

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

AT the end of the Christmas Term, Miss Dorothy Pain, O.B.E., retires from her office as Matron of St. Dunstan's, having reached retiring age. This will be a sad parting so far as men and staff at Brighton are concerned, and those at Headquarters who visit Brighton from time to time will also feel they have lost a familiar figure. Miss Pain will not, however, be leaving St. Dunstaners for ever, for after her long association and having regard to the many friends she has made and to her own affection for them, I know that whatever she does in the future she will always keep in touch with us and be welcome wherever we are gathered together. Moreover, during the next two years, the Council of St. Dunstan's have arranged that Miss Pain will continue her association with us in a manner which will be congenial to her, advantageous to our organisation and agreeable to St. Dunstaners. After an extended holiday lasting some few months, Miss Pain intends to visit many St. Dunstaners in the United Kingdom and attend a large number of our reunions during 1952, where she will be a welcome guest. In the autumn of next year she will make an official visit on our behalf to St. Dunstaners overseas, going to Canada, New Zealand and Australia to see individual St. Dunstaners in their homes and meet our various groups in these countries. Thus her great experience and warm personality will still make its unrivalled contribution to the well-being of St. Dunstaners whose happiness is so near to her heart.

It was in 1915 that Miss Pain came to St. Dunstan's to be the head of our Braille School, bringing with her expert knowledge of braille which she had learned as a voluntary worker at the National Library for the Blind, as well as considerable executive and administrative gifts. Many older St. Dunstaners will remember this young and attractive head of our Braille Room during the years of the war and after, and I myself learnt my braille under her direction and to some extent by her personal teaching.

Her war work over, Miss Pain left us in 1923, though she maintained many of her individual contacts.

When the second World War seemed imminent, I asked Miss Pain to come and see me, and offered her the post of head of the Braille and Typewriting School, and of preliminary training generally at Ovingdean, and she accepted. When we moved to Church Stretton she was appointed Commandant-Matron of that institution and for a time carried the whole responsibility of the place upon her shoulders until the work became too heavy and a Commandant was appointed and she became the Matron of St. Dunstan's. She continued in this office throughout the period at Church Stretton and then at Ovingdean until the present day. Apart from her job as Matron at Ovingdean, Miss Pain also had a very considerable

correspondence with St. Dunstaners and their families all over the country, and this unofficial extension of our welfare work was of the greatest value.

The debt owed to Miss Pain by St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners can never be repaid except by the continuance of a glow of memory of her kindness and sympathy which has lightened the way of life for so many men and women who will wish to say "thank you and good luck."

Miss Frances Ramshaw will be appointed Matron at Ovingdean when Miss Pain retires. Miss Ramshaw joined our staff in 1943 as a braille teacher, having previously been on the staff of the National Library for the Blind. She was later promoted to the position of Education Assistant, and a little time afterwards Training Officer, which position she now holds.

Miss Ramshaw has rendered very valuable service during the past eight years and there can be few St. Dunstaners who were at Church Stretton or Ovingdean during this period who have not met her and benefited by her help and counsel.

All St. Dunstaners will, I know, wish her well in the important office she will be taking up at the end of the year.

IAN FRASER.

Her Majesty's Birthday

The following telegram was sent to Her Majesty the Queen on August 4th:

"Please convey to Her Majesty the Queen the loyal and affectionate greetings of the men of St. Dunstan's on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday."

IAN FRASER.

Her Majesty's Private Secretary sent the following reply:

"The Queen sends her sincere thanks to all who joined in your message of loyal good wishes which have given Her Majesty great pleasure."

PRIVATE SECRETARY.

London Reunion

28th November, 1951

The London Reunion Dance at the Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, London, W.1, is being held this year on Wednesday, 28th November, from 7.30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

This function is primarily for St. Dunstaners living in the London area and it is not possible to make accommodation arrangements for those who cannot return to their own homes the same night.

One ticket will admit a St. Dunstaner and one escort. (It is regretted that children under sixteen cannot be included).

Application for tickets should be made to Mr. Mackay at Headquarters as soon as possible, and in any case, not later than Friday, 9th November.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Dembenski, Cheltenham, July 7th; Mr. and Mrs. W. Cromwell, Gloucester, May 22nd; Mr. and Mrs. S. Catlow, Nelson, September 18th.

The Ban is Raised

St. Dunstaners in all parts of the country will be delighted at the lifting of the ban on football broadcasts.

It will be a point of interest to many that Brentford Football Club, before the ban was raised, arranged for a group of blind people to listen to a running commentary given by Brentford's manager, Mr. Jack Gibbons. The match chosen was Brentford v. Rotherham, and Mr. Gibbons gave his commentary to the group in the stand by a system of headphones.

Increased Retirement Pensions

As was mentioned in the July REVIEW, Retirement Pensions for men between 65—70 and women between 60—65 on the 1st October, 1951, will be increased from 26s. to 30s. a week, and there will be an increase from 16s. to 20s. in the Retirement Pension payable to a wife by reason of her husband's insurance.

If any St. Dunstaners or their wives are receiving a Retirement Pension at the standard rates of 26s. or 16s., and are within the age limits mentioned, they should send or take their Order Book at once to their local National Insurance Office if they have not already done so.

Your Change?

A St. Dunstaner in Harrogate early in July left a toy shop in Montpelier Parade without his change. The proprietors of the shop are anxious to trace him. If this comes to the notice of the St. Dunstaner concerned, will he write to Headquarters stating what he bought and his change will be sent on to him.

London Club Notes

The London Club has reopened after the August holiday, and by the time these lines are in print, the Sir Arthur Pearson whist competitions will be well on the way and the finals for the indoor section will be played off at Brighton in November. All St. Dunstaners will find a warm welcome at the London Club.

Indoor Section

The Club reopened on September 1st and from now on we expect to be busy with the winter programme—whist on Tuesdays and Saturdays, dominoes on Thursdays.

The Sir Arthur Pearson aggregate whist competition starts on Tuesday, September 11th, and will carry on on Tuesdays for six weeks.

The Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial competitions are dragging a little; will members who have entered for the cribbage and domino sections who have still got games to play, please try to come along and play off their outstanding heats as soon as possible.

The Committee hope to see increased attendances during the winter.

CHARLES J. WALKER,

Chairman, Indoor Section Sub-Committee.

Outdoor Section

On Saturday, July 14th, six R.A.F. walkers turned out to compete against us, over 5 miles, for the "R.A.F. Halton Cup." This is a new Cup, subscribed for by G. A. Towers and his R.A.F. friends, and will be competed for annually.

The race was started by our chairman, Percy Ashton, and Tommy Gaygan got away to his usual cracking start, closely followed by George Towers of the R.A.F. The positions after the first mile were Tommy, Towers, Gardener, Kernish, Charles Williamson, Archie Brown, and then Tommy Denmead, Pat Cryan and Alf Bradley in a bunch.

Owing to the pace, Gardener and Kernish of the R.A.F. were unable to hold their positions and fell to 5th and 6th places, enabling Charles and Archie to move up to 3rd and 4th places, in which positions they finished.

George Towers dogged Tommy's footsteps until the last lap when, with a fine walking style, he pulled away to finish strongly first.

Congratulations to St. Dunstan's team for winning the Cup by the narrow margin of 17 points to 19, and to Tommy Denmead who walked a fine race despite the fact that he had not been well for a week. Bad luck, Pat Cryan, who had to retire through cramp only 100 yards from the finish.

This race proved more than usually interesting to the spectators as it consisted of 8 laps of the Inner Circle, and after about two laps, when the field began to spread out, there was always a competitor to watch.

G. Kernish of the R.A.F. won the sealed handicap, Alf Bradley and Charles Stafford dead-heating for second place. A very nice bit of handicapping.

At the beginning of next season we are entertaining the London Stock Exchange and hope to see some more walkers, please.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WALKS FOR 1951/52

2 miles	22nd September at Highgate
5 miles	20th October at Regent's Park
6 miles	1st December at Regent's Park
7 miles	12th January at Regent's Park
10 miles	16th February at Regent's Park
12 miles	22nd March at Regent's Park
15 miles	26th April at Wembley
7 miles	17th May at Brighton
5 miles	28th June at Regent's Park

Are You Using Your Talking Book?

A large number of St. Dunstaners are not using their Talking Book machines. To meet the requests of those who have never had one, it will be necessary for us to pay the present high cost of new machines. If you do not intend to use your machine, please return it to us and an allowance will be made in accordance with the price which you originally paid.

J. E. COOPER, *Men's Supplies.*

From Mr. F. H. Edwards

To all of my friends who contributed to my presentation, I would like to say, "Thank you." I received a Marconi wireless set, a Westminster chiming clock, a walking stick, a cheque for the balance, and a list of subscribers numbering more than eighty.

All these I appreciate, and also the settle from the Council of St. Dunstan's, but I appreciate even more the spirit which prompted these gifts and the friendship I have had and which I still possess.

F. H. E.

From London to Brighton

On Sunday, September 2nd, fifteen St. Dunstaners and their wives took part in a day's outing to Brighton organised by the Association of Jewish ex-Service Men and Women. Ex-Service men from the St. David's Home at Ealing were also in the party.

Leaving Headquarters at half past ten, we made our way by road to the rendezvous in Sussex. Strange to say, this spot did not appear to be shown on any map, but after much hilarity the party settled down to a wonderful picnic in Bolney village, prepared by the lady members of A.J.E.X.

Then we wended our way into Brighton—a happy though dampened party, for the heavens had opened and the rain was pouring down. Our kind hosts had planned an excellent high tea for us at Marwin's Restaurant, where Mrs. Hilton, one of the Vice-Presidents of A.J.E.X., made a very pretty speech of welcome. Having filled the inner man, we made our way to Ovingdean, where a concert was given to our party and to St. Dunstaners resident at the home. Warm thanks on behalf of St. Dunstan's and the St. David's Home were conveyed to the members of A.J.E.X. and to the concert performers.

So back to London, where our friends took us back individually—a gesture greatly appreciated.

Our warm thanks are extended to Miss Sampson, Chairman of the Women's Section of A.J.E.X., Miss Levy, the Hon. Secretary, and all their colleagues for a wonderful time.

P.S.—If Brighton people have found four wasps that stowed away from Bolney, their relatives are anxiously awaiting their return!

H. C.

Placements

J. Langley, as an industrial worker at the Metal Box Company, Brighton; C. Nuttall has commenced trading as a tailor at Flixton, Manchester; H. Roberts, as a telephone operator at the Ministry of Labour, Tyldesley Road, Blackpool.

Christmas Accommodation

We are now taking bookings for Christmas and would be pleased to welcome any St. Dunstaner and his family who would care to spend it with us. They can be assured of a good time and plenty of food.

MARGARET STANWAY,
West House, 13 Grove Street, Morecambe.

The Physiotherapy Conference

The Annual Conference of St. Dunstan's physiotherapists took place at the Training Centre, Ovingdean, during the week-end of September 8th.

Speaking at a luncheon which preceded the Conference, Sir Neville Pearson, Bart., President of St. Dunstan's, said that there were now 125 St. Dunstan's physiotherapists practising in the United Kingdom; the successful settlements during the past year included three overseas. A number of other students were still undergoing training. This record, Sir Neville said, gave some idea of the important contribution St. Dunstan's physiotherapists were making to the health of the community.

The Minister of Pensions, the Rt. Hon. George A. Isaacs, J.P., M.P., was unable to be present at the Conference, but in a message to the company, which was read by Sir Neville, he paid his tribute to the wonderful work carried out by St. Dunstan's in the care of the war blinded of two wars; the Minister added his assurance that sympathetic consideration would be given to the application from St. Dunstaners wanting regular hospital work. "Many," he said, "combine part-time hospital work with private practice and I have the highest praise for the excellent work which they perform. I send my best wishes to you all."

Other speakers during the Conference included Professor James Whillis, M.D., M.S., Chairman of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, the well-known road walker, Mr. A. J. Stirling Wakeley, who recently won the "Sunday Dispatch" walk from London to Brighton and back, and Mr. E. E. Underdown, Special Lecturer at the School of Physiotherapy.

In the election of the Advisory Committee for the following year, Mr. J. D. Calder was returned as chairman, taking the place of Mr. S. C. Tarry. The remainder of the Committee was as for the preceding year.

Lady Pearson, Matron Pain, and Mr. Askew were among others present at the Conference.

Manchester Club

Two second war St. Dunstaners—Messrs. Stanley Heys and J. Blakeley—have been elected to the Committee of the Club. W. McCarthy, of Manchester, has been re-elected Chairman.

Birmingham Club Notes

On July 7th the Birmingham Club was invited to the British Legion Club. At 3.30 we were greeted by the Lord Mayor and an hour later sat down to a grand tea, followed by a concert in which the artists were very good. We left for home, tired but very happy.

Our July meeting was late—it was on the 29th—when there was a good turn-out by the boys and the Red Cross gave us a lovely tea which was served on the terrace in the sunshine. Later some of us played indoor games.

For our September meeting we are looking forward to a Grand Swimming Gala which we hope to make a success. Ideas will be welcome to make it so. Please come and do your best for the Club.

L. KIBBLER.

Larks in the Music Hut

It was early one Tuesday evening
With nothing better to do,
I strolled across to the music hut
To be met by a hullabaloo.

It was Jim from Bolton on t' piano,
And he said to Ted, "Listen 'ere,
If I can't play 'Careless Rapture'
We'll go out and I'll buy some beer."

It wasn't long ere he'd finished,
His left hand was wandering afar,
All I could make of his playing
Was da de da, da de da da.

Then Teddy boy said "Now it's my turn,
That's enough of you for one night,"
Then he heaved his squeeze box on his
shoulders

And started to play "Starry Night."
The night wasn't a little bit starry,
Once again Jim said, "Listen 'ere,
We'll all have a good bash at 'Twelfth
Street'
And then it'll have to be beer."

So with George Rob. from Ewell, Jim from
Bolton,
Ted from Cambridge, and also me,
We all had a good bash at "Twelfth Street,"
But, alas, too late for beer, it was tea.

So ended one more day at Brighton,
Or at Ovingdean to be correct,
We'd master that tune they call "Twelfth
Street,"

Or in the attempt break all our necks.
GEORGE EMERSON.

Talking Book Library

August, Arabian and "Hanaudian."

Between the showers of this unco-operative holiday month, only a brace of books achieved the library register. "At the Villa Rose," a detective novel, and "Arabesque," a Middle East wartime intrigue with a spot of romance thrown in, were the guilty couple, both highly entertaining in their somewhat different ways.

"At the Villa Rose," by A. E. W. Mason, reader John de Manie, shows Monsieur Hanaud investigating a murder and abortive robbery on the French side of the Swiss border. The first half of the book consists of the detective's enquiries, deductions, etc., and the second half is a detailed reconstruction of the whole crime. I read it at the age of twelve or thirteen, and then I believed it was considered a classic detective yarn. It has lost nothing over the years!

"Arabesque," by G. Household, readers Gordon Little and Arthur Bush, is not, as one might suspect, a duet, but the natural replacement of a reader whose absence is unavoidable. Arabs, Jews, French and British Field Security Police, and a British officer's wife of French origin, are the main items in a web of intrigue, but of which, after the war, the Jews alone seem to have emerged with any degree of success. The story starts in Syria, flits to the Lebanon, thence to Palestine, and culminates in Cairo, where a British F.S.P. sergeant, the main male character, and the damsel previously noted, plight their troth in no uncertain fashion after the male has suffered the indignity of becoming commissioned. However, all is neat and tidy since the lady's husband finds a better gal in the U.K., where he is stationed. Intricate but good value!

May we all have Indian Summers!

NELSON.

Grandfathers

A. Loveridge, Harrow; E. Williams, Shipley; C. E. Temperton, Hull; W. J. Keen, Purton; H. L. Dickinson, Wigan; W. E. Flowers, Sheldon, Birmingham.

Grandmother

Mrs. W. Wilson, Blackburn.

★ ★ ★

The braille REVIEW would be appreciated by Mr. J. Dorgan, 84 Tyne Road, Kirklethian Estate, Redcar.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I have followed with much interest your readers' letters regarding reductions from Unemployment Benefit and I can verify Mr. Robinson's statement in the July REVIEW. I can go further and state that as at present I am only employed for one day per week, there is an additional deduction of five shillings and eightpence, plus four and elevenpence for a stamp, which, in my case, leaves five shillings and fivepence for a day's work.

It is our duty to "render unto Cæsar, etc." and any concession in this direction would be against our own interests, but we ourselves must fight back every time we hear that statement, "Of course, you have a good pension." I have heard this from such high levels as doctors, schoolmasters and clergy, and while the basic pension remains as it is, it is an injustice to those who have fallen, to we who are left, and to those yet to come from the battle zones of the Far East.

Braunton,
Devon.

Yours sincerely,
V. DAVIES.

DEAR EDITOR,

Some time ago I read in this column about blind men wearing rubber on the end of their sticks. I don't know, but I should imagine that this would be like trying to read braille with rubber gloves on.

Talking of rubber, I would like to mention here that blind men should not wear it on their shoes and that steel tips or loud heels should be worn.

While on holiday at the Home, you decide to have a stroll in the grounds when suddenly, like a bolt from the blue, you are knocked flying and your opponent cries out, "Who's that?" Your reply comes from a horizontal position, "I know, you are Randolph Turpin," but alas, my friends, it isn't Turpin, but one of our deaf-blind.

A lot of these bumps may be prevented by the wearing of hard heels, except, of course, on turf.

We know these men cannot hear you but, thank God, we can.

Manor Park.

JIMMY WATSON.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested in the article on Bowls in the July issue of the REVIEW and the view taken by Sir Ian Fraser, that if St. Dunstaners joined their local bowling club

they would find good companionship and derive a lot of pleasure. Having played bowls for a number of years, in fact, still rolling them up, I can appreciate the comments by the bowler returning from Australia on St. Dunstaners down under who play the game. If a man acquired knowledge of the game while sighted, he can usually step on the mat, place his body square, get his feet in the right position automatically and he can usually deliver the wood so that it arrives near his objective. As in every other game, the more practice the more perfect.

Indoor bowling on mats during the winter months is another interesting game and one I would recommend to those taking up bowls for the first time. It is like miniature rifle practice before going on the open range.

I am a member of a club in this district where I enjoy many hours of good companionship, wonderful exercise, the sport of the game, God's fresh air and the sunshine. When I get to the club I generally hear from one quarter or another, "What about it, Willie. Coming out on the greens? If you want to bowl your woods, let me know." I mention this last bit to show the spirit generally found amongst bowlers, who are mostly men of middle age or elderly men, and from these you can nearly always find that sympathetic help a St. Dunstaner needs.

Trusting those interested in the game will get as much pleasure from it as I do,

Yours faithfully,

Clacton.

W. C. KEAST.

DEAR EDITOR,

In the June issue, a plea was made for another appellation to replace the odious "Propaganda." This word has come to suggest something sinister and repugnant in every phase of modern life. It suggests organised distortion of fact, and that is the last thing St. Dunstan's desires or requires. I should like to suggest that the members of the publicity service should be said to be on "P.I." or alternately "S.D.P.D." P.I. would represent Public Information among St. Dunstaners, and the second would represent St. Dunstan's Publicity Department. P.I. I suggest as appropriate seeing that "Propaganda" keeps St. Dunstan's in the public eye.

We are all engaged, when we leave St. Dunstan's, on a life-long task of propagating

the knowledge of St. Dunstan's and its meaning in the blind world, not merely the war blind.

The man or woman who leads as full a normal life in his or her own locality, profiting by the training of St. Dunstan's, is "On Propaganda." Those who, for personal reasons refuse to wear the badge or act subversively and "have no use for propaganda" ignore the fact that St. Dunstan's training has raised a torch in the older blind world that did not think adult training practical.

Hats off, therefore, to the genuine members of that obnoxious "Propaganda" who, as the writer says (but in other words), keep the public informed and prove that financial P.I. (pic) from which we all so generously partake. Propaganda is the Prop on which all causes rest, but we do not now like the word, so please, if "P.I." is not acceptable, let us just say they are on H.Q.

Faithfully yours,

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

News from All Quarters

Bert Green's baby daughter, Diana, was presented, with her mother, to Princess Elizabeth when Her Royal Highness opened a new Wing at Worthing Hospital. Diana was born on the same day as Princess Ann. The Princess thought Diana a lovely baby and chatted a long time with Mrs. Green.

Teddy Mills, one of our deaf-blind St. Dunstaners, won second prize for his garden and nine prizes in the local Flower Show.

Walter Thornton is the author of a booklet on "Bournville Works Youths' Committee," which has recently been published by Messrs. Cadbury Brothers.

C. G. Blackwell has two interests—archæology and ethnology. He is anxious to know whether any other St. Dunstaners share his enthusiasm for these subjects.

T. Batt, of Oakhill, near Bath, secured a first, five second, and three third prizes at the local British Legion Flower Show on September 1st, and a first prize for the heaviest marrow on the same day at Bristol.

H. T. Cheal, of Saltford, took first prize for his onions at this year's Bristol Show. He has won this prize four years in succession. At a local show this month he secured another first for his onions and a first prize for begonias.

Tom Callaghan, who emigrated to Australia a few months ago, is settling down well. In a most interesting letter, he describes his house and garden (they are near the sea), but he also says how much he misses St. Dunstan's. He writes, "Everything was so strange to me that I thought I would never get used to it, but like everything else, it takes time."

An Old-World House

It is odd to recall that just so few short years ago, Rudyard Kipling wrote "The Absent-minded Beggar," and to remember that Sir Arthur Sullivan set the words to music; nor is it maybe topical to recount that nearly a quarter of a million pounds were thus raised for the Boer War Comforts Fund.

But on this lovely summer afternoon, with the lark singing out its heart high above the Sussex Downs, I was one of the people who had the privilege to visit the Kipling room at his old home "The Elms." On the high walls is inscribed a tablet indicating that he lived here between the years of 1897 and 1903. The house, a lovely one set in a beautiful old-world garden, with its high walls, was surely a setting in which a man so gifted in touching the hearts of everyone by his simple writings of the ordinary man could write. It seems odd now to remember that early in this century Rudyard Kipling was pestered by thousands of curious folk wanting to see where he wrote his Barrack Room Ballads, and to learn as I have learned from people who knew the author, how often in his walks on the Sussex Downs and along the Rottingdean High Street he was stopped by someone asking to be directed to Kipling's house.

The room in which the many relics are exhibited is a lovely cream room, with fairly low ceiling, and containing letters, MSS., photographs and many homely mementoes of an author who was beloved by so many. A wonderfully friendly exhibition, made possible only by the courtesy and understanding of the Rottingdean folk who knew Rudyard Kipling—and to whom I, for one, would like to say "Thank you for the wonderful privilege."

MAUREEN V. LEES.

Brighton Notes

Ovingdean

It is now over two months since our last news from Ovingdean and there have been plenty and varied activities happening here during that time.

Sports Day, which was held on 21st July, was a fine, sunny day and well attended. We were all very pleased to have Sir Neville and Lady Pearson with us on this occasion and also to see so many other friends of St. Dunstan's and local men come along. The Individual Athletic Trophy was won this year by Jack Fulling. He gave a very fine performance and is to be particularly congratulated because he is a new St. Dunstanian and only came to the Training Centre in June of this year. Ovingdean also won the Team Trophy this year, much to our delight.

From Sports Day the end of term was well in sight and the End of Term Dance and Concert were held the following week.

On 26th July a repeat performance of the End of Term Concert was given in aid of the Mayor of Portsmouth's "Affray Appeal Fund," and together with the collection made at the End of Term Concert the sum of £29 15s. 3d. was forwarded. We were most grateful to the local residents who supported us, to John Proctor of Rottingdean who was our enthusiastic Agent in the Village, and, of course, to those trainees and Staff who took part in the Concert and made it so successful. A letter of appreciation has since been received from the Mayor of Portsmouth. In all, including a previous collection amongst St. Dunstanians and Staff, the sum of £43 8s. 3d. has been sent from Ovingdean and West House, Brighton.

St. Dunstanians on holiday at Ovingdean during July and August have had a wide choice of entertainments. Undoubtedly one of the most popular available was the Annual Busmen's Outing and on the 10th July we joined with men from West House, picked up local men in Brighton so that gradually there were four coaches, and a double-decker bus with a band, wending a leisurely way through Sussex.

Like "Johnnie Walker," the St. Dunstan's Busmen's Outing, born 1921, is still going strong! The founder was Mr. Mark Richards, who is surely well known to most

St. Dunstanians who have spent holidays at West House and Ovingdean.

This year, as on many other occasions, the first stop was at "The Swan," Fittleworth, where Mr. Thorpe-Oliver was our host. He has supplied refreshments for similar outings, as his contribution to the day, for a number of years and through these columns we should like to express our thanks to him and indeed to all those connected in any way with the Outing which has been, for so many years, one of the highlights of entertainment for St. Dunstanians in and around Brighton, and something which those from further afield who spend their holidays here remember of Southern hospitality and friendship.

From Fittleworth the procession went onto Midhurst, where at "The Crown" we were served with an excellent lunch and everyone present was given a packet of cigarettes. Another thoughtful gesture on behalf of the organisers was that cigarettes were sent to St. Dunstan's for those men who were in the Sick Wards and were too ill to join the Outing. After lunch everyone went to Cowdray House ruins, which is a lovely spot in Cowdray Park, and here the band (Patcham Boys' Band) played dance music and many of the ladies of Midhurst came along to join in the dancing on the lawn, and so we spent an enjoyable afternoon until tea at 4.30.

The last stop before home was at Boxgrove, where we arrived about 7 p.m. and were greeted by the British Legion and again more refreshments and music.

This year was the first time that St. Dunstan's girls had been included in the party. On their return they said how much they had enjoyed the day and so perhaps there will be invitations for them on future Outings.

"The Sussex Fortnight" provided plenty of enjoyment or annoyance for our racing enthusiasts and our coaches went off to each meeting laden.

For those who prefer to take their holiday in a more leisurely manner, there were several coach rides round Sussex, visiting such spots as Alfriston, Arundel and the famous Wannock Gardens, and on two occasions a party made a trip by sea to Beachy Head. Unfortunately, the weather has not been good enough for us to go more than twice this season.

West House

During July and August there have been many occasions when we have joined forces with men from Ovingdean, particularly for excursions to the Races, which were many as the "Sussex Fortnight" was held during July.

Towards the end of that month also two West House men joined with a party of six men from Ovingdean, who, at the invitation of Sir Ian Fraser, visited the House of Commons. It was a fine warm day, but in spite of this the whole party were intensely interested in the debate which was taking place in the House, and very much appreciated the arrangements which Sir Ian and Lady Fraser had made for them afterwards.

Over the August Bank Holiday week-end, we welcomed a party of men from Ovingdean to a Whist Drive and we also acted as hosts to patients from the John Howard Convalescent Home that same afternoon, and in the evening we had a party of civilian blind from the Toc H Club in Brighton, playing dominoes.

The rest of the week-end passed pleasantly. There was an afternoon drive for men and escorts on the Sunday, with tea at Abbotsford, and on August Monday we had a whole day out in the coach, taking picnic lunch and tea with us. The remainder of the week was taken up with Brighton and Lewes Race Meetings.

London Boroughs' Braille Reading Competition

Eighteen London boroughs have indicated their willingness to take part in an Inter-Borough Braille Reading Competition. The competition will be open to all blind persons in the participating boroughs, and the proposed date is December 1st, 1951. Prizes will be given to individual competitors who are successful and, in addition, entrants will represent their own borough in the inter-borough competition.

New Apparatus

The National Institute for the Blind is now able to supply a 3ft. folding steel rule. The rule is $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in width, and the swivel joints are at the 9in., 18in. and 27in. positions. The inch and half-inch positions are marked throughout by a notch. At one end of the rule the first inch is divided into quarters; at the other end, into eighths. Catalogue Number, 9465. The price to blind people, 8s. 6d. (list price 12s. 9d.).

Young St. Dunstanians

Pamela Hold, Yeovil, won the Somerset Junior Athletic title for sprinting for her school with a record time for the county of 10.4 seconds for 80 yards (under 12's).

Brian Hold has won a scholarship and two prizes for good work in English.

Alan Worthington, Liverpool, was one of nine boys chosen to sing with the Philharmonic Choir at Liverpool Festival. Sir Malcolm Sargent conducted.

Margaret Davies, Darwin, has taken her degree at Bristol, with Honours in Languages.

Mavis Hazel has obtained a pass degree for music and is now Graduate of the Royal Schools of Music, a pass degree recognised by the University of London.

Donald Smart has received the L.D.S. degree at Victoria University, Manchester, and has now been appointed House Surgeon at the University Hospital there.

Michael Scott-Pearcy, in the special entrance examination for all the Services, has taken 10th place for the United Kingdom. He has just left Christ's Hospital, having won his rugby and swimming colours, the geography prize and school leavers' prize.

Raymond Burgin, Southwick, has passed his B.Sc. Finals.

John Floyd, Teignmouth, has gained his B.A. in modern languages.

John Campbell, Houghton-le-Spring, has been successful in the Advanced Scholarship examination for entrance to Bangor University.

David Paterson, York, is organist at Kilvington Parish Church after only five terms of studying music.

Marriages

Audrey James, Darlington, in August, to Geoffrey Cox.

On July 19th, Bob Brooks, Southampton.

On June 16th, Kenneth Dixon, Bolton, to Miss Phyllis Entwistle.

Jean McLurg, Port William, in August.

On July 28th, Mary Duxbury, East Didsbury, to John Hore.

F. Ralph's son has married recently.

On August 5th, Vera Wicken, Wolverhampton, to J. Green.

On July 21st, Hettie Marsden, Alderholt, to T. A. H. Tarrant.

Blackpool Notes

July and August have brought us the usual round of visits to the Lakes (on August 23rd, J. Jordan remembered the route and made an excellent commentator), to the races, to the Elswick "Boot and Shoe," and to an eight-hour party at the Carlton Club. A party of St. Dunstaners, Messrs. Dunkerley, Shaw, Clay, Down, Gifford and Russell, with Mr. Blythe as escort, had an interesting experience on July 22nd when they visited the training quarters of Ronnie Clayton, the Empire feather-weight champion.

Ronnie gave the party a very warm welcome and presented them with auto-graphed photos of himself. Ronnie's manager-secretary, Mr. Jim Turner, was also extremely kind and supplied much detailed explanation of the rigorous training needed by a champion.

Several of the party were reminded of P.T. days, and most of them had a short bout with the punching ball.

The highlight of the visit, perhaps, was the handling of the famous Lonsdale Belts. There are two of these. One is Ronnie's property, having been won outright by beating such well-known opponents as Al Philips, Johnny Mollow and Jim Kenny. The other one is held until it also is won, or lost by a defeat. These trophies were of gold and are beautiful models of craftsmanship. Perhaps it was as well that our people did not know that the pre-war value of one was £850.

On leaving, both the champion and his manager expressed their pleasure in meeting our St. Dunstaners, and with hearty good wishes for his continued success, the visit ended.

B.V.D. AND HER 236 ELEPHANTS.

National Laying Test, 1950-51

Report for 11th period of 4 weeks,
July 16th to August 12th, 1951.

1 Jackson, G.	...	...	1144
2 Holmes, Percy	...	...	1098
3 Clark, T.	...	...	1097
4 Gregory, T. D.	...	...	1067
5 Woodcock, W. J.	...	...	1020
6 Jarvis, Albert	...	...	1012
7 Smith, W. Alan	...	...	765
8 Taylor, Tom	...	...	697

Totals to date, 9047
Average per bird, 191.36

Almost a Tragedy

'Twas afternoon at Westbury Camp
We all lay gently snoring.
Outside the rain fell fast and damp,
Like cats and dogs, was pouring.
When suddenly a cry was heard
A cry of fear and woe,
It came again, the sleepers stirred,
The cry was soft and low.
"Help, help," we heard the voice cry out,
"Will someone come and let me out?"
"Who's missing?" queried Saunders, Vic
We'll find out in half a tick.
There's Jacky Back, he's on his bed.
Next to him is Aubrey, Fred.
There's Melville, Clem, and Bentley, Ben,
Bill Bowering and Bob Cook,
Peter Batt, Bob Shave, and there's old
"Gen,"
Let's have another look.
Bert Derges, too, is sleeping sound,
Arthur Seal in tent is found.
"Ah, here it is, an empty bed."
The missing guy is Wareham, Fred.
The lower deck replace their eyes,
Go on the prowl to trace those cries
But cannot hear a stir or sound.
Is Freddie lost, ne'er to be found?
When suddenly we hear a tap,
"He's shut in here," shouts out one chap,
"Please tap again, oh, please do, Fred
And tell us that you're not yet dead."
"I'm not dead," came the faint reply,
"To get me out, please have a try,
We tried in vain to free the lad,
His spirits were at zero.
To die so young was just too sad,
This gallant Dunkirk hero.
We urged him on, told him to sing
"Lead kindly light," "Where is death's
sting,"
While rescuers tried to smash the door
His pals outside just sang some more.
"Oh," said Fred, "I'm feeling ill,
Methinks I'd better make my will.
My tools and ties I leave to Clem,
My plastic eyes I leave to "Gen."
And then a cheer from lower deck,
The door smashed in was now a wreck,
Freddie stood there proud and gay
To gaze once more on light of day.
All this trouble caused, you see,
Through being locked in the lavatory.
Each word I've written, sure is true,
Speaks for itself, it's in the REVIEW.
"GEN."

Literary Competition

The Queensland Musical, Literary and Self-Aid Society for the Blind have sent us details of an annual Literary competition open to blind and semi-blind people throughout the English speaking world. The adult section includes a competition for a one act play, short story, poem, essay, and limerick, a condition being that each entrant submit two entries, one of which must be in the Limerick section. There are £5 prizes for the first four sections, and a £1 prize for the limerick. Second prizes are of £2 and 10s. The one act play must be of 30 minutes' duration; the short story approximately 3,000 words, and the essay approximately 1,500 words. Closing date: October 31st. A *nom-de-plume* must be used, with full name also, and entries sent to 247/251 Vulture Street, South Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. Entries may be in braille or typewritten.

Marriages

FRITH—GOODCHILD.—On July 28th, D. Frith, of Marlow, to Miss Peggy Goodchild.

HENDERSON—BATES.—On July 28th, Brenda Henderson, of Enfield, to Dennis Bates, son of our St. Dunstaner, E. D. Bates, of Islington. Brenda, who looked charming in a dress of white tulle with dark red roses, was given away by her father. Dennis's brother-in-law was his best man.

"In Memory"

Gunner James Thompson, Royal Garrison Artillery

We record with deep regret the death of James Thompson, of Bolton, who served with the R.G.A. from August, 1914, until January, 1915.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1917 and trained in joinery, but his health was never good and for a number of years he had taken things easily. His death occurred on August 8th.

A poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the flowers at the funeral. Our deep sympathy goes out to his family.

Signaller Ernest Gregory, Royal Field Artillery

With deep regret we record the death of E. Gregory, of Colchester. He was fifty-eight. Immediately upon his discharge from the Army in November, 1918, he came to St. Dunstan's and trained in poultry and netting. He also worked on wool rugs and in a factory during the war. He passed away on August 23rd in hospital.

The Chairman's poppy wreath was among the flowers at the funeral. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his widow.

Charles Hodgson, South African Infantry

With deep regret we have heard of the death on April 9th of Charles Hodgson, of Cape Town, South Africa, who was admitted to our benefits in July, 1947, but was then too old to come to us for training.

Through Mr. Max McConnell, who has been visiting this country, we have only just heard with regret of the deaths of the following Australians:

J. P. BIRAM, New South Wales, 19th A.I.F.
H. S. DARLINGTON, Queensland, 9th A.I.F.
P. DRISCOLL, Armadale, 12th Reinf. 6th A.I.F.
A. T. HARRISON, Victoria.

B. PRENTICE, Victoria.
B. STAFFORD, Queensland, 9th A.I.F.
E. SMART, Victoria.
J. CLARK, Brisbane (1939-45 war).

Births

BRERETON.—On September 14th, to the wife of G. Brereton, of Royton, near Rochdale, a daughter—Lynne.

FULLARD.—On August 9th, to the wife of R. Fullard, of Wrexham, a son—Martin John.

INNESS.—On August 13th, to the wife of J. Inness, of Dewsbury, a daughter.

JONES.—On July 31st, to the wife of R. C. Jones, Llandaff, Cardiff, a daughter—Megan Roberta.

LYNCH.—On September 17th, to the wife of J. Lynch, of Hornchurch, a son—Garry Jerome.

McCLARNAN.—On September 15th, to Mrs. E. McClarnan, a daughter.

Deaths

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the following:—

CHAMBERS.—To A. E. Chambers, of Ramsgate, who lost his wife on August 7th.

LAWLOR.—To J. Lawlor, of Perry Barr, Birmingham, whose wife has recently died very suddenly.

SIMMONS.—To W. A. Simmons, of Northampton, whose wife died as the result of an accident on July 26th.

STERNO.—To A. Sterno, of Bath, whose son, George, died suddenly on May 9th.

Sergeant Harry Saunders, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

With deep regret we record the death of Harry Saunders, of Edmonton. He was fifty-eight.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1918 and trained as a telephonist. In 1920 he began work with Messrs. Howard Bros. (Timber Merchants), and he was there until his sudden death. In a tribute, Mr. Hanson, Director of Howard Bros., said: "He was unfailingly cheerful—even through the difficult years of the war when bombs were falling. We all admired him for his courage, cheerfulness and ability. I looked on him as a friend."

At the funeral at Tottenham Cemetery, Mr. Hanson, Mr. David Howard, and Mrs. Howard represented his firm; another St. Dunstaner, Mr. C. G. Williams, who works for the same firm, was present, as also was Miss Cecil Wood. Among the many flowers from friends and colleagues was one of poppies from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow.

Private Alfred George Blyde, 2nd/4th King's Own Yorks. Light Infantry

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. G. Blyde, of Camberwell, at the age of seventy-five. He trained at St. Dunstan's in netting and baskets, but ill health had prevented him carrying on for the past twelve months. His death occurred on August 8th.

He leaves a married daughter, who acted as his housekeeper, to whom our sincere sympathy is extended. The Chairman's wreath was among the flowers at the funeral.

Private Francis Gilhooly, 17th Royal Scots

We record with deep regret the death of Francis Gilhooly, of Verwood, Dorset. He was sixty years of age.

Wounded on the Somme in 1916, he came to St. Dunstan's the same year and trained as a mat and rug-maker and netter. He had been in failing health for some time and he died at West House, where he went after an operation in Hove General Hospital.

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

Fusilier Richard Henry Foster, Welch Fusiliers

We record with deep regret the death of R. H. Foster, of Caernarvonshire.

A regular soldier, this St. Dunstaner served with his regiment until August, 1920, but he did not come to us until 1948 when his age then prevented any serious training.

His death occurred at his home—a house in which he had just been settled.

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

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Private Benjamin George Wood, Royal Sussex Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of B. G. Wood, of Brackley.

He served with his regiment from November, 1915, until August, 1918, having been wounded in France in April of that year. He came to us in August, 1918, and trained as a basket maker and netter and continued with this work for many years. He seemed to make a good recovery after a serious operation but died unexpectedly at his home on June 29th.

A wreath from the Chairman was among the flowers at the funeral. A Union Jack covered the coffin. Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and child.

Private Thomas William Murphy, 21st Northumberland Fusiliers

With deep regret we record the death of T. W. Murphy, of Bedlington, who served from November, 1914, until October, 1916, when he at once entered St. Dunstan's. He was wounded at Armentieres.

He trained as a boot repairer and mat maker, although he had not carried on this type of work for a considerable time, for he had been ill for a very long period.

The flowers at his funeral included a poppy wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades. The British Legion was represented at the service.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Driver John Ashmore, Royal Engineers

We record with deep regret the death of John Ashmore, of Loughborough. When war broke out in 1914 he had already served with his regiment since 1912; he was discharged in January, 1918. He did not come to us until 1933 when he trained as a basket maker and in spite of continued ill-health he carried on his craft for a great number of years. He died on July 11th in hospital where he had only been one day.

Flowers at the funeral included one of poppies from the Chairman.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Driver Percy Frank Robins, Royal Field Artillery

It is with deep regret that we record the death of P. F. Robins, of Queen's Park, N.W.6. He was seventy-three.

He was discharged from the Army in 1919 but only came to us in 1935 when he trained in wool rugs.

He had been in failing health for some time and he passed away in hospital on August 13th.

He leaves a widow and a son by his first marriage, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

There were many beautiful wreaths sent for the funeral, including a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends. Miss Cecil Wood was present at the cremation ceremony at Golders Green.