

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### St. Dunstan's Prayer \*

by ALFRED NOYES

Thou who never canst err, for Thyself art the Way;  
Thou whose infinite kingdom is flooded with day;  
Thou whose eyes behold all, for Thyself art the Light,  
*Look down on us gently who journey by night.*

By the pity revealed in Thy loneliest hour,  
Forsaken, self-bound and self-emptied of power;  
Thou who, even in death, hadst all heaven in sight,  
*Look down on us gently who journey by night.*

On the road to Emmaus they thought Thou wast dead,  
Yet they saw Thee and knew in the breaking of bread.  
Though the day was far spent, in Thy face there was light.  
*Look down on us gently who journey by night.*

AT the top of this column is printed a very moving verse by Mr. Alfred Noyes, one of the foremost poets of our day. Saint Dunstan was, of course, Archbishop of Canterbury, and if he was a saint who took a special interest in any group, it was craftsmen, for he himself was a craftsman. So far as I know, Saint Dunstan did not, during his life, take any special interest in the blind, and he certainly could not in any historical sense be called the patron saint of the blind. However, the behaviour of saints is not only a matter of history, but also of the imagination, and I like to think that St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners have succeeded in establishing that Saint Dunstan could be our patron saint.

Let us then agree with Mr. Noyes that he is, and thank the poet for his beautiful lines.

### The Honours List—Mr. Askew, C.B.E.

Mr. W. G. Askew, O.B.E., Secretary of St. Dunstan's, was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.) in the Birthday Honours List. His lifelong work for St. Dunstan's has had its influence on the lives of all of us for he has in turn occupied the posts of Pensions Officer, Business Manager and Secretary to the Council. More recently as a senior executive of lifelong experience, Mr. Askew's knowledge has been a

\* This poem appeared in the *Sunday Times* of May 27th with the comment "Yesterday was the feast day of Saint Dunstan, the 'Minister of Eternal Light' to those in darkness."

help to the blind world as a whole, and he was a leading and most valuable member of the Ministry of Labour's Working Party on the Employment of the Blind, to whose report he contributed much, and which was reviewed in the February number of this magazine.

St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's owe him much for his ability, devotion, patience and sympathy, and I feel sure that St. Dunstaners all over the world, and the Council and staff, will join to congratulate Mr. Askew on becoming a C.B.E.

A notable distinction in the blind world is the barony conferred upon Ernest Whitfield. Now a man in the fifties, he became blind when he was twenty-one years of age, and took up music as a career. He twice stood for Parliament as a Labour candidate, and was a Governor of the B.B.C. during the last five years. At one time he was Honorary Treasurer of the N.I.B. and he is now President of the National Federation of the Blind, a body of professional workers.

All blind people will rejoice that so high an honour should come to one of our people, and will offer their congratulations to Ernest Whitfield.

The Honours List also includes the name of a St. Dunstaner. Dudley Tregent, who lives in South Yarra, Victoria, Australia, receives the M.B.E. for services to ex-servicemen. Tregent was blinded in the First World War, and I well remember discussing his future with him and encouraging him to take up Law, which he read successfully, becoming a solicitor. I am told he has a thriving practice and he has done much to help ex-servicemen, particularly his blinded comrades, in their organisation as well as in legal matters. We are proud of his success and send him our congratulations and best wishes.

### Ban on Football Broadcasts

I have had a number of letters of protest from St. Dunstaners about the Football League's decision not to allow matches to be broadcast at the time they are being played. It occurred to me that the listeners really would not mind if a recording was taken throughout the match and the broadcast began the moment the match was over; indeed, I thought listeners would like this, so I wrote to Sir William Haley, the Director General of the B.B.C., to ask him if it was their intention to do this. In his reply, he says, "No, we have no intention of broadcasting recordings after the match is over. We feel that the essence of any commentary is its immediacy and that the solution proposed by the Football League would not be acceptable to listeners." There is something in this question of "immediacy," because one has the feeling of being present as it is occurring, but I am inclined to think Sir William exaggerates it. What do my readers think?

I have written to the Football League, asking them to consider, amongst all the other matters they are weighing in their minds, the hardship to many blind people and old people who cannot stand the wintry weather, and to those who are bedridden and in hospital, and to express the hope that they will come to terms with the B.B.C. As it takes two to make a bargain, I have also written to the B.B.C. in similar terms. For what it is worth, I have added the suggestion that the B.B.C. should advertise the football match so as to induce people to go to it, and thus compensate the Football League for the fact that the broadcast may keep some people away. The power of broadcasting any advertisement is enormous, and by mentioning the match in advance, or by getting the commentators to say something from time to time that makes you wish you were there, they might do much to keep up the gate money which is, of course, the Football League's great anxiety.

IAN FRASER.

### The Honours List

The following names in the King's Birthday Honours List will also be of interest to St. Dunstaners:—

Captain A. A. Andrews, of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Air Force Association, receives the C.B.E.

Joseph Challinor, Secretary, North Regional Association for the Blind, and

Thomas H. Smith, General Secretary of the National League for the Blind, receive the M.B.E.

Squadron Leader William Simpson, D.F.C., who was himself severely injured in the 1939-45 war (he wrote of his experiences in his book *The Way of Recovery*), is awarded the O.B.E. for his services as a member of the National Advisory Council on Employment of the Disabled.

## London Club Notes

### Outdoor Section

*Swimming* take place, 7-8 p.m., on Mondays, at Seymour Baths. *Boats* are available on Regent's Park lake again this summer.

The race for the Farmer Cup took place over seven miles at Brighton, on May 19th. "Professor" Jimmy Edwards was the starter. From the results which follow it will be seen that Tommy Gaygan brought off the double by winning the Scratch and the Handicap events.

We are indebted to Miss Smith, of Ovingdean, for this account of the Walk:

### "The Farmer Cup"

Ten pairs of white cotton shorts lined up To compete for St. Dunstan's Farmer Cup. Five were called "London" and five "The Rest"—

I knew that they faced a gruelling test.

"Take it from here!" Jimmy Edwards said;

With muscles twitching they gazed ahead.

"Get ready... Get set..." and then "Go!" they heard,

And off they went on the final word.

I waited to give a cheer and clap

When our Heroes reached the second lap;

One man shot past long before the rest—

"He must have taken a bus," I guessed.

At last the second and third appeared,

And each in passing was clapped and cheered.

A voice from the crowd was heard to say,

As the tenth man trudged his weary way,

"It's wicked to drag him on with tape—

He's tired of walking, but can't escape!"

It wasn't long till the leading man

Was back again where he first began;

And so he started the final round—

One foot advancing, one on the ground.

The crowd was bursting with merry quips—

"Mae West would envy those swinging hips!"

The Mayor and Mayoress were there in style

To mark the end of the seventh mile . . .

The race was over, the numbers up,

The "Rest of England" won the cup,

But London's boys—though they did not win—

Could still lay claim to the FIRST MAN IN.

"SMITHIE" (V.A.D.).

### Handicap Times and Order of Finishing

Competitor	Actual Time	H'cap Time	H'cap Allow.	H'cap Poss.
1st T. Gaygan	60:19	60:19	Scr.	* 1st
2nd C. Williamson	62:52	61:52	1:00	† 5th
3rd W. Miller	62:57	61:47	1:10	† 4th
4th A. Brown	63:58	62:38	1:20	* 8th
5th T. Denmead	64:15	62:05	2:10	† 6th
6th J. Fairgrieve	66:26	61:06	5:20	* 3rd
7th P. J. Cryan	67:18	60:48	6:30	* 2nd
8th C. Stafford	71:24	62:24	9:00	* 7th
9th S. V. Tutton	73:21	63:01	10:20	† 10th
10th W. T. Scott	74:59	62:39	12:20	* 9th

\*London. †The Rest

Team Placings S.S. S.S. T.B. T.B.

1st The Rest 3 4 2 9 Total 18 pts.

2nd London 7 10 1 6 24 pts.

Prize Winners

1st Handicap Race. T. Gaygan.

2nd " " P. J. Cryan.

3rd " " J. Fairgrieve.

Consolation Prize, W. T. Scott.

### Bridge

The inter-club match between L. Douglas's team of 4 and E. Carpenter's team of 4 had unfortunately to be scratched through chapters of mishaps. On May 19th we played the Purley Bridge Club at Headquarters. One of our teams won by 1900, while the other team lost by 2230. This means that we lost the match by the narrow margin of 330. There was a match against J. Waller's team of 8 on May 26th, which they won.

### Indoor Section

Darts matches have been played at Kennington, Vauxhall, and St. Martin's Lane, with varying degrees of success. One match of special mention was the match against the Loughton Darts Club, the game being halved with our hosts and played under very pleasant circumstances at The Armoury, Epping.

May 20th found 15 men with 15 wives or escorts coaching to Brighton, guests of our old friend, Mr. Cheeseman. Derby Day saw a large party off to Epsom, lots of sunshine, lots of songs, lots of lovely sandwiches, etc., not so many winners, but a good time had by all.

We are glad to see so many more of the second war showing more interest in the Club. Meanwhile we still invite your suggestions and constructive criticism through the post or suggestion box in the hall. Should you visit H.Q. during the day, then have a look at our notice board, there is almost certain to be something there to interest you.

JOHN A. MUDGE.

## Derby Sweepstake, 1951

Another Derby Day has come and gone. In one of the most amazing races ever known, in which the favourite was last and other well-favoured horses were left at the post, the hopes of those who had drawn horses rose and fell.

Slightly fewer tickets were sold than last year—2,747 as against 2,845—but nevertheless the substantial sum of £325 was left for distribution in accordance with the usual rules, after printing and postage expenses (£18 7s. 6d.) had been deducted.

The draw at Headquarters, on May 25th, had been made by Messrs. Frank Rhodes and Eddie Edwards, with Mr. Willis officiating, while Miss Ibbetson and a number of other St. Dunstaners and friends looked on.

The result of the draw was included in the last REVIEW, and it only remains to give the final prizes and the fortunate prizewinners. They were:

1st Arctic Prince	W. Robinson	2419
	Grantham, £162 10s.	
2nd Sybil's Nephew	E. Sheppard, Hove	773
	£65	
3rd Signal Box	F. Berisford, Stoke	1903
	£32 10s.	

£65 was divided among thirty other starters and the holders of these tickets received £2 3s. 4d. each. They were as follows:—

Arcot ...	W. C. KEAST, Clacton	317
Ardent Hope ...	R. FINCH, Birmingham	1117
Bokara ...	J. C. WILLIAMS, Haywards Heath	2564
Clare Hill ...	A. S. DOLBY, Brighton	805
Claudius ...	R. YOUNG, Dorking	1669
Crocodile ...	T. THOMPSON, Morpeth	6
Expeditious ...	C. DURKIN, Orpington	72
Faux Pas ...	R. DOBROWOLSKI, Hove	357
Fraise Du Bois II	H. CRABTREE, Headquarters	29
Ki Ming ...	W. VENESS, Peacehaven	1288
Le Tyrol ...	F. HESKETH, Greenford	891
Le Vent... ..	E. G. POVEY, Southampton	2236
Malka's Boy ...	F. RICHARDSON, Lancing	1020
Medway ...	J. H. BURT, Southampton	1759
Mystery IX ...	G. A. DAWSON, Bishop Auckland	788
North Carolina	C. WILLIAMS, Wrexham	276
Nourreddin ...	T. O'REILLY, Blackburn	2638
Nyangal ...	H. BENNETT, Bristol	1924
Paradise Street	J. ROPER, Tipton	1619
Part Du Lyon ...	D. G. MORGAN, Tredegar	1227
Raincheck ...	H. F. PORTER, Kingston	1876
Sashcord ...	A. STEVENS, Wingersh	2123
Stokes ...	H. PUGH, N.3	489
Straight Quill ...	J. S. WHITELAM, Westcliff	1930
Sun Compass ...	R. H. COOK, Harrow	1046
Turco II ...	H. G. MANNING, Brighton	1119

Turk's Reliance	H. DOWNS, Rishton	421
Wateringbury ...	D. J. M. STEPHENS, Carmarthenshire	330

Woodcote Inn ...	BILL EDWARDS, Brighton	1344
Zuccherò ...	I. OSTLE, Cockermouth	2296

The remaining horses listed last month did not start.

## The Morecambe Holiday Camp

Twenty-five St. Dunstaners and their wives last month enjoyed a wonderful holiday at Middleton Sands, near Morecambe, as the guests of the Middleton Tower Holiday Camp, Ltd.

In the words of W. McCarthy, of Stretford: "From the minute we entered the gates the fun commenced. It was just wonderful. We were fully occupied with shows, pictures, dancing, swimming, housey-housey, boxing matches, and many other fun affairs. Matron Davies came one day and luckily won the Housey-Housey. That meant another treat for the boys—drinks at the bar."

One of the regular features of the Camp is a Talent Competition, and four St. Dunstaners entered—Messrs. Arnold Clark, Bentley, McCarthy and Jock Macfarlane. From sixteen turns, four judges from the audience of 1,200 had to select the best entertainer. Jock Macfarlane was the winner, and in September he goes back for the All-England Finals—and for a prize of £200.

Jock himself, like every other St. Dunstaner who was at the Camp, cannot speak too highly of everything that was done for their happiness. He said: "It was the nearest to Utopia that we could get. They seemed to have everything except a cemetery. Nobby Clark, of Manchester, got the people singing wherever he went with his harmonica. The entertainment staff were replicas of our late Bill Tovell—same style, same mannerisms. Grand fellows, all."

## Braille Competition Successes

Congratulations to R. Goding and J. Todd, from Ovingdean, who were awarded prizes for their braille reading at the Competition held at the National Library for the Blind on June 2nd. They competed in Class C (those blinded since 1938). Congratulations to F. Rhodes and W. Henry, who also won prizes, but in the section for those who lost their sight before 1938.

## Reunion of the Muffled Drums

Ovingdean was invaded on May 3rd by the "Muffled Drums," and the staff set about the business of falling into the fun with them with great gusto. Apart from the entertainment at the "Plough" and "White Horse," there were coach trips out for tea and the usual dances; on Saturday the deaf boys were entertained at the Brighton Deaf Club, and on Sunday by the men and staff at West House. This reunion coincided with Fallowfield's entry into St. Dunstan's, and at the dinner he spoke of the day he arrived, when Matron Pain and Mr. Banks of the staff, and Freddy King were the only three able to talk to him, but what strides had been made since that day! St. Dunstan's Officials and Staff and the hearing men were master artists at the Manual, and no other organisation had trained totally deaf men as St. Dunstan's had. He felt he could look back on the past with satisfaction, and to the future with confidence. He congratulated his deaf comrades on their various successes, and if they thought they had no success to be proud of they had better light their pipes and think it over. Success was not gained without the help of their wives, so he thanked the deaf men's wives; he thanked the hearing St. Dunstaners who could talk to them, especially those who had to do it under difficulties, such as the one-armed and those who had lost their fingers; thanked those wives and children (now grown up) who could talk to them, and finally St. Dunstan's.

Joe Jordan also spoke during the reunion and said the deaf men could always rely upon St. Dunstan's to help them wherever it was possible.

## Young St. Dunstaners

Barbara Sayers, who is a member of Northampton Athletic Club, has won the County Trophy, a silver rose bowl, and has been offered training for the All-England Athletic Championship.

★ ★ ★

Ian Marsden, who is eighteen, is the youngest member of the Alderholt Rifle Club, which shoots with the National Rifle Association, and has won the prize money for the last two months with an average of 99.

## Marriages

On June 9th, Alfred Jennings, Heaton, Bradford, to Miss Millicent Chumley. Mary Dembenski, on June 9th.

Clarice Temperton, Hull, on March 31st, to Bernard Foster.

Doreen Furness, Warrington, on April 19th, to William P. Capper.

Mavis Randall, Hove, on March 31st, to Derek Tilbury-Wetherill.

Maurice Baughn, on September 2nd, 1950, to Miss Louisa Padginton.

## Neighbours

They came into our street some time ago, and occupied a house adjoining ours. Soon the father's limitations began to take shape. He seemed harsh to his son, Jack, maybe not quite so much to his daughter, Jill. When he went out he was always in a hurry, casting furtive glances around: never easing his pace. In his dark, chalk-stripe suit, crowned with a shiny hat, he always looked well groomed. Not so his wife, she sunk to an impossibly skinny scarecrow. When the husband was home the house was noisy, whether due to an ebullition of high spirits or a father tormenting his family to relieve his frustrated ego we never knew. One day we saw the wife leave the house, cross the road and stand there, and the father push Jill out of the house. She almost fell to the ground squealing before reaching her mother—who drove her back. Then Jack was driven out and, with Jill, they went to their mother who, with determined mien, took them back to the house. In seconds an indescribable uproar ensued. Came a day when a sedate visitor called, chatted, examined the children, and left. Following this the family went out together. The mother became quite debonair. When migrants were gathering about Southampton Water the family linked up with them to spend the winter in the sunshine in Africa. We had been held fascinated by Mr. and Mrs. Swallow raising a family in a nest which they built beneath the eaves of our house. The babies' flying lessons seemed a rough business. We had seen the "Elder" call to announce the day of departure, and to examine the children. We also knew that all the Jacks and Jills, when tired, would ride on the backs of older and stronger birds.

W. E. BROOKES.

## Talking Book Library

### Mono-volumic May

Like most invented words, the meaning of my beautiful adjective is obvious at a glance. I must apologise, however, in case the word mono-volumic does actually exist. Now, cutting the cackle, here is the solitary "hoss":—

"Sir Richard Grenville," by A. L. Rowse, reader Richard Wessel, is most interesting as it throws a fuller light on this national hero, whom we all know simply as the captain of the "Revenge." It was bad luck for him that it was Drake and not himself who sailed completely round the world. As colonist, merchant venturer and country gentleman he had few, if any, equals, and he specialised in legalised piracy. He was in fact a rogue, with a knowledge of how to work the law. A fierce individualist and a most valuable problem child for the Queen. Read and enjoy!

Better luck for the St. Leger!

"NELSON."

## America and France Honour St. Dunstaners

The Migel Medal for Outstanding Services for the Blind, which the American Foundation for the Blind awards annually, has been presented this year to Col. Edwin A. Baker, O.B.E., M.C., Managing Director of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

As head of the Canadian National Institute for more than thirty years, Edwin Baker has been responsible for carrying out the governmental programme for the care of the blind. The first Canadian officer to be blinded in World War I, he has been a constant inspiration to all blind people, and especially to the Canadian war-blinded.

On Friday, May 25th, Mr. W. T. Curtis-Willson, M.B.E., J.P., had the honour of the Chevalier of the Legion of Honour conferred upon him by the French Ambassador, M. René Massigli.

At a ceremony at the Ambassador's residence in London, Mr. Curtis-Willson heard the Ambassador pay tribute to his services in promoting the adoption of war-devastated Falaise by the Borough of Hove, and of his work in the field of international journalism (he was last year President of the Newspaper Society).

## Blackpool Notes

We missed May REVIEW notes, and I was sorry not to record April 25th, when a merry party went to Squires Gate Aero Club for free drinks and freer laughter.

On Whit Saturday we went to Scorton for home-made tea, and on Whit Sunday to the "Boot and Shoe" for stronger refreshments—there somebody must have drunk less wisely and well, coining a new name, "The Shoot and Boo."

On 17th to the Lakes—returning at a late hour.

On May 25th we went to join the revellers who were spending a week as the guests of the Directors of Middleton Camp. Leaving the Blackpool Home at 11 a.m., we arrived at the camp soon after mid-day. We had a warm welcome from the staff of the camp, and were shown all the attractions. Lunch was served, after which we joined the Bingo party and the sum of £6 10s. 0d. went, temporarily, into the pocket of a blue jacket!!! After tea we enjoyed the variety show in the camp theatre—before leaving our St. Dunstaners staying in camp joined the visiting party for a drink, so the winnings were soon swallowed up . . . in more senses than one. We arrived "home" at 11 p.m., after twelve happy hours. A special vote of thanks to our hosts.

May 29th saw a small party sail away to the Isle of Man—this special treat was from our "Blackpool Friends," and was much appreciated. Unfortunately, this was a rare occasion and not to be considered a regular part of holidays.

"NELLIE DEAN."

Blackpool.

## Test Results

**Typing.**—C. Phillips, K. Ward, E. Barber, A. Read, E. Taylor (S.A.), H. Fowler, G. Rignall, L. Hill, J. Simpson.

**Advanced Interpoint.**—J. Cowan.

**Preliminary.**—C. Redford, T. Denmead.

**Writing.**—J. Walbrugh (S.A.), J. K. Robson, G. Ridnall, C. Redford.

## Advertisement

FOR SALE.—Hand mortising machine, complete with eight chisels from 1/4 in. to 1 in. In excellent condition.—Apply T. W. Chamberlain, 27 Butts Hill Road, Woodley, Reading, Berks.

## Mechanisms and Efficiency

We have all heard the clanging bell of the fire engine rushing along. Some of us remember the old days, with the red and brass engine drawn by two white horses, showering sparks and smoke in its trail, more dramatic but hardly as efficient as to-day's mechanised monsters.

Perhaps you would like to know what goes on in the seconds, I repeat seconds, before the engines appear upon the highway intent upon their mission.

Come with me to a typical suburban fire station, and we will make an imaginary call.

The building, is of just two storeys, the lower housing the "Appliances," as the engines are known, also the watchroom, which is always manned, with its multitude of dials, switches and its telephone, its recorders and, of course, forms. The floor above houses the dormitory, Control Room, recreation room and mess room.

We stand in a corner in the watchroom. Through this room's long window we can see the appliance room, and be out of the way when the "Bells go down."

All is peaceful. Then, without warning, a recorder starts to ring. The bells all over the station ring out, long ringing, no ceasing! The Watch room attendant puts on his form the time and number of the alarm where the call was made.

The crews of the appliances are meanwhile running to their charges, the driver of No. 1 Appliance, Pump Escape, starts his engine, the crew scramble aboard, the station officer repeats the number, automatically shown on an illuminated panel on the wall, and as the watchroom attendant depresses a switch the doors of the station open and with the crew dressing themselves in duty rig, the Pump Escape roars forth on to the forty-foot approach yard with its full view of the road, and is, within fifteen seconds, turning on to the highway and speeding on its errand.

Even as Appliance No. 2 roars forth, the news is being given to Control on the floor above, and the administration staff go into action, filling the spaces below, now devoid of appliances, with the next reserves, drawn from the neighbouring stations.

The form filled in by the watchroom duty men shows time of call, how made, and the times of departures of appliances to the second; the time of call by alarm is

automatically registered by the recorder system.

The clanging bells stop, but in the control room the short-wave wireless is switched on, ready to receive and act upon minute to minute news from the scene of the outbreak, ready to call in other stations, send a hose waggon, for long service of water from either open water or town mains, send a turntable tower for high direction of action or any special peculiar circumstance of the place.

Let us travel for a short space upon the Pump Escape. As the driver swings on to the highway, the Station Officer, in charge, calls over his shoulder to the crew, "23 Green Street by Blank Road, nearest hydrants 47, 93, and 51 Blank." Already the picture of the district is forming in the minds of the crew. By now all are fully garbed, leather and rubber long boots, belts with accoutrements, cord belt, and all surmounted by the new lightweight helmet, similar to the crash helmets used by motor cyclists, but of course with narrowing peak and flared neck guard, but these helmets are reversible to enable the men to use them as glare shields or heat deflectors in bright or oil blazes. As the appliance pulls up at the scene of the fire, the crew descend, and as the leading firemen enter the building to ascertain that all life is removed, the ordinary firemen set to fitting hose to hydrants and preparing in organised haste to get all things under way.

The firemen entering the building carry with them a light hose constantly connected to the forty or fifty gallon tank in the engine, and which, as the engine has stopped hauling the appliance along the roads, is now in gear with the pump pressurising the tank of water to give the firemen all the help. The driver starts his pump as he throws his gear into neutral, applies his hand brake, and then, with a further depressing of the clutch and throwing a small lever, starts his pump, but he then alights from his seat and works his accelerator according to demand from the side of the engine, as he is then also able to watch his gauges and keep his pressure high enough.

I hope to tell you, in another issue, how the station works inside and during its less hectic moments. Until then, "Reset the bells."

JOHN A. MUDGE.

### Brighton Notes

The days and weeks are rapidly speeding by and we are already half-way through the term. Holiday men are arriving here in increasing numbers and—at last—the weather is getting more seasonal.

During May we have been most fortunate in receiving a number of invitations for both holiday-makers and for the trainees. An unusual but very much enjoyed invitation came from Bertram Mills' Circus, for their opening performance in Brighton. About 20 holiday men from Ovingdean, 12 from West House, and, for the first time, a small part of children holidaying at Northgate House thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon's entertainment.

On the occasion of the visit of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth to Brighton, a group of St. Dunstaners from Ovingdean and West House joined with other ex-Service Organisations in lining the route to the Royal Pavilion. It was, very fortunately, a fine day, and so there was a large crowd of people to welcome the Princess.

Our visitors to Ovingdean this month have again been numerous. We were very glad to have another visit from Sir Neville and Lady Pearson. This time they brought with them Mrs. Herod and the well-known journalist, Mr. Collie Knox, both of whom were very interested in all they saw at Ovingdean, and later at West House. From overseas this month we welcomed Dr. and Mrs. Chitnis, from India. Dr. Chitnis knows G. K. Unny very well, and promised to try to see him again on his return to India. Another visitor from the British Council was Mr. Matsumoto, a United Nations delegate from Japan. He was much impressed by the various instruction available at St. Dunstan's. In addition to the visitors mentioned, there have been increasing numbers from the Women's Institute, British Legion, and similar organisations, as well as friends of individual St. Dunstaners.

The Shooting contests remain as popular as ever, and there have also been a good number of Darts Matches played off during the month. Invitations included those to the Shipwrights Arms and the Social Club, Surbiton.

On many occasions, most notably the various Race Meetings which have been held this month, Ovingdean has been joined by men from West House and West House

also acted as hosts to Ovingdean on the occasions of a Domino Tournament and Whist Drive during May.

As the end of the month drew near, we found an increasing number of men arriving on holiday, until by May 30th two coaches of holiday men and one coach from West House were able to set out for the Derby. Our numbers were smaller than in previous years, because the Derby was being run on a weekday, which deprived the trainees of an opportunity to join the outing—but when the great moment came those left at home made full use of the wireless sets in the Home and in the workshops!

That's all the news from us this month, except to remind you all once again that Sports Day entries should reach Mr. Jarrold not later than June 30th please.

### Northgate House

Summer has returned again to Northgate; not that we do not have a perpetual summer of our own making, but we are grateful to the Weather Man for some sunshine. The puzzles are all away in the cupboard and the prawning nets have appeared again. The catch to date is two magnificent landings of best quality prawns and one plaice. Matron was seen to remove the plaice from the washing machine with no more than a sigh. (It is unfortunate that the washing machine performs twice daily, as it would make a perfect aquarium.)

Mr. Bertram Mills invited us to his circus and he received a letter from us afterwards telling him exactly what we liked best and just how good we thought his performance was. Acrobats and performing dogs on bicycles were the favourites.

Wild flowers have been very beautiful this Spring, and the house is filled with our "country bunches" of cowslips, wild violets and buttercups. The long wavy grass on East Hill is over Charlie Daly's head, and makes good cover for Cowboys and Indians crawling through the undergrowth. We took a picnic up there on the loveliest afternoon this year, and could not count the larks which sang a never-ending song over our heads. There was also a crumbling old haystack which the farmer had begun carting. We willingly completed the demolition side of the job for him.

It has been a long winter, but when summer comes to Rottingdean it brings every reward.

### Birmingham Club.

On Sunday, June 3rd, the Birmingham and District St. Dunstan's Club held their summer outing. The weather was glorious and could not have been better if we had ordered it. We travelled in two charabancs and after going through some of the most wonderful country in Warwickshire, we pulled up at the "Red Lion" to remove some of the dryness. Then on for a little longer until we stopped for a packed lunch in a beauty spot which was one of the few very old English villages. The inhabitants wondered who we were; even the dogs did not seem to like us, but when they knew we were St. Dunstan's brigade, everything was all right. After a beautiful drive we arrived at Overstone Park, where our host, Mrs. King, was waiting for us. It was a grand place and Mrs. King made us all feel most welcome. A lovely tea followed, then games, and after some four hours in the grand sunshine we made our way to the charabancs for home. Our sincere thanks to all helpers from the Birmingham Red Cross, not forgetting Miss Fairhead, Miss Gough and Mr. Colling—for their splendid attention. It was a great pity that many more members of the Club did not turn up after Miss Fairhead had gone to such trouble in organising such a grand outing. I personally make an appeal to all members of the Club to let us have better attendances at our meetings in the future.

JOHN H. NEW.

Wolverhampton.

### Motoring Concession for Disabled Refused

On the Finance Bill in the House of Commons, Sir Ian Fraser moved a new clause which would permit a person who was so disabled that he had to use a motor car or invalid chair to get to his work, to deduct the extra cost from his income tax. The nation and the individual gained when a disabled man goes to work, said Sir Ian, and the cost of motoring, when you included purchase tax, petrol duty, etc., was very high.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer refused on the grounds that it would be difficult to decide who was so disabled that he could not go to work without private transport, and that it was administratively difficult to benefit a particular class by tax exemption.

### "Family Doctor"

Arrangements have now been completed for the publication in braille of "Family Doctor," the new monthly journal published by the B.M.A. To quote from the editorial letter to readers of the first issue: " 'Family Doctor' will give you in straightforward English the advice and guidance of doctors who know what they are talking about. 'The British Medical Journal,' for over 100 years the doctors' own journal, has placed its experience and its knowledge at the disposal of this new health magazine for the layman. 'Family Doctor' will bring directly to the public from the medical profession simply presented and well-illustrated information on all those things that affect the well-being of the individual and of the family."

The braille edition will contain everything included in the letterpress issue, except advertisements. It will cost exactly the same price as the letterpress edition, 1s. per copy, or 12s. per annum. As this small charge barely covers the actual cost of printing paper, readers will readily appreciate that the heavy expenditure involved in this venture will only be justified if the magazine receives wide support from blind persons throughout the English-speaking world.

The braille edition will commence with the September issue, St. Dunstaners who are interested should get in touch with Mr. Cooper, Men's Supplies.

### St. Dunstaners Ordained

The Rev. Michael Norman was, on May 20th, ordained a Priest of the Church of England by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in Canterbury Cathedral. Since his ordination as a Deacon last June, the Rev. Norman has been Assistant Curate at the Church of St. Peter in Thanet, Broadstairs.

Among those attending the Ordination were Matron Pain, Mrs. Broughton, and Mrs. Jenner, who, as Miss Patterson, was a driver at Blackpool for many years.

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On the same day, Stanley Oliver, who has been studying at the Clifton Theological College, Bristol, was ordained a Deacon in Southwark Cathedral.

Our congratulations and good wishes go out to these St. Dunstaners who have chosen this most arduous but most satisfying profession.

### Letter to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Can any reader give me particulars of a problem known as "The Monkey and the Rope," which was printed in a braille magazine—probably "Progress"—several years ago?

Yours sincerely,  
J. E. GUNN.

27 Whitehill Road, Gravesend.

DEAR EDITOR,

Sometimes, on my being introduced to a St. Dunstaner, he says: "You're on propaganda, aren't you?"

While pleading guilty to this charge with a smile, I should be glad if someone could suggest an alternative word, with pleasanter associations than "propaganda," to describe the work of those of us who try and help to "raise the wind" for St. Dunstan's, and makes its varied activities known to the general public.

Yours sincerely,  
MARY JAMESON  
(Hon. Organiser, South Norwood).

DEAR EDITOR,

I congratulate H. Crabtree on bringing forward the glaring anomalies of the National Health Insurance scheme as it touches ex-Service men. Another anomaly is "Sick Benefit." Never having been N.H. insured until the new Act came into force, I was never entitled to any benefits, but since I have been insured, or rather since the new "Service" came into operation, I have had three nasty accidents. In each case I would have been laid up for several weeks had I been employed outside. In no instance did I receive any benefits. Without any political argument, for I believe the same thing would have happened irrespective of the party in office, it appears that all our attempts at independent security for ourselves and dependants in our advancing years is being taken advantage of. Nobody, for instance, is yet old enough to draw the black coated old-age pension, so the entire contribution has been swallowed up, and the people who did not join, were not N.H. insured, but are now contributing, receive the benefit of retirement pensions that most of us will never be entitled to, whether ex-Service or not. I know that the official answer is that the black-coated workers come automatically into the N.H.S., whereas the others, "self-employed," etc.,

will have to wait ten years for eligibility. This is a farce, as the majority would have had to wait that long anyway. I was just eligible to join by a few months, and would not have been eligible to draw until 1955, so the Government cashed in on the credulity of people who trusted them. I have Sir Kingsley Wood's personal letter, assuring me that the pension claim would be honoured, irrespective of any change of Government, or the fact that I receive total disability pension.

Yours sincerely,  
A. J. RADFORD.  
Castle Cary.

### Canadian News Letter

DEAR EDITOR,

I, William Jeffrey Bond, married Miss Sybil Stopps, of Monk's Risborough, Buckinghamshire, in Ontario, on January 1st, 1949. My wife was connected with St. Dunstan's in that she read to the physiotherapy students at Church Stretton. We were presented with a daughter on March 19th, 1951.

I started my own private physiotherapy practice in this city in February, 1949, and it is running along fine.

Since being in Canada I have met up with Miss McKay; she is a Canadian V.A.D. and taught typing and handicrafts at Stretton. I also meet once a month C. Perkis and C. Carneagy, both St. Dunstaners from the first war. Perkis has a poultry farm at a little town named Preston, near Galt, Ontario, and Carneagy takes life very easily in the city. They both talk often of the St. Dunstan's of the first war. Perkis especially is very independent. He lost his wife about two years ago and now lives with his son. He has given up his poultry farm, but passes the time by taking walks, travelling with the local ice hockey team, and on these occasions plays his trumpet when a goal is scored for his own team.

My social life consists of being a member of the Executive of the Waterlow County Association for the Blind, a member of the War Amputees, and also second vice-president of that Executive. At the end of this month I have the job of examining at the finals of the physiotherapists just finishing at Toronto University.

Please convey my most sincere regards to all my good friends in St. Dunstan's.

WILLIAM JEFFREY BOND.  
Galt, Ontario, Canada.

### From All Quarters

G. Heeley, of Leeds, has been elected President of the Old Comrades' Association of the 21st King's Royal Rifles for this year, with Lord Swinton as Vice-President.

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Wilfred Pickles, with Mrs. Pickles, paid a private visit to F. A. Robinson, of Ewell, on June 3rd. The R.A.F. Association arranged for the visit—our St. Dunstaner is a member—and it was a great thrill for him.

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G. H. Richards, of Manchester, late of the Grenadier Guards, attended a Reunion Dinner and met Col. Gordon Lennox, Colonel of the Regiment, and Lord Derby. This month, in Manchester, they are laying up the colours of the 3rd Batt., the Grenadier Guards, and our St. Dunstaner will be at this function too, at which Princess Elizabeth will be present.

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C. R. Bulman, and Mrs. Bulman, of Beckenham, were members of the Bridge team winning the Gill Cup (covering the north-west area of Kent); they played eight matches without loss. This is the third time in four years that the team has held the Gill Cup, and Mr. and Mrs. Bulman were in the winning team in 1939, the first year the Cup was presented. They have also played against the Swedish team who recently toured this country.

### Grandfathers

W. Oldfield, Brighton; H. E. Hill, Devizes; J. H. Smith, Birmingham.

### Births

BOND.—On March 19th, to the wife of William Bond, Ontario, a daughter—Gillian Annette.

HORSFIELD.—On May 28th, to the wife of T. R. Horsfield, of Cambridge, a daughter—Jane Hilary Ann.

HOWSE.—On May 16th, to the wife of F. H. Howse, of Dartford, a son—David John.

POOLE.—On May 24th, to the wife of G. Poole, of Crappenhall, Warrington, a son—George David.

TAYLOR.—On June 5th, to the wife of R. Taylor, of Wolverhampton, a daughter—Yvonne Dianne.

### Marriages

COOPER—RATHBONE.—On June 4th, Charles W. W. Cooper, of Worthing, to Mrs. Mary Rathbone.

MATTHEWS—TOWERS.—On May 25th, Norman Matthews, of Wolverhampton, to Miss Norah Towers.

### Placements

L. V. Hill, as a gardener's handyman, with the City of London Cemetery, Manor Park; J. A. Simpson, on a centering machine with Messrs. English Electric Co., Ltd., Bradford; W. Pollock, as a labourer with Lord Roberts' Workshops, Belfast.

### Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Flowers, Birmingham, May 24th.

### "In Memory"

William John Wood, Ordnance Factory

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. J. Wood, of Putney. He was sixty-eight. He lost his sight as a munition worker in the first war, and he came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1919. He trained as a basket-maker and worked at his craft until the last, although he had been in failing health for a long time.

Among the many wreaths at the funeral was one of poppies from Sir Ian. Miss Cecil Wood was present at the Cemetery to represent St. Dunstan's.

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

Private William Thomas West, Royal Army Medical Corps

With deep regret we have to record the death of W. T. West, of Ramsgate. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in March, 1919, a year after his discharge from the Army, and he trained in boot-repairing. In April, 1946, however, he was forced to give this up owing to his poor health. In recent weeks he had become much worse and he died at his home on May 27th.

He was cremated at Charing, the ashes being taken to Steyning to rest in the family grave. A poppy wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was taken by Mrs. West to be placed on the grave. St. Dunstaners Millen, Bailey and Pink were present at the cremation ceremony to pay tribute to a very dear friend.

To Mrs. West we extend our deep sympathy in her loss.

## “ In Memory ”

### Fireman John M. P. Kenny, *Mercantile Marine*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of John Kenny, who had for some time been a semi-permanent resident at West House. He was seventy-three.

Serving in the first war, he was discharged from the Mercantile Marine in February, 1919, and was admitted to St. Dunstan's in July, 1927. He trained in mat-making at home and later went to our Annexe at Brighton for a course in netting. He lived with his sister until her health made it impossible for him to do so, and he came to us at West House.

A poppy wreath from Sir Ian, and wreaths from his Brighton friends, were among the flowers at the funeral.

Our sympathy goes out to his sister.

### Private Arthur Bannan, *South Lancashire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of Arthur Bannan, of Blackpool.

Enlisting on August 5th, 1914, he served until May, 1917, but he did not come to us until many years later—in 1937. He was always interested in the outdoor life and for some time he carried on with a small-holding, but of late years his very poor health had prevented any strenuous work. He had come to Ovingdean for a holiday when he was taken ill and he passed away there on April 25th.

A wreath from the Chairman was sent for the funeral. He was laid to rest in St. Dunstan's plot at Brighton.

Our sympathy goes out to his relatives and to Mr. and Mrs. Beattie, with whom he had lived for many years.

### Corporal Wilfred E. Freeman, *Royal Field Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of Wilfred Freeman, of Brighton. He was fifty-six.

He came to us at the end of 1929, ten years after his discharge from the Army, and he trained in baskets and netting, but his health was not good enough to continue with baskets. Eventually he had to give up work altogether and he was admitted to West House early this year. After a period in hospital he returned to West House where he died on June 4th.

He was buried at Brighton and among the many flowers was a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends.

He leaves a widow and grown-up son, to whom our sympathy is extended.

### Private Frederick Hines, *18th Bn. Welch Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of Frederick Hines, who for some years now has been a resident at West House; he was thirty-one years old.

When he came to us in February, 1945, his ill-health prevented any training. Eventually he came to us and spent his last years in the Sick Ward, where he passed away on May 26th.

He leaves a young widow, whom he married after he lost his sight, and to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

### Lance Corporal Richard J. Vine, *10th West Yorks Regt.*

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of R. J. Vine, of West Ealing.

After his discharge from the Army in August, 1916, he came almost at once to us, where he trained first as a telephone operator, then as a basket-maker. He worked first as a telephonist, went on to baskets, but returned again to telephony, but ill-health had forced him to retire in September, 1950. He continued to go downhill and he was admitted to West House Sick Ward on May 21st, where he died two days later. He bore his long suffering with amazing courage.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his widow and grown-up family.

He was buried in St. Dunstan's plot at Brighton.

### Private Henry Finkle, *Labour Corps*

With deep regret we have to record the death of H. Finkle, of Sunderland.

His service with the Army dated from October, 1912, to May, 1918, but he came to St. Dunstan's for the first time in 1921. He trained as a telephonist, but later went north and took up homecrafts. His health, however, had been far from good and his death occurred on April 19th.

A wreath from Sir Ian was sent for the funeral, which was attended by many St. Dunstan's friends. He leaves a widow and relatives, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

### Harry Tomkinson, *2nd South Lancashire Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of Harry Tomkinson, of Dalston, at the age of fifty-three.

He was discharged from the Service in June, 1919, and came to us immediately. He trained as a telephonist and continued in his post up to a fortnight before his death, when he was taken ill.

At the funeral a wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his family.