

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

THE fruitful use of leisure is important to all of us, not least to the blind. There are, even for the busiest, periods when one is off duty and when for domestic or other reasons one cannot rely upon the companionship of a member of the household to read or walk. Thus the planning of occupation for leisure moments becomes important because the number of readily available pastimes, such as listening to the wireless or reading braille, is limited.

You can walk round the garden by yourself and some venture further afield in familiar surroundings. You can make a circle of friends at the local pub or the British Legion Club, where they will be ready to welcome you, and you can enjoy fellowship and talk, as well as a pint of beer. For some it requires an effort of will to go out alone and overcome the shyness of entering a crowded bar or clubroom, not knowing who will be there; but it is an effort well worth making.

I came across a St. Dunstaner the other day who, in spite of extraordinary difficulties, has developed a quite unusual hobby, though curiously enough it is one of which long years ago I had some experience. John Proctor, who is quite blind and has lost both his hands and part of his hearing, has passed the Morse Code and other tests required by the General Post Office for the issue of a Wireless Transmitting licence and has established himself as one of the select band of amateur transmitters. With the generous help of the Radio Club of Brighton, and of St. Dunstan's, he has up-to-date equipment which enables him to converse by Morse with other amateurs near and far; and he can work the apparatus, switching on, tuning in, etc., entirely unaided. His use of the Morse key, a delicate job with his stumps, is impressive. Already, in a few weeks, he has exchanged messages with other amateurs in England, Scotland and Norway. Later he may qualify to convert his apparatus to Radio Telephony. Thus John has acquired a circle of friends to talk things over with in his own house or in theirs, or at the local society's meetings, as well as a host of invisible friends all over Europe, with whom he can make contact from time to time. Admittedly, this hobby is exceptional, but then John is an exceptional man.

After visiting John and, I will admit, showing off a little my own long disused knowledge of Morse—for I was myself one of the early amateurs and had my own station in the 1920s—I went on to the annual St. Dunstan's Sports at Ovingdean.

Although I am accustomed to St. Dunstan's parties going with a swing, I was nevertheless impressed by the organisation of this event and the happy spirit that prevailed there. The performers throwing the cricket ball or discus, doing the 70 yards sprint all out, were skilful athletes, and there were of course events for the girls, the veterans and the children. Sports

specially adapted for the blind are enjoyed by many St. Dunstan's clubs and occasional camping holiday groups throughout the country, and some of our men join in games of bowls or darts or other sports with their local clubs.

At the Sports Meeting I met the leading members of a Sussex deep-sea angling society. They go out in motor-boats or rowing boats fishing for rock cod, mackerel and other fish, off the Sussex coast, and the other day they arranged an outing for nine St. Dunstaners. The sun and the fresh sea air, the fun of catching a fish or the disappointment of losing one, and the talk, especially perhaps the swapping of tall stories over a drink afterwards, contributed to a very good day. St. Dunstan's expresses its thanks to the anglers. Many a St. Dunstaner might do worse than make friends with local angling societies on the coast or inland, and enjoy a day out and a lot of fun.

All these things demand some thought and initiative on the part of the blind man, but I am sure he will be rewarded for a little planning of his leisure.

IAN FRASER.

### The London Reunion

This year we are holding the London Reunion in October in the Windsor Room of the Coventry Street Corner House, instead of at the Seymour Hall, as this is now too large for our needs.

The Reunion will take the form of a Dinner, with dancing to follow, so will be more on the lines of the provincial meetings. Such being the case, invitations will be issued in due course, through the Welfare Visitor, for the London Area men who have not been invited to any other Reunion this year.

### Political Candidate

By three votes only, Major E. A. Dunlop, O.B.E., G.M., of Ottawa, Canada, missed nomination as the Progressive Conservative candidate in North Renfrew for the forthcoming federal election. A second ballot was needed before the candidate was chosen. The successful candidate had stood for the party seven times previously; it was our St. Dunstaners' first attempt to enter the field of politics. We look forward to hearing of his nomination at the next election in a few years' time.

### Presented to the Queen

J. Humphrey, of Londonderry, and Mrs. Humphrey were presented to the Queen when Her Majesty attended the Royal Garden Party at Stormont during her visit to Northern Ireland.

Another St. Dunstaner, A. Scott, of Belfast, was also present at the Stormont Royal Garden Party and met Her Majesty.

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Bill Lowings, of Chandlers Ford, made a special nursery basket for the baby born in the borough of Eastleigh nearest to noon on Coronation Day. The presentation of the basket was made by the Deputy Mayor.

### Coronation Medals

Alf. Lincoln, of Wirral, a tester at the Junction Board of the G.P.O., whose years of service total thirty-nine, received the Coronation Medal; John Proctor, of Rottingdean, travel agent, also was awarded the Coronation Medal.

### Rotary

E. Slaughter, of Salisbury, who was this month installed as President of his Rotary Club, is not, as we thought, the first St. Dunstaner to become President in R.I.B.I. Godfrey Robinson holds that honour. Mr. Robinson was elected to the Hull Rotary Club in 1928, was President for the year 1937-38, and is still a member.

### Tribute

We have had many letters of appreciation of the Coronation Crown, but the following is so unique that we make no apology for printing it. The St. Dunstaner referred to is Samat Bin Samat, B.E.M., who enlisted in 1915 and served with the Merchant Navy.

"The beautiful gift crown piece has just this moment been handed to Mr. Samat. He is feeling it without saying a word, but all kinds of emotions are passing over his countenance—pride, happiness, etc.

"Now he stands straight up and kisses the crown piece and says, 'God bless my Queen, God give my Queen long life and a wise heart and head. God bless Sir Ian and his lady.' This is all in his broken English. He is now asking me to say thank you very much."

SHEILA M. OMAR.

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As in past years there will be no REVIEW for August.

### London Club Notes

**Bridge Notes.**—On June 20th the Bridge Club paid their third annual visit to the Headquarters of the London County Contract Bridge Association. We again managed to send six team of four, so were able to play six teams of Masters. The Club presented to the top team of the Masters a cigarette box each, the cigarette boxes being made by St. Dunstaners. The Masters in their turn presented to our top team (H. Gover, P. Nuyens, F. Winter and C. Thompson) a pewter pint mug. This team were only 150 points in front of the second (W. Bishop, G. Jolly, C. F. Bulman and B. Ingrey). Our old friend, A. Field, acted as M.C. and with tea at 4 p.m. and beer at 6 p.m., we must again say thanks to the L.C.C.B.A.

We have played two club matches, one of which we lost and the other we won by 800 points.

On Sunday, May 31st, twelve members of the Bridge Section were entertained for the day by Messrs. Lyons at Dorking. Our members were picked up and taken to Dorking by car, and with lunch, bridge and yarns, spent a very pleasant day. Again many thanks to Messrs. Lyons.

H. GOVER.

### Outdoor Section—

#### Five Mile Walking Match

#### St. Dunstan's v. Bowring A.C.

#### Regents Park, 16th June, 1953

Order of Finish		Time	H'cp All.	H'cp Time	H'cp Pos.
1.	Gunn Bowring	42-35	—	—	—
2.	Coomber "	42-40	—	—	—
3.	W. Miller St. D's	44-40	Scr.	44-40	7
4.	A. Brown "	44-42	-10	44-32	6
5.	C. Williamson "	44-44	-20	44-24	4
6.	T. Gaygan "	44-58	1-00	43-58	3
7.	Howse Bowring	46-22	—	—	—
8.	A. Bradley St. D's	48-20	3-50	44-30	5
9.	L. Dennis "	48-54	3-55	44-59	8
10.	C. Stafford "	49-53	6-35	43-18	1
11.	D. Fleisig "	50-05	6-10	43-55	2
12.	S. Tutton "	50-11	3-15	46-56	9
13.	Sykes Bowring	50-40	—	—	—
14.	Johnston "	51-03	—	—	—
15.	Mimms "	52-24	—	—	—
16.	Bailey "	53-42	—	—	—
17.	Hamm "	55-05	—	—	—
18.	Jenner "	58-21	—	—	—
19.	Croucher "	58-21	—	—	—
20.	Palmer, W. "	59-02	—	—	—
21.	Palmer, R. "	59-05	—	—	—

#### Match Result:

St. Dunstan's 68 points.

Bowring A.C. 103 points.

Handicapper and Timekeeper: W. J. Harris.

**Indoor Section.**—June was again another quiet month for the Darts team. The only match played was away against our friends of the Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind, which resulted in a win for our hosts. Although only a small number of members made the journey they all enjoyed a happy evening.

By the time these notes appear in the REVIEW the club will be closing for the annual August recess, so we trust all members will have a most enjoyable holiday.

W. BISHOP.

### Aids for the Partially Sighted

A joint committee of the National Institute for the Blind and the London County Council have been carrying out research into optical aids for the partially sighted and their report has just been published.

Search for a good magnifying lens capable of covering an entire printed page has resulted in the production of special nose binoculars to fit over the glasses and stay on the face, and in various types of desk lenses.

Another new invention is the American megascope about the size of a small television set, which magnifies the pages of a book and projects them on to a screen. Experiments are also being made into the projection for the individual, as well as the class, of printed material by means of micro-films, a single film containing one hundred pages of a book.

### Grandfathers

E. Beckham, of British Columbia; F. Fishwick, of St. Helens; F. Berisford, of Baldwin's Gate, near Newcastle.

### Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Bolton, of Bexley Heath, July 6th (which was also Mrs. Bolton's birthday).

### Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. P. Holmes, of Woburn, Bletchley, on June 30th.

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Congratulations to the above St. Dunstaners upon their anniversaries. We hear also that S. Doell, of Henfield, who has recently come to us, celebrated his 43rd wedding anniversary on June 30th. Good luck, Mr. and Mrs. Doell.

### Transfer of Pensions Ministry

In the House of Commons on June 30th, the motion was debated by which the Ministry of Pensions will lose its separate identity and will be merged with other Ministries.

Sir Ian Fraser strongly opposed the merger and pleaded with the Government to change its mind. Sir Ian said: "I do not doubt for one moment that when the Prime Minister said he believed that these new proposals would not abate in any way the care that it was intended to give to ex-servicemen, and would not worsen their position, he believed that to be so. But we do not agree. Old soldiers have a way of speaking bluntly and we have called every Minister of Pensions in turn for over thirty years by every conceivable name, but we have never called him redundant."

Sir Ian hoped that the proposal would not go forward. It lessened the status of ex-servicemen in the community by taking away something of their separate feeling and pride. Their own advocate within the Government circle was to be replaced by one who was trammelled by responsibility for vast numbers of other people who were not ex-service people.

He would vote against the motion. His vote would not be a vote for the Opposition. No Government since the war had done what the ex-servicemen had asked them. They had all evaded the issue of raising basic pension rates to a proper level to match the currency.

Despite the Opposition and Sir Ian's appeal, the motion to bring the merging of the Ministries into effect was carried by 226 votes to 212, Government majority, 14.

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The merging of the Ministries was also discussed in the House of Lords on July 2nd. Earl Jowitt said that rightly or wrongly, ex-servicemen were disturbed at what was being done and he thought the change should have been postponed for another five or perhaps ten years.

Lord Carew said that the right method had not been used to save a comparatively small sum, in ways which must reduce the confidence of the ex-serviceman in the fact that he was going to get a square deal.

### Birmingham Sports Club

The June Coronation meeting of the Club took the form of an outing to Stratford-on-Avon on the 21st of the month. Two misfortunes have to be recorded. The first was that our Secretary, Miss Fairhead, had met with a severe accident which left her with concussion. Her absence was a source of great regret to us all, but it is pleasing to hear that she is now recovering satisfactorily.

The second—the weather, which was dull and threatening.

As we could remedy neither, we had to enjoy our outing in spite of these disappointments.

The coaches, again kindly provided by Mr. Thomas, of the Alexandra Musical Society, picked up all at convenient spots and landed the party of sixty without incident at Stratford in time to enjoy a river trip in the boats of our friend, Mr. Rose. In view of the weather, on leaving the boats we strolled off to tea, which had been prepared by the ladies of Stratford British Legion at their Headquarters in Bull Street. We arrived just before the rain started, and we found a most delightful meal prepared. Everyone enjoyed the feast of ham, salad, and trifle, and the ices which followed. Our friends of the British Legion put their premises at our disposal, and games for the children of all ages, and chats with old companions passed a grand evening until we left for home at 7.30.

All arrived safely back after a very successful trip and with a deep sense of gratitude to all who had helped to make our excursion possible and so pleasant.

### Birmingham Swimming Gala

The Birmingham Swimming Gala will be held on Saturday, September 19th. The notice cancelling this event was an error. Please send in your names to Miss Fairhead, 45 Anderton Park Road, Moseley, Birmingham, before August 30th.

AVIS SPURWAY.

### National Laying Test

16th Month ended 7th June.	
1. W. Alan Smith ...	1033
2. Philip Bagwell ...	1009
3. W. Webb ...	823
4. Percy Holmes ...	768
5. T. D. Gregory ...	709
6. G. C. Jackson ...	576
Average per bird to date	147.80.

### Letters to the Editor

#### The Brighton Walks

DEAR EDITOR,

May I correct a wrong statement in the article dealing with the Brighton Walks last month.

Our last Brighton Walk was in 1926 and not 1925 as stated, and I had the good fortune to win the last three and so made the Challenge Cup my own property. Williamson's performance in breaking the record is indeed excellent and I convey my heartiest congratulations to him and also to Archie Brown on his gallant effort. Well done all three.

Maidenhead.

JOCK INGRAM.

(We are very glad indeed to print this correction and apologise to Jock for the error).

#### Reading of Talking Books

DEAR EDITOR,

I am more than pleased with the majority of the readers. I am not so pleased with the reader who is ever mindful for the correct technique, such as lowering or making the voice higher, or the reader who adopts an affected mannerism of superiority. I prefer the reader who studies what the author has expressed in his book, then reads it as he naturally would and forgets all else. That is why I should not like to listen to a book read out as a B.B.C. announcer would read a News Bulletin. Those people who read aloud and put an understanding intonation into their voices are gifted, and I think that there are not so many of them. (By this I don't mean to say that most people who read aloud don't understand what they read).

I wish to express my grateful thanks to the readers of the Talking Books who have given me so many hours of pleasure. Hove.

MALCOLM JORDAN.

#### "Sister"

DEAR EDITOR,

May I be permitted to say "Thank you" to George Ellis for the candid and courteous manner with which he accepted the explanation concerning our traditional "Sisters."

Keep on asking questions, George, and keep on thinking you are all a little bit more progressive than we were, for in our day we also thought ourselves superior to those old sweats who held the line for

the old country until we could be trained to take their place.

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

DEAR EDITOR,

Why all this argument about First War and Second War St. Dunstaners? Surely it is well known that the younger generation is not so good as the one which preceded it. It never was.

This was recognised by a Wren at the Lee-on-Solent Camp some years ago when, after a dance with a St. Dunstaner of the First World War who had been doing his best to impress her, she said, "Some of you old gentlemen dance even better than the young ones." See what I mean?

Brighton.

J. BOYD.

DEAR EDITOR,

In answer to Mr. Wally Thomas in the June issue of the REVIEW, I repeat the statement I made, having "the guts" to do so, that "I happen to have experienced some of the original happy family spirit and comradeship which anyway existed until the Second War ended." When I tell him I have not visited Ovingdean because of ill-health since then, he will realise that he has inadvertently read into my letter something which was not there. As far as he and I are concerned, he and not I knows what it is like now. Just the same, I hope!

Haywards Heath.

JACK YOUNG.

DEAR EDITOR,

Let me commend G. Ellis for a most sensible letter in the June REVIEW, and his interested thought.

I am going down to Ovingdean from the 13th—27th July and will be happy to discuss any of the points with either V.A.D.s or men. So if any 1939 man, or any V.A.D. at Ovingdean is interested, please buttonhole me in the lounge.

Brookville.

B. A. HAMILTON.

DEAR EDITOR,

In reference to St. Dunstaners calling Sisters, I did this when I went into St. Dunstan's in 1918 and shall always do the same, trained or not.

I think that it is a waste of time, print and paper to write these letters to the REVIEW. Please put something of interest to us St. Dunstaners in the REVIEW, and not such a lot of damn rubbish.

Walsall.

TOM NORTH.

*Letters to the Editor—continued*

DEAR EDITOR,

May I bring to the notice of your readers the very inconvenient system of telephoning St. Dunstan's has at Ovingdean.

I was spending a very pleasant week-end there recently and one afternoon, while having my usual siesta in my room, I heard the telephone bell ring. I struggled along to the end of the corridor to answer it when I was told by a very pleasant voice that Frank Braithwaite was wanted on the telephone. I replied that I was already on the telephone when the voice said "It is an external call and you must come down to the basement (four floors below) to answer it."

I was amazed that the external telephone could not be linked up with the internal system and thus prevent the necessity of groping my way downstairs, only to find on reaching the basement that the caller, having telephoned from Newcastle, could not afford any more money.

I should have thought a competent Commandant would have realised the difficulties and how important a telephone is to blind people. After all, Ovingdean is run for the men, or is it?

Guildford.

FRANK BRAITHWAITE.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was in King Edward's funeral procession from Horse Guards Parade to Paddington with the Grenadiers, and lined the route for the Coronation of George V. Leicester.

G. J. SMITH.

DEAR EDITOR,

*The Guild of Cheshire Hand-Loom Weavers* has been formed with the idea of encouraging a high standard of work. A panel of expert hand-weavers is available to give free advice. The first A.G.M. is hoped to be held at Chester about the end of September and we plan to include a small exhibition. To make this a success, entries are to be invited from all hand-weavers living in Cheshire, a panel of experts will select the items for the exhibition. The subscription is ten shillings annually and this includes the advisory service mentioned above, a quarterly magazine, and a news sheet from time to time. I am on the provisional Committee, representing disabled hand-weavers, and if any St. Dunstan's men and women who do weaving as a hobby are interested will they please write to me.

23 Ben Nevis Road, MAUREEN V. LEES, Birkenhead.

**Fishing Trip to Newhaven**

Following an open invitation from the Newhaven Deep Sea Anglers' Club, a party of nine left Ovingdean on Sunday, June 21st, for Newhaven, where we were met by the members and their wives. Thence we were escorted to the boats where the crews were waiting to welcome us.

On this fine sunny morning, led by the Commodore of the Club, we made our way down the Ouse and so out to sea; after a bit of a tossing at the harbour-mouth, it became calmer outside.

The crew of the "Successor," the boat I was aboard, prepared the fishing lines for Len Curnow and myself; then when we were about a mile offshore, and the Commodore's flag was raised, we anchored and got down to the task of angling. After a couple of minutes I felt a tug at my line, and hauling it in was excited to find a small whiting on the hook; but unfortunately this first one could not be kept, being less than the minimum length required. However, many of his bigger brothers were caught—though our hosts were disappointed that there were unusually few fish about (despite my personal efforts to feed them!).

After about five hours' fishing, the flag was lowered and we all made our way back to harbour, where we were given a royal welcome and a sumptuous tea including a special home-made cake, iced and be-cherried.

Meanwhile our catches had to be weighed, and a handsome pewter tankard was presented as first prize. Then we were all made honorary members of the Club, each being given their badge—a blue and white enamel pennant bearing the initials N.D.S.A.

Finally with genuine heartiness we sang "For they are jolly good fellows," to express our warm thanks for the Club's most friendly and perfectly organised plan for our enjoyment.

JAMES J. PADLEY.

**Dark Glasses**

A number of letters have been received on the subject of dark glasses, mentioned in the Chairman's Notes last month. Extracts from these will appear in the September issue.

**Talking Book Library****Jubilant June**

There are five new books this Coronation month and it is fitting that they are all of a most readable quality. Thriller, political intrigue, family feud, pre-Napoleonic Wars and naval adventure, serve as nutshell descriptions for this batch. Kernels coming up.

"R.I.P.," by P. McDonald, reader Robert Gladwell, covers some sixteen hours of a house party and introduces some dozen characters. One or two killings rather damp the little gathering and, as usual, the most apparently sane member has a mansize bee in his inadequate bonnet. A storm fixes telephone communications and everything becomes gloriously morbid. Not too bad!

"Judgment on Deltchev," by Eric Ambler, reader Gordon Little, purports to take a camera behind the Iron Curtain and to present pictures of a political trial in Roumania around 1946. A London playwright attends the trial of Deltchev as a Special Correspondent and, being of a curious disposition, runs foul of every authority and is finally happy and lucky to get out with a whole skin and a new third act for his play. Entertainingly sickening!

"The Fortress," by Hugh Walpole, reader Robin Holmes, is the third of a series of books on the Herries, and the feud between two branches of that Cumbrian family. Rogue Herries and Judith Paris cover the family from 1700 to 1825 and this book completes more than a hundred years. Behind the family story is an amazing mass of unintentional social history. Most enjoyable if you have read the other two books, otherwise just interesting.

"The Years of Endurance," by Arthur Bryant, reader Alvar Lidell, is the first of three ten-year volumes of military and social history. 1792 to 1802 was a period of military ineptitude abroad, and at home the period during which John Moore with the Duke of York laid the foundations of the army training which was to defeat Napoleon twenty years later. I consider this the first of three absorbing books.

"Mr. Midshipman Hornblower," by C. S. Forester, reader Franklin Engelmann, is, one of the most widely known books of the last thirty years and the adventures of this modest young "snotty" have been relayed by both screen and radio. Delightful!

It is a pleasure to act guide for such a satisfactory release. NELSON.

**St. Dunstan's Club (Manchester)**

The Annual General Meeting of St. Dunstan's Club (Manchester) was held on July 10th.

*Election of Officers:* Chairman, Mr. J. Shaw; Vice-Chairman, Mr. W. McCarthy; Sports Organiser, Mr. P. Dixon; Treasurer, Miss Hill; Secretary, Mrs. Dunphy.

The past twelve months have given us many pleasant evenings, and the Competitions for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prizes have kept interest at its height, the prize-winners being: Dominoes: 1st, W. McCarthy; 2nd, J. Maxicandro; Darts: (S.S.): W. McCarthy, J. Gill; (T.B.): S. Heyes, A. Clarke; Cards: J. Gill, P. Dixon.

Cup for the most successful sportsman in S.S. Class was won by W. McCarthy, and in the T.B. Class by S. Heyes. The presentation was made by Mrs. Lang.

The Ladies' Section also held a series of competitions, the winners being: Dominoes: 1, Mrs. McCarthy; 2, Mrs. Russell. Darts: 1, Mrs. Gillibrand; 2, Mrs. McCarthy. Cards: 1, Mrs. Bentley; 2, Mrs. Clarke.

We have had several enjoyable outings throughout the year.

Unfortunately, the weather was not kind to us on the occasion of our Coronation Outing, which we spent at Chester.

We meet at Red Cross House, Milton Place (next to Frederick Road), Broad Street, Pendleton, every second and fourth Friday, at 6 p.m., and shall be pleased to welcome any St. Dunstaner and his wife or escort. E. M. D.

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A St. Dunstaner in the news is Leonard Arnold, at present of Wanstead, but shortly to move to Parkstone, in Dorset. His local paper, in referring to this move, pays high tribute to his work for the Wanstead-Woodford Association for the Blind, which he founded and as a delegate to the Essex County Association for the Blind. The writer adds: "One is led to enquire what is the secret of the hold he unquestionably has on the admiration and affection of so wide a circle of men and women—blind and sighted alike."

A point which the newspaper did not mention was the fact that Leonard held what is possibly a record among St. Dunstaners in industry and business—thirty-six continuous years with the same firm.

### From All Quarters

St. Dunstan's physiotherapists, Archie Brown and Charles Stafford, attended the competitors in the "Sunday Dispatch" 24 hours' walking race on July 4th. Pat Reekie wrote the next day in the "Sunday Dispatch": "Archie and Charlie . . . worked sleepless for the whole 24 hours and long after the race was over. They gave their services free in return for the work British walkers have done for St. Dunstan's, which trained them."

Our youngest St. Dunstaner, Michael Oliver, demonstrated shorthand writing and tape recording (his hobby) at the 13th Public Meeting of the South Norwood St. Dunstan's Group. The principal speaker was the Rev. Stanley Oliver and those on the same platform included Lady Buckmaster, Mrs. Mabel Constanduros (who gave a delightful sketch) and the Hon. Organiser, Miss Mary Jameson, M.B.E.

Tommy Rogers, of Ovingdean, gained third place in the International competition promoted by the American Jewish Braille Review for his essay on "What Louis Braille has meant to the Blind."

T. W. Chamberlain exhibited a Vertical Stationary Steam Engine at the model engineering exhibition recently held by Reading Society of Model and Experimental Engineers. It was much admired by the visitors, and most favourably commented upon in the local paper.

Tom Daborn continues his fishing successes. On Whit-Monday he had the heaviest catch when sea-fishing for bream.

George Jolly won first prize of one guinea in a Blackpool paper's competition for suggestions as to whom should have a Coronation medal. George says, "I plonked for our wives . . ."

J. Perfect has been appointed Secretary of the Sunderland Archery Club. Our St. Dunstaner was mainly responsible for the formation of the Club.

Coronation prize winner—H. Smy, of Middleton, near Saxmundham, who won first prize of fifteen shillings in the Coronation festivities for the best-kept garden.

Two of our shopkeepers entered for the best shop-window display competitions during Bexley Heath Coronation celebrations. Arthur Curnow was awarded first prize and Kenneth Hedges third prize.

Yet another Coronation prizewinner for window decoration—W. W. Holmes, of Gloucester.

Telephonists who have been in the news are John Loach, of Holly Hall, who was featured in the "Stourbridge County Express" as a most popular member of the engineering firm of Hill and Smith, Ltd., Brierley Hill, and Wilfrid Evans, who has recently started a new job with Derby Employment Exchange.

A. Sterno, of Bath, won the cake for the fifth time at the Bristol Reunion. He wants to know if this is a record for every other Reunion as well as Bristol.

A quarter of a column in the local paper was devoted to Charles Roach, of Darlington, and his roses. Our St. Dunstaner has been a grower for twenty years and in his garden he has about sixty different varieties—and knows every one, as he proved to the paper's special correspondent.

At the Annual Sports Day of the Buckinghamshire Branch of the N.I.B., Harold Mortimer, of Wendover, took four first prizes and a second, as a representative of the Aylesbury Division, which now goes forward to further triumphs (we hope) on August 12th at Wolverton. Harold writes: "I was at Ovingdean from December—Easter this year. I am sure it was that champagne air and St. Dunstan's care that has given me a new lease of life. "P.S. All Aylesbury ducks have not webbed feet!"

Alec B. Hill, of Bristol, who was the author of an interesting article on Chess in the February REVIEW, has confirmed the ability of blind chess players by winning the Bristol and Clifton Chess Club's Federation Cup for 1952-53. The Bridge Correspondent of the *Bristol Evening Post* called it "a very fine achievement against a strong and numerous entry." Our congratulations.

### Reunions

Mr. D. G. Hopewell, Mr. Wills and Miss Wilson flew to Ireland on May 14th to be present at the Reunions in Cork, Dublin and Belfast. Our Irish comrades made them very welcome indeed and they found the same cheerful, friendly atmosphere there as over here. The Cork Reunion was small but very hearty. Dublin was honoured by the presence of Lord Carew, and Belfast by that of the Lord Mayor. Here a very entertaining Brains Trust was set up during the afternoon. Mr. Macauley and Miss Boyd had certainly been very busy organising such a successful series of Reunions.

The St. Dunstaners who poured into Bedford on June 11th for their Reunion at the Dujohn, got wet for the second year running. Nevertheless their spirits were not noticeably affected and Lady Fraser received an enthusiastic welcome when she arrived unexpectedly during the afternoon. Mr. D. G. Hopewell presided and everyone was pleased to see Mrs. Askew again, together with several ex-members of the Staff, including Mr. Ottaway, Mr. Lale, Mr. Panton, Miss Lloyd and Miss Hensley, who had assisted Miss Hester Pease with the organising.

Mr. Hopewell again presided at Cardiff on June 13th, and a good old sea breeze swirled around the room as Captain J. M. Rees proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners. A telegram expressing good wishes and loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen from St. Dunstaners at the Welsh Reunion was sent to Sir Ian, from whom a message of regret at not being there was read at lunch. Miss Davies had arranged a wonderful afternoon of entertainment by artists from the B.B.C.'s Western Region, who were given a great reception; after tea, community singing went on well into the evening. It was a delightful departure from the conventional Reunion.

Bristol's Avon Gorge echoed and re-echoed with the cheers of the St. Dunstaners enjoying their Reunion in the Ball Room of the Spa Hotel on 20th June, after Sir Ian's speech at lunch. Afterwards they sang "For he's a jolly good fellow" with great gusto. Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were unfortunately obliged to leave

early to keep an appointment in London, but nevertheless they were able to meet a large number of men before lunch.

The men of Devon and Cornwall gathered in the broiling sun at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel in Plymouth on June 25th, where they were greeted by the Rev. Darrell Bunt, another member of St. Dunstan's Council, who presided at the Reunion. After lunch, Mr. J. H. V. Davis sang some popular songs.

St. Dunstaners assembled at the Grand Hotel, Bournemouth, on June 27th, found the gardens much more pleasant than the stuffy ballroom and spent most of the afternoon in the cool shade of the trees. Mr. D. G. Hopewell again presided at this very jolly meeting, which was so well organised by Miss Webster. During the afternoon a party of St. Dunstaners resident in the area arrived by coach from Miss Oliphant's camp and were entertained to tea. Everyone agreed it had been a grand meeting.

The Nottingham meeting on July 15th was a particularly friendly one. Mr. D. G. Hopewell presided; Lady Fraser was there, and the other guests included Bishop Weller and Mr. Parker, Managing Director of the Raleigh Works. The oldest St. Dunstaner present was S. Wain, of Derby, and there was a special cheer—and a lovely bouquet—for him and Mrs. Wain, because they celebrate their Diamond Wedding (sixty years) very soon.

Lady Fraser, who received a rousing welcome, said: "I am sorry my husband cannot be here to-day. He is attending a Ministry of Pensions committee where they are discussing the merger, and I am sure you will agree that it is right that he should be there." (Hear, hear). "He asked me to tell you that he voted against the merger because he did not like it, but also because he thought neither this Government nor the previous Governments had done what he thought right about bringing the basic rate into line with present-day costs. Now that the merger battle is over, he thinks all ex-service men's societies should co-operate with and make friends with the new Minister and the new Ministry, so that they might do the best they can for disabled ex-servicemen. They would, however, continue vigorous representations on the war pensions issue."

### Ovingdean Notes

We are not yet half-way through July, but what a variety of entertainment has been available for St. Dunstaners holidaying here at Brighton with us.

The Brighton & Hove and Southdown Bus Companies' Annual Summer Outing took place on Wednesday, 8th July and was, as has been the case for so many years in the past, thoroughly enjoyed by men from Ovingdean and West House as well as local St. Dunstaners. Our good friends of the Bus Companies are always such hospitable hosts and at Midhurst there is always such a grand welcome year after year that it is little wonder the event remains so popular with St. Dunstaners.

The other hardy annual is due to be held on July 15th and is, of course, the Summer Outing provided by the Grocers' Association. This year Hastings will be the meeting place for the many St. Dunstaners who enjoy the hospitality of the Association and, we are told, there will be a record number present.

Sports Day saw a fairly large crowd of visitors at Ovingdean again, but the number of entrants for the events was not as good as in previous years. Our congratulations to R. BEALES who this year won the Individual Athletic Trophy; and to the others who so sportingly entered for so many of the events.

Other results were:—

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL:—

1, Stuart Craig; 2, Dennis Bingham; 3, A. Hobson.

70 YDS. TOTALLY BLIND:—

1, S. Craig; 2, D. Bingham; 3, C. Stafford.

70 YDS. SEMI-SIGHTED:—

1, J. Fulling; 2, J. Shirlaw; 3, R. Armstrong.

EGG & SPOON (BLINDED LADIES):—

1, Blodwyn Simon; 2, Dorothy Phillippo; 3, Elsie Aldred.

THROWING THE DISCUS:—

1, R. Mendham; 2, N. Daniels; 3, R. Beales.

SACK RACE:—

1, S. Craig; 2, N. Daniels; 3, A. Hobson.

STANDING LONG JUMP:—

1, R. Beales; 2, J. Fulling; 3, N. Daniels.

HUMAN WHEELBARROW RACE:—

R. Mendham.

TANDEM CYCLE TORTOISE RACE:—

1, S. Craig; 2, C. Fisher; 3, R. Beales.

PUTTING THE WEIGHT:—

1, R. Beales; 2, N. Daniels; 3, J. Fulling.

THROWING THE MEDICINE BALL:—

1, N. Daniels; 2, J. Fulling; 3, R. Beales.

70 YDS. TOTALLY BLIND (Under 40):—

1, C. Fisher; 2, J. Walton.

BLIND VETERANS' RACE (Over 40):—

1, A. Martin.

THREE-LEGGED RACE:—

1, N. Daniels; 2, A. Hobson; 3, R. Mendham.

We were very pleased that once again Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were able to be with us for Sports Day and after the events prizes were presented by Sir Ian. Other guests included the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton, Miss Spenser Wilkinson from the Southern Regional Association for the Blind, Miss Shrimpton, the Secretary of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, all of whom were making their first visit to a St. Dunstan's Sports Day, and two old friends, Air Commodore G. Bentley Dacre and Mrs. Dacre.

### Success

Our very sincere congratulations to J. Walbrugh, of South Africa, one of our trainees, who has passed the Social Science Certificate examination at London University. John is to become a Welfare Officer.

### Australian News

P. Norris, of Nedlands, West Australia, writes:

"1952 was a bad year for my wife and self. My wife had a bad fall and fractured her left wrist in three places. Believe me, we had lots of fun and games during the period in plaster, but we can now smile and look back on this part of the venture.

I, with Mr. Bill James, a 1914-18 war-blinded bloke from here, have been selected to represent West Australia at the Australian War Blinded Congress to be held in Brisbane. Our wives are going along with us to keep us out of mischief.

Our Aussie cricketers are over your way and I am tipping them to lose the Ashes this time.

Met a Mr. and Mrs. Jordan, from Essex, a St. Dunstaner visiting the Sunny West. He was guest at one of our socials last Thursday night. Both seemed to be enjoying themselves and are in the pink.

P.S. Am still carrying out honorary welfare work for the blind per medium of radio with good results. The Braille Society and the War-Blinded held a street appeal on March 27th, resulting in over £3,000 between two of us. Not so bad an effort, what say you?" PERCY NORRIS.

### Young St. Dunstaners

#### Marriages

On June 13th, Remorna Noon, Manchester, to Timothy Shaw.

On June 20th, George Arthur Rodgers, Barrow-in-Furness, to Miss Thelma Jones.

Peggy Christina Macfarlane, Ilford, on June 20th, to Dennis Reeve, of Wanstead.

On July 11th, Betty Caple, Cardiff, to Kenneth Steadman.

On June 6th, Joan Sainty, Woodford Bridge, to Stanley Prior.

In June, Geoffrey Brown, Burton-on-Trent, to Miss Muriel Adams.

### Tale of Two Fusiliers

From the Coronation Number of "The Sprig of Shillelagh," journal of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers:

"One day in the summer of 1926, 'Nobby' Clarke, of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, was walking along Victoria Street, London, to his desk at the War Office. His head was full of worries. In front of him he saw a blind man feeling his way with a stick. 'Nobby' took his arm, helped him over a crossing, and the two began to talk.

"Here was a totally blind man, living eight miles out of London, travelling daily in to the city to work. A former Royal Scots Fusilier, he had been blinded in the trenches in 1918, when he was 18. Now he was married with a daughter whom he had never seen.

"'What have I to worry about?' thought Nobby.

"The result was that almost every working day for 26 years the one Fusilier met the other Fusilier at Victoria Station and guided him to his place of work, and back again in the evening.

"Now at the age of 67 Major William Clarke, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, is retiring from the Army, after 18 years' regimental soldiering and an unbroken 30 years at the War Office. His blind friend, Mr. Peter Martin, who is telephone operator at the Imperial Defence College, will continue to make his way to work, but the two will no longer rendezvous at 8.30 a.m. at Victoria. They will still meet as friends, however, notably at the sessions of the Inniskilling Regimental Association, where Mr. Martin has come to regard himself as an old Inniskilling.

"Major Clarke has met many of the lads of St. Dunstan's."

(We are indebted to Mrs. W. Owen, of Hassocks, who kindly sent us the regimental magazine from which this extract was taken. It was originally published in "SOLDIER.")

### Retrospect

#### One Day in June, 1937

I walked along a country road, the sun did brightly shine,  
My step was light, so was my heart on that bright day in June.  
The larks soared high above the fields, their sweet song gaily trilling,  
It lifts my mind above the earth with all its cares and pain  
To where the wide horizons grow and visions new are born.  
I walked on 'long a winding lane and came to woodland glade,  
I entered, then I paused again as awe stole over me,  
It was, it seemed, a sacred grove where God and man did meet.  
At first the trees were widely spaced and let some sunshine through  
So light and shade did alternate as does through most of life.  
Then farther on a wider space with ne'er a tree to shade,  
'Twas like the day we fell in love, or maybe, wedding day,  
Or other day when fortune smiled as we trod life's highway,  
But just beyond a chestnut grove had grown so dense, so dark  
That ne'er a streak of light was seen to penetrate its gloom.  
'Twas like the loss of one held dear, or maybe sight of eye  
Or other dire calamity that darkens life's pathway.  
I stepped into the darkness then, and in a space of time  
Was out upon the other side in sunlight once again,  
I walked home with a firmer step, with confidence more strong  
With peaceful calm serenity I was atop the world,  
The darkness that confronts us, however dark it seems,  
May be the gate that leads into a larger richer sphere.  
Wingham, Canterbury. W. C. HILLS.

## “ In Memory ”

### Private Alfred Ernest Chambers, *1st Essex Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. E. Chambers, of Ramsgate, at the age of sixty-three. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits in April, 1927, although he had been discharged from the Service in November, 1915. He trained in basket-making and netting.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral. He leaves a grown-up son, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

### Corporal John May, *Royal Army Service Corps*

With deep regret we have to record the death of J. May, of Drogheda, Eire.

He served with his regiment from August, 1916, until March, 1919, but it was not until 1951 that he came to us; he was then an elderly man and practically confined to bed. He had been almost continually ill since he came under our care, but his death was nevertheless rather unexpected. He died at his home on June 3rd.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and children.

### Private Ernest Taylor, *Machine Gun Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of E. Taylor, of Blackpool, who served during the First World War, but did not come to us until 1948. A delayed action mustard gas case, he had been ill for a very long time, and he was only able to do very light work.

He had spent a recent holiday at Ovingdean, but was ill then. He returned to his home and he died there on June 7th.

Sir Ian's wreath of poppies was among the flowers at the funeral, which was attended by the following St. Dunstaners and their wives, or escorts—Messrs. W. Birchall, A. Bright, W. H. Collins, W. Joyce, G. Moore, J. McAndrews and S. Smith.

### Private Harry Jones, *Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Harry Jones, a permanent resident at West House, Brighton. He was within a few days of his seventieth birthday.

He received his discharge from the Army in October, 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1924, where he trained in mat-making and boot-repairing. He continued with this work until 1935, when he was forced to give up owing to ill-health. On the death of Mrs. Jones last year, he was admitted to West House, where he died on June 30th.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his relatives.

### Thomas Tomkins, *5th Battalion 1st Australian Imperial Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of an Australian St. Dunstaner, T. Tomkins, of Victoria. He was blinded in the First World War but did not come to St. Dunstan's for training and we had kept in touch through the Blinded Soldiers' Association of Victoria. He had been ill for a long time and he died at Heidelberg Military Hospital on February 21st.

Our very sincere sympathy goes out to Mrs. Tomkins.

## Births

BRIDGES.—On June 28th, at Kuala Lumpur, to Helen Elizabeth (*nee* Mackenzie), the wife of D. Ronald Bridges, a son.

COOKSON.—On June 12th, to the wife of Ernie Cookson, of Barnsbury, a son—Robert William.

FITZPATRICK.—On June 29th, to the wife of B. Fitzpatrick, of Barrow-in-Furness, a daughter—June.

FOSTER.—On June 6th, to the wife of E. Foster, of Barnsley, a daughter.

LYNCH.—On July 3rd, to the wife of J. Lynch, of Hornchurch, a daughter—Jeanette Yvonne.

POWNALL.—On June 25th, to the wife of H. J. Pownall, of Caterham, a daughter—Kathleen Teresa.

WHYTE.—On June 15th, to the wife of F. Whyte, of Motherwell, Scotland, a son—Eamonn.

## Death

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:

APPLEBY.—To P. Appleby, of Luton, whose mother died on June 27th at the age of 92.

## Personal

By the time the REVIEW appears, Miss B. Vaughan-Davies's new address will be Flat 8, Dunes House, Fairhaven Road, St. Annes-on-Sea, Lancs.

\* \* \*

Sergeant Alan Nichols thanks all those friends who have written congratulating him upon his award of the Coronation Medal.