

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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THE BRITISH LEGION CONFERENCE

THE British Legion Conference was held at Great Yarmouth during Whitsuntide. In his Presidential Address, Sir Ian Fraser commended the initiation ceremony introduced by many branches. No man should enter the Legion or remain a member if he was unable to subscribe to a simple declaration of loyalty to King and Country. (Hear, hear).

Referring to the proposal to raise the affiliation fee from 1s. 6d. to 2s., he said the Legion had two distinct functions, to administer Poppy Day money as trustee of the nation, and to administer the Legion's own internal affairs. The two funds must be kept entirely separate. As costs had risen so greatly he felt inclined to support the new proposal.

Turning to the pensions campaign, Sir Ian traced the history of the Legion campaign in detail. "I prefer a moderate request which we can press home," he said, "to the most eloquent speech that vanishes into thin air." (Hear, hear).

"If you pass the first resolution submitted to you to-day you will be concentrating on something that will bring you a large measure of support, and which will provide a rallying point for all. That is why we are asking for a Select Committee, to which 275 M.P.s committed themselves. The fact that we had 2,800 news cuttings about the campaign showed we had made some impact on public opinion.

"You can support this resolution and also consider others on the agenda, because they are not inconsistent."

The cost of the campaign had been £1,770. On the other side of the balance sheet, in this year and subsequent years, an additional £1,266,000 would be paid by the Ministry to pensioners. These crumbs of comfort conceded by the Ministry were a by-product of the campaign.

He did not claim that all the concessions made would not have been made but for the Legion, but something was granted each time the Legion raised the wider issue.

There was no disagreement that where special needs were shown they should be met, but he himself believed there should be a rise in the basic rate, remembering the handicaps suffered by the disabled and the rise in commodities and wages. "It is time for an adjustment," he said, "on grounds of equity," and he gave detailed figures to show that (1) there are still very many of the severely disabled whose total incomes are not adequate, and that (2) very little has been done for the partially disabled. "We are just as much entitled to make our demands as a result of changed conditions as are the trades unionists." (Cheers).

Loud cheers greeted Sir Ian's assertion, "We are accused of party politics if we do anything. The only way to avoid this charge would be to do nothing. But then we should be failing in our duty."

To make their demands effective they must be realists living in a real world and not in a land of dreams.

He did not blame the Government for putting on a three-line Whip against them, nor did he blame the Opposition for supporting them. (Laughter). Obviously it was the Government's job to think twice about expenditure of all kinds.

"If we know we are not playing party politics," he said, "it doesn't matter very much if other people say we are."

"Less than half the House voted against us. What are we going to do about it? This is the very time Members of Parliament and the public must be made aware of our demand for a Select Committee and of our belief that justice is not being done to our disabled comrades. After the first World War we had a Select Committee which sat quietly, aloof from politics, to consider these matters. In my opinion we ought to have one again after a second major war so that Parliament and the nation may be guided aright and both taxpayer and disabled man may feel that the best thought—perhaps I may say the best generous thought—has been given to this problem. If we haul down our flag because an Election is coming nearer; if we fear criticism and misunderstanding; then indeed we shall forfeit our inalienable right. If we go forward wisely and vigorously, if we seek support and unity in our demand, then we may proudly say we have done our duty." (Loud cheers).

Points from the Conference

Our St. Dunstaner, Ernest Russell, of Leeds, who was recently elected to the Northern Area Council of the British Legion, was among the delegates to the Conference at Great Yarmouth.

Two thousand delegates heard Sir Ian Fraser describe 73-year-old Col. A. Davidson, of Howgill, Carlisle, as "this grand old warrior," when it was learned that he had cycled from his home to attend the Conference, a distance of some 300 miles.

A limbless delegate from Kew Branch drove his motor tricycle all the way from Kew to Great Yarmouth to attend the Conference.

Following Sir Ian's Presidential Address, some twenty resolutions were passed, the effect of which was to support Sir Ian's fighting policy. Among the matters which were also considered which were of interest to St. Dunstaners were:—

Employment of Disabled.—Conference urged the Government to increase the present percentage quota from 3 per cent. to a further 2 per cent.

A resolution was also passed calling on the Government for a definite preference for ex-Service personnel in vacancies in Government employ.

Housing.—The Conference was concerned at the large number of Service personnel who are unable to find reasonable housing accommodation and called upon the Government to direct local authorities to formu-

late a points scheme, with a certain preference to all ex-Service personnel.

Finance.—Resolutions urging a more active policy of nation-wide propaganda concerning the Legion's work, and suggesting a Legion Week, and a Legion newspaper, were carried.

Post-War Credits.—The Conference passed a resolution expressing the opinion that all disabled ex-Service personnel in receipt of a pension of 75 per cent. or over should be allowed to draw their post-war credits now.

Decorations and Medals.—The Conference felt that ex-Servicemen and women who have been awarded decorations for gallantry should have them presented at a public function and not sent by post, as at present.

Football Pools.—The Conference heartily endorsed the Council's action in rejecting the proposed Legion's Football Pool, which was described as unworthy and undesirable.

Pensions and Party Politics.—The Conference deplored the statement made in the House of Commons that there was an element in the British Legion using the pensions question for political reasons. Comrades endeavouring to secure equitable treatment for ex-Service personnel totally disabled were not influenced in any way by party politics.

Legion of Ex-Servicemen.—A motion to form a Legion of ex-Servicemen throughout the United Nations was lost.

Club News

London

On Saturday, June 4th, two coaches set out from Headquarters en route for the Derby. Brilliant sunshine favoured us, and after an excellent lunch, provided by Miss Ibberson and her band of willing helpers, we settled down to the task of winner-spotting with varying degrees of success, then on to an excellent tea at Banstead, and a drive back in good spirits. A really wonderful day. Congratulations to "Tiny" Fleming for a great piece of organising.

Bridge Notes.—Members of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club please note that the annual Harrogate Bridge Week is fixed for September 10th to 17th. Full particulars from Frank A. Rhodes, Captain-Secretary.

Indoor Activities.—All members are looking forward with great interest to forthcoming finals of darts and domino contests.

Clubs and Houses will shortly be notified as to where they will take place.

Best luck to all teams.

All interested parties have been notified of forthcoming Crib contest and I hope to be soon receiving the names of teams from each Club.

Ovingdean have indeed excelled themselves, as I have already received their team.

Another "Get Together" Dance will take place, as before, on September 16th. Make a note of the date.

Singing and Musical Instruments.—Many members have shown interest regarding the above and would apparently like to re-establish the school as it used to be, but are, it seems, disinclined to write to me giving real evidence of this interest.

Write now, or forever hold your peace, as this matter will not be opened again.

Home Club Notes.—I have to record another win for our darts team, beating the British Legion on our home ground.

One leg each—we are now looking forward to the decider on June 24th—again at home, and I hope to record our first match win.

TINY FLEMING.

Outdoor Sports.—On Tuesday, June 7th, we held a two-mile walking race round the Inner Circle, Regent's Park, and were honoured by the presence of Mr. Harold Whitlock, Olympic champion, who acted

as starter, and the cream of the walking world as judges, etc. Mr. W. J. Harris formed a very good open handicap, and some excellent walking was watched by a large crowd. Results are shown below. The next walk will be in late September when we shall start our winter session with probably a three- or five-mile, so what about more of the new fellows joining us?

In the meantime, rowing is still available on Regent's Park lake, the gymnasium is still going strong, and swimming at the Seymour Baths. Particulars from the Club, or Tommy Gaygan.

By this time all London men should have received the circular about the Summer Sports to be held on July 23rd, at Alperton, so let us have your entries and applications as soon as possible.

Well fellows, the Club is going well so why not join us and meet your old and new friends?

TWO-MILE OPEN HANDICAP WALKING RACE

June 7th, 1949

	Actual Time	H'cap Time	All'ce m. s.	Pos.
C. Williamson ...	19.09	16.29	2 40	1
A. Brown ...	16.39	16.39	scratch	2
T. Gaygan ...	18.15	16.50	1 36	3
W. Miller ...	17.45	17.20	25	4
W. T. Scott ...	20.04	18.04	2 00	5
J. Ellis ...	22.23	18.23	4 00	6

We were sorry that M. Burns had to retire in the first lap owing to leg trouble.

Our thanks are due to the escorts and officials, and to Bedford College for so kindly placing their premises at our disposal.

Liverpool

Here is a news flash for St. Dunstaners of the Merseyside area. A club has now been formed and it is up to the St. Dunstaners in this district to take advantage of the opportunity of renewing old friendships and also to make new ones. To achieve success the club must have your support, so why not come along to our next meeting on Saturday, July 2nd, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Sefton Hall, British Legion Headquarters, Rodney Street, Liverpool.

Hon. Secretary, T. Milner, 78 Radley Drive, Aintree, Liverpool 10.

Derby Sweepstake, 1949

Once again the Derby and another successful Sweepstake. The number of tickets sold this year was 2,382 (2,392 last year). After deducting £9 for printing and postage expenses a sum of £288 15s. 0d. was left for distribution in accordance with the published rules, and the result was as follows:—

- 1st—**Nimbus**. R. Sheehan, Bridgwater. Ticket No. 2060.—£144 7s. 6d.
 2nd—**Amour Drake**. E. James, Darlington. Ticket No. 1907.—£57 15s. 0d.
 3rd—**Swallow Tail**. F. James, Hove. Ticket No. 1583.—£28 17s. 6d.

No fewer than thirty-two horses went to the post, which meant that £57 15s. 0d. had to be divided between twenty-nine "also-rans." Five shillings was added to make a round sum for division, and the following twenty-nine received £2 each:—

W. Brogan, Cambridge	BARNES PARK	...	570
J. H. New, Wolverhampton	BIG WIG	...	1119
G. A. Fone, Watford	BOISSON	...	1421
E. Lake, Scarborough	BROWN ROVER	...	468
G. L. Douglass, Isleworth	BUTTON BOY	...	366
V. Jones, Northwich	CONSERVATIVE	...	771
E. S. Hayter, Kingston-on-Thames	COURIER	...	1541
T. Dickinson, Brighton	ENVER PASHA	...	1653
T. Ashall, Billinge	GADES	...	1214
J. E. Gunn, Gravesend	GRANI	...	1033
H. J. Clapson, Havant	HAPPY MICK	...	437
V. W. Roylance, Manchester	HIGHLANDER III	...	1577
E. J. Squires, Ringwood	HINDOSTAN	...	1815
F. Mowtill, Crumlington	IRAN	...	21
A. E. Tucker, Bristol	JAI HIND	...	1262
G. Jolly, Blackpool	LE TROUBADOUR	...	1064
F. Collinge, Blackpool	LORD DRAKE	...	887
J. Ball, Gateshead	MARCO POLO II	...	1234
A. Reagen, Hastings	MON CHATELAIN	...	938
A. W. Hurrell, Kenley	NEAPOLITAN STAR	...	2014
J. E. Booth, Ashton under Lyne	NORMANTON	...	2033
W. Cromwell, Gloucester	PRONIUM	...	1432
C. Hobbs, N.W.9	ROYAL EMPIRE	...	696
A. T. Brooks, Bourne-mouth	ROYAL FOREST	...	254
T. Gaiger, Bath	SCOTTISH MERIDIAN	...	1240
G. E. Perry, Wolverhampton	TARGUI	...	2086
E. Walden, S.W.16	VAL DRAKE	...	904
H. E. Raymond, Aldershot	WILLOUGHTON	...	1594
W. T. West, Ramsgate	XERXES	...	136

Those who drew horses which did not take part in the race were: A. Jones, Watford, BLUE SEPAL (1419); W. J. Harris, Fareham, GALLEY PROOF (1870); H. Pollitt, Farnworth, IRISH ABBOTT (396); P. G.

Alvey, E.11, ROC DU DIABLE (1492); J. C. Doughty, Great Yarmouth, THE THRUSTER (50); and Barbara Bell, Ilkley, UGONGO (1669), who was particularly unlucky as her horse injured himself actually on the way to the starting post. A. Hamlett, of Winsford, drew THE FIELD (1374).

The draw took place in the Club Room at Headquarters on the evening of Friday, May 27th, and was made by Frank Rhodes and F. L. Hunt; "Ginger" Taylor turned the drum, names and horses were read out by Mr. Willis, and among others who were present were Miss Ibbetson, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Willis, and the Editor of the REVIEW.

Congratulations to the lucky ones, and to all those who were not so fortunate, better luck next time.

St. Dunstaner's Double Honour

Our warm congratulations to Frederick Martin, of Mintlaw, Aberdeen, who has been appointed one of the four new Deputy-Lieutenants for Aberdeenshire, and has also been appointed Convener of the County. For the last year he has served as Vice-Convener.

In moving his appointment, the retiring Convener, Dr. James Cruickshank, said he did not need to elaborate arguments in favour of the motion. Mr. Martin was known equally to them all. He had journalistic experience which had given him a wide outlook, and had a period in Parliament which had given him authority on legal and administrative questions. The appointment would be received with pleasure throughout the county.

St. Dunstaner Appointed Baillie

Congratulations also to another Scottish St. Dunstaner, T. Irvine, of Moffat, who was made a Baillie following the recent municipal elections. For some years he has served on the Moffat Urban District Council, and this new appointment as Baillie—or as we in the South would say, Magistrate—is a well deserved honour.

Placements

Norman Crane, of Warrington, as an upholsterer at home; G. W. Ellis, of Liverpool, on deburring with the English Electric Co.; E. C. Jager, of Sydenham, in a tobacconist's business; A. Rahim as a shopkeeper at Leytonstone.

St. Dunstaner in Birthday Honours

Amongst the Honours conferred in the King's Birthday List was the award of an M.B.E. to W. Shakspeare, of Birmingham, for services to the British Legion in Sheldon.

Other Honours which will interest St. Dunstaners are the following:—

Dr. J. F. E. Prideaux, C.B.E., Director General of Medical Services at the Ministry of Pensions, who receives a Knighthood.

Major Samuel Warne, of Bodmin, Cornwall, Member of the National Executive Council of the British Legion, who receives an O.B.E.

Dr. A. W. J. Craft, of the Ministry of Pensions Limb-Fitting Centre, Roehampton, who receives an O.B.E.

M. F. E. C. Burchell, National Vice-President, Metropolitan Area, British Legion, who receives an M.B.E.

Mr. Percy L. Way, F.R.C.O., lately Principal of the National Institute for the Blind's School of Physiotherapy, who receives an M.B.E.

Mr. George Chandley, M.M., General Secretary of the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association, who receives an M.B.E.

Mr. K. G. Spong, Deputy Director of Pensions, British Legion, an M.B.E.

Capt. Arthur Ernest McConnell, Chairman of Bangor and Co. Down Branch, British Legion, an M.B.E.

Prizewinner at Chelsea Flower Show

From the "Daily Graphic," May 25th:

W. E. Shewell-Cooper, N.D.H., F.L.S., F.R.S.A., Principal of the Horticultural Educational and Advisory Bureau, writes:—

"One of the highlights of the Chelsea Flower Show this year was an exhibit by a St. Dunstaner, Col. M. P. Ansell, D.S.O. He spent most of the war in Germany as a prisoner and has only recently started up as a gerbera expert. Gerberas are like huge daisies on long wiry stems, but the flowers are of all kinds of lovely pastel shades and they usually make 1s. 6d. each wholesale in Covent Garden, so the Colonel told me."

The following day Col. Ansell received the Banksian Award for his exhibit.

Talking Book Library

Meagre May

The month's release is really outstanding, consisting, as it does, of one solitary detective yarn, "Final Curtain." Although many books are already recorded and on order from the manufacturers, the fact remains that the only delivery is this one volume.

"Final Curtain," by Ngaio Marsh, read Lionel Marson, is a good quiet detective story, concerning a trifle of Borgian homicide amidst an old-established, eccentric stage family. My own impression, correct me if I am wrong, is that the reader made more enjoyment from the story than even the author could possibly have visualised. I had more fun than a picnic with the superb reading but, I fear, it is possible that the more solemn amongst us might be irritated by the expressive performance. Congratulations, Mr. Marson!

Perhaps it is a suitable moment to try and summarise the function or attempted function of this column, so here it is:—

The column serves as a rough and ready guide as to the nature of the books pouring, this month trickling, into the library. There is not meant to be any attempt at detailed review, but it is my object to give a quick personal impression, which I hope to keep entirely free from any bias, and serve it up to you as a reasonably fair summary of the subject matter contained in the waxy grooves. More and better listening in the months to come, and don't leave the last record in the baby's pram!

NELSON.

Indian St. Dunstaner Matriculates

Our warmest congratulations to G. K. Unny, late of the Royal Indian Navy (Merchant Service), who has obtained his matriculation (London University). He came to St. Dunstan's two years ago and since then has undergone forty-nine operations, mainly plastic. He has studied for matriculation within the past twelve months, his subjects being English, languages and economics.

* * *

The daughter of the late W. Last tells us that Miss Nell Gwynne has presented to the Standard Bearer of the local branch of the British Legion a pair of white gloves in memory of our St. Dunstaner.

West House Notes

The summer season is really in full swing and we are getting into our stride with two afternoon drives each week when possible.

On Sunday, May 8th, we were happy to welcome Sir Ian and Lady Fraser once again. Sir Ian told the boys about the impending reconstruction of West House and they were all very relieved to hear that the old site is being retained. In view of this the brewers will not have to close down after all!

On this day we had quite a full programme planned for the afternoon. Twenty-six members of Hastings Toc H, including five St. Dunstaners, came to tea and to play dominoes. The winners were:—

Residents.—Messrs. Day, Duxbury and Hiscock.

Guests.—Messrs. Hobson and Fleetwood, Mr. Trill, of Toc H.

The markers were Miss Morgan, Mrs. Cohn, Mrs. Lamy and Mr. Mercer.

There was such a large congregation at the Service that we had to vacate the Chapel in favour of the Conservatory to fit everyone in.

Later a most enjoyable concert of light music was given by Mrs. Molyneux and her friends, Mr. A. Ovenden and Miss Sinclair. A vote of thanks was given by Andy Anderson.

On Tuesday, May 10th, an old friend brought a darts team along. It was Mr. Catt, who used to mark dominoes on Mondays and Wednesdays for us before he moved nearer to London, and we were very pleased to see him once again. Another darts match, in which the boys played for team place, was held in May 17th for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize.

A very cold but cheery crowd wended their way to Lewes Races on May 23rd. During the week there was another meeting at Lewes and two Brighton meetings. So our racegoers were well satisfied—in more ways than one, we hope.

On May 26th, Mr. Percy Edwards, the bird impersonator of B.B.C. fame, gave a performance at Ovingdean. Amongst the men from West House was Daddy Spires, aged 89, who was one of the most appreciative. The bird-songs and other impersonations were unbelievably realistic.

The marriage took place on Saturday, May 28th, at St. Matthew's Church, of

T. Sattary, South African, and Miss Ethel Snell, of Portsmouth. The Rev. W. J. Taylor officiated and Miss Cathleen Ramsden sang a solo. Mark Sheridan gave the bride away. The reception was held at Clarges Hotel and many friends were there to congratulate them.

At present we have Evan Owen, of Treorchy, staying with us and on Sunday, May 29th, he was the soloist at the Chapel Service, when he sang words of his own composition to the Welsh hymn tune, "Blaen Wern."

From Monty Brooke

DEAR ST. DUNSTANERS,

I have received a cheque from Mr. Askew which has been made by a collection among the men of St. Dunstan's on my behalf. It was certainly a great surprise to read about it in the REVIEW, as it seems such a long time to ask them to remember me.

Many sincere thanks to all those who took part. My general health is not too good at the moment, but as soon as I feel better I will get something that will always remind me of the many happy hours I have spent in your company. I hope we will meet again at another St. Dunstan's Reunion.

With many thanks to you all, and my best wishes to you and your families,

Yours sincerely,
43 Sunnybank Road, MONTY.
Griffithstown, Pontypool.

Lackaday Ebbie Gray

*My reply herewith to Ebbie Gray,
With whom I walked one sunny day
To a visit where I had never seen
A village known as Rottingdean.
The walk was long, the sun set high,
Salt sea breeze made us quite dry,
He said: "I know the local pub."
Which brings the point, and the rub.
I gave him his head, a move quite rash,
I needed beer in return for cash.
So he rushed me without pause
Through a massive pair of doors.
But, it was not the place where the thirsty drank,
'Twas the counter of the local bank.
Now if to Ebbie cash is beer,
I really think him rather queer.
If he can stay his thirst with £.s.d.
I conclude, I must handsome be.*

JOHN A. MUDGE.

Reunions

A small tea party for Cornish St. Dunstaners was held at Truro on May 5th, and two days later a very large meeting took place at Bristol for men of the remaining West Country and South Wales areas. Mr. S. Jacobs, County Chairman of Bristol British Legion, and Mr. R. Magill, Chief Regional Officer of the Ministry of Pensions War Pensions Welfare Service, were among the guests.

The Irish Reunions were held at Cork on May 17th, Dublin on May 19th, and Belfast on May 20th, with Mr. Mackay and Mr. Macauley at all of them. Mr. Humphries, Area Chairman of the British Legion, and Mr. O'Brien, Area Secretary, British Legion, were at the Dublin meeting, which Miss Arkle, our Appeals Organiser in the Republic of Ireland, also attended, while at Belfast our good friends Captain Bennett, of the Legion, Lady Turner and Miss Turner were most welcome visitors.

At Bedford on June 2nd, Capt. J. M. Tingey, Secretary of the Bedford Branch of the Legion, was the guest of honour.

Messages of good wishes and of pride in the achievements of St. Dunstaners of both wars were sent to all the meetings by Sir Ian, whose duties at Headquarters and at the House of Commons prevented him attending the gatherings.

Young St. Dunstaners

Winifred Smith, of Guildford, has passed her State examinations and is now a State Registered Nurse.

Philomena Sephton has gained her Elementary Teachers' Certificate for Dancing. The examiners were Madame Adeline Genee and Miss Phyllis Bedells.

Christine McLoughlin broadcasts again on July 16th, from 6.10 to 6.25.

Marriages

On June 4th, Harry Dennison, York, to Miss Iris Foster.

On June 4th, Cynthia Stew, Tewkesbury, to Gerald Coopey.

In April last, Elizabeth Hill, Devizes, to Wallace Bentley.

On June 18th, Joan Blakely, Liverpool, to Robert Snape.

On June 4th, Bernard Burnett, Enfield, to Miss Doris Maud Powell.

On June 1st, William Calvert, Ormskirk, to Miss Betty Pennington.

"Thank You, Argentina!"

This is the salutation in the letter of one recipient of a food parcel from the St. Dunstan's Buenos Aires Committee, and it has been made the headline of a short article published in the "Buenos Aires Standard."

The Chairman and Members of the Committee have written asking that their very real appreciation of all the delightful letters they have received from St. Dunstaners may be made known to the writers through the columns of the REVIEW. They are greatly touched by these expressions of thanks for parcels and also by the generous offer of baskets and trays. Although it is impossible for them to reply to the letters, they would like it widely known how much pleasure they have given and how greatly the members of the Committee would value articles made by St. Dunstaners. Unfortunately, however, the present Customs restrictions make it quite impossible for them to accept the very generous suggestion made by so many of you.

It may interest some of you to know that extracts from a number of the letters have been published in the "Thank You, Argentina" article, particularly those from St. Dunstaners who have visited Argentina at some time, or are perhaps now engaged in making some useful commodity which is exported there.

National Library Reading Competition

Congratulations to Frank A. Rhodes, who won second prize in the recent Reading Competition organised by the National Library, Class C—those who had learnt braille after the age of sixteen.

Seven St. Dunstaners from Ovingdean also took part in the competition. Matron Pain and Miss Ramshaw accompanied them and they had a most interesting day. They were not successful in winning a prize, but the examiners encouraged and congratulated them on their performance.

Grandfathers

F. Stratton, Shirebrook, Derbyshire, and J. H. Smith, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

May I, space permitting in the REVIEW, ask St. Dunstaners everywhere—please give special care to your personal appearance, remember that "Respect commands Respect." Do not go to work with two or three days' growth of beard, or a dirty collar, or with the accumulation of cigarette ash or evidence of previous meals in the shape of spots on your clothes. You are letting your wife and children down, you are letting St. Dunstan's down, and above all you are letting yourself down.

I hear of chaps at Brighton and Blackpool who complain that no one will take them out, and when one delves into the matter you find that very often the individual concerned considers that because he is away from home a growth of beard, ungroomed face and unpolished shoes do not matter. Speaking from 32 years of blindness I can assure all those to whom this applies, it matters very much. I know, for on one or two rare occasions I neglected my personal appearance and I paid the penalty, and was taught my lesson.

The Staff might help in this matter, but the issue is so delicate, that I am almost glad I am blind and a St. Dunstaner, and not one of the Staff. FRANK A. RHODES.

DEAR EDITOR,

Concerning the Chairman's Notes on lonely blind men, I think the following is clear.

1. Neither can enter each other's world. We blind men have been in their world and we are thus able to meet them half way, or perhaps more.

2. Sighted people do not often realise that they can help blind men with walks, etc.

3. We are a tired and hard-working nation and there is not a lot of time to spare.

4. Make your wants known, for at heart the Englishman is the kindest man on earth. Here I endorse Paul Baker's idea of broadcasts and newspaper articles.

With regard to the use of "Mr." in the REVIEW, I think that this is a case of being practical first, and then seeing how close to the Chairman's directive it is possible to get.

It really concerns relations between staff and St. Dunstaners only, and would hardly refer to a paper produced by St. Dunstan's Headquarters for the use of St. Dunstaners only.

On looking through the REVIEW carefully I think the position can be summed up as follows:—

Chairman's Notes and Letters for the Editor.—These are written by Sir Ian and other St. Dunstaners, and it would not be wise to alter them around.

West House, Ovingdean, Blackpool, and London Club Notes.—I feel it is quite in order to continue as we have been doing. It is clear who is a St. Dunstaner and who is staff.

Births, deaths, marriages.—Even in the daily papers, "Mr." is not used, therefore initials again would suffice.

I am a conservative type of fellow and as such I do not welcome a lot of changes and alterations.

Taking the matter as a whole, I think that the present mode of setting out the REVIEW is most satisfactory. It is clear and easy to read, which is the main object. We can clearly see who are staff and who are St. Dunstaners from the present layout, and I feel that there is no real reason for a change in the set-out.

The London Press seldom resorts to the use of "Mr." except in the question of Cabinet Ministers and M.P.s. But I used to laugh myself at the reference right up to the end of the war to Herr Hitler. If you follow the lines of the past issues I think you will be keeping the spirit of the directive and there can be no ground for complaint from anyone.

Yours sincerely,

Witham, Essex. GEORGE MORTIMER.

DEAR EDITOR,

I agree that the men should be addressed as "Mr." when writing to them. I would go further than Sir Ian and say all, including even the captains and majors, because after all, St. Dunstan's is for *ex-Service men and women*, and what did Robert Burns say? "The pith o' sense, the pride o' worth, are higher ranks than a' that."

In the REVIEW I suggest we go on in the old way using Christian names, but not "Mr." No member of a profession would dream of saying of another member, "Mr. So-and-So," and we are all members of the same happy band.

As far as writing to the REVIEW is concerned, I think all letters and articles should be signed by their full signatures, and not by initials or fancy nom-de-plumes.

Yours sincerely,

Ilford. JOCK MACFARLANE.

DEAR EDITOR,

Except for an isolated few, it does not appear to be the wish of St. Dunstaners to be addressed as "Mr." by the staff at West House.

To me, the spirit of comradeship which has existed so long between the men and staff would inevitably put up a barrier, a sorry day in the present scheme of things.

Again, is it necessary for the use of service titles? If so, then why not Corporal, Sergeant, and so on? The use of Service titles may be all right in the British Legion or the House of Commons to maintain a standard of snobbishness, but among us of St. Dunstan's let us continue upon a basis of friendship between us and the staff irrespective of age.

Yours sincerely,

Brighton. W. A. MUGGERIDGE.

DEAR EDITOR,

As a St. Dunstaner of the first war, and for many years a physiotherapist in Glasgow, I am now a managing director of a cosmetic business. My firm is building up a very nice local trade, but in order to spread our products all over the country, my company directors and I would like to make an offer to St. Dunstaners' wives and daughters. This is to let them have now, and in the future, a full-size jar of each of the creams which we manufacture—vanishing, cleansing and hand—at the special rate of ten shillings, which includes postage. Nothing but the finest quality materials are used in the creams. Lady Fraser has tried them and has very kindly said they are excellent and strongly recommends them. The usual price of these creams in the shops would be 13s. 9d.

We shall also be delighted to make this offer to any member of St. Dunstan's staff who would like to take advantage of it.

My company is the Eastern Perfumery Company, Ltd., and applications should be addressed to me personally at the office of the company, 6 Whitehill Gardens, Glasgow, E.1.

Yours sincerely,

A. G. FISHER.

Exhibition For Blind People

A fascinating Exhibition is just ending at the Science Museum, South Kensington. It is an exhibition which has been arranged solely for the blind and partially-sighted by the Science Museum and the National

Institute. Mr. G. Tilghman Richards, official lecturer in the engineering section, tried an experiment with a party of St. Dunstaners from Ovingdean. It worked so well that the idea was extended.

The sixty exhibits included models and apparatus relating to transport, mining, the textile industries, hand and machine tools, time measurement, meteorology, printing and typewriting.

The exhibition closed on June 26th.

The late "Mike" Bowen

The Rev. A. W. Blaxall, of South Africa, has sent us a most moving Memoir, which he has compiled of the late Advocate R. W. Bowen, who was better known to all fellow-St. Dunstaners as "Mike" Bowen. The Memoir costs 2s. 6d. and is published by the South African National Council for the Blind. If any St. Dunstaner would like a copy the Editor of the REVIEW will be glad to arrange for a copy to be sent to him.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," June, 1919:

Since the last issue of the REVIEW appeared, I have had the honour of presenting to Queen Alexandra, the Patroness of St. Dunstan's, a deputation from the Federation of Grocers' Associations, the members of which gave Her Majesty a cheque for £5,480, making a grand total of £10,000 which the members of the Federation have subscribed for the express purpose of purchasing and equipping West House, the Brighton Holiday and Convalescent Home, which many of the men of St. Dunstan's know so well.

Before so very long, St. Dunstan's, as a training centre, will have finished its work, and the various London establishments will have returned to their original uses, or, in the case of the Bungalow Annexe, Workshops and Class-rooms, have melted away, largely, I suppose, into smoke emanating from firewood.

But West House will remain as a Convalescent and Holiday Home for the use of men of St. Dunstan's who reside in the Southern Counties. Similar places to it will exist in the Midlands and in the North Country, and I feel quite sure that these Convalescent and Holiday Homes will be greatly appreciated by old St. Dunstaners. (Sir Arthur Pearson—NOTES BY THE CHIEF).

Ovingdean Notes

Since our last report from the Training Centre, we have enjoyed another month of varied activities!

On May 5th we had another of Mr. Cheesman's excellent dances at the Arlington Hotel, when thirty trainees and partners spent an enjoyable and jolly evening—with plenty of the usual "lovely grub" associated with Mr. Cheesman's entertainments. Later in the month he also organised a steamer trip on the upper reaches of the Thames—from Marlow to Windsor. On this occasion a party of about twenty trainees and escorts went by bus to Marlow, where they were entertained by the Marlow W.V.S. and an excellent accordionist then joined the party and played whilst the Ovingdean party enjoyed beer, tea, sandwiches and cakes. Thus refreshed, the steamer duly hove in sight, and everyone trooped aboard to join the remainder of the party invited, namely, men from Roehampton and East Grinstead Hospitals, etc. The trip down the river was glorious and the sun favoured us most of the day. Glyn Jones spoke for the Training Centre party when he thanked Mr. Cheesman, of London, and all those who helped him to make this outing possible, for the wonderful trip they had organised for St. Dunstaners and other ex-Servicemen.

The following week the Staff of Plummer Roddis entertained some forty trainees to an excellent party. Our men were met from the coaches by dozens of the "Plummer Roddis Girls"—many men having as many as two or three escorts which they all thoroughly enjoyed! It was certainly a most delightful evening, the non-dancers playing dominoes; there was also a "Quiz" with forfeits, and trainees and partners had tongue twisters and songs to sing—to the general amusement of those present. Needless to say there have been many telephone calls between "Plummers" and St. Dunstan's since, and "Mary" in the Underwear Dept. and "Sally" in the Gowns remain mysteries yet to be solved! Our best thanks go to all Plummer Roddis Staff, especially Mrs. Tipper and Miss Sessions, for organising everything so well. May we have many more such parties.

Towards the end of the month the Debating Society held two very interesting

discussions. The first, "That Wales should have Home Rule," proved that we were all undoubtedly in favour that they should! A delightful evening was held at Roedean School, when the subject for debate was "That people aged 21 are not qualified to vote." This time the motion was defeated—but only by 49 votes to 47.

St. Dunstan's was represented on the occasion of the Gunners' Rally at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, May 28th, and also at the unveiling of the plaque on the existing R.A. Memorial at Hyde Park Corner in the memory of the Gunners who fell in the 1939-45 World War. This ceremony was, of course, performed by H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth. Incidentally, we hear on very good authority that one trainee became completely tongue-tied and embarrassed when H.R.H. spoke to him—but he has since decided he would like to ask for her to be on the "Escort List."

Shooting.—The individual monthly knock-out competition for May was won by Steve Minter who scored 49 plus 4 against Munro Donald's 48 plus 2.

The team knock-out was won by Dormitory 5, who scored 190 plus 6 against Dormitory 3B's score of 186 plus 3.

A record for team shooting was set up on May 30th by the staff team, who scored 198 plus 8 out of a possible 200 plus 20. This team consists of Messrs. J. Mahoney, F. Ralph, J. Walch and K. Gattrell.

Darts.—The monthly darts competition for May was won by F. Ralph, who beat T. Hill in the T/B Competition, and P. Appleby, who beat T. Brown in the S/S Competition.

"Vision Ahead"

Under this title, Air Commodore P. Huskinson, who was blinded by a bomb at the height of his career as director of armament development in the Ministry of Aircraft Production, gives a vivid description of his well-filled life. He begins with hair-breadth escapes over the lines in France in World War I, he records the development of our air armaments between the wars and during World War II, and he tells modestly and simply of his four years' work as President of the Air Armament Board, since he was blinded.

"Vision Ahead" is published by Werner Laurie, and is 11s. 6d.

Braille Readers in the North West

Will St. Dunstaners in the North West who have hitherto received their braille literature from the London Library please note that arrangements have now been made for the Manchester Library to take over this service. Miss Hewer, the National Library for the Blind, St. John Street, Manchester, will be glad to hear from St. Dunstaners in the area.

St. Dunstaner To Fight Rheumatism

From the "New Beacon":

Major Edward Dunlop, O.B.E., G.M., who was blinded in a training accident in England during the recent war, has been appointed Executive Director of the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society. Major Dunlop has been a key man in the work of the Disabled Veterans' Association on the Rehabilitation of Disabled Canadian Ex-Service Men, and was largely responsible for the development and direction of its vocational rehabilitation scheme. His idea that a disabled ex-Service man should be considered for employment on his ability rather than on his disability has found favour with many employers in Canada.

On The Air

On June 10th one of the items in Woman's Hour in the Light Programme was a visit to N.I.B. and to St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean.

The B.B.C. Staff were greeted at our Training Centre by Matron Pain and the work of St. Dunstan's for blinded women of the Services was explained.

National Laying Test

Report for the Eighth Month from 25th April, 1949, to 22nd May, 1949.

Position	Name	Test Score
1	Bagwell, Philip	832
2	Gregory, T. D.	813
3	Young, W. E.	811
4	Holmes, Percy	781
5	MacIntosh, Charles	776
6	Webb, William	745
7	Chaffin, Albert	732
8	Woodcock, W. J.	695
9	Smith, W. Alan	663
10	Jarvis, Albert	628
11	Carpenter, E. H.	623
12	Clarke, T.	435

Average per bird to date, 126.29

Births

BAILEY.—To the wife of J. Bailey, of Guildford, on March 17th, a daughter—Penelope Susan.

BELL.—On June 10th, to the wife of D. Bell, of Edinburgh, a daughter—Diana Christine.

BENTLEY.—On June 9th, to the wife of F. Bentley, of Birmingham, a son—Colin.

BROUGHAM.—On May 3rd, to the wife of T. Brougham, of Liverpool, a son—Barry.

CRAIDOCK.—On May 11th, to the wife of R. A. Craddock, of Warrington, a daughter—Denise.

EVANS.—On May 21st, to the wife of W. Evans, of Shildon, Co. Durham, a son—David Ian.

MCCARTNEY.—On May 22nd, to the wife of H. McCartney, of Belfast, a daughter.

MOORE.—On May 16th, to the wife of A. Moore, of Oxhey, a son—Kevin Alan.

PHILLIPS.—On April 21st, to the wife of R. Phillips, of Shoreham, a son—Ronald William.

SAYWELL.—On June 9th, to the wife of P. J. Saywell, of Leamington Spa, a daughter—Cherill June.

SIMMONS.—On May 24th, to the wife of J. Simmons, of Ramsgate, a daughter—Jane Marian Paul.

WATKINSON.—On April 17th, to the wife of F. Watkinson, of Beverley, a daughter—Patricia Marguerite.

WINDLEY.—On June 13th, to the wife of H. Windley, of Hull, a son.

Marriages

MILLER—FINNEY.—On June 11th, W. Miller (telephonist at 1 South Audley Street), to Miss Doreen Finney, late of the Appeals Department.

SATTARY—SNELL.—On May 28th, at Brighton, T. A. Sattary, of South Africa, to Miss Ethel Snell.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Benton, Altrincham, June 6th; Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Illingworth, Wirral, June 7th; Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Harriss, Billericay, June 9th; Mr. and Mrs. W. Henry, S.W.15, September 29th, 1947 (notice only now received).

“ In Memory ”

Private C. Negus, Royal West Kents

With deep regret we record the death of C. Negus, of Wellingborough.

Enlisting on April 1st, 1916, he was wounded at Ypres, and he came to St. Dunstan's at the end of 1917. He trained as a basket-maker and he carried this work on right up to the time of his death—a very fine craftsman.

Although he had suffered from heart trouble for some time his death was very sudden; he died two days after admission to hospital.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral, at which Mr. Sherratt represented St. Dunstan's.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Negus.

Corporal Tommy Miles, Royal Army Service Corps

We record with deep regret the death of Tommy Miles, of Middlesborough.

Tommy served with the R.A.S.C. from November, 1914, and was wounded by an aerial torpedo. He was discharged from the Army in August, 1918, but did not come to us until 1924 when he trained as a netter.

His health had been failing for a long time, and he was admitted to West House as a permanent Annexe case. He was transferred to Ovingdean and he died there on Easter Sunday.

The funeral took place at the Church of St. John the Baptist, where a Requiem Mass was said for him at which many St. Dunstan's friends were present. He was laid to rest in St. Dunstan's section of the Cemetery at Brighton.

We particularly extend our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Wilson, of Middlesborough, with whom Tommy made his home for many years.

Private W. A. Westell, Honourable Artillery Company

It is with deep regret we record the death of W. A. Westell, of Liverpool. Enlisting in April, 1917 he was wounded shortly afterwards, and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1918. He trained as a shorthand typist and took up a post with the firm by whom he had previously been employed. He remained there until February of this year, when he retired for reasons of health. His employers thought most highly of him—indeed, he upheld both in his home and business life the best traditions of St. Dunstan's, and gained the affection and esteem of all with whom he came in contact.

A wreath from the Chairman and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral.

Our sympathy goes out to his widow, son and daughter.

Arthur Belcher, Royal Arsenal

With deep regret we record the death of Arthur Belcher, of Hampton, Middlesex, who was wounded by an explosion at the Royal Arsenal in 1917, and came to St. Dunstan's in 1929.

He trained in netting and wool rugs, and worked at this for many years, but for some time he had been in failing health, and he passed away on May 20th.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his friends at St. Dunstan's. He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Albert H. Wernham, Royal Army Service Corps

We record with deep regret the death of A. H. Wernham, of Bracknell.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1919, two years after his discharge, and he trained in mats, netting and wool rugs, and also for a time did factory work.

For some time, however, he had been in failing health, and his death occurred on June 4th.

A wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Wernham and her family.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Wilson sincerely thank the Matron and staff of Ovingdean and West House for all their kindness to their late friend, Tommy Miles.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:

<p>CIMA.—To A. W. Cima, of Wraysbury, whose wife passed away on June 10th after a long illness.</p>	<p>LANGHAM.—To J. Langham, of Arnold, Notts., whose wife passed away after a long and painful illness on May 22nd.</p>
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