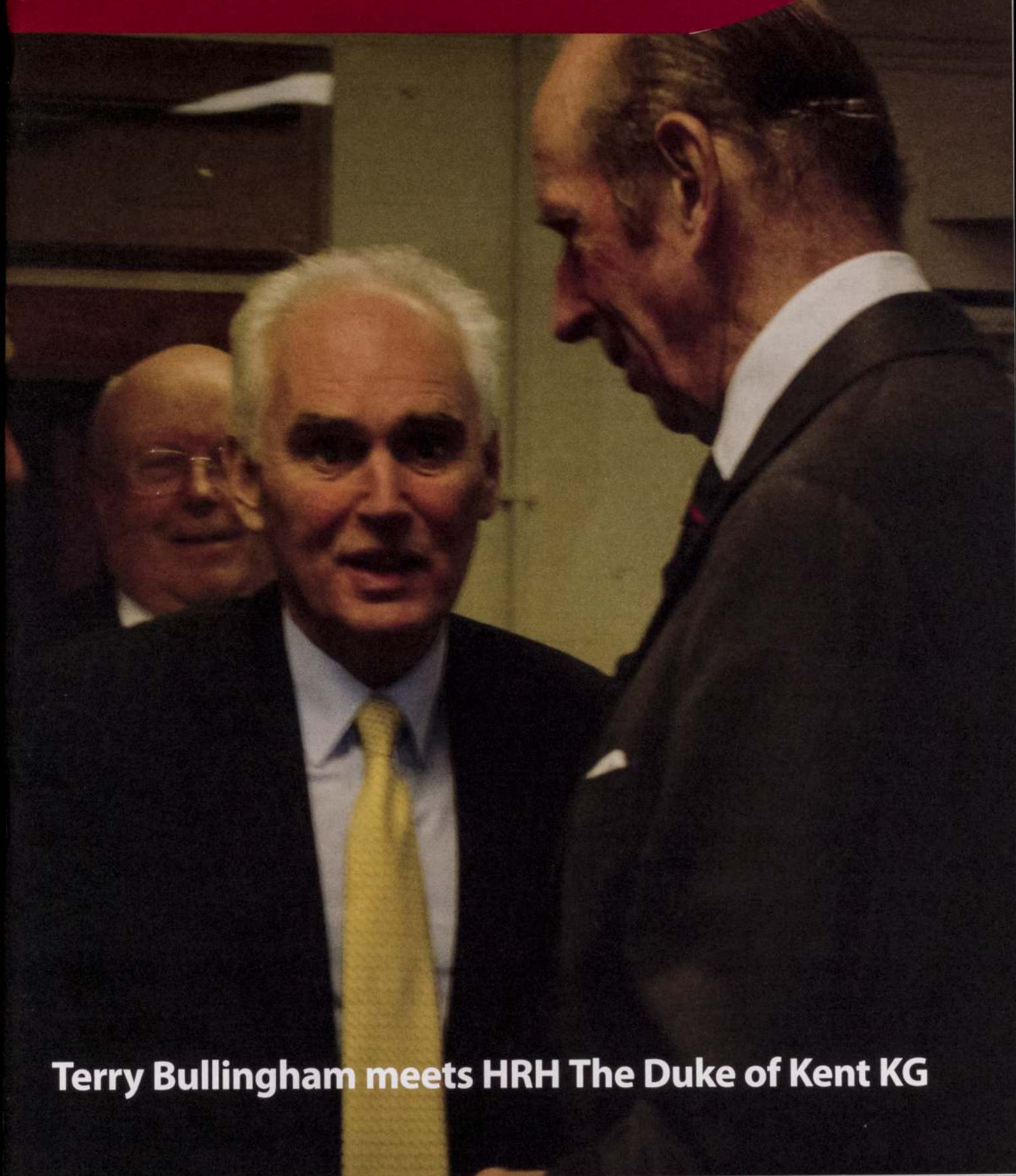


St Dunstan's

February 2012

# Review



**Terry Bullingham meets HRH The Duke of Kent KG**

# From the Chairman.

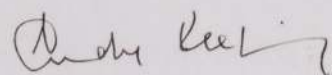
Your message from Major General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE, RM.

First the good news, and it really is good news. Our President, Ray Hazan, was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, (OBE), by Her Majesty the Queen in the New Year's Honours list. Many, many congratulations Ray – we are all delighted for you and Robbie. We are also hugely grateful to you for all you have done and continue to do for St Dunstan's, and we are very proud that your life's work has now been formally recognised in this way.

And now for the sad news. Dick Lake, former Manager of our Ovingdean Centre, sadly died shortly before Christmas. Many of you will have known Dick and you will have your own memories of him. I attended his funeral. The church was packed to the gunwales and the service was a most moving tribute to the man, to his character and personality, and to his powerful faith which sustained him to the last. St Dunstan's was very well represented which was most appropriate as his time at Ovingdean was clearly a very important part of his life.

I wonder if you heard the Queen's Speech on Christmas Day. If you did you will have heard that her principle theme concerned the family. Her Majesty spoke of the strength we gain from our family; particularly when times are hard, and went on to say that "Families, friends and communities often find a source of courage rising up from within. Indeed, sadly, it seems that it is tragedy that often draws out the most and best from the human spirit". And a bit later, "Of course, family does not necessarily mean blood relatives but often a description of a community, organisation or nation".

I firmly believe that the most powerful and beneficial aspect of our community and organisation is the very strong family feeling that binds us all together and enables us to both lean on others when we need to, and to support others who need to lean on us. I know that many of you agree with this, and many of our collective activities confirm that this is true. Long may it last, and long may we all continue to benefit from it, and to enjoy it.



# St Dunstan's Calendar.

## February

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

## March

Amateur Radio Club 2nd - 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

## June

Archery Week 1st - 11th  
Music Week, Llandudno 3rd - 9th  
Writer's Forum 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  
Amateur Radio 29th - 31st

## St Dunstan's Review February 2012 No 1,020

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### On the cover:

Terry Bullingham meets  
HRH The Duke of Kent KG



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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# Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information.

**The 'Summer Camp' at HMS SULTAN, Dave Burrows, Organising Secretary.**

## History

For many years St Dunstaners have assembled at Lee on the Solent, Hampshire for the annual Summer Camp sponsored by the Royal Navy (Fleet Air Arm). From the late 1940s this was held at HMS Daedalus, until the establishments closure in 1996 when we transferred to our present location. There has been a long association with members of the Fleet Air Arm Field Gun Crew (FAAFGC), who acted as helpers (known affectionately as 'dogs'). They attended camp on completion of the competition at the Royal Tournament at Earls Court. The FAAFGC Association continue to support the camp following the demise of the Royal Tournament in 1999.

As it would be unfair to name specific individuals as being the longest servants, and would probably lead to long discussions, I will just summarise by saying that people such as Kevin and Yvonne Rixon, Arnold and Dorothy Thompson and Liz Walker are currently some of our longest serving members going back as far as the early 70's (1970s that is!). There are many more people who over the years have committed themselves to this event and I ask their forgiveness if I don't list them all, however I cannot write about the Summer Camp without thanking my predecessor, Miss Elspeth Grant MBE, for her many years of dedicated service as the Camp Secretary.

## Applications

We are constrained by the amount of Service accommodation available, 24 places in 2011, and have been criticised in the past for not offering places to everyone who applies, and to some it would appear to be unfair. We have endeavoured for many years to create a Summer Camp 'Family', and to maintain that ethos and atmosphere we do have St Dunstaners who regularly participate. That said, I am very careful to ensure that some places are offered to new applicants each year. In 2011 we had three new St Dunstaners and I'm sure they

would agree that it would be totally unrealistic to have a high percentage of new people every year. There are no boundaries with regard to age or physical ability but we do check with the Welfare Officers to ensure suitability. Please be patient and keep applying!

## Finance

We are not funded by St Dunstan's, or any other charity. However we do receive sponsorship in the form of the transportation of St Dunstaners from Harcourt Street and Ovingdean to HMS Sultan. The Summer Camp is funded through donations, fundraising by the FAAFGC Association and our local community. The campers are charged a nominal fee that goes towards insurance, transportation (visits during camp), catering and licences to use Service facilities. The committee has two St Dunstan's representatives who are encouraged to voice the opinions and wishes of the campers in the planning of the event.

## Summary

Our grateful thanks are extended to St Dunstan's Chairman, Chief Executive, Welfare Officers and Transport Department for their support over many years. We look forward to the future and will endeavour to provide a 'Summer Camp' in Sultan for as long as the St Dunstaners want to continue.

HMS Sultan Summer Camp in 2012 will take place from 3rd to 11th August. To find out more, please contact Jane and Dave Burrows, by post, or telephone. Their address is 18 Portsmouth Road, Lee on Solent, Hants, PO13 9AG. Or telephone them on: 02392 550532.



**Picture: Bill Goddon takes to the air during HMS Sultan Summer Camp 2011.**

# Reunion Dates in 2012.

Date	Location	Arrival	Contact
21.02.12	The Ovingdean Centre	11.30am	Dave Stretton
29.02.12	The Ovingdean Centre	11.30am	Dave Stretton
13.03.12	The Hallmark Hotel, Midland Rd, Derby, Derbyshire DE1 2SQ.	11.30am	Alison Molloy
29.03.12	Thistle Hotel, Fry Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 1JH.	11.30am	Ray East
04.04.12	The Cambridge Belfry Hotel, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6BW Cambridge, CB23 6BW.	11.30am	Jennie Hammond
18.04.12	The Ramada Hotel, 117 Milltown Rd, Shaws Bridge, Belfast, BT8 7XP.	11.30am	Allison West
19.04.12	RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly, London, W1J 7PY.	12 noon	Sue Cloke
24.04.12	The Abbey House Hotel, Abbey Rd, Barrow in Furness, LA13 0PA.	11.30am	Sharon Gradwell
25.04.12	Thorpe Park Hotel, 1150 Century Way, Leeds, LS15 8BZ.	11.30am	Ray East
01.05.12	Cumberwell Park Golf Club, Cumberwell Park, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire BA15 2PQ.	11.30am	Marie Thomas
09.05.12	Hydro Hotel, Mount Rd, Eastbourne BN20 7HZ.	11.30am	Debbie Martin

Date	Location	Arrival	Contact
10.05.12	Copthorne Hotel Cardiff, Copthorn Way, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff CF5 6DH.	11.30am	Fiona Trolley
14.05.12	Marriott hotel, 111 Glasgow Road, Edinburgh, EH12 8NF.	11.30am	Allison West
24.05.12	Beaulieu Hotel, Beaulieu Road, Beaulieu, SO42 7YQ.	11.30am	Marie Thomas
30.05.12	Effingham Golf Club, Guildford Road, Effingham, Surrey, KT24 5PZ.	11.30am	Jo Gray
08.06.12	Millstream Hotel & Restaurant, Bosham, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 8HL.	11.30am	Hilary Brown
13.06.12	Mecure Southgate Hotel, Southernhay East, Exeter, EX1 1QF.	10.45am	Amanda Scales
20.06.12	Marriott Hotel, 1 Queens Square, Liverpool, L1 1RH.	11.30am	Maggie Walton
21.06.12	Imperial Hotel, The Promenade, Llandudno, LL30 1AP.	11.30am	Maggie Walton
26.06.12	Hydro Hotel, Mount Rd, Eastbourne, BN20 7HZ.	11.30am	Debbie Martin
11.07.12	Hydro Hotel, Mount Rd, Eastbourne, BN20 7HZ.	11.30am	Debbie Martin
04.07.12	Royal Naval Club & Royal Albert Yacht Club, 17 Pembroke Road, Portsmouth Hants PO1 2NE	11.30am	Hilary Brown
23.07.12	Tylney Hall Hotel, Rotherwick, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9AZ.	11.30am	Hilary Brown

Date	Location	Arrival	Contact
08.08.12	The Kingsmills Hotel, Culcabock Road, Inverness IV2 3LP.	10.30am	Allison West
28.08.12	Royal Station Hotel, Neville St, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 5DH.	11.30am	Elizabeth Dodds
29.08.12	Ramside Hall Hotel, Carrville, Durham, DH1 1TD.	11.00am	Elizabeth Dodds
04.09.12	De Vere Herons' Reach, East Park Drive, Blackpool, FY3 8LL.	11.30am	John Ellson
05.09.12	The Pines Hotel, Preston Road, Clayton Le Woods, Chorley, Lancs, PR6 7ED.	11.30am	Sharon Gradwell
12.09.12	Barnham Broom Hotel, Honingham, Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR9 4DD.	11.30am	Jennie Hammond
13.09.12	The Park Inn, 30-40 St Albans Rd, Watford, WD17 1RN.	11.30am	Sue Cloke
24.09.12	Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Burlington Arcade, 126 New Street, Birmingham B2 4LQ.	11.30am	Rachel Jennings
27.09.12	Chart Hills Golf Club, Weeks Lane, Biddenden, Kent, TN27 8JX.	11.30am	Lucy White
02.10.12	The Whitehouse Hotel, Foregate Street, Worcester WR1 1EA.	11.00am	Rachel Jennings
03.10.12	Lanhydrock Hotel & Golf Club, Lanhydrock, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 5AQ.	10.45am	Amanda Scales
10.10.12	Kenwood Hall Hotel, Kenwood Road, Sheffield, S7 1NQ.	11.30am	Alison Molloy

## BBC Radio 4 - Birkett and The Blind Soldier

If you missed it, there was an extremely interesting play on BBC Radio 4 on 3rd January, that you can listen to on the BBC's website. The play, Birkett and the Blind Soldier, is based on the true story of Arthur Meader, a WWI St Dunstaner, who in 1922, was accused of the murder of his wife Mabel.

Her body was found by Police at their home at 21 Boundaries Road, Balham in London. Police went to the property after Mr Meader attempted suicide by slashing his throat in the bar of the Balham Hotel.

It forms part of the BBC's series on The Casebook of Norman Birkett KC (1883-1962), one of the most celebrated advocates of the inter-war years. Birkett was a busy man who, in those days before legal specialisation, could, at any one time, be dealing simultaneously with a juicy murder, a society divorce, or a livid libel action.

He was second to the great Sir Edward Marshall Hall KC. One of his landmark cases was the defence of Marguerite Fahmy. She was sensationally found not guilty of the murder of her Egyptian playboy husband at the Savoy hotel in 1923.

I won't spoil the play by telling you about it, but Sir Ian Fraser, St Dunstan's Chairman, who was blinded on the Somme features in the play. As does Lady Pearson, who makes a speech during a prize giving day and praises the St Dunstaners on their independence. The attention to detail relating to St Dunstan's is quite incredible, and the writers Caroline and David Stafford are to be praised.

Norman Birkett KC is played by Neil Dudgeon, who you may know as the new Inspector Barnaby in Midsomer Murders. Arthur Meader is played by Carl Prekopp, Sir Ian Fraser by Adam Billington and Lady Pearson by Adjoa Andoh.

The play can be listened to at: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b018wy4q/Afternoon\\_Play\\_Birkett\\_Birkett\\_and\\_the\\_Blind\\_Soldier/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b018wy4q/Afternoon_Play_Birkett_Birkett_and_the_Blind_Soldier/)

# 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](mailto:revieweditor@st-dunstans.org.uk)

Dear Editor

Recently, I completed my sixth training course at St Dunstan's and would like to put on record my sincere appreciation of everything I experienced during my stay.

What a pleasure to be picked up at my Surrey doorstep by Elaine, who had just driven from Bedford, having collected another St Dunstaner. After a very safe journey we arrive at Ovingdean and immediately experience a sense of peace and efficiency, which is characteristic of the whole complex. There is always a general hum of happiness there. The staff are all wonderful, that includes tutors we work with on a one to one basis, Sean and his colleagues in the restaurant, the lift operators, room cleaners and all the other staff as they display this caring, helpful attitude. They all carry out their work with great enthusiasm.

We are met by Rose at reception and are booked in and given our room key and programme for the week. Before you can turn round there is Martin, who will show you to your room. My luggage already delivered he explained all the necessary facilities in the room, especially the emergency cords to be used when you need special help. On one stay when visiting the toilet at 2am, I lost my balance and accidentally grabbed the cord to steady myself. In moments a member of staff was at the door enquiring if there was a need for help.

It is in the dining room one experiences the true spirit of St Dunstan's. Young people serving you with enthusiasm and efficiency, dedicating themselves to

serving the handicapped older inhabitants of the nation. Carers, one after the other, wheeling in their charges, settling them in their wheelchairs at the table. You see wives and husbands helping their long-lived partners in marriage, finding their seats for them, helping them to find their way around their plate of food, and generally showing their commitment to their marriage vows, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, or for better, or for worse.

There is always a general hum of happiness but I did hear of one cantankerous gentleman. My friend sitting opposite me said he once heard him demanding two eggs for breakfast and if they were not exactly the same size he would send them back and demand they be changed. The staff handled him with good humour and made no fuss. By the way, the food is superb.

I came to Ovingdean to do an IT course and I found the instructors to be the most competent and professional of tutors, Anna and Terri, and Matt the supervisor of personal practice time. During my first lesson, my wife who is a teacher told me how fortunate I was to be taught at such a high level of professional competence. The instructors' patience and understanding of the foibles and memory losses of older people was a wonder to behold. I shall miss them immensely.

I believe there is a secret to all this. It comes from the top. Helen Emmerson, the Centre Manager, is the key to this. To see her sashaying through the lounge in her high heels, greeting residents in her vivacious, accepting attitude, making them feel accepted and lifts their spirits out of the limitation of their circumstances. It is a joy to behold.

She makes everyone feel worthy by the courage and confidence she exudes and imparts to others as she surveys her charges when she visits in her walk amongst them.

Yours faithfully,

Ted Nicholas.

Dear Editor

On behalf of us widows, I've spent the weekend working on the new logo (too little too late). The best I can come up with is WOBVUK (WOBUK) – Widows of Blind Veterans UK.

I was in mourning for my husband Reg and all his compatriots long gone. Now I can mourn for St Dunstan's and celebrate all the good it has done for me these last few years.

As they say, change is inevitable. Good luck for 2012. I bow to the greater good. You have my full support.

Yours sincerely

Jean Rowe

Dear Catherine Goodier

May I let you know that I give full support to the new name Blind Veterans UK and look forward to the new badge, logo, and launch in 2012.

Congratulations to all of those involved for their tremendous hard work in coming to the right conclusion.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

Cyril N Catchpole.

Dear Editor

It is now several weeks since I listened to The Review, which included the findings of the Focus Committee, and what they considered should be the new name of St Dunstan's.

In all the years of my business and private life, which was a very busy one, my whole life concerned these two words, sincerity and integrity. I entered the discussions in this way with the Focus Committee, on what should be the future name. I put forward my suggestions which I felt were appropriate. During all these discussions I had assurances from three senior officers of St Dunstan's who categorically declared that we would keep the name St Dunstan's, although we would want to add further to it, therefore giving some clarity to the organisation.

Since that time I have received repeated calls from St Dunstaners who are completely appalled at the change of the name to Blind Veterans UK. This to me seems to savour of the Blind Veterans Association that came to St Dunstan's in 2011, who I was privileged to meet. We also have in this country several Veterans associations and up in the North a Veterans agency, which looks after us War Veterans.

I asked many of the St Dunstaners who spoke to me why didn't they write in and make their feelings known. Their response was that they felt due to them being in their late 80s, or early 90s, suffering with many disabilities, trying to cope with blindness, and in many cases having lost loved ones, that with only a few years to go what really did it matter.

I know that it does matter, that we have to be realistic and that the name has to have some slight changes to it. But I say firstly why the haste, in 2015 St Dunstan's will celebrate their centenary and surely this would have been the most appropriate time to make the change. This would mean that Sir Arthur Pearson and Lord Fraser's descendants would accept this name change much more readily because we are trying to introduce something which savoured more of the 21st century. In five years time the very youngest person to have been able to enlist in the Second World War will be in their 90s. After this time there will be fewer Second World War Veterans about.

I'm sure that a slow run up to the name change for the centenary of St Dunstan's would give great encouragement to many older St Dunstaners who feel they would have seen their time as part of St Dunstan's.

I also think that the slow change over five years would make the cost infinitely less than we would imagine. For 30 years I was involved with Oxford University, many of the colleges changed their names and I was fully aware during that time of the colossal amount of money that was spent to change names. I think that if St Dunstan's name change was done slowly it would come to fruition in a very satisfactory way.

In finishing I would point out that as a long term St Dunstaner, although not as long as 50 year badge holders, I have only received great kindness from St Dunstan's, including many happy time at St Dunstan's with my wife. I have received considerable help from them in many way and have no desire for St Dunstan's to feel that I am the enemy.

Yours sincerely

Clifford Gower

Dear Sir

### **Blind Veterans UK**

This title distresses me as I consider it both misleading and inaccurate.

1. The word blind means just that and those with visual impairment would feel excluded from applying for information and membership.
2. UK implies simply UK veterans - what about St Dunstaners who live abroad for example in Canada, Australia and New Zealand?

Yours faithfully

Margaret Rodgers

## **Peter Hammond Bows Out at the Top of His Game.**

Forced to retire from his beloved archery due to ill health, we are proud to bring you an article, which has been penned by Peter Hammond, who has been a stalwart of St Dunstan's Archery Club for many years. Here Peter writes:

I moved down to Brighton in 2003 and joined St Dunstan's Archery Club a few months later, as I thought it would be a great way to make friends, and take part in different activities. I was right, as joining the Archery Club has added an extra dimension to my life, which I didn't think possible. A few months after joining the Archery Club one of my first competitions was the Tri Services match, which was held at Ovingdean. There were about 50 archers on the line that day and the banter was great. I thought to myself, 'This is great; I will have some of this'.

About two weeks after my inaugural Archery Week I met up with Malcolm Higman, who is a volunteer/coach with the Club. Since then Malcolm has spotted for me, coached me, and escorted me all over the country to competitions and National Championships. If the competition didn't involve St Dunstan's, he would take me in his own car; and we must have clocked up thousands of miles in it. Malcolm has become a true friend and nothing is too big a job for him. As my health got progressively worse and I ended up in a wheelchair he made a special chair for me, and adjustments to my equipment so that I could continue with my archery, as he knew how much I loved competing.

Within the Club I was very warmly greeted by one and all, in fact people could not do enough to help me. I was helped and encouraged by everyone and the camaraderie did not end on the archery field. At the end of the Archery Week people exchanged telephone numbers and email addresses and we all kept in touch with each other throughout the year. When we all got together for the next Archery Week it was like a big family reunion.

It is not all archery as we also meet up for social events, when we might go for a night at the dogs, or ten pin bowling, or we get together and go for a meal.



The spotters/coaches/helpers at the Club are great; if you are willing to learn, they are very willing to give up their time to help and encourage you. When you first join, you are not expected to buy your equipment straight away.

The Club has quite a bit of equipment, which you can use to find what suits you. The coaches will help; advising on the best equipment for your needs, and even coming with you when you buy it to make sure you buy what's right for you.

Any St Dunstaner is welcome to join the Archery Club. Men and women are encouraged and we currently have three ladies in the Club, one of whom is the Ladies National Totally Blind Champion. Don't let age bother you either, as our longest serving archer is 92 years young. Also don't let any disability stop you from joining, I am totally blind and shoot from a wheelchair. If there are any reasons why you think that you cannot shoot, come along and have a word with any of our coaches. If there is a solution to a problem, they will find it.

You can do as much, or as little archery, as you want. Some archers only do the three Archery Weeks, which we hold over the course of a year. Others like me do the National Championships, which are held twice a year up in Shropshire, where the shoot takes place indoors and outdoors. I then do the Sussex County Championships, again twice a year. I also do the Kent Championships and the Surrey Championships, plus probably another five competitions on top of all that.

We don't only shoot against other blind archers, in fact I would say that most of the time we shoot against sighted people, and we still win which is why I love the sport so much. It is a sport for all, it's suitable for those who are fit and healthy, and disabled people too. We all get together and get on with the sport. I go to most of the shoots, and I know most of the archers as I have been on the circuit for eight years. Some of our other Club members shoot even more than I do, as it is up to the individual how much they want to shoot.

We, the Club, have shot at some lovely and famous locations, that include, Buckingham Palace, The Tower of London, Windsor Castle, Sandhurst and Sherwood Forest. We have even shot at the National Sports Centre where the England football squad trained before the 1966 World Cup final, which we won. There have also been events in Prague, Spain and Belgium.

I have been deliberating for a long time now about giving up archery, due to ill health. I made up my mind to give up the sport I love in November last year, as I picked up my bow and I could not even draw it. It felt as though I was pulling my right arm off and I knew I had to retire from my beloved sport.

By bowing out now I will retire at the top of the game, at the moment I am the Club B1 Champion. In fact 2011 was my seventh consecutive year as Club Champion, and I have certainly enjoyed every one of those years. I am also the County VI Champion, though to be fair, I was the only VI there! I have won that title six times in the last eight years. I am also the National B1 Champion; I have won that six times in the last seven years. The year I lost it was 2006, and I was beaten by one point. It taught me that no matter how tired you are, never give up. I believe that I hold five national records and around 15 Club records, so I am bowing out on a good note.

So, I say again to all you St Dunstaners out there, come on, give it a try, you might enjoy it, and it will give you years of pleasure; just like it did for me. I would like to end this article by thanking all the helpers, spotters and coaches



**Picture: Peter Hammond at the Tri Services Competition in Windsor in 2011.**

who helped me develop as an archer. Without your help and patience, I would not have realised my potential, and I certainly wouldn't have had such great fun doing it. To all my fellow archers I say: May your bow arm stay strong and may your arrows fly true.

To find out more about St Dunstan's Archery Club telephone Club Chairman, David Poyner on telephone: 0161 2829524.



Picture: Blind Veterans UK logo.

## Blind Veterans UK

The first reunion of 2012 will be somewhat special this year.

As well as the start of the reunion season, 21st February 2012 will also be the day when St Dunstan's becomes Blind Veterans UK.

For some this will be a time when a lot of hard work comes to fruition. For others this will merely be the start.

As we have said throughout in the 'Future Focus' updates the brand is about so much more than the name.

Our key challenge over the last few years has been to attract new groups of people – especially younger audiences, those in their 40s and 50s – as our donors grow older. We need younger support to continue to create the excellent services and community that have been our essence since our start in 1915.

What we have with the new Blind Veterans UK brand is a very strong platform for creating a charity that is better known and more easily understood. This will allow us to do so much more. Already we are seeing that new organisations are interested in working with us. A clearer name for us means a more obvious charity partner for them. It is a chance of getting younger people to give up their time and support for our cause.

Many of you have suggested we should appear more frequently in newspapers and on the radio and TV. The media is a competitive world, even for charities.

By having a name that instantly tells readers, listeners and viewers who we are, we will be a more obvious choice for editors and journalists.

Most importantly, Blind Veterans UK is an easier to recognise organisation for the many health professionals around the country who meet people with sight loss. They will know to refer them to us so that we may work with more veterans, to enable them to regain their independence.

So, 2012 may be a year of endless opportunities, not only in Olympic terms but also for Blind Veterans UK.

One of the first things that will visibly change, in addition to the name, is the logo. In all the research we carried out the Torch was misunderstood. It was not a clear connection for the public and supporters. The research showed us that Blind Veterans UK would benefit from a clear logo drawing on the positive associations with the military.

The logo is therefore based on the Union Flag. It is an abstract representation of a waving, celebratory flag bursting with confidence and heritage. The colours are red, white and blue. The logo symbol is a rectangular portrait shape, which includes the name Blind Veterans UK in the bottom half. The letters are white, on a red background. The top half shows the accurate extract of a waving Union Flag.

The strapline 'St Dunstan's since 1915' will be used in most of our material. This is an important part of our new brand, to recognise our heritage and to ensure people who know St Dunstan's understand who we are.

The logo will be used on the new badge, which all St Dunstaners, members, will receive around the time of launch.

The next Review, in March, will also have received a bit of a facelift on the front page and the inside cover. We will report more about the launch in that issue, but other than that your Review magazine will stay as it is.

We hope you will show your support for Blind Veterans UK in 2012 and help us to carry on the fantastic spirit of St Dunstan's into the next chapter of our rich history. Thank you again for all your help and feedback so far on the journey.

# Yuv Given the Keys To His New Home.

Corporal Yuvuraj (Yuv) Gurung, who is presently serving with the Brigade of Gurkhas, was presented with the keys to his new house at the Royal British Legion Village in Aylesford by Geoff Humphries, RBL's Estates Manager. As he accepted the keys on 26th November 2011, he was joined by his parents and fellow Ghurkhas from Gurkha Unit 1RGR, who are based at Sir John Moore Barracks in Shorncliffe.

Yuv, who has been a St Dunstaner since September 2010, has received support from both St Dunstan's and The Royal British Legion.

St Dunstan's Estates team has carried out adaptations to the property to enable Yuv's independent living.



**Picture: Yuv, centre in a vertical striped blue sweater, outside his new home with his family, and members of his Regiment and Geoff Humphries of the RBL far left.**

## Ten questions on...

The subject "Tigers"

by Harry Beevers.

1. The term Tamil Tigers was applied to a guerrilla organisation operating in which island?
2. Who wrote the poem which opens, "Tyger, tyger, burning bright in the forest of the night. What immortal hand or eye framed thy fearful symmetry?"?
3. Tiger Bay is part of which British city?
4. A "tiger" is a term for the lowest hand in which card game?
5. In which work is Tiger Lily daughter of the chief of the Piccaninnies rescued from captivity?
6. The 2000 film "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon" was originally made in which language?
7. What was the name of the theme song of the Harry Roy Band?
8. Which petrol company in a famous advert advised people to put a tiger into their tanks?
9. Where in Asia are the world's largest tigers found in the wild?
10. Who used the stage name Tiger Tom at the start of his singing career?

# Bromley Police Cadets Ensure Their Name Liveth For Evermore.

by Catherine Goodier.

I am quite sure many of you reading this article, will have, just like me, lost relatives in the bloody battles of the First World War. For many years I have wanted to visit the Battlefields where my great grandfathers fought, one dying, the other losing his arm. I try to imagine what it would have been like for them, but of course I cannot. I recall Siegfried Sassoon's Memoirs of a Fox Hunting Man, in particular where George Sherston walks through his village, stopping to speak with families who have lost their husbands, sons, fathers and uncles. Generations gone in an instant, families and communities never to be the same.

In November 2011, Colin Williamson, St Dunstan's Cadet Challenge Project Officer, invited me to visit the Somme battlefields with 10 Volunteer Police Cadets, three Police Officers, one PCSO and a retired Police Officer from Bromley Police Station in Kent. They had created a Cadet Challenge from 18th to 21st November to honour the fallen. Wearing their uniform they would walk from cemetery to cemetery, a Standard Bearer leading the way. At each one they would stop to hold a ceremony of remembrance. As the Cadet Challenge has to be completed at night, or part of it blindfolded, the cadets took it in turns to cover their eyes with bandages as they relied upon their fellow cadets to guide them. As they walked it was reminiscent of the painting by John Singer Sargent.

Setting off at 8am on Saturday, the peaceful countryside was cloaked in a deep mist, it was fitting. The first cemetery we visited was Ancre. PC Neill Tully called the cadets into formation. He made a short speech, which was followed by the Last Post. Everyone stood to attention and saluted in silence as the Standard was lowered. The air was still and only a lark could be heard. After the silence, Harry Senft, a 15 year old cadet, read a poem that had been penned on the battlefields. To end a cross was placed in front of the memorial. It was incredibly moving. As we walked among the gravestones I asked Harry how he felt. In a sombre tone he replied that he knew the soldiers had been young, but he was shocked to see so many were only a few years older than him and to see so many graves.

Leaving Ancre Cemetery the cadets regroup and three fresh cadets bandaged their eyes. We continued to walk through the mist, following the Standard. I

had the pleasure to walk with Andy Clark, a retired Police Officer, who has an impressive knowledge of the battles of WWI. As we walked through beautiful green fields, surrounded by trees, he told how the soldiers would have come from the direction of the trees, only to run into machine gun fire. It would be impossible to walk through this land and not be moved. The earth has it's own story to tell. As we walked past freshly ploughed fields we found shrapnel balls, and I almost expected to find a King's shilling.

The cadets completed their challenge at 5pm, just as dusk was approaching and the sun had started to lower behind the trees. It was a moving day, one I will not forget, and I am deeply impressed with the cadets. I had spoken with Mark Murphy, a 17 year old student who hopes one day to join the Police Force. He told me of the work the cadets did after the London riots in August 2011 to reassure their community. It is part of their focus to engender good citizenship and they visited sheltered accommodation where they sat with, and spoke to, those in need of reassurance. Cadet Shannon Murphy was also moved by the day.

I was not the only person from St Dunstan's to be impressed with the cadets as St Dunstan's staff member Stan Bowers, and St Dunstaners Pete Walker and Billy Black were also there to take part in the challenge. Stan taught the cadets to guide their friends when they were blindfolded. He reassured Shannon as she was at first too nervous to walk after the bandages had been placed over her eyes. Within 10 minutes Shannon had found her confidence and she and Stan were sprinting along the road. On behalf of Pete Walker, Stan Bowers, Billy Black and St Dunstan's I would like to thank them.



Picture: The end to a successful challenge. Names are one the back page.

# Ray Hazan O.B.E.

Valerie Tomalin and David Castleton who, each month, give up their time to record the Talking Review, a job they do so wonderfully, have written their tributes to Ray Hazan, St Dunstan's President, who has been awarded an OBE.

David Castleton writes: As I remember, it was quite soon after I became P.R.O at St Dunstan's in 1977 that the 'powers that be' asked if I would be prepared to take on a young St Dunstaner as my assistant. His name was Ray Hazan. I had met him while he was in training soon after he came to St Dunstan's and I knew he was totally blind, had lost his right hand, had a damaged left hand and had a hearing problem from the explosion that had changed his life. I did not hesitate to say yes.

For 17 years my boss had been a St Dunstaner, Robin Buckley. I had worked with three other heads of departments, all St Dunstaners, Peter Matthews, Estates; Pat Owens, Industrial and Richard Dufton, Research. I knew what St Dunstaners could do and I also knew how well Ray had already overcome his several disabilities.

That was the beginning of a friendship that has lasted over thirty years and despite those years I still think of him as young Ray. As I expected he was 100% reliable and fitted in with good humour in our small department. What is more he was, and still is, an excellent speaker able to enthral an audience. Quite soon after he arrived, the blind/handless group pointed out that they could not read the Braille Review, and what about a Talking Review. I said we would produce one and promptly delegated it to Ray. Each month, using borrowed and rather primitive recording equipment, Ray visited Stephen Jack, a professional dialect teacher and coach for actors, who had volunteered to make the recordings, which were later copied on to compact cassette. He has been doing it ever since, including taking on digital recording.

Ray is always willing to try something new to find more independence. Soon after his appointment St Dunstan's, in co-operation with the R.N.I.B., began an evaluation of an American reading machine. It was the Kurzweil which could scan print and turn it into artificial speech. He soon mastered the technique but I did overhear him talking to it! Of course, nowadays we all talk to our computers and when speech was added the Kurzweil was outdated.

Needless to say Ray was soon taking advantage of this great asset for blind workers. I think he introduced computers to St Dunstan's – he certainly introduced them to me! Among other things, of course, including McDonald's beefburgers! I must mention St Dunstan's Players. We produced a staff Christmas Show for several years and Ray was always involved. We sang some Flanders and Swann together; parodied the Two Ronnies "Newscast" and I recall him stealing the show as an operatic policeman rehearsing on duty.

We've had some good laughs together especially recording the Talking Review in my retirement years. Watching Ray deftly skipping over the computer keyboard to get me out of trouble and re-record after some fluffed line always fills me with admiration. Well done, young Ray, you've earned that O.B.E.

When the Review caught up with Ray he said: It is both a privilege and a pleasure to be recognised in this way. I am mindful that I have had great support from so many people along the way - especially from Roberta, my wife; so let us call it a team effort! I am also grateful to St Dunstan's, who has given me the opportunity to be of service both to our beloved organisation and my fellow St Dunstaners. I have received many messages of congratulation and I am moved by their kind words.



Picture: Young Ray on the Kurzweil in 1979. Photograph by David Castleton.

**Here Valerie Tomalin writes:** Casually passing by the Volunteer Centre in Westminster one wintry day I noticed a request for readers at St Dunstan's HQ, a twenty minute walk from home. Curiosity roused, I telephoned a certain Ray Hazan, and an audition was duly arranged.

My recollection of that first encounter with Ray is of a rather cuddly looking fellow, with deep brown eyes and a charming manner, sitting at the centre of a console desk overflowing with keyboards, computer screens, sound level controls, microphone extensions, electronic diaries, Dictaphones and various other gizmos and gadgets. My prospective boss appeared like a one man production company with a twinkle in his eye.

After a brief chat, I settled in and Ray gave me the signal to start reading. From that moment I felt that we developed a genuine rapport which was to last for more than eight years.

You know, it actually took a while for me to fully realise that those friendly eyes, set in that craggy handsome face were entirely sightless. Only then did I register that Ray was also wearing hearing aids, that he was missing one hand completely, and that there were some fingers missing on the remaining one. I was to learn later on that Ray had sustained his injuries whilst on active duty in Northern Ireland.

With hardly any time to ponder these particulars, I immediately found myself transfixed by one of the most impressive feats of manual dexterity that I could have thought possible.

Whilst touch-typing at amazing speed, Ray appeared to keep up a running conversation with a curious disembodied voice emanating from the P.C. Ray and the "Voice" communicated in some outlandish techie lingo, and between them they recorded my hesitant first steps, corrected my miss-speaks, and deftly filed everything in its appropriate place for later editing. All of this took place whilst Ray simultaneously answered phone calls and logged in diary dates.

It was this amazing tour de force that demonstrated to me from the very beginning of our relationship how irrelevant Ray's old injuries are to the way he leads his life. The man I saw in front of me appeared completely at ease in his own skin. From then on I would have to consciously remind myself that my boss

has overcome great obstacles to become the complete master of his own fate. Ray Hazan wears his traumas very lightly.

I never experienced anything other than infinite patience from Ray when we readers occasionally became tongue tied, or mispronounced our words – or, horror of horrors, embarked upon uncontrolled fits of juvenile hilarity prompted by the fluffing of lines at highly inappropriate moments. Ray would then assume the appearance of a kindly headmaster, holding everything in abeyance until we could calm ourselves down. Fun and good humour were always a crucial part of the recording mix, and it was down to Ray's calm good nature that we readers were relaxed enough to give the best we could.

Of course, the other side of Ray's coin is that he doesn't suffer fools gladly. On the very rare occasions when I have seen him betray a hint of irritation it was always in the face of whingers, grumblers or general malcontents, particularly when our wonderful family of St Dunstan's became the butt of uninformed criticism or graceless complaint in The Review.

If you had asked me if I was surprised to learn that Ray had been included in the New Year's Honours List I should have replied that Yes, I was. To be honest, I thought he had already been recognised in this way. So as far as I am concerned, it's long overdue. Congratulations Ray, on this great honour. You've long deserved it.

## Answers to Ten questions on... The subject "Tigers"

1. Sri Lanka
2. William Blake
3. Cardiff.
4. Poker, (6 high with ace low)
5. Peter Pan
6. Chinese
7. Hold that tiger
8. Esso.
9. Siberia, (but Russia is allowed)
10. Tom Jones

# Challenging Attitudes

by David Dent, IT Instructor.

'There is nothing to prevent the blind man uncorking bottles. This only requires a little practice and an appropriate turn of the wrist'. Extract from an advice manual of 1904, quoted in The British Journal of Visual Impairment, January 2000.

My goodness! One can only imagine the pages of advice that might have been given if 'tetra-pak' milk cartons, blister packs and shrink wrap had been around in Edwardian Britain!

What is interesting with this extract is the underlying assumption that while the blind man could, with a little application, open a bottle of wine, many other everyday tasks would be beyond him. I wonder how many St Dunstaners, in reading that quote would ever have considered that opening a wine bottle would present any problem at all, or that it was even worth mentioning.

Later on, the article shows how everyday tasks were treated like Olympic events by well-meaning folk: the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind treated its members to button-sewing and potato-peeling contests in 1932. Contestants, it was noted, 'brought their own knives' and many were 'quite expert' in peeling a potato. Damming with faint praise, if you ask me! Not that sewing and vegetable preparation are not excellent skills to have, but it is unlikely that they represent the pinnacle of achievement for most people who have lost sight.

It is noted in the article that St Dunstan's played a key role in changing these attitudes. The charity's practical instruction in daily living skills for First World War Service men without sight, laid the foundation for 'daily living skills' as a core component of rehabilitation workers' training from the 1970s onwards.

'Independent Living Skills' are taught by the ROVI team in our Training Centres and in people's homes. These focus on encouraging people to respond to the daily challenges of sight loss by adapting the skills that, in the main, everyone already possesses. This may involve different ways of doing things, and alternative approaches, but almost everything can be done equally well. To the sighted community, this may seem nothing short of miraculous, but to many St Dunstaners it is simply a case of 'Keep calm and carry on'.

Living an independent life in the home is tremendously valuable and satisfying. Many St Dunstaners over the years have also learned new skills that have served them well in adventurous, creative and sporting endeavours; as well as in higher education and employment. The greatest challenge still faced, is in changing the attitudes of others who see 'disability' as simply 'inability'; and who cannot conceive how they themselves would cope with life without sight. A recent survey, quoted by the National Council for the Blind of Ireland reveals that twice as many people fear blindness than premature death. It goes a long way to explaining why it is that so many members of the public do not understand that people with sight loss can live independent lives and work on even terms with those fortunate to have full vision.

Attitudes have changed, and continue to change, but there clearly is some way to go in educating the wider public. Sir Bert Massie OBE, presented a paper at the Vision for Equality conference, organised by the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association in January, in which he revealed that '92% of employers said they would find it "impossible" or "difficult" to employ someone who was blind or partially sighted.' It's a truly shocking statistic that reveals the persistence of old fears and misunderstandings in the wider community. There is still a tremendous amount of re-education needed among those who have not lost vision; and St Dunstan's, along with the thousands of independent and capable St Dunstaners who rise magnificently to the challenge of everyday living, will always have a role to play in changing outdated ideas about sight loss.

## Colin Williamson's Beer of the Month.

**Blue Moon** is a Belgian style wheat beer brewed by the giant Coors Brewery in North America. The company doesn't actually own up to the fact that the brew is one of theirs as they believe that associating the beer with a major national brewing company could diminish its credibility amongst drinkers so it's branded as being brewed by the 'Blue Moon Brewing Company' instead. Best poured into a wheat beer glass to preserve its frothy head, Blue Moon is a very flavoursome beer with a 'bread' like nose with hints of citrus coming through. It has a pleasant mouthfeel and is very refreshing. Adding a slice of orange to the side of the glass is recommended after pouring, but I think that the citric acid affects the head so it's not for me. This brew can be found in most large stores and smaller outlets such as B&M Stores. It comes in at 5.4% , so it's got quite a kick to it, but a very nice drinkable beer.

## 49th Rifle & Pistol Club Opens Shooting Facility for the Visually Impaired.

His Royal Highness, The Duke of Kent KG, officially opened an air rifle target shooting facility for the visually impaired on Wednesday 7th December 2011, at the 49th Rifle & Pistol Club in Saltley, Birmingham.

HRH The Duke of Kent was greeted by Club Chairman, Ted George, a Great Britain Pistol Coach. Clive Lungmuss, Committee Member and Organiser for the Visually Impaired; and Falklands Veteran, St Dunstaner Terry Bullingham. As HRH The Duke stopped to speak with Terry, he was interested to hear he was a Falklands veteran, and asked if any others were present. The Duke then toured the facility and tried his hand on the rifle range, doing rather well.

The club traces its origins back to 1945, when it was formed from the 49th Battalion Home Guard (Birmingham) Unit. Today the club also offers full and small bore rifle/pistol indoor and outdoor shooting on approved ranges using cartridge and black powder.

Terry who shoots at the club said: "As those who have tried shooting since losing their sight will know the similarity between the audio and visual sight is remarkable. The requirement for breath and tension control is exactly the same, as well as striving for perfection. Club membership fosters healthy competition and the benefits of fellowship."

For details about the 49th Rifle & Pistol Club go to [www.49th.co.uk](http://www.49th.co.uk) or email: [fortyninth@btinternet.com](mailto:fortyninth@btinternet.com)



Picture: Terry Bullingham with Patrick Bookie.

# Family News

### Congratulations to:

**Doreen Timmins**, a St Dunstaner from Cheshire, on the birth of her second great grandchild, George Joseph Roberts, who was born at 2pm on 1st December 2011, weighing in at 5 ½ lbs. He was born to Doreen's granddaughter, Julie Haughton and her partner Stuart Roberts. George was also welcomed by his three year old sister Lily.

**And to Tom and Mary Watterson**, from County Down, on the birth of Aleaia.

### Birthdays:

Many Happy Returns to William Tandy of Epsom, Surrey, who celebrated his 100th birthday on 19th December.

### Anniversaries:

#### Platinum (70th):

Thomas and Annie Wood of Sheffield on 13th December.

Tony and Lily Boden of Dronfield, Derbyshire on 14th December.

#### Blue Sapphire 65th:

William and Phyllis Tomson of Crawley, West Sussex on 14th December.

George and Helen Robertson of Southport, Merseyside on 26th December.

#### Diamond (60th):

Donald and Elsie Hillman of Porthcawl, South Wales on 26th December.

Adolf and Zofia Kolodziej of Sheffield, South Yorkshire on 29th December.



**Golden (50th):**

Gerry and Maureen Jackson of Worthing, West Sussex on 16th December.

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

**Leslie Amos** who died on 22nd November 2011, he was the husband of St Dunstaner Winifred Amos.

**Valerie Bensley** who died on 10th March 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late George Bensley.

**Kathleen 'Kay' Brereton** who died on 26th December, she was the widow of the late St Dunstaner Gerald Brereton.

**Edna Brown** who died on 1st December 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late James Brown.

**John Lasowski** of Crepy En Valois, France who died on 16th May 2011, he was an overseas affiliate.

**Doris Murray** who died on 5th November 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Harry Murray.

**Stella O'Donnell** of New South Wales, Australia who died on 8th August 2011, she was an overseas affiliate.

**Edna 'Mary' Parish** who died on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner, the late Wilfred Parish.

**Mary Pinfold** who died on 17th December 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Cyril Pinfold.

**Betty Sindle** who died on 7th December 2011, she was the widow of St Dunstaner the late Robert Sindle.

**Elsie Wilson** who died on 15th December 2011, she was the wife of St Dunstaner Joseph Wilson.

# Welcome to **St Dunstan's**

**Harold Andrews** of Exeter served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1947 to 1949.

**Peter Bartholomew** of Sheffield served in the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment from 1963 to 1965.

**Andrew Bernard** of Waterlooville, Hampshire served in the Royal Navy (Submarine Service) from 1983 to 1986.

**Cyril Bowers** of Bicester, Oxfordshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

**James 'Jim' Brettell** of Poole, Dorset served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1940 to 1946.

**Peter Brooke** of Ipswich, Suffolk served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1983.

**George Brooksbank** of Gloucester served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1944 to 1946.

**Margaret Bryan** of Maidenhead, Berkshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1946.

**Evelyn 'Joan' Catt** of Bognor Regis, West Sussex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1945.

**Anthony 'Tony' Cooke** of Brighton, East Sussex served in the Royal Artillery from 1959 to 1964.

**Arthur Davies** of Bolton served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1954.

**Alan Dickins** of York served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Brian Excell** of Lowestoft, Suffolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1955 to 1965.

**Dennis Fazackerley** of Manchester served in the Royal Fusiliers and the Royal Engineers from 1972 to 1997.

**Roy Flanders** of East London served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

**Ronald Gates** of Swansea served in the South Staffordshire Regiment and the Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) from 1944 to 1947.

**Ernest 'Ernie' Griffiths** of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Douglas Haig** of Liverpool served in the Royal Army Pay Corps and Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1946.

**Michael Hale** of Portsmouth served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1950 to 1961.

**George Hind** of Weston Super Mare served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1943 to 1947.

**Leslie Horn** of Northolt, Middlesex served in the Royal Navy from 1939 to 1954.

**Thelma Kelly** of Rayleigh, Essex served in the Royal Artillery from 1943 to 1946.

**Florence Langford** of Stafford served with the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1945 to 1947.

**Frank Lonsdale** of Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire served in the Royal Armoured Corps and the Queen's Royal Lancers from 1958 to 1960.

**Peter Lunt** of St Helens Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

**Wilfred Lyon** of Anglesey, Gwynedd served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

**David Martin** of South East London served in the Royal Navy from 1973 - 1988.

**Thomas McDermott** of South West London served in the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) from 1940 to 1946.

**Charles McKinnon** of Deeside, Clwyd served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Artillery from 1946 to 1948.

**Peter McMahon** of Glasgow served in the General Service Corps in 1945.

**Frank Moore** of Nottingham served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1947.

**Keith Parsons** of Pensford, Bristol served in the General Service Corps and the Devonshire Regiment from 1945 to 1948.

**George Peters** of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire served in the Gloucester Regiment, the Royal Artillery, the South Staffordshire Regiment and the Worcestershire Regiment from 1938 to 1946.

**Anthony 'Tony' Philip** from Luton, Bedfordshire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1957 to 1962.

**William Pratt** of Bromley, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Terence 'Terry' Price** of Weston Super Mare, Avon served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1950 to 1960.

**Eileen Prince** of Chesterfield, Derbyshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1944 to 1946.

**Joseph Randle** of Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1954 to 1959.

**John Ray** of Colne, Lancashire served in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry from 1942 to 1952.

**David Roberts** of Prestatyn, Clwyd who served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Welch Fusiliers from 1948 to 1953.

**George Roberts** of Shrewsbury served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

**Graham Robinson** of Brixham, Devon served in the Mercian Brigade and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1986 to 1996.

**Walter Routledge** of Middlesbrough, Cleveland served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers from 1942 to 1947.

**Peter Sharman** of Oxford served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers from 1943 to 1947.

**Dr Zdzislaw 'Chris' Siemaszko** of South West London served in the Polish Army from 1942 to 1948.

**Sue Smith** of Swanage, Dorset served in the Royal Navy from 1980 to 1994.

**William Smith** of Ormskirk, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1945.

**Douglas Stephens** of Ivybridge, Devon served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1941 to 1946.

**John Walker** of Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1953.

**Raymond Watts** of Slyne, Lancaster served in the General Service Corps, the West Yorkshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Own) and the Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) from 1944 to 1948.

**George Weatherley** of Uxbridge, Middlesex served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Leonard Webb** of Cowley, Oxford served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

**Peter White** of St Helens, Merseyside served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1950 to 1952.

**Tony Whitaker** of Buxton, Derbyshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1953.

**Leonard Williamson** of Blackburn served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1959.

# 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.**

## **Kenneth Alexander, Royal Artillery, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Kenneth Alexander of Hastings, East Sussex died on 19th October 2011, aged 88. He volunteered to join the Army in 1942. He trained at the Blandford Camp in Dorset where he joined the REME and looked after MT in the Royal Artillery Field Regiment. He landed in Normandy on D-Day + 6 on Sword Beach and moved through France and into Belgium where he was wounded near Albert Canal. After his recovery he was discharged in 1945. He later joined the Royal Artillery TA in March 1950 and transferred to the REME in 1951 until his discharge in March 1952. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

## **Edward 'Jack' Bartlett, Royal Air Force**

Edward 'Jack' Bartlett of Poole, Dorset died on 12th December 2011, aged 87. He served in the Royal Air Force 1942 to 1947, leaving as a LAC. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

## **Richard Boothman, Lancashire Regiment, Reconnaissance Corps**

Richard Boothman of Preston, Lancashire died on 28th November 2011, aged 92. He was called up in 1939 and joined the Lancashire Regiment. He was deployed around the UK until he transferred to the Reconnaissance Regiment in 1941. He was deployed to France shortly after D-Day and moved through France and Belgium until he reached Holland, where he was blown up. He was evacuated to the UK and medically discharged in 1945. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

## **Thomas Boulton, Royal Artillery**

Thomas Boulton of Petworth, West Sussex died on 2nd October 2011, aged 95. He joined the Army in 1934. He trained at Woolwich and joined the Royal Artillery at Bordon in Hampshire. He spent four years as a regular and during his time in the reserves he worked in the building trade in Petworth. In 1939 he was

called up and joined the 2nd Field Management in the 1st Infantry Division. He deployed with the BEF to France and was evacuated from Dunkirk. He was later deployed to North Africa, Tunisia and then to Italy before being discharged as a Gunner in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Eric Browne, Royal Air Force**

Eric Browne of Cirencester, Gloucestershire died on 28th November 2011, aged 92. He joined the RAF in 1938 and qualified as an aero engineer fitter. He was in France with Fighter Command at the early part of the war. He was then posted to Singapore and his squadron was fortunately moved to Rangoon before the Japanese invasion. His squadron was in Burma supporting the Army. After this he was in Bomber Command and was involved in the Berlin Airlift. Mr Browne was discharged as a Corporal in 1950. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**John Brown, Royal Pioneer Corps, Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Engineers**

John Brown of Purley, Surrey died on 27th December 2011, aged 94. He joined the Royal Pioneer Corps in 1940 and was posted to Normandy a month after D-Day. In 1945 he transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps, before transferring to the Royal Engineers, where he was attached to the 21st Army, 2nd Echelon. He was discharged in 1946 as a Corporal. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**John Buxton, Royal Signals**

John Buxton of Watchet, Somerset died on 10th December 2011, aged 99. He joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1931 and was posted to Egypt, serving as a vehicle mechanic. He returned to UK when war broke out and went to Normandy on D Day+20. He was demobilised in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Clive Christmas, Royal Navy**

Clive Christmas of Fareham, Hampshire died on 13th November 2011, aged 77. He served in the Royal Navy from 1950 to 1976 leaving as a Warrant Officer (STD). He served on various ships in the UK and Hong Kong. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Leonard 'Len' Collins, Royal Engineers**

Leonard 'Len' Collins of Norwich, Norfolk died on 15th November 2011, aged 95. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1940. He served in Kent from 1940 – 1944

where he helped to run the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch railway. Two weeks after D-Day he went to France, fighting through Belgium, Holland and Germany before being discharged in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Henry 'Leslie' Clarke MBE, Essex Regiment, Royal Artillery**

Henry 'Leslie' Clarke MBE of Brighton, East Sussex died on 26th December 2011, aged 91. He commissioned to the Essex Regiment (TA) in 1939 and was mobilised in September that year before he was transferred to the Royal Artillery (TA) in 1940. He served in the Middle East Land Forces from 1941 to 1945, fighting in East Africa, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and the Western Desert. After the war he remained in the TA and was an ADC to HM The Queen for five years, being awarded the MBE and becoming Deputy Lieutenant for Essex in 1961. He retired from the TA as a Colonel in 1966. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Raymond Colley, Army Catering Corps**

Raymond Colley of Stafford, Staffordshire died on 6th December 2011, aged 83. He served in the Army Catering Corps from 1946 to 1948. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Dorothy Cottell, Women's Auxiliary Air Force**

Dorothy Cottell of Chorley, Lancashire died on 22nd November 2011, aged 89. She joined the WAAF in 1941 at the age of 18 and trained in Harrogate before she went to RAF Halton serving in the medical section as a nurse in various locations until demobilisation in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of her family.

**Edward Davey, Royal Army Ordnance Corps**

Edward Davey of Erith, Kent died on 13th December 2011, aged 94. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1941 and trained at Cambridge Barracks. Deployed to North Africa he arrived in Algeria and was later posted to Italy moving up to Trieste. At the end of the war, he remained in the Army and spent some time in Palestine. He was later sent to Germany and his final tour was in the Suez Canal Zone before discharge in 1955 as a Staff Sergeant. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Jane Duncan, Auxiliary Territorial Service**

Jane Duncan of Kirkcaldy, Scotland died on 7th November 2011, aged 89. A descendant of Captain George Moodie who oversaw the building of the Cutty

Sark, and was the ship's first captain, she joined the ATS in 1942. Attached to the Royal Signals as a wireless operator, she sent and received morse code in the War Office in London. She was discharged in 1946 and returned to Kirkcaldy. Our sympathy goes to all members of her family.

**Kenneth Dundas, Royal Navy**

Kenneth Dundas of Ashford, Middlesex died on 2nd November 2011, aged 82. He joined the Royal Navy in 1947. On completion of his seamanship training he qualified as an ASDIC operator and was drafted to HMS Hart, a frigate based in Hong Kong. He sailed the South China Seas and completing a seven year engagement was discharged as a Leading Seaman in 1954. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Ronald Dunn, Royal Engineers**

Ronald Dunn of Luton, Bedfordshire died on 30th November 2011, aged 93. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1940 and he was posted to South East London on bomb disposal duties. He was sent to France just after D-Day followed by a posting in the Middle East. At the end of hostilities he returned to the UK for demobilisation, leaving the Royal Engineers in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Ronald 'Ron' Edwards, Royal Air Force**

Ronald Edwards of Ringwood, Hampshire died on 1st December 2011, aged 88. At the age of 15 he joined the RAF as an apprentice and qualified in mid 1940 as an aircraft fitter. He spent a long time on detachment with the Royal Navy on HMS Furious, an aircraft carrier, where he was mainly concerned with the Hawker Hurricane fighter aircraft. In 1944 he was sent to Malta, then Egypt and subsequently to Germany. He spent time in the Canal Zone in Egypt, Singapore and BAFO in Germany prior to ending his service as a Chief Technician at Abingdon in the UK in 1969. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Paul Hartley, General Service Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Paul Hartley of Bristol, Avon died on 27th December 2011, aged 89. He joined the General Service Corps in November 1942 and transferred to the REME when it was formed a month later. He served in the UK and Germany and was discharged in January 1948. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Leslie Hillery, Royal Norfolk Regiment**

Leslie Hillery of Northampton, Northamptonshire died on 24th November

2011, aged 94. He served from 1940 to 1946, leaving as a Sergeant Instructor. He spent some time in Ireland before taking part in the Normandy Invasion on D+8. He fought through France, Belgium and Holland where he was wounded at Venlo. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Eileen Hose, Women's Auxiliary Air Force**

Eileen Hose of Cleethorpes, South Humberside died on 6th December 2011, aged 90. She joined the WAAF in 1941 and trained in Morecambe; she was a clerk at RAF Digby, where she remained until discharge in 1943. Our sympathy goes to all members of her family.

**William Hughes, Royal Air Force**

William Hughes of Liverpool died on 16th December 2011, aged 88. He joined the RAF in 1946 and served at various UK air stations before discharged in 1948 as an AC2. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Henry Hymers, General Service Corps, Royal Signals**

Henry Hymers of Jarrow, Tyne and Wear died on 27th November 2011, aged 87. He joined the General Service Corps in August 1946 for training. He transferred to the Royal Signals three months later and served in the Suez Canal Zone before discharge in 1951. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Douglas Jones, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Douglas Jones of Smethwick, West Midlands died on 28th August 2011, aged 95. He served in the REME from 1940 to 1946, serving in Pakistan, the Middle East, Cyprus, Italy and India. He was discharged as a Staff Sergeant. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**John Leslie, Royal Air Force**

John Leslie of Ashington, Northumberland died on 12th December 2011, aged 86. He began his RAF service in 1946; he completed his specialist radar training at Yatesbury. He was posted to Egypt followed by Palestine where he was in Jerusalem, followed by Ramallah. He was demobilised in 1948. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Alfred 'Alf' Lockhart, Royal Army Service Corps**

Alf Lockhart of Brighton, West Sussex died on 14th December 2011, aged 93. He was called up in 1939 and in the autumn of 1941 he set sail for Singapore. That December, days after attacking Pearl Harbor, Japan invaded Singapore and

its fellow British colonies Hong Kong and Malaya. They quickly fell. Captured by the Japanese, Alf ended up at Kanu, a notorious camp in Thailand, where the men were woken every day at dawn to clear the jungle to make way for the rail track. Alf became one of tens of thousands of PoWs who slaved on the 260-mile Thailand-Burma rail line. Their plight cut no ice with brutal Japanese sentries who would yell "Speedo, speedo!" as they whipped Alf and his fellow PoWs with a 3ft bamboo rod. Alf didn't tell them he was going blind as a result of malnutrition from a meagre diet of rice or soup, and an occasional egg, as he was afraid they would cast him aside as useless.

In February 1943 the Japanese realised the Kanu captives were building their section of the railway in the wrong place and drove them even harder as they rerouted it. But the brutal regime was already exacting a chilling toll. More and more PoWs fell ill with dysentery, cholera, malaria or tropical ulcers that could attack flesh and even bone. When he developed an ulcer on his leg Alf wouldn't let the surgeons amputate. He was proved to be correct when Colonel Weary Dunlop came to the camp and said there was no need for amputation. The death toll in the camps was high and Alf and his fellow PoWs were called to dig graves, sometimes two or three a day. They buried their boys with military honours. After work finished on the railway he was moved to other camps. He caught malaria in 1945 as a result of a blood transfusion, but by then the war in Europe was over. When the Japanese capitulated, the British took charge of the camp. The British camp commander's first order was that all British personnel below the rank of sergeant report at 6:30am for physical training. Only leg amputees were excused. Exhausted from three years of hard labour they could hardly believe the only thing the officers could think of was physical exercise.

On his return to London he sought work as a cabinet maker, his post war profession. He was turned down due to his lack of sight, until he met with a Jewish company and was told: 'You were fighting for us and we would like to employ you. Do what you can see to do and anything you can't, someone else will do.' He accepted their offer of employment and they paid him the same wage as his sighted colleagues. We thank Alf for his smiles and good company and our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Alan Maplesden, General Service Corps, Royal Army Ordnance Corps**

Alan Maplesden of Waterloo, Huddersfield died on 10th December 2011, aged

89. A skilled precision grinder, a reserved occupation, he served in his firm's Home Guard Unit during the war. He was called up for National Service in 1946 and joined the General Service Corps. He transferred to the RAOC as a Technical Clerk and was deployed to Palestine. He was discharged in 1948. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Derick Marygold, Royal Air Force**

Derick Marygold of Coventry, Warwickshire died on 15th December 2011, aged 91. He joined the RAF in 1940 as an electrician; he was posted to RAF Wyton and RAF Mildenhall, servicing Stirling aircraft and eventually Lancasters. He left the RAF in 1945. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Stanley Middleton, Royal Artillery**

Stanley Middleton of Newcastle Upon Tyne died on 3rd December 2011, aged 90. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939. Commissioned in Palestine he did artillery training at Heliopolis near Cairo, before selection for the 3rd RHA. After El Alamein he took part in the North African campaign followed by the Italian campaign where he landed at Salerno. He moved up to Monte Cassino and then returned to the UK for the Normandy invasion. He landed at Sword Beach on D-Day +1 at Arromanches and moved on through France, Belgium, Holland and finally Germany. In Berlin he fired the victory salute for Winston Churchill and was discharged in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**John Murray, Royal Artillery**

John Murray of Chorley, Lancashire died on 29th November 2011, aged 97. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1932 and went with the BEF to France. He was evacuated from Dunkirk and trained new RA Gunners on Salisbury Plain for the rest of the war. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**William Neeson, Royal Navy**

William Neeson of Nantgarw, Cardiff died on 25th November 2011, aged 92. He joined the Royal Navy in 1936. Trained at Devonport as a gunner he was drafted to HMS Grafton, a destroyer in the Mediterranean but returned to Devonport for further training. He then served in another destroyer in home waters and subsequently moved to HMS Jackal in the Clyde but was posted to HMS Zulu after the Jackal was attacked by the Luftwaffe and subsequently scuttled. When Zulu was also sunk he joined HMS Southwold which was sunk in Malta and then

to HMS Petard spending a brief period in Malta. He later moved to Alexandria, Egypt and completed his service on HMS Rodney in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Albert Norman, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Albert Norman of Goring by Sea, West Sussex died on 18th December 2011, aged 93. He served in the REME from 1939 to 1946 and thereafter on reserve until 1959, leaving as a Staff Sergeant. He served at home as well as in Iraq, Egypt and India. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Kenneth Shute, Royal Armoured Corps**

Kenneth Shute of Billingham, Cleveland died on 1st January 2012, aged 76. He served with the Royal Armoured Corps, the 7th Hussars from 1953 to 1964. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Ernest Somers, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Corps**

Ernest Somers of Durham died on 13th December 2011, aged 93. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1939 and was mobilised when the war started. He transferred to the REME when it was founded in May 1942 and served in the Middle East. He was discharged as a Quartermaster Sergeant in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**George Smith, Parachute Regiment**

George Smith of Bolton died on 18th May 2011, aged 84. He volunteered for the Parachute Regiment and trained at Ringway, Manchester before dropping into Germany over the Rhine. He later moved to India in preparation for Malaya, but VJ day was declared and Mr Smith remained in the Far East, in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. After a posting to Palestine he was demobilised in 1948 and remained on reserve until 1959. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Stanley WG Smith, Royal Air Force**

Stanley WG Smith of Croydon, Surrey died on 27th November 2011, aged 88. He joined the RAF in 1943 and trained at RAF Cranwell (Technical Department), specialising in radio/signals. This also incorporated ground radar. He was located with Transport Command and as a result travelled to a wide range of locations, including Canada and the Azores. At the end of the war he was offered a permanent commission and decided to remain in the RAF as a

specialist in Signals in Transport Command. He was based at Oakington and a variety of RAF stations in the UK. He had a tour of duty in the Canal Zone, Egypt. He specialised in radar and later moved on to guided weapons. He was posted to Cyprus, followed by a period with Training in RAF Dorking and RAF Cosford before joining the MOD as an Education Officer in Dusseldorf. He left the RAF in 1973 as a Squadron Leader. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Wilfred Smithson, General Service Corps, Royal Army Service Corps**

Wilfred Smithson of Fulwood, Preston died on 28th November 2011, aged 85. He joined the General Service Corps in 1945 and transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps a month later. He served in the UK, India, Singapore and Malaysia before being demobilised as a Corporal in 1948. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**George Spencer, Royal Air Force**

George Spencer of Morecambe, Lancashire died on 11th November 2011, aged 97. On 13th January 1941 he joined the Royal Air Force at the outbreak of the war. Mr Spencer specialised as an instrument technician and served at various locations around the UK and later in Canada. He was discharged in 1946, leaving as a Corporal. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Edward Standeven, Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own)**

Edward Standeven of King's Lynn, Norfolk died on 12th December 2011, aged 94. He joined the Middlesex Regiment in 1940. He was posted to a Mortar Fire Support Group and took part in the Desert War against Rommel. He then campaigned through Sicily and Italy before being discharged in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Henry Sweet, Welch Regiment, Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment)**

Henry Sweet of Thetford, Norfolk died on 7th December 2011, aged 91. He joined the Welch Regiment in 1940 and transferred to the Sherwood Foresters in 1943. He fought in North Africa and took part in the invasion of Italy, fighting at the battle of Monte Cassino. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Eric Tayler, Royal Air Force**

Eric Tayler of Bow, Devon died on 18th December 2011, aged 90. He joined the RAF in 1940, servicing as a wireless operator in India, East Africa and the Middle

East, including Baghdad, Jordan, Palestine and Egypt. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Ivan Thornton, Royal Air Force**

Ivan Thornton of Doncaster, South Yorkshire died on 13th December 2011, aged 89. He joined the RAF in 1944 and following training was posted to North Africa, Greece and Italy where he was a ground radio specialist. Following a further posting to Greece, he returned to the UK and was discharged 1948. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Gordon Truman, Royal Army Medical Corps**

Gordon Truman of Barnt Green, Birmingham died on 1st August 2011, aged 90. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1939. He served in France with the British Expeditionary Force and in Scotland from 1941-43 before being posted to SE Asia in 1944. Mr Truman was discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Horace Underwood, Northamptonshire Regiment, 3rd Royal Dragoon Guards**

Horace Underwood of Blackpool, Lancashire died on 9th December 2011, aged 91. He enlisted in the Northampton Regiment and subsequently transferred to the 3rd Royal Dragoon Guards. In 1945, whilst in action in Burma, he suffered gun shot wounds resulting in the loss of his right eye, and penetrating wounds to his left eye. After repatriation he was discharged in the rank of substantive Corporal. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Joan Wall, Auxiliary Territorial Service**

John Wall of Chichester, West Sussex died on 17th October 2011, aged 88. She joined the ATS in 1942 and served in South Western Command. She was discharged in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of her family.

**Geoffrey Whitworth, East Surrey Regiment**

Geoffrey Whitworth of Dereham, Norfolk died on 8th November 2011, aged 83. He joined the East Surrey Regiment in 1947 and served in Ulster, Cyprus, Greece, Somalia and Libya. He was discharged as a Warrant Officer in 1959. Our sympathy goes to all members of her family.

**Douglas 'Roy' Widdowfield, Merchant Navy.**

Douglas 'Roy' Widdowfield of Epsom, Surrey died on 26th October 2011, aged 85. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1944, serving mainly in cargo ships as a Steward. He left the Merchant Navy in 1947. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Samuel Wrest, Royal Air Force**

Samuel Wrest of Barnsley, South Yorkshire died on 4th November 2011, aged 90. He served with the RAF from 1942 until 1945, serving in the UK and the USA, where he did his flying training in Florida. He carried out further training in Wales to do a tour as a flight engineer with the aim of doing a second tour as a pilot, but then the war ended. Our sympathy goes to all members of her family.

**Ernest Wheeldon, Royal Army Medical Corps**

Ernest Wheeldon of Solihull, West Midlands died on 12th December 2011, aged 91. In 1939 he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and was posted to India. He then spent two years in Iraq before discharge in 1946 as a Corporal. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Alfred White, Royal Engineers**

Alfred White of Bath died on 21st November 2011, aged 93. He joined the Royal Engineers in May 1939 and served largely in Europe before discharge in 1946 as a Sapper. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

**Maxwell Ash, Royal Marines**

Maxwell Ash of Burnham on Sea, Somerset died on 29th November 2011, aged 93. He joined the Royal Marines on 11th November 1940 and was wounded on 2nd September 1941 in the Middle East, by an accidental explosion of detonators. He lost both eyes and sustained slight wounds to his hands. He spent 18 months at St Dunstan's in South Africa, living at Tembani. It was at Tembani that he met Joan, his future wife, who was a VAD there. Tembani was a preliminary training Centre for St Dunstaners on their way back to the UK. Tembani means: 'To hope and to go on hoping'. Over the entrance to Tembani was a carving of a flaming torch, similar to St Dunstan's badge. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.





**Picture: Bromley Police Cadets at Ancre Cemetary with Billy Black and Stan Bowers.**

**From Page 23** The Cadets at the end of their Challenge with PC Neill Tulley, PC retired Andy Clark, VPC Staff Dietmar Strasser, Harry Senft, Oliver Brabner, Ben Levett, Mark Murphy, Chloe Akers, Jenny Hann, Zoe Blackman, Siobhan Bellew, Billy Black Shannon Murphy, Justine Warne, PC Bruce Anton, Sergeant David Black, Peter Walker and PC John Blackman.