned Butch during the week who told him 9th November 2011 was the 67th anniversary of their successful mission.

After the Parade I asked Tony what Remembrance meant to him and was told: "Standing on Parade I thought back to when I was a charioteer. Sunday 13th November was a beautiful day, warm and sunny, but I remembered the bitter cold that went into my bones. Most of our training as a submariner was done in the cold waters around the UK – and I mean cold. Even to this day I tend to put more clothes on than other people as I've never been so cold in all my life and that memory of cold stays with me today. Although diving overseas it was beautiful, especially in Siam. The other thing one remembered was every dive we made was a hazardous business as your oxygen could get knocked on and blow your lungs out, or you could take a deep dive and get the bends. That was going through my mind and of course remembering my friends I had trained and served with."

I also spoke with Jey Muir who was thrilled when he learnt he would escort a former charioteer during the Parade and what an honour it was.



Jey Muir with Tony Eldridge DSC on Horse Guards before St Dunstan's column Marched towards Whitehall and the Cenotaph.

The wreaths were placed for St Dunstan's by Billy Black and Lance Bombadier Robert Long. Billy Black spoke of being asked to place the wreath "I am humbled as not many members of the Armed Forces have such an honour bestowed upon them. Thank you St Dunstan's."



St Dunstan's President Ray Hazan, General Sir Peter de la Billiere KCB, KBE, DSO, MC & Bar and Lance Bombadier Rob Long and Terry Desmond.



Edward de la Billiere with Wallace Burnet-Smith.

In Memory of Our Founder by Ray Hazan.

A full coach load made their way to Hampstead cemetery the day before Remembrance Sunday to pay their annual respects to our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., GBE. There were several new faces attending the informal ceremony but many who annually support this 'pilgrimage'. Ray opened the proceedings by saying he never failed to experience a tingle of emotion knowing we were standing within feet of Sir Arthur. "He didn't just found an organisation, but a way of life. A life in which blind people were treated with respect rather than just as objects of pity. We owe him so much".

Robbie then read an acknowledgement sent to Sir Arthur from Douglas Haig regarding Armistice Day 1918. "I should like to express my gratitude for the congratulations sent by you, both on your own part and on behalf of the men of St Dunstan's. Among the causes for rejoicing in victory, there is none greater than the knowledge that those who have made immeasurable sacrifices for their country will have the permanent happiness of knowing that their sacrifice has not been in vain".

Sir Arthur wrote the following: To the men who have left St Dunstan's, the men who are still here and the men who are yet to come I say. "Remember that we St Dunstaners are setting a great example to the whole world of the blind. Carry our banner high and show the people who can see that, much as many of them seem to doubt the fact, a blind man can be a normal citizen in practically every sense of the term".

We heard of the circumstances of the untimely death of Sir Arthur in December 1921. Whilst taking a bath, he tragically slipped, knocking himself unconscious and drowning. A terrible tragedy for such a man who deserved so much better.

St Dunstaner Arthur Carter, who served with the Royal Navy in the Pacific in 1945 then laid a wreath on behalf of St Dunstaners throughout the world. During a two minute silence, Nigel Whiteley lowered the St Dunstan's Standard in salute. The ceremony ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Remembrance Day 2011 in Llandudno.

It has been a busy time at the Llandudno Centre since it opened its doors on 19th September 2011, with beneficiaries coming for training, or to enjoy a holiday in the North Wales seaside resort.

On Sunday 13th November 2011, St Dunstaners, their families and staff from the Centre took time to pause and remember at a service in the Holy Trinity Church, Llandudno, followed by a Parade to the Cenotaph in Llandudno. Soldiers serving with the Joint Service Mountain Training Centre, Capel Curig, assisted St Dunstaners on Parade. Centre Manager Mark Lovatt led St Dunstan's in the Remembrance Ceremony at the Llandudno Cenotaph.

The Review asked Mark what thoughts were in his mind as he placed the wreath for St Dunstan's. "It was a nice day, but it was unusual for me, as it was my first Remembrance Sunday not in uniform. Like everyone at the Cenotaph it is a time when you tend to reflect on your own experiences. I thought of my time serving in Afghanistan and the Ramp Ceremonies I saw there.

"We then returned to the Centre where everyone enjoyed lunch. It was a good day and the soldiers from the Joint Mountain Training Centre will be back for Remembrance 2012.

"It's been a great time since we opened the doors, with a steep learning curve, when our focus has been on providing the best service to everyone who comes to the Centre. We now look forward to welcoming people here for a really good Christmas and New Year."

Billy Baxter Writes of his Journey to Llandudno.

Shakespeare wrote: 'Some people are born great, some achieve greatness and some have their greatness thrust upon them'.

I'm sure those of you who know Billy Baxter will agree with me that the 'Some people are born great' part fits Billy. In my role as Review editor I was fortunate to catch up with Billy during the Remembrance Weekend, who said he thinks of himself as the luckiest man on the planet after starting work as the R&T Support Worker at the Llandudno Centre on 31st August 2011. We have the honour to bring you an account of his journey, which Billy has written for the Review.

Having left school at the tender age of 15 with not a single qualification I embarked on my dream to become a professional soldier. I learnt very quickly that education was a very important part of learning life skills, and essential in soldiering in the modern Army. This was to be a lesson I would learn at a greater level later on in my life.

With 20 years' service under my belt, now married with three children and about to be promoted to the dizzy heights of Sergeant Major disaster struck! I lost my eyesight as a result of the job and career I loved. From living an active dynamic life, overnight I became totally lost and no longer in control.

The St Dunstaners reading this article will only know too well what my family and I went through. I arrived at St Dunstan's in Ovingdean in June 2000 a very lost angry and frightened young man. Nothing could get me back on track to living a normal life without my eyesight, or so I thought!

I soon discovered that my fellow St Dunstaners and the dedicated friendly staff were there for me and my family every step of the way in my adjustment to blindness.

I learnt that training and education and using new technologies were available to give me the skills needed to live an independent and fulfilling future. I was inspired by amazing people living normal lives, and humbled by the staff that provide us St Dunstaners with a service that is the envy of many organisations.

My training and rehabilitation is still on going, and I have learnt that you never stop learning, there is always something new to discover, whether a new gadget, or situation, or tip you have learnt about. My journey has not been all sunshine and light, but at times demanding and hard not only for myself, but my family, friends and the staff who put up with our little antics and tantrums. Oh yes the toys have been chucked out of the pram on numerous times.

As a result of some gentle pushing from my Welfare Officer Jennie Hammond (who needs a medal) I was persuaded that the time was right to launch Billy back into full time education. This would test the skills I had learnt at St Dunstan's to the full, by interacting with society in a place I all those years ago ran away from. I would not only learn academic skills and gain qualifications but learn a lot more about the life skills needed to interact with my fellow students and people in a world I was part of as a soldier. Civvy Street is a very different place to what I was used to.

I have done some scary things in my life, and getting on a college bus with fifty teenagers was like the first time I went for a walk on my own with a long cane. St Dunstan's was there for me. As were the team of like minded staff at the college who provided guidance and support every step of the way.

I worked hard and again at times felt like quitting but with fighting spirit and the support of friends and good people and the tutors and staff I overcame these problems. I completed a two year full time course at a mainstream college that was been both physically and mentally demanding. It tested the skills I learned as a St Dunstaner. This is what our Founder Sir Arthur Pearson set out to achieve from his vision to help blinded Servicemen.

I feel so proud to have reached this stage in my life post blindness and ready for more and demanding challenges that life throws at me. Earlier this year I won the Founders Day Award for Training and Education, which was amazing and this has been a result of all the St Dunstaners, staff and the good people at college.

A new challenge that I'm relishing is my role as R&T Support Worker at the Llandudno Centre. Every day I think how lucky I am to work here, in fact I think I'm the luckiest person in the world.

I will close this article by saying, that my life has greatly been enriched by education and training, and given me valuable life skills to take on future challenges and goals. Thank you Sir Arthur.

P.S. If I can do it then anyone can, give it a go you will not be disappointed believe me.



Billy Baxter with left his Welfare Officer Jennie Hammond and right his wife Karen.

Helen Emmerson's Farewell.

As some of you may be aware, I will be leaving St Dunstan's in mid January to return to Australia permanently. The decision to leave this country and this fantastic job has been a very hard one to make and it fills me with great sadness to be writing my farewell to you all.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for being such a remarkable group of people. St Dunstan's is much more than just a workplace and it is the people that give it its soul and spirit. There are a great deal of people associated with this Charity both past and present who have made my job not only truly enjoyable but also so unique. It is difficult to describe in words how much I will miss the enthusiasm, perseverance and can do attitude of the beneficiaries and staff.

I am not sure what the future will bring for me back in Australia, but I do know I will not forget my time with St Dunstan's and it will forever hold a special place in my heart.



Helen Emmerson with Simon Grimsey (deceased)

Dame Vera Lynn Visits Ovingdean.

It was a momentous day for the Ovingdean Centre when Dame Vera Lynn DBE and her daughter Virginia visited on 12th October. Frank Tinsley met the Forces Sweetheart and Virginia when they visited the Craft Workshop;

"I heard Vera Lynn sing before the war as a teenager when she sang with Ambrose and his Band and she will always represent my youth. I was lucky enough to grow up in the dance band days; as a teenager in Islington on Saturday night you could have gone to five or six places to dance. As a young man during the London Blitz I was in charge of a search light unit and when we could me and my men would huddle round the radio to listen to her singing in her nightly broadcast between 8pm and 9pm. She would sing the love songs of the day and we would listen and wish our girlfriends were with us. Her presence on the wireless made a deep impression on us that has lasted all our lives. I have been a lifelong fan and I told her how I have cassettes and a CD of her music, including one of her saying Goodnight Boys, which was how she would finish her radio programme. Meeting her fulfilled a lifetime ambition and I was so moved I told her that it was the proudest moment of my life, which it was. I also told her she was the most loved person in England. She will always represent young love, my love for dance music and the comfort she gave to us. I told her she didn't realise the effect she had on us young soldiers. My generation owe her so much as her singing gave us pleasure and comfort when we needed it."



Frank Tinsley meets Dame Vera Lynn DBE.



Edna Wheatley and Alf Lockhart meet Dame Vera Lynn DBE.



Dame Vera Lynn DBE and Arthur Walton discuss his latest sculpture.

Bowling Club Report by Colwyn Lloyd, Vice Chairman.

Our tournament started on a sad note with the loss of our Chairman Bob Osborne, John Sullivan from Peterborough and Frank Kay from Newcastle. But we were pleased to welcome a new member Geoff Plume. We knew it was going to be the most difficult and traumatic tournament, especially for Joan as she had been so poorly, together with the loss of Bob and three of our callers. But with the help of ALL our wives and helpers it was great – one of our best.

As it was Joan's 25th Anniversary we were pleased to welcome four guests Barry Porter, Jackie Greer, Bill Lyth and Paul James to our dinner and presentation to the winners.

The winners are as follows:

Singles Winner – Ron Thorpe

Runner Up - Graham Johnson

Semi-Finalist – Ron Croxton and Ron Jones

The Pairs Winners - Colwyn Lloyd and Graham Johnson

The Runners Up: Chris Spellacy and Geoff Plume and

The Third - Peter Rolfe and James Poole.

Triples Winners – The Trophy has been named Bob's Tripples

First Winners - Brian Taylor, Jim Willingham and Robbie Roberts.

The Runners Up: Alf Hill and Jean and Wallace Burnett-Smith.

The most improved player was Jim Glendenning.

It was a happy and relaxed couple of weeks and we are looking forward to the March Tournament. And I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

From Joan Osborne.

I would like to thank St Dunstan's for their support as it was my 25th anniversary in organising the tournament and to the members for the wonderful time at the dinner and final evening. Mainly due to Marjorie Scott's wonderful ideas, as I was presented with the most wonderful cake in the shape of a bowling green with bowlers and a beautiful Darlington glass vase, they absolutely spoilt me. I was determined to run the games as I cannot let my boys down. Once again many thanks to everyone.

Troops Run 272 Miles by Colin Williamson.

It sounds like a thing of legend but troops from 521 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron, Royal Logistics Corps, ran the 272 miles of the Pennine Way in just 62 hours and 7 minutes. The exercise was called 'The Pennine Pursuit 100' and 22 members of the squadron were involved. The '100' in the title equates to the amount of hours the squadron expected it would take to cover the distance, but they did it in just over half the time. Captain Martin Laverack, who is Acting Officer Commanding 521 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron, presented yours truly with a cheque for £2277 which the squadron raised through sponsorship from their outstanding achievement.



10 Questions on the Subject ... William Shakespeare by Harry Beevers.

1. Which Shakespeare play has the shortest title?
2. Which character speaks the line, "To be or not to be, that is the question"?
3. Which of Shakespeare's plays is set in a castle at Elsinore?
4. Which of Shakespeare's plays has been made into a film on most occasions?
5. Which character has most to say, in terms of the number of lines in the whole of Shakespeare's plays?
6. Which play has inspired an opera by Gounod, a symphony by Berlioz, an overture by Tchaikovsky, a ballet by Prokofiev and a film by Franco Zepherelli?
7. Which Oscar winner played Puck in the 1936 Hollywood version of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", Vivien Leigh, Mickey Rooney or James Cagney?
8. Who in a Shakespeare play are Proteus and Valentine?
9. In a Shakespeare play, who are Mistress Page and Mistress Ford?
10. On 15th December 1899, ... the French actress Sarah Bernhardt played which Shakespeare character in a performance which received mixed reception from critics, Lady Macbeth or Hamlet?

Computer Club 19th - 20th October 2011, by Ray Hazan.

Surely, there were going to be long silences; there was little new on the personal computer front or their accessories to discuss? But, as we all know, gather more than one St Dunstaner together and you have ceaseless conversation, joking, ribbing and banter. There were anything but silences over the two days of the meeting!

We very much appreciated two of our usual speakers. ROVI, Bryan Kilburn demonstrated some new and familiar gadgets including a radio controlled clock, calendar. It is small, but well balanced and a large control makes it an ideal aid for anyone with sight and dexterity problems. We were impressed by the Sonus Pure digital radio. Do contact the ROVI on duty at Ovingdean for any details and advice on such devices.

We have still failed to catch Brad Croshaw with a question he cannot answer. He spoke for two hours non-stop fending questions and explaining complex subjects in clear and concise language. He is a living encyclopaedia.

Seventeen members and wives sat down to a very convivial buffet supper on the Wednesday evening. The party only broke up some four hours later, following much fellowship and storytelling. Our gratitude to PBK, the catalyst for the evening! For, combining good food and good company and what more can one demand of life

On the Thursday, we were pleased to receive John Mills, Technical Officer for the British Wireless for the Blind Fund. He spoke enthusiastically about the Fund and its role amongst the visually handicapped community. He demonstrated some of the equipment they distribute on loan. All are ideally adapted to the needs of visually impaired people. His 'piece de resistance' was the Sonata. This is a small box which plugs into the internet. You do not have to be computer literate or understand the workings of the internet.

Only five controls enable you to access a clearly spoken menu of podcasts, magazines and newspapers from the TNAUK (if you subscribe), many radio programmes from the BBC and an enormous number of spoken items. The menus can be adjusted to individual requirements. The cost of £300 plus an annual service fee of £25 may seem high, but the ease of operation and the accessible material is well worth the charge. An updated, portable version of Sonata is due out next year, though no date has been proposed.

We let Harry Beevers off this time with no quiz to prepare. He more than made up for it with his witticisms and information. We enjoyed the addition of a new recruit, Jim Wright who blended effortlessly into the group. My thanks to everyone for their contribution, participation and good humour. The next meetings take place on 29th February to 1st March 2012 at Ovingdean and on 17th and 18th October 2012 at Llandudno.

Amateur Radio Club by Ray Peart.

Members of the Amateur Radio Club gathered together to operate using the callsign GX3 STD from 21st to 29th October. We arrived at the Ovingdean Centre at varying times and once again extend sincere thanks to St Dunstan's for their transport arrangements. We held our General Meeting, where apologies were accepted from friends who were unable to attend. The station was successfully operated by Ray Peart G0 FHK, Claire Peart G1 FHK, Ray Hazan G0 PQQ, Ted John G3 SEJ, Dick Hardy G3 TIX, John Bell G4 XBL, Edna McGoff M6 ELA, Peter Hardy G3 VNH, Julia Hardy G3 VNG and Peter Barron M6 AZC. Thanks are given to all the wives and a special thanks to Mary Frith for assisting Ted in the shack. We are very grateful to our QSL Manager Edna McGoff who unfortunately did not realise it is a job for life, bad luck Edna.

Again we are indebted to John Houlihan and Eddie Wilson for maintaining the shack. Congratulations to Peter Barron who passed his foundation licence in July 2011, he now operates under the callsign M6 AZC, not bad for someone who is allegedly 84 years young. Mobile by horseback four of us decided to go riding; it was arranged by Andrew Seivewright (Sports & Recreation Instructor). We all had a wonderful time. Station closed after 391 contacts and sincere thanks to the operators and looking forward to the next one.

Beer of the Month by Colin Williamson. Peroni Nastro Azzurro Lager

This well known Italian lager is now becoming a firm favourite amongst lager lovers worldwide. Brewed in Rome by the giant SABMiller company, this beer is the best selling lager in Italy. Nastro Azzurro translates into 'Blue Ribbon' and the beer is named in honour of the Italian ocean liner SS Rex which won the coveted 'Blue Riband' (for crossing the Atlantic in the fastest time) in 1933.

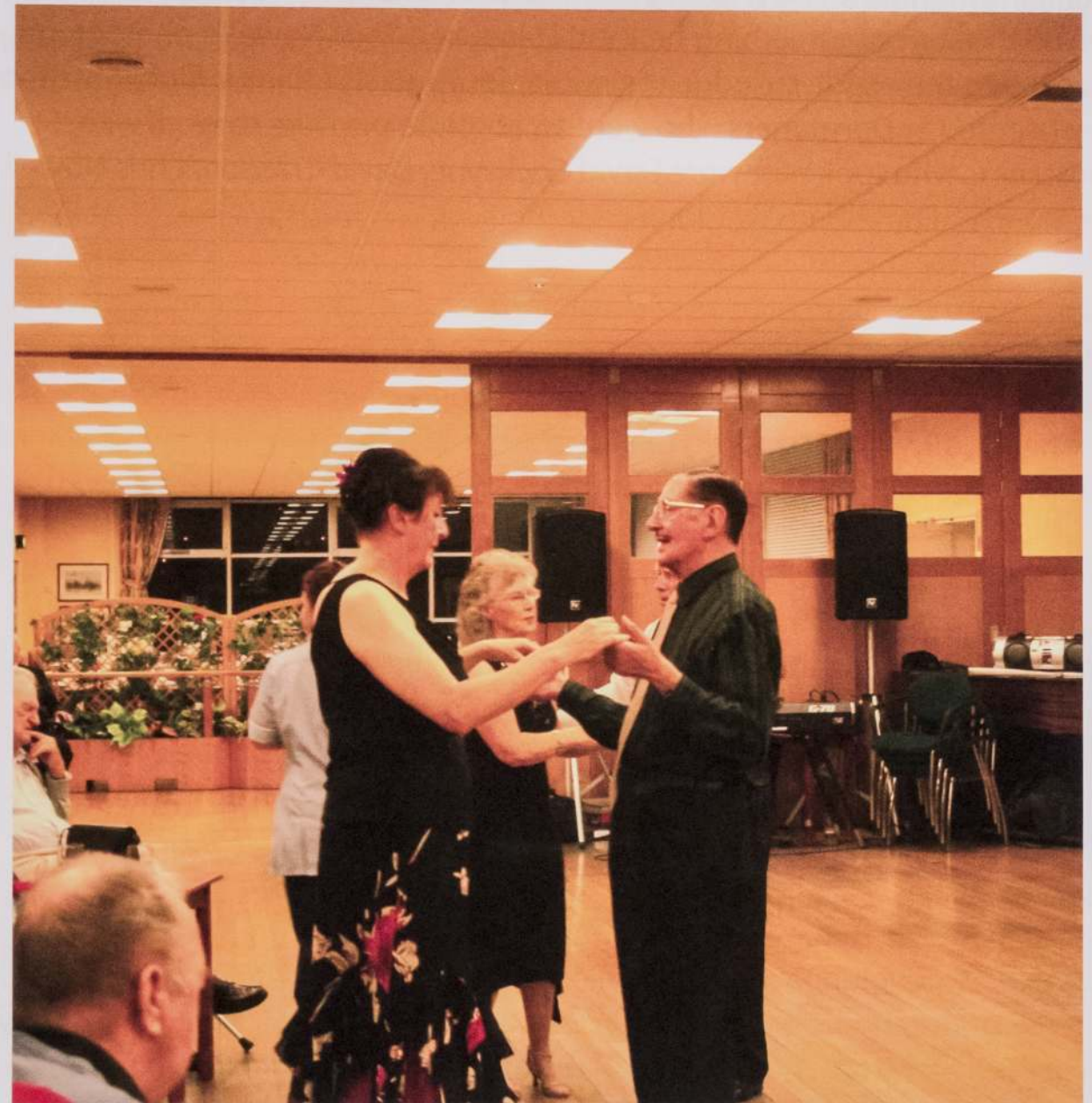
It pours a light lemon colour with a small head that disappears rather too quickly leaving no lacing around the glass. The nose is corn, malt and, surprisingly, bread. It has a lovely clean, fresh taste, slightly sweet, but very carbonated and has virtually no aftertaste. It is at it's best when chilled and is the perfect accompaniment for a pasta dish. It's not everyone's cup of tea, but it's streets ahead of other 'euro lagers' and at 5.1% is very drinkable and very refreshing.

Answers to the 10 Questions on the Subject of... William Shakespeare by Harry Beevers.

1. Hamlet.
2. Hamlet.
3. Hamlet.
4. Hamlet.
5. Henry V who appears in more than one play, and Hamlet if you consider just one play.
6. Romeo and Juliet.
7. James Cagney.
8. Two gentlemen of Verona.
9. The merry wives of Windsor.
10. Hamlet.

Gala Dance Night At Ovingdean.

St Dunstan's Dance Club, which is organised by David Schofield and Glenys Holmes, has brought pleasure to many since the first event in 2005 and we thank them for the great commitment they have made to St Dunstan's. David and Glenys have announced they will take a break in 2012 and we will of course let you know as soon as the Club is to be resumed.



David and Glenys at the Gala Night Dance in October 2011.

Photography Holiday at the Sheffield Centre by Esther Freeman, Art & Craft Manager, Ovingdean.

The Photography Holiday took place at St Dunstan's Sheffield Centre for a week beginning 17th October. This was the first of its kind, and we think that it may well be the start of something brilliant! Please see Chris Nowell's photograph attached to this article to judge the results for yourself. I think it highlights some very talented St Dunstaners who were an absolute pleasure to work with. St Dunstaners who took part were David Cockayne, David Cranson, Chris Nowell, Ray Munday, Barrie Hathaway and Keith Harness.

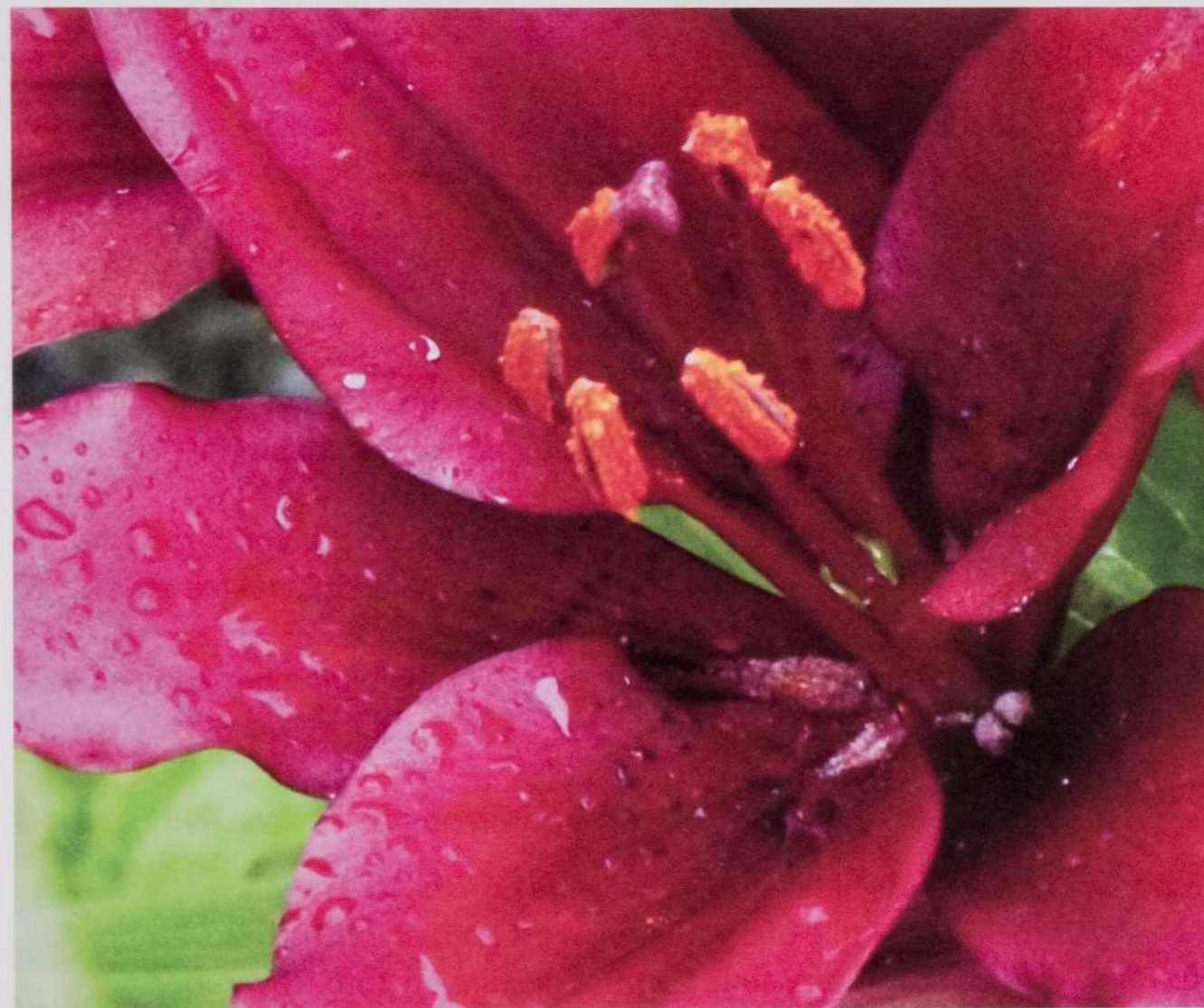
Photography could be seen as impossible for a blind or visually impaired person; this is absolutely not the case! It can be a challenge, yes, the very nature of photography is visual; even the camera lens itself is an invention that attempts to duplicate the operation of the human eye. However, St Dunstaners with a passion for photography with the assistance of the specially tailored holiday course; means that all photography and capturing beautiful images is possible. The beneficiaries who took part were encouraged to discuss and discover insights into how blind photographers can practice this art — and share or explore why they pursue it despite the challenges.

Any photographer who is registered as visually impaired could be classed as a 'blind photographer'. Each blind photographer brings unique challenges and perspectives to the camera, making encapsulating blind photography impossible.

The challenges are unique to each blind photographer. These challenges depend on the shooter's goals, abilities and equipment. For most, the primary challenge centers around getting what they want to capture onto the camera. A second common challenge is reviewing their own work, a secondary challenge can be mobility – getting to where or what you want to shoot. On the Photography Holiday at Sheffield, we looked at ways around these

challenges, using modified tools, techniques and approaches. Blind photographers do face substantial hurdles in being photographers. However, having the passion for taking pictures and capturing moments, means that picking up a camera and overcoming challenges is worth it. Passion is the key. With passion comes the will to be better, do better, shoot better. That feeling was demonstrated in buckets during the Photography Holiday at Sheffield, with each individual taking part finding what they are interested in, sharing experiences with the group, discovering new techniques or approaches, and highlighting some real talent!

A huge thank you has to go to Dave Hickey who lead the Photography holiday, and to all of the staff at Sheffield for your support and enthusiasm for the holiday. I am left with only one question now, when can we do it all again!



Photograph taken by Chris Nowell.

Family News

Family News Announcement:

Congratulations to:

Paul and Louise Jacobs on their birth of their first child on 29th October 2011, when they welcomed their son, Harrison Kevin Peter Jacobs into the world at 11.50pm, who arrived weighing in at 7lb 9oz.

Bill and Jean Ryder are proud to announce the safe arrival of great granddaughter, Daisy Halstead. She was born on 16th October at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Birthdays:

Many Happy returns to Christopher Crowther of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, who celebrated his 100th Birthday on 25th November.

Many Happy returns to Bernie Stevens who celebrated his 101st Birthday on 23rd November.

Anniversaries:

Platinum (70th):

Bill and Patty Finney of Wrexham, Clwyd on 8th November.

Blue Sapphire (65th):

Francis and Mary Cross of Preston, Lancashire on 7th November.

Guy and Christine Brownlie of Livingston, West Lothian on 12th November.

Russ and Alice Goodwin of March, Cambridgeshire on 16th November.

Donald & Beryll Varley of Preston, Lancashire on 30th November.

Raymond and Hazel Snowden of Dereham, Norfolk on 30th November.

Diamond (60th):

Peter and Jill Jupp of Brighton, East Sussex on 17th November.

Jack and Freda Leonard of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire on 17th November.

David and Kath Raybould of Tipton, West Midlands on 24th November.

We regret to announce the death of:

Isabella Barker who died on 28th October 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Ronald Barker.

Edna Brett who died on 9th April 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late John Brett.

Juliet Browne who died on 11th November 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Dr Nicholas Browne.

Patrick Casey who died on 5th October 2011, he was the husband of St Dunstaner Frances 'Eve' Casey.

Doris Dale who died on 5th October 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Lewis Dale.

Dorothy 'Dolly' Jacobs who died on 16th October 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Samuel Jacobs.

Albert Lace who died on 10th August 2011, he was the widower of St Dunstaner the late Freda Lace.

Margaret Logan who died on 28th October 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Peter Logan.

Doreen Miller who died on 4th November 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner William Miller.

Doris Miller who died on 31st October 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Frank Miller.

Winifred Morton who died on 6th September 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Mr George Morton.

Herta Parsons who died on 1st October 2007, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Geoffrey Parsons.

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

John Stirrup who died on 15th November 2011, he was the husband of St Dunstaner Moyra Stirrup.

Avon Williams an overseas affiliate who died in June 2011, he was married to Eileen.

Shirley Williams of Haywards Heath, West Sussex died on 4th November 2011, she was the partner of St Dunstaner Alan Walker.

Welcome to **St Dunstan's**

Private Anam Ahmed of Bulford Barracks, Salisbury, Wilts served with the Royal Logistic Corps from 2006 to 2011 and he has served with the Adjutant General's Corps from March 2011.

Eric Alker of Chorley, Lancashire served in the Lancashire Fusiliers, the General Service Corps and the Manchester Regiment from 1944 to 1946.

Joseph Bennett of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Michael Bevan of Salisbury, Wilts served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1956.

Claud Bickers of Ipswich served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1942 to 1947.

Bernard Bladen of Finchfield, Wolverhampton served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

Jill Brice of Brighton, East Sussex served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1948 to 1951.

Matthew Brown of Swindon, Wilts served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

Frank Buttery of Stockton On Tees, Cleveland served in the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1946.

William Cole of Glossop, Derbyshire served in the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers from 1963 to 1985.

James Cook of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire served in the Royal Navy from 1962 to 1969.

Arthur Coledge of Rhyl, Clywd served in the Royal Artillery and the King's Royal Rifle Corps from 1940 to 1945.

Clifford Dagnall of Abergele, Clwyd served in the Royal Pioneer Corps and the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1941 to 1946.

Dennis Eccles of Sutton, Surrey served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1969.

Ronald Ellison of Liverpool served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1959 to 1988.

Andrew Finnigan from Rhyl, Clwyd served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

Gladys Fremont of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Frederick French of south west London served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Brian Hannant of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk served in the Royal Navy from 1954 to 1960.

Gordon Hay of Bournemouth, served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Robert Hicks of Barry, South Glamorgan served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

Denis Hillman of Chislehurst, Kent served in the Fleet Air Arm and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1966 to 1971.

Eric Horrocks of Poulton Le Fylde, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1947.

John Howell of Merstham, Surrey served in the East Surrey Regiment from 1941 to 1942.

Graham Keeling of Holywell, Clwyd served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1958.

George Kirby of Blackburn served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Roy Knott of Deeside, Clwyd served in the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1955.

Dorothy Lamb of Leeds served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1943 to 1945.

Kenneth Lawrence of Halifax, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1946.

Michael Lee of Catford, south east London served in the Royal Air Force Police from 1957 to 1959.

Barry Longbone of Washington, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1951.

Roy Ludlam of Brandon, Durham served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers 1940 to 1946.

Yvonne McLean of Preston, Lancs served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

Raymond Miles of Cardiff served in the General Service Corps and the Welch Regiment from 1943 to 1947.

Ronald Monkley of Littlehampton, West Sussex served in the General Service Corps, the Royal Army Service Corps and the Army Cadet Force from 1943 to 1950.

Terence Murphy of Bexleyheath, Kent served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1946 to 1949.

Richard Riley of Bootle, Merseyside served in the Merchant Navy until 1950.
Peter Sayles of Guildford, Surrey served in the Royal Tank Corps from 1957 to 1960.

Joseph Sellers of Bangor, Gwynedd served in the Cheshire Regiment, the General Service Corps and the Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1947.

Leslie Smith of Chichester, West Sussex served in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, the Welch Regiment and the Durham Light Infantry from 1940 to 1945.

Mary Smith of Middlesbrough, Cleveland served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

Ernest Somers of Durham served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1939 to 1946.

Norman Stott of North Shields, Tyne and Wear served in the Durham Light Infantry from 1942 to 1945.

Derek Sutton of Hereford served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1949.
Ernest Tait of Wrexham Clwyd served in the Royal Engineers from 1956 to 1958.

Brian Tingle of Sheffield served in the Royal Artillery from 1956 to 1958.

Dennis Underwood of Spalding, Lincolnshire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Thomas Underwood of Plymouth served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Armoured Corps from 1942 to 1947.

Annie Welford of Prenton, Merseyside served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1959 to 1963.

Colin Wright of Middlesbrough, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1954.

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.

Benjamin Baker, Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Benjamin Baker of Dudley, West Midlands died on 21st October 2011, aged 92. He joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment (TA) in 1939 briefly before full mobilisation. After evacuation with the BEF from Dunkirk he was part of a mobile brigade forming a home defence force on the east coast. In 1944 he landed with his Regiment in 185th Brigade at Sword Beach on D-Day, fighting through to Germany. He was discharged in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Jack Bryant, Royal Marines

Jack Bryant of Southsea, Hampshire died on 10th October 2011, aged 89. He served in the Royal Marines from 1936 to 1948. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Eric Burt, Royal Artillery

Eric Burt of Haywards Heath, West Sussex died on 28th October 2011, aged 97. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 and served initially in Ack Ack batteries in the UK. He was then posted to Italy and finally demobilised in 1945. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Stanley Bye, General Service Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps

Stanley Bye of Bishops Stortford, Essex died on 15th October 2011, aged 82. He enlisted into the General Service Corps in 1947 before transferring to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1948. He trained at various locations in the UK before he was posted to Germany and Austria. He was interested in the reconstruction of Germany after the war. He was discharged in 1949. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Lawrence Cranenburgh, Royal Indian Army Service Corps and the Royal Indian Army Artillery

Lawrence Cranenburgh of Carshalton, Surrey died on 6th November 2011, aged 93. Already a member of the Auxiliary Forces he joined the Indian Army in 1943 and went to Officers Training School at Bangalore before he then joined the Royal Indian Army Service Corps (RIASC). He later converted to the Royal Indian Army Artillery (RIAA) and served around India and in Burma prior to being posted to Seoul, South Korea. He became the Chairman of the European Nations Prisoner of War dispute in Korea. He commanded 32 Field Battery and 11 Field Regiment before retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1968. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Marjorie 'Sally' Diamond, Women's Royal Air Force

Marjorie 'Sally' Diamond of Bognor Regis, West Sussex died on 21st October 2011, aged 93. She joined the WAAF in 1942; trained at West Kirby and worked with 11 Group at Uxbridge. She was a plotter until the end of the war. She returned to civilian life in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of her family.

Harold Dodd, Royal Marines

Harold Dodd of Barrow In Furness, Cumbria died on 16th October 2011, aged 86. He joined the Royal Marines in 1943 and carried out his training at Lymington in Devon. He served in India and later to Rangoon in Burma, before he was discharged in 1945. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Eric Fisher, Royal Navy

Eric Fisher of Colwyn Bay, Conwy died on 10th November 2011, aged 89. He served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946, leaving as a Patrol Service Gunner. After training he was posted to HMS Arla, a fast anti-submarine and convoy protection vessel. He then spent some time on Minesweepers. He then became a naval gunner on HMS Hornbeam and sailed to Russia; he took part in the D-Day landings and then returned to Russian Convoy duties. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Arnold Fox, Royal Air Force

Arnold Fox of Plymouth, South Devon died on 20th October 2011, aged 84. He joined the RAF in 1945, becoming a General Duties Aircraftsman. He served in Egypt, Italy, Germany and France where he was demobilised in 1948.

Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Charles Garrett, Royal Navy

Charles Garrett of Lichfield, Staffordshire died on 17th September 2011, aged 94. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and was onboard HMS Eagle the aircraft carrier when the ship was sunk off Malta. He went on Atlantic Convoys for 2½ years before he was discharged in 1946 as a leading stoker. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Emily Goodall, Auxiliary Territorial Service

Emily Goodall of Barnsley, South Yorkshire died on 24th September 2011, aged 90. She joined the ATS in 1942 and specialised as a plotter with a heavy Ack Ack unit, serving at locations around the UK before she was discharged in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of her family.

Richard Graves, Royal Engineers

Richard Graves of Orpington, Kent died on 4th November 2011, aged 92. Called up in 1939 he joined the Royal Engineers and was posted to Norway. After home defence in South East England he fought in Tobruk, Benghazi and Haifa. He was discharged in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Jack Grimes, Army Catering Corps and the General Service Corps.

Jack Grimes of North Walsham, Norfolk died on 25th August 2011, aged 84. He joined the Army Catering Corps in 1946 for National Service and served at Aldershot, Norwich and was posted to the Mediterranean. He was also with the Allied Commission in Vienna. He was discharged in 1948. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Frederick Harris, Royal Air Force

Frederick Harris of Nailsea, Bristol died on 8th November 2011, aged 87. He joined the RAF in 1940 and after training in the UK he was posted to the Far East. Commissioned after the war in 1952 he was posted to Egypt and later trained as a navigator before retiring from the RAF as a Flight Lieutenant in 1958. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

William 'Herbie' Habberfield, Royal Engineers

William 'Herbie' Habberfield of Neath, West Glamorgan died on 27th October

2011, aged 92. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1939, serving until 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Albert Harris, Royal Engineers

Albert Harris of Bedford, Bedfordshire died on 2nd October 2011, aged 89. He joined the Territorials in 1938 before joining the Royal Engineers. He served in the UK North Africa, Sicily and Italy. He finished his service in Austria. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Arthur Hartnell, Royal Armoured Corps

Arthur Hartnell of Brighton, East Sussex died on 27th October 2011, aged 87. He served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1942 to 1947 as a Sergeant, serving in Italy and the UK. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Frederick Hewson, Royal Air Force

Frederick Hewson of Bottisham, Cambridge died on 14th October 2011, aged 91. He joined the RAF at the beginning of the war, training as a fitter, working largely on bombers. He spent a further period with the Canadian Air Force in Yorkshire followed by a spell with the Pathfinder force. He was discharged in March 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Thomas Keeling, General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers

Thomas Keeling of Brierley Hill, West Midlands died on 17th August 2011, aged 85. He was called up to complete his National Service in 1941. He spent all his service within the Aldershot area becoming a driving instructor before being discharged in 1948. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

William 'Bill' Leech, Coldstream Guards

William 'Bill' Leech of Halifax, West Yorkshire died on 10th November 2011, aged 91. He joined the Coldstream Guards in 1944, with whom he served until 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Donald Littlewood, Mercian Brigade, Prince of Wales Division, Royal Armoured Corps.

Donald Littlewood of Cheltenham, Gloucester died on 1st September 2011, aged 63. He then joined the Mercian Brigade in Worcester in 1967 and after a month in the Prince of Wales Division from 1970, he joined the Royal Armoured Corps.

He trained in Canada and served in Germany, Denmark, Cyprus, and Northern Ireland and was discharged as a Corporal in 1973. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

William McGrath, Royal Air Force

William McGrath of Salisbury died on 13th October 2011, aged 91. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1947 in the UK and as a POW in Germany. His whole squadron of Blenheim aircraft was shot down over Denmark. He was held as a POW at Stalag Luft 1. He escaped with a friend Olly James, and they held the privilege of being the third and fourth POWs to successfully return to the UK via Gibraltar. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Raymond Neale, Royal Artillery

Raymond Neale of Downham Market, Norfolk died on 15th October 2011, aged 77. He joined the Royal Artillery for National Service in 1952 serving in Rhyl and West Germany. He was discharged as a gunner in 1954 and joined the TA with whom he stayed until in 1958. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Cecil 'Arthur' Newlove, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Cecil 'Arthur' Newlove of Brighton, East Sussex died on 15th October 2011, aged 90. He joined the REME in 1935, qualifying as a Weapon Artificer. Commissioned at Mons before becoming a Platoon Commander and was posted Singapore, Greece, Egypt and Cyprus. Completing a full time Army career in 1976 he retired as a Major. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Donald Osborn, General Service Corps and the Royal Armoured Corps

Donald Osborn of March, Cambridgeshire died on 30th September 2011, aged 87. He was called up in 1942 and after a month of training with the General Service Corps he transferred to the Royal Armoured Corps (147th Regt). He went to Caen just after D-Day and fought through to Germany before transferring to the 107th Regiment (RAC) in 1945. He was in Munster when the European war ended and his Corps were preparing to go to the Far East when the Japanese surrendered. He was in the 8th King's Royal Hussars from 1946 and was finally discharged from the Army in August that year. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Robert Percival, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Robert Percival of Basildon, Essex died on 26th October 2011, aged 80. He joined the REME for National Service and having served in Moniton, Shewsbury, Malvern and finally Blandford Forum he completed his service in 1951. Less than 2 weeks later, he joined the TA where he remained until 1955. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Albert Porter, Royal Air Force

Albert Porter of Littleborough, Lancashire died on 14th October 2011, aged 90. He joined the RAF in 1940, training as an RAF mechanical engineer and a turner. He was serving in Germany when the war ended and was discharged in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Hugh Rance, Essex Regiment

Hugh Rance of Rottingdean, East Sussex died on 24th October 2011, aged 99. He served with the Essex Regiment from 1932 to 1949 serving in the Persian Gulf, Pakistan and the North West Frontier of India. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

John Salisbury, King's Royal Rifle Corps and the Royal Artillery

John Salisbury of Mold, Flintshire died on 10th October 2011, aged 73. He was called up for National Service in 1946, joining the Kings Royal Rifle Corps. He was posted to his Battalion in Andover and later deployed to Palestine, eventually leaving the Army in 1948 as a Rifleman. Between 1948 and 1954 he also served in the TA. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Leslie Saunders, Royal Air Force

Leslie Saunders of Hitchin, Hertfordshire died on 22nd October 2011, aged 99. He joined the RAF in 1940 and was discharged in 1943. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Henry Sheridan, Royal Air Force

Henry Sheridan of Brighton, East Sussex died on 4th November 2011, aged 91. He initially joined the RAF Voluntary Reserve before he was called up into the Aircrew Training which he completed in Canada and became an air bomber. He returned to the UK and was based at 77 Squadron where he flew in Halifax bombers mainly over Germany.

He was shot down on the 15th March 1945 and became a POW for two months before being repatriated by 'Blood and Guts' Patton. He served from 1941 to 1945 leaving as a W.O.1.

Harold Simmons, General Service Corps, the Royal Army Service Corps and the Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's)

Harold Simmons of Birmingham, West Midlands died on 2nd November 2011, aged 87. He initially joined the Northfield Home Guard and was enlisted into the General Service Corps in 1942, transferring to the Royal Army Service Corps a few months later, and again to the Wiltshire Regiment in 1945, where he remained until 1947 on discharge as a Lance Corporal. He served in Europe, Ireland and India. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Charles Simpson, Royal Artillery

Charles Simpson of Leeds, West Yorkshire died on 8th November 2011, aged 73. Called up for National Service he joined the Royal Artillery, with whom he served from 1956 to 1958. He transferred into the TA and served until April 1962. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Francis 'Frank' Smith, East Yorkshire Regiment (The Duke of York's Own)

Francis 'Frank' Smith of Egham, Surrey died on 9th November 2011, aged 94. He served with the East Yorkshire Regiment (The Duke of York's Own) from 1935 to 1946, serving in the UK and India. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

George Smith, Royal Air Force

George Smith of Romford, Essex died on 27th October 2011, aged 90. He joined the RAF in 1939, specialising on the Merlin engine for the Spitfire. He later became an air gunner on Blenheim aircraft and then spent some time as a marine fitter on Air Sea Rescue. He subsequently served in North Africa followed by Sicily, Italy and Malta before being demobilised as a Corporal in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Albert Stevenson, Royal Armoured Corps and the General Service Corps.

Albert Stevenson of West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire died on 1st October 2011, aged 88. He joined the Army in 1943, training with the General Service Corps before he was posted to the Royal Armoured Corps. He became a driver, serving in the Mediterranean, the Far East and India (Bombay and Poona) and

later saw active service in Burma from the Indian border to Rangoon. He was discharged as a Trooper in 1947. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Kenneth Steward, Royal Air Force

Kenneth Steward of Hove, East Sussex died on 26th August 2011, aged 82. He completed his National Service from 1947 and 1949, when he was discharged as an Aircraftsman. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Richard Sunderland, Royal Air Force

Richard Sunderland of Lytham St Annes, Lancashire died on 5th August 2011, aged 87. A member of the ATC he joined the RAF in 1943, completing specialist courses in Wireless and Radar. He became a Radar Instructor at RAF Cranwell and was later posted to RAF Lossiemouth, then Karachi in India. He then became an instructor in Textiles Technology until he was demobilised in 1947. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

John 'Jack' Turner, Royal Artillery

John 'Jack' Turner of Maidenhead, Berkshire died on 12th November 2011, aged 92. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939 and served in the BEF and was evacuated through Dunkirk. He was then deployed to North Africa and spent time in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia before taking part in the Italian campaign, fighting both at Salerno and Monte Cassino. Later in Crete he was eventually discharged from the Army as a Warrant Sergeant in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

John Henry Sullivan, Royal Army Medical Corps

John Henry Sullivan of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire died on 22nd July 2011, aged 92. A member of St John's Ambulance before the war he served with the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 until 1946. He was posted to Egypt for 2½ years and as a member of the Mobile Field Unit he spent time in the Emergency Harbour during the Siege of Tobruk before he was evacuated and posted to India. During his service in Burma he was behind Japanese lines serving with the Chindits with Ord Wingate until they were liberated in 1946. After the war Mr Sullivan trained as a mechanic and ran his own garage until his eyesight failed at the age of 65. He leaves his widow Kathleen, their four children and six grandchildren. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.



Audrey Brookes and Maria Pikulski



Brigadier Johnny Walker OBE OSTJ with John Powell