

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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AT this time of the year most people look forward. We have been looking back. To be sure, it all arose out of a New Year resolution to clean up the editorial shelves and cupboards, with their accumulation of years. There were papers and letters to go through; books to be dusted, sorted, or to be sent to other homes. REVIEWS to be catalogued. In short, to make a clean sweep of the old year and begin again.

Well, it sounded all right in theory, but when it came to the point very little was thrown away. A great deal was dusted, pored over, and put back. And here we are, almost where we started.

But it was pleasant while it lasted and the shelves look cleaner and neater, and no longer do we have to move ten thousand old REVIEWS when the one for September, 1916, is wanted. (And it always *is* September, 1916, or thereabouts). Now we only have to move ten hundred.

But looking back through those old volumes, what memories were recalled. January, 1925, for example. Thirty years ago. (Captain) Ian Fraser as he then was had been a Member of Parliament for exactly two months, but he had found time to write a three-page article on "Wireless for the Blind," in which he told fellow-enthusiasts how to make a wireless set, complete with *two* types of aerial, and a crystal receiver. And, Sir Ian added hopefully, "Providing that we are within range of a broadcasting station, and that the latter is transmitting a programme, we may at once put the receiver into commission." Strange to think of that now in these days of round-the-clock broadcasts.

That month there was also reprinted a Note by Sir Arthur, which had first appeared in 1917, and which is worth recalling now. He said: "I hope when you are on your walks abroad you will pay particular attention to the way in which roads and often paths curve downwards from the centre. The secret (of not tripping over the curb) is the very simple one of observing the curve of the road when it approaches the curb. This curve is the rule with, I think, no exception, and there is no need to ever stumble over a curb if one looks carefully for the guiding curve."

It was such a wise REVIEW. There was an article by Lord Leverhulme on "The Maxim which has helped me most." He said: "My maxim is 'Business is the finest game in life.' It gives greater opportunities for skill, patience, and endurance, tact and judgment, than any other game the wit of man ever devised. It is the only game I know . . . I have *tried* many games but I have never found a game superior to business. Like all games, however, one must take a pleasure in it otherwise one cannot carry on. A man who regards business as a foil and an irksome and irritating occupation forced upon him as a means of earning a livelihood will never take pleasure in the game. Doing something—even anything—is better than doing nothing."

A wasted half-hour? We don't think so. Do you?

THE EDITOR.

### The New Year Honours

Our hearty congratulations to two St. Dunstaners who were awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year Honours.

One is Mr. J. Swales, M.C., who has given distinguished public service for many years and is now President of the Cleveland and South Durham Institute for the Blind, Middlesbrough. The other is an Australian—Mr. Robert Archer, of Victoria, whose citation reads: "For services to blinded ex-servicemen."

#### Other Awards

No award will give greater pleasure, particularly to Irish St. Dunstaners, than that of the M.B.E. to Mr. Norman Macauley "for his services to blinded ex-servicemen."

Mrs. Greenland, at one time a Braille teacher at Church Stretton, also receives the M.B.E.

Professor E. D. Adrian, O.M., President of the Royal Society, who is perhaps not so well known to St. Dunstaners but who has given us valuable advice and assistance as Chairman of our Scientific Advisory Committee, becomes a Baron.

### Pressmen of Eighteen Nations Honour St. Dunstan

At the conclusion of their mid-year meeting in Southern Italy, members of the Fédération Internationale des Editeurs de Journaux et Publications made a presentation to Mr. W. T. Curtis-Willson, M.B.E., J.P., our St. Dunstaner, who is Managing Director of the *Brighton and Hove Herald*. The presentation, which was made in Naples, consists of a replica in silver of an historic vase recovered in the ruins of Pompeii, and one of the great treasures of the Naples Museum. It is a beautiful specimen of craftsmanship.

On the plinth of the vase is an inscription in Latin which, translated literally, is: "As the kindness of ashes preserves cities, so our memory preserves the worth and service of President Curtis-Willson."

Delegations from eighteen nations subscribed to the presentation.

#### From Overseas

A. R. Mallory writes from Ottawa that he is still kept very busy with canteen work. He adds: "Though short wave reception has been very bad on 10 metres, I did make a few very good contacts this last summer. I have done a lot of fishing too."

★ ★ ★

Our old friend, Miss Morrah, is back in this country from New Zealand.

### Holiday Beds at Ovingdean for St. Dunstaners in Industry

As you may know, we endeavour to reserve as many beds as possible at the end of July and early in August for men who work in Industry. We do find, however, that there is a danger of keeping other men waiting for a definite answer about bookings for these dates until well into the summer, when we have heard from all the Industrial men, and this is naturally very inconvenient for St. Dunstaners concerned. It would, therefore, be most helpful if Industrial men wishing to take a holiday at Ovingdean during the special period could notify their Area Superintendent of the dates required by the end of April.

After this date we will consider application from any St. Dunstaner to go to Ovingdean for a holiday at the end of July or early August if the bed situation allows.

#### Guide Dogs at Ovingdean

It is felt that some St. Dunstaners who own guide dogs do not realise that it is now possible for us to accommodate two guide dogs at a time at Ovingdean. When writing to your Area Superintendent for a holiday booking, please mention if you would like your guide dog to accompany you so that she may be able to tell you not only if there is a vacancy for yourself at the time you desire but also if there is one for your four-footed friend!

#### Tickets for Royal Tournament and Trooping of the Colour

As many St. Dunstaners will know, from time to time in the past we have received a few Complimentary Tickets for the Royal Tournament and the Trooping the Colour Ceremony in June. It occurs to me, however, that there may be some St. Dunstaners who would like to take advantage of these tickets but who are not aware of their existence. I should be happy to receive applications from any such and to bear them in mind should we receive any more tickets for these two functions in the future. As is our usual practice, if there are more applications than tickets, we will hold a ballot and notify everybody concerned nearer the time.

I should point out that both these functions take place mid-week.

C. D. WILLS,  
Welfare Superintendent.

### London Club Notes

The London Club wound up a very successful year with the Christmas Party on December 21st. We are indebted to Mr. Jacques Brown, of the B.B.C., who brought along James Moody, The Stargazers, Miss Helen Clare, and John Blythe. With Miss Ibbetson and her willing helpers serving refreshments and Father Christmas disguised as Bob Willis conducting the draw, everyone enjoyed themselves. We closed down for 1954 and look forward to another good year. S. WEBSTER.

#### Bridge Section

The 19th Annual General Meeting of the Bridge Club was held in the Club on Saturday, December 4th, 1954.

The chair was taken by Mr. Askew, and we are extremely grateful to him for his valuable assistance. Mr. Willis and Mr. Armstrong were among those present. The retiring Captain, Bill Bishop, was unable to attend and in his place Sammy Webster answered questions and handled the position with confidence as only our Sam can. Hearty congratulations to Frank Rhodes and Fred Jackson for winning the League Competition; Alf Wiltshire and Bob Wylie were runners-up. The Committee was elected as follows: N. Downs (Captain), S. Webster (Treasurer), G. (Jock) Brown, W. (Jock) Henry and H. Gover.

In the London Business House League, our team lost their return match against Hicomind. They have now won five and lost two. I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all members a happy New Year. "DRUMMER."

#### Outdoor Section

Saturday, December 18th, was a rather cold day, and not really ideal walking weather, but eight St. Dunstaners braved it to take part in the annual seven miles race. Once again we combined our race with a match with the Metropolitan Police, and this time they made no mistake and turned out a stronger team than ever. This, plus the fact that we were weakened by one or two absences, made our defeat all the more decisive, for the Police beat us by a much larger margin than usual. Of our St. Dunstaners, Tommy Gaygan was the outstanding member, for Tommy walked very well indeed, showing great improvement, and endeavoured to fill the position of his closest rival, Chas. Williamson, who was, unfortunately, on the sick list. Billy Miller

was not quite on form and had to be content to finish third to two policemen. Dennis Fleisig, now off the sick list, did well to finish the course. The rest of our members walked very gamely, though times generally were rather slow, due mainly to the cold. The race was started by Major Derek Hague, M.C., of the Hertford A.A.A., who also presented the prizes later at the club. Tommy Gaygan won the handicap, Billy Miller was second, and Chas. Stafford third. Archie Brown was fastest loser.

W. MILLER.

### St. Dunstan's Seven Mile Handicap and Match with Metropolitan Police

Regent's Park, Saturday, December 18th, 1954

Order of Finish	Club	Time	Hcp. All.	Hcp. Time in Hcp	Pos.
1.	W. Levett	M.P.	61.18		
2.	A. Bennet	"	61.24		
3.	W. Miller	St.D's.	62.30	Scr.	62.30 2
4.	T. Norman	M.P.	63.57		
5.	W. Bryant	"	63.59		
6.	W. Freeman	"	64.36		
7.	P. Cryan	St.D's.	65.46	1.30	64.16 4
8.	W. Symes	M.P.	65.48		
9.	A. Brown	St.D's.	66.13	1.05	65.08 7
10.	M. Dillon	M.P.	66.49		
11.	F. Melhuish	"	67.02		
12.	T. Gaygan	St.D's.	67.37	5.35	62.02 1
13.	J. Holding	M.P.	67.38		
14.	L. Thomas	"	67.40		
15.	R. Youldon	"	67.41		
16.	A. Stevenson	"	69.35		
17.	J. Parsons	"	69.57		
18.	L. Dennis	St.D's.	70.06	5.45	64.21 5
19.	C. Stafford	"	70.08	7.10	62.58 3
20.	S. Tutton	"	70.47	6.20	64.27 6
21.	D. Fleisig	"	75.29	6.35	68.54 8

Metropolitan Police, 47 pts. St. Dunstan's, 89 pts. Handicapper and Timekeeper: Mr. W. J. Harris.

### St. Dunstan's Club at Cardiff

Another St. Dunstan's Club—the fifth in Britain—was opened in Cardiff shortly before Christmas and is now a flourishing concern. Mr. Wills and Miss Wilson travelled from Headquarters in London to attend the opening ceremony, which was performed by Capt. J. Prince, local secretary of the British Legion. Miss Davies, Welfare Visitor, was also present. The Club premises area at the headquarters of the local British Legion in Womanby Street. The first officers to be elected are: A. J. Caple (Chairman) and H. Wheeler (Secretary). The *Western Mail*, carrying the story, also had a fine picture of Messrs. Jack Caple, D. T. Williams, Percy Blackmore, A. G. Evans, and H. Wheeler holding a large flag bearing St. Dunstan's badge. A message of greeting was sent to the meeting by Sir Ian Fraser. Good luck, Cardiff!

## Pensions Campaign The Legion's Decision

From the "British Legion Journal," January, 1955:—

The British Legion's campaign for an increase in the 100 per cent. basic rate to 90s. is to continue. This was decided at a meeting of the National Executive Council, held on December 11th, following the announcement of the Government's pension proposals on December 1st.

The Council endorsed the statement of the National Chairman, Capt. S. H. Hampson, and resolved that the War Pensions Campaign Committee be requested to review any changes necessitated by the Government's proposals in the presentation of the Legion's case, and to recommend any action called for.

The Chairman's statement, issued on December 1st, read:—

"The British Legion will be glad to see that, as the result of the Government's proposals, there is now to be some effective amelioration of the burden of inflation that the war-disabled and war widows have to bear.

"The extra 12s. 6d. a week for the 100 per cent. disabled, scaling to 2s. 6d. a week for those with 20 per cent. assessments (who make up one-third of the total number) and the 10s. 6d. a week for the war widows will help them—and for such help for them the Legion is, of course, grateful. The considerably increased unemployment supplement will aid additionally some 22,000, and the improved constant attendance allowance another group of war disabled.

"But the Legion's campaign is for a basic rate of 90s. a week, with corresponding advances for lower assessed disablements, and a comparable adjustment for war widows. In my view, the Legion's figures are the lowest possible equitable discharge of a national debt of honour.

"The Government's announced increases can, therefore, be regarded as only an interim measure towards that full justice for which the Legion has long continued and will continue unremittingly to press. In the sustained advance towards that goal the Legion will obviously be encouraged by the Government's response to the intensive phase of the campaign that the Legion has pursued since 1951.

"The new basic 100 per cent. pension

will be 22s. 6d. per week higher than it was in that year. The gap between the proposed scheme and the Legion's plan is now 22s. 6d. a week at its maximum. Its closure would cost about £16 million per annum, and that sum would, for obvious reasons, decrease largely each year. It does not seem a great deal to ask for the war disabled and war widows."

## What St. Dunstaners Think of the New Increases

### From the Chairman's Post-Bag

"The increases in war pensions, which are certainly very generous, are far better than I expected, so I am very happy and more than satisfied." A. E. B.

"Even though the latest increases do not reach the hoped-for mark for which you are striving, you are to be congratulated upon what has been achieved, much of the success being undoubtedly due in no small measure to your presentation of the war pensioner's case in the Commons at every opportunity." T. F.

"I am well provided for, but it is the under 100 per cent. man who is in need." C. H. S.

"A grand piece of work." F. J. M.

"We heartily congratulate you upon the part you have so successfully played in the recent Bill for better pensions and allowances, and although it is not so much as you would have liked, it is certainly a great improvement. You have stuck to your guns most admirably." W. R.

"More than I hoped for." G. C.

"Thank you for the clear and friendly letter outlining to everybody how the new rates will affect each and every one of us personally. We were completely in the dark until your letter arrived, and it will make Christmas much happier for all of us." J. M.

## Personal

Mrs. Creasey would like to express her deep thanks to all who helped to make her husband so very happy while he was ill.

★ ★ ★  
As always, Taffy Rowe, of Glamorgan, at Christmas remembered his St. Dunstan's friends who were fellow-prisoners with him at Stalag IX/AH, and sends them his good wishes.

## Miss Outing and Miss Wilson write—

DEAR NORTHERNERS,

Your kindness has so overwhelmed me this year that I shall have to ask for your indulgence and depart from tradition, as I cannot acknowledge individually the enormous number of beautiful Christmas cards and calendars which I have received from you and your families.

I deeply appreciate your remembrances and thank you most sincerely.

A bumper New Year to everyone of you.

Yours very sincerely,  
"M.K.W."

DEAR SOUTHERNERS,

As I have received so many greetings cards this year, it has now become impossible for me to write and acknowledge each one individually but I do thank you all for the kind thoughts and good wishes—I do appreciate these, and I send you all my best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year. J. OUTING.

## The Deaf-Blind Watch Fund

Mr. Askew, who is Hon. Treasurer of the Deaf-Blind Watch Fund, tells us that as a result of his notice in the October REVIEW, the magnificent sum of £59 3s. 7d. has been subscribed and this has been sent to the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League, for them to purchase the watches without delay.

Mr. A. R. Sculthorpe, M.B.E., who is the General Secretary of the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League, writes:

DEAR EDITOR,

I am sure you will grant me a line or two—or three—of your space to renew acquaintance with our good friends of both sexes who have done such a lot in various ways to lend a hand to our deaf-blind members and their League.

There is a most impressive record of friendliness and practical help from St. Dunstan's men and women to our League. The Watch Fund, raised as a tribute to Mr. Ottaway, has meant that scores of deaf-blind people have been given watches, and those watches continue to do their service even after the original recipient has passed on; they are returned to the League for re-allocation.

We have our own brand of self-respect in the League. We don't encourage scrounging, for even if we are doubly handicapped, we don't regard that as

another excuse for lying down and letting other people do everything for us. The League has a grand record of self help by deaf-blind people and in that it shares the same spirit as St. Dunstan's. Our folk just need a bit more help because they're a bit more crippled.

Speaking for myself, it has always been my aim to try to do for the deaf-blind what St. Dunstan's does for the war-blinded; to infuse an *esprit de corps*, based on pride in standing up to a hard knock. We haven't had the money up to now to have a place of our own where our members can come and get some instruction from those who know what the double handicap means, but we're hoping to have such a place in due course. Then we'll "show 'em!" We have the pluckiest lot of people amongst our members and they just want the right start.

I know we have your sympathy all the way and I want again to express my very sincere thanks to you all.

Cordially Yours,  
A. R. SCULTHORPE.

## National Laying Test

At the annual dinner and presentation of prizes in connection with the National Laying Test, held at the Hotel Russell, Lady Dugdale was guest of honour and presented the prizes. The winners in the St. Dunstan's section were:—

1. Philip Bagwell, of Charlton Mackrell.
2. George Cooke, of Stoke-on-Trent.
3. Percy Holmes, of Woburn.

Philip Bagwell had a cash prize, a silver gilt medal, and holds the St. Dunstan's Challenge Cup. He also gained the P.A.G.B. second cash prize.

George Cooke had a cash prize and silver medal and also won the first P.A.G.B. cash prize. He gained in addition a medal for the best winter production.

Percy Holmes received a cash prize and a bronze medal.

W. Webb, of Northampton, holds the Jacobs and Spearman Cup for the bird with the highest individual score.

## Young St. Dunstaners Marriages

Fay Pratt (Victoria, Australia), on September 11th.

Nelly May Sainty, Woodford Bridge, on November 20th, to Dennis Rumble.

Mary Marshall, Horden, Co. Durham, on December 20th, to Kenneth Edmunds.

### Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Being one of the few women in this country, and certainly the only one in St. Dunstan's, who served in both World Wars I and II, I would like to answer the puerile and, I consider, contemptible comments of Mr. George Ellis.

I do challenge Mr. Ellis very strongly in his comments about the attitude of the World War II men and women. Who has given him the right to write such cutting, untrue and sarcastic things about men who, forty years ago, not only had the guts to join up without being directed but who took war, filthy trenches, mud, lice and no leave in their stride, and a married private got the princely sum of a tanner a day, and his wife, if lucky, 12s. 6d. a week.

Amongst my own memories of both wars are, above all, the cheerful friendship between us; if I hear marching feet, they conjure up pictures of young boys of 18 years and one month marching to a railway station at Easter, 1918, kids not even trained, but singing—and the same kids marching up the hill at Boulogne—to their deaths. I can remember the many, many times when after one helluva day on the Bristol coast-line when more girls than men were manning the gun sites—how in the NAAFI, the kids—and their average age was 18, too—used to sing the bally roof off.

I congratulate the old gentlemen of the First World War for their courage in saying what they think. I have a deep regard for the veterans of that war, as I have for the few old comrades of the Boer War with whom my Dad served. But I have just as great an admiration for the boys and girls of World War II—and darn me, they sang just as much out of tune as ever did the others.

Yours sincerely,

Birkenhead.

MAUREEN LEES.

DEAR EDITOR,

Get in there, House, Bungalow, College, Cornwall Terrace, and the rest. They have asked for it. Good old Taplin! When's Zero Hour? Let it be at the top of St. Paul's at midnight. We will remember them. We shall be there. Inches only, my jolly old sportsmen. Lightweight singles, heavyweight singles, one-arm pairs, double sculls or open fours. Let 'em all come. Let us recall the cheers as we passed St. Mark's, along the King's Road,

where our pre-natal period was spent. Then we sang, "Away, with hearts so gay, we strive to lay our rivals low," without a saxophone accompaniment. There was no extra milk and orange juice in those days. My first breakfast in Blighty in a ward of thirty-six special eye cases for St. Dunstan's, was a kipper, to be eaten with a spoon. Those who could then made their way to my bed to cheer me up. The conversation drifted into the best ways of committing suicide. Then came the re-birth. There were others worse off than myself. There were the wonderfully kind visitors. We can remember them by name. We will remember them. They will come to our aid if reinforcements are needed. "We don't want to fight, but, by Jingo, if we do . . ."

Yours sincerely,

Streatham.

W. T. SCOTT.

DEAR EDITOR,

Ouch! My immediate reaction after reading the blistering comments of Messrs. Radford, Taplin, Mudge and Shaw was to re-read my own letter just to make absolutely sure that they were writing about the same subject. I liked Mr. Radford's letter in spite of its irrelevant allusion to "mental deficiency," and his mistaken judgment of my flippancy for "Damned sarcasm." Mr. Mudge, too, rather strayed from the point. His note made good reading but it was regrettable that he should assume that I condemn all forms of community singing. Mr. Taplin was guilty of side-tracking but he was the one who really put a finger on the answer I sought. As for Mr. Shaw, my goodness, doesn't he know a lot of big words! According to Mr. S. I'm a regular old Frankenstein. Come, come, now, Mr. Shaw, someone's been tampering with your sense of humour.

Before I go any further, I must shed some light on my original statement about the singing and the piano pounding. I said that the choir was Packing up its Troubles in its Old Kitbag. Now if the pianist had been also packing up his troubles I would not have said a word about his parents. The happy optimist at the keyboard was struggling with something which did really sound like a concerto for left elbow. Please get this point straight. The piano was certainly not accompanying the Glee Club—and I did say the hour was 9.30 a.m.

When I decided to use the term, "Peter Pan" complex, I felt quite pleased and was sure it was an inoffensive way of describing the "sprightliness" of the First War men. I was too hasty in assuming that everybody would know that Peter Pan was the boy who never grew old. It certainly did not enter my head that some people would put an entirely wrong construction on it and twist my words into meaning "Second childhood."

To get back to the real purpose of my letter—why are the 1914-18 men so much more "boyish" at heart than the "boys" of the 1939-45 war? I was not helped much by all the blood-curdling references to lice and mud and shelling. I have heard lots of first-hand accounts of the horrors of Flanders fields and I can assure Mr. Radford that I am indeed glad that I was not involved. Yet even if I had been one of those wretched trench dwellers, do you think I would have come out of it filled with a desire to sing and play practical jokes? That would mean a complete change of character for me and many others of similar quiet tendencies. No. I believe that Mr. Taplin had the right idea when he wrote of the early days of St. Dunstan's. I may be wrong but I think I see the picture now. In those far off days, they were unique circumstances. Hundreds and hundreds of men, suddenly deprived of their sight; an organisation springs to life, one which is as much in the dark about its plans as the men themselves, and, finally, the most important factor, a man with a gift for inspiring others to great achievements. Some of us younger St. Dunstaners may scoff at it but it is really not surprising that the older men have such a fierce pride in St. Dunstan's and all it stands for to-day. Maybe, we take too much for granted, a thing you couldn't afford to do in the early days.

To sum up, I think that the comradeship, the zest for life, the preference for spontaneous and "home-made" amusement, is all a relic of the riotous days at Regent's Park. Yet at this point I must make a reservation. A St. Dunstan's friend of mine of 1916 vintage told me the other day that whilst at the College he hardly ever heard or wanted to hear the "skylarking" which is alleged to have taken place. From that bit of surprising information I draw the obvious conclusion that not everybody is alike. There are quiet ones and jovial

ones in every community. That being so, I now suggest that the jovial ones of the First World War are more noticeable simply because those of the last war are greatly outnumbered. If this is the case, then maybe some of us have a chance of developing the Peter Pan outlook after all.

Yours sincerely,

Liverpool.

GEORGE ELLIS.

### Increased Pensions

DEAR EDITOR,

Sufficient time has now passed to digest the import, and place in perspective the recent improvements in the war disablement pensions. It has been rightly stated that this is the biggest increase ever given in one amount. What might have been added was that the value of pensions and the pound were at the time at their lowest ebb for the last forty years. Between the two great wars, no one could say that a two pounds a week basic pension was an adequate sum to pay totally disabled men. Yet to-day the basic pension would need to be £6 15s. per week to equal that sum in buying value. The British Legion recognised this fact in 1946, when they asked for a £4 10s. basic pension. At that time the pension was £2 5s. The Government have recognised the increased cost of living from 1946 until now and have given a 50% increase in basic pension. Logically, therefore, the British Legion's target based on their 1946 conclusion should now be £6 15s. A similar situation exists with attendance allowance, but as for wife and children, apparently the Government has forgotten that they exist, but of course some children do get family allowance. The most gratifying aspect of the increases has been that to the supplementary pensions for the unemployable disabled, for together with basic pension and attendance allowance increases their particular situation has been justly recognised.

When this background picture is considered, it may be seen that there is no room for complacency, especially when the cost of living continues to rise. However, I would like to take the opportunity as a member of St. Dunstan's, of thanking Sir Ian, the staff of St. Dunstan's, and his colleagues in Parliament for their efforts on our behalf, not forgetting the general public, whose weight of opinion helped no end to speed up events.

Yours sincerely,

EDGAR R. ETTRIDGE.

### Manchester Club Notes

Our Christmas party, held on Friday, the 17th December, at the Red Cross House, Pendleton, attracted nearly all the Club members along with wives and escorts.

Our guests included Miss Vaughan-Davies, ex-Matron of the Blackpool Home; Miss Doel, Welfare Visitor; Mr. T. H. Hilton, Chairman, Red Cross, Salford Branch; Mrs. Jackson, of Levenshulme, and several widows of late Club members.

Miss Vaughan-Davies said grace and there followed a good half hour of attention to the "inner man."

Immediately after the meal the Chairman extended a welcome to invited guests, and expressed to all present Christmas greetings, and the wish that the New Year would bring health and happiness to all, and prosperity to the Club. At this stage, the secrets of the lucky table numbers and chair numbers were revealed, and prizes distributed to the fortunate ones. Needless to say, there were very few disappointed, thanks to our worthy Secretary, Mrs. Dunphy; our Treasurer, Miss Hill; and Mrs. Lang, who combined their wits to provide the pleasant surprises.

The evening was then given to games, dancing, and songs rendered by Mr. W. Howarth. An opportunity was also taken to distribute replica cups to the cup winners in the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial competitions. These replicas were handed over by Miss Vaughan-Davies with suitable words of congratulation to the winners.

This was a really jolly evening, reflecting the enthusiasm of members, officials, and helpers, and a special word of thanks goes to Mr and Mrs. Howard, the Caretakers of our Club Headquarters, for all the help they so willingly gave.

"MANCUNIAN."

### Calling All Chums!

The Cup and Cabinet representing the trophy for the "Stayers' Handicap" is now supplemented by the addition of a Purse of 100 National Savings Certificates with accrued interest dated as from January 1st, 1955, in the care of Barclays Bank, Ltd., Boundary Road, Portslade.

Chums will be glad to learn that our next holiday is now confirmed, and the rendezvous will be Ovingdean, Monday, 15th August, to 29th, inclusive. Make a note of this, and I am hoping there will be no absentees for any reason.

I am arranging a five-day tour of the battlefields of Flanders, when we shall visit such places as Arras, St. Quentin, the Somme, Armentieres, Poperinghe, Ypres, Mons—to mention only a few interesting spots which will surely ring a bell for all of us. Date of trip:—Leaving Ovingdean for Dover, August 21st. Don't worry about passports; I am arranging with H.M. Passport Office for a "Party" Passport. The wives of Chums are cordially invited to participate in this trip. To simplify matters, I shall be glad if all Chums will let me know they are coming for the holiday, and whether they wish to make the trip to France and Belgium, stating, of course, whether or not Mrs. Chum will be the escort, so that I can send you the passport forms to fill in in due course. It will be a great help to the Welfare Department if I can let them know as soon as possible the number of beds at Ovingdean which will be required. You can rest assured that the all-in cost of this trip will not cause you any anxiety; so get that typewriter out and let me know your decision.

**Important to all Chums:** Get those chins up, and include in your training methods those two qualities which you all possess: Confidence and Determination *ad lib.*

ALAN NICHOLS,  
Chum Chair.

### "Versatile Tools"

Under this heading, there is an article in the November 4th issue of the "Model Engineer" which, writes T. W. Chamberlain, of Reading, was written around himself and other St. Dunstaners who are interested in model engineering. (He and George Fallowfield have both exhibited models at the Model Engineers' Exhibition.)

Our St. Dunstaner ends his letter:—

"I was very interested to read of Dickie Brett's achievement in making letter racks. I think it is one of the greatest achievements, or even the greatest achievement, made by any St. Dunstaner. To make these letter racks without any hands is a most remarkable feat. I should also like to pay tribute to G. Fallowfield on his skill in boat-building, and the making of the collar studs. I should like to know more about the boat-building, as I am shortly to start making a model of the Dutch 'tug, 'Zwarte Zee.' I intend to make the engines of the tug myself."

### Christmas in West House

O.K. We're a bunch of crotchety old fogeys. We can take it. But listen, all you young bloods, the welkin was ringing at West House at Christmas.

Matron and Commandant distributed the gifts during the morning. Later we drove to the Anchorage—I had better not tell you where that is—and there we toasted the bountiful Mrs. Barder. Back again to West House at one o'clock. Amid the decorations of the Dining Room, the noise, the napery, the shining cutlery, glassware, and refreshment *ad lib.*, we ate a Christmas Dinner that put the Trocadero in the shade.

In the afternoon, with songs from Dick Newman, and monologues from Percy Boulton, the community singing of carols and choruses, the laughter of the Matron and Sisters and men, the reading of the Christmas cards—all these things amid the brilliant decorations of the surroundings—were the ingredients that went to make a wonderful day.

Is that all that happened? Not a bit of it. Some of us went out to a fairground where a large marquee housed a hall of mirrors and waxworks. Sam and Sally and their three children came up from the farm and Sam was going to take his wife and children into the hall of mirrors and the waxworks show. He looked around for the booking office. All he could see at the door was a woman selling toffee apples. Sam advanced upon her and said innocently, "I wants one for me and missus and one each for the youngsters." The toffee apple lady gave him two large toffee apples and three smaller ones. Holding these as a nosegay, he looked around open-mouthed and then spotted the entrance where a man stood with a roll of admission tickets. He stumped across to him and held out the toffee apples. "What's this lot for?" the man asked.

"We wants to go into the 'All of Mirrors and the Chamber of 'Errors,'" said Sam, offering the toffee apples.

"You won't get in 'ere with a toffee apple," said the man bluntly. "It's sixpence for adults and froopence for school-children." He looked at Sam with some disgust. "And you can give them to the kids to eat," he said, nodding at the toffee apples.

So Sam paid one and ninepence and his tribe marched in. He came out without the toffee apples and told me that he had

put them in the pocket of Charlie Peace's coat. I sympathised with him.

Boxing Day, after the morning highlight, the Lady's Chase and the Hop Stakes were run at the Kemptown point-to-point meeting.

We finished up on New Year's Eve with the rum punch farewell to the Old Year and a welcome to the New.

Many thanks to Matron, the Commandant and the Staff. Well done, everybody.

W. E. BROOKES.

### Brighton and District Club

The second Annual General Meeting of the above Club was held at the Winter Garden, Ovingdean, on the 9th December, when in spite of appalling weather, nineteen St. Dunstaners and their escorts were present. The Commandant kindly acted as Chairman. After his opening remarks, he called on Mr. Fleetwood, Chairman of the Club. Mr. Fleetwood reviewed the Club's activities for the year and extended a vote of thanks and appreciation to all those who had made 1954 such a successful year. The Secretary, Frank Rhodes, was then called. As Secretary, he commented on the outings to the Derby and to Goudhurst and said that it was due to loyal co-operation that these outings were such happy events.

Under "Any other business," the question was raised, "Could the Club meet twice a month?" The Commandant explained that owing to staffing problems and the fact that the Winter Gardens were primarily for men in residence, it was regretted that this facility could not be granted.

Then came the business of electing the officers for the ensuing year. Mr. Rhodes was elected Chairman and Secretary, and Messrs. Randall, Walch, Fleetwood, and Gatrell were elected to the Committee.

Mr. John Reddish presented Mrs. Comer, Miss Depree, and Mr. Jack Jarrold with Christmas presents and thanked them for their valuable help.

After the meeting, we had a grand Domino Drive. The evening closed with Matron presenting the prizes for the Sir Arthur Pearson events and the domino drive.

FRANK A. RHODES.

★ ★ ★

T. Taylor, of Farington, Lincs., is now an Accredited Local Preacher of the Methodist Church. A Recognition Service for him and two other preachers will be held in Leyland on March 11th.

### Ovingdean Notes

Christmas festivities seem to begin a little earlier each year for us at Ovingdean!

The trainees having sped off home, we began to prepare for the holiday makers, who began arriving on the 18th December and continued throughout the following week, so that by Christmas Eve it was just about "full house" once again.

The Brighton Male Voice Choir visiting us on Sunday, December 19th, certainly started the festivities off in fine style, and from then onwards until the New Year there was scarcely any lull at all. Max Wall, the guest artist with the choir, was given a very warm welcome. He was later to appear as the "star" of the Christmas Ice Show at the Brighton Stadium and, as he expected to have to come to Brighton on the 19th for a dress rehearsal, he had promised to take part in their programme. The dress rehearsal, however, was cancelled, but in spite of this he made a special journey down to Brighton from London and contributed about half an hour of his own inimitable style of comedy to the already extremely good programme of entertainment arranged by the Choir.

A dance and cabaret entertainment took place in the Lounge on Christmas Eve, and the following morning there was the usual distribution of Christmas presents and a glass of port for each man, provided, as it has been for several years now, by the Brighton, Hove and District Grocers' Association. The traditional Christmas dinner was provided with all the usual trimmings, and after a quiet afternoon to recover from the lassitude which seems quite normal after such things as Christmas pudding, etc., the staff provided an entertainment for everyone in the form of a Variety Concert, which met with much approval from the audience.

On Boxing Day afternoon a party visited Brighton Hippodrome for the opening performance of the pantomime "Sleeping Beauty," and in the evening quite a number of local St. Dunstaners joined those staying in the home for the Boxing Night Carnival Dance. This year there were quite a number of fancy dress costumes from which to choose our prizewinners, and many were amusing, attractive and original. First prize (gentlemen) went to Joe Walch as "A broken doll," with George Fallowfield as "Half Dotty" and J. Greaves and J. Maxiekurndo (those inseparables) as "Can-

ned Up," runners-up. The ladies' prizes went to Miss Smith, V.A.D., "Cleopatra," first prize, second prize to Mrs. Lamb as "Domino Queen," and Miss Gray and Miss Downward, V.A.D.s, shared third prize for their costumes "Anglo-American Relations."

The rest of the week quickly whirled by. Various parties visited "Dome Variety," the Brighton Hippodrome, and the Theatre Royal and, in addition, domino and housey-housey competitions were held in the Home.

Friday, New Year's Eve, found us dancing until after midnight with apparently as much zest as ever! An interval for the ever popular horse-racing game provided some respite for those dancing feet, and then, after having done justice to an extremely good refreshment buffet, we relaxed for a little longer and listened with very much pleasure to some popular ballads sung by Gwen Obern. At midnight the New Year was heralded in with much vigour—and some potent rum punch! Finally, after the singing of Auld Lang Syne and the last waltz the revellers began slowly to disperse though when the last of them tumbled into bed it is somewhat difficult to hazard a guess! Anyway, 1955 got going in the best of form—long may it last!

Commandant and Matron at Ovingdean would like to express thanks to all those St. Dunstaners who have so kindly sent them greetings this Christmas. So many, in fact, were sent that it is not possible to acknowledge them all personally, but through the columns of THE REVIEW they hope to reach you all.

Miss Carlton has also told the Editor that she and other members of the Staff at Ovingdean would like to thank, through THE REVIEW, those who have sent Christmas cards.

A very happy New Year to all St. Dunstaners from all staff here.

### Test Results

**Typing:**—M. Aldridge, M. Tetley (Officer), D. MacLeod (Officer), B. Jubb, P. Booth, H. Ward, V. Kemmish (Miss), J. Tyrrell, R. Fry, W. Durrant, A. Holmes.

**Preliminary:**—J. Harris, R. Benson, H. Ward.

**Advanced:**—R. Armstrong, J. Rostron.

**Senior:**—D. Phillippo (Miss).

**Writing:**—R. Benson, V. Kemmish (Miss), R. Harmsworth, J. Harris.

### Camp Reunion Dance

#### All St. Dunstaners Welcome

A Dance will be held on Friday, February 4th, from 7.30 to 11 p.m., at the Trevelyan Hall, Great Peter Street, off Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W.1. Tickets: 3s. single; 5s. double. To be obtained beforehand.

Harry Ranger's Four-piece Band will play. Refreshments by the local Red Cross at cost price. There will be a bar.

The Hall is very central—about four minutes' walk from Westminster Abbey, West Door. Red Cross guides will direct you to the Hall or cars will be there to take you. Parking arrangements near the Hall.

Tickets will not be sold at the door but can be obtained from Miss P. Kingswell, 17 Airlie Gardens, Campden Hill, W.8 (please enclose postal order), or from Miss Ibbetson or Mr. Willis, at St. Dunstan's London Club, 191 Marylebone Road, N.W.1. AVIS SPURWAY.

### Result of Christmas Competition

From a large entry, the following St. Dunstaners were successful in the competition announced last month: Percy Maynard, of Gamlingay, near Sandy; G. Nancarrow, of Newquay; and T. L. Giles, of Ovingdean. The correct solution was:—

NEWCASTLE	SWANSEA TOWN
TOTTENHAM	SWINDON
EVERTON	BOURNEMOUTH
ROTHERHAM	

### Birmingham Club Notes

December 12th was a red letter day for the children and grand-children of our Club members. Over forty children, from tiny tots to boys and girls of thirteen, spent a very happy afternoon. The Christmas tree was brilliant with fairy lights and Father Christmas had a present for every child. The indefatigable Mr. Williams provided them with a film show and the grand-daughter of one of our members, Barbara Hines, and her friend entertained them with songs and dances. We held our usual annual collection for civilian deaf-blind and the fund will benefit to the extent of four pounds. One or two familiar faces were absent through illness.

This function brought our year's activities to a close. On behalf of all Club members, I wish to express our grateful thanks to all our friends who have made it such a happy and successful one and we are looking forward to another year with every confidence. W.S.

### Births

FARNEN.—On December 22nd, to the wife of H. Farnen, of Sale, Manchester, a daughter.  
FOSTER.—To the wife of E. H. Foster, of Barnsley, on January 5th—a son.

GILES.—On November 11th, to the wife of T. L. Giles, of Ovingdean, a son—Theodore Robert Aris. (Mr. and Mrs. Giles' marriage in the Ovingdean Chapel was the second one to take place there).

WOOD.—On December 17th, to the wife of P. Wood, of Hyde, Cheshire, a son.

### Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to:—  
BROWN.—To E. Brown, of Whitley Bay, who lost his mother on January 4th.  
GAMBLIN.—To Trueman Gamblin, of Norton, King's Co., Canada, and Mrs. Gamblin, in the loss of their youngest daughter, Jean Elizabeth. She was taken ill at her office desk and died less than three hours after. She was Secretary to the Ladies Auxiliary, Canadian Legion, and members formed a Guard of Honour at her funeral.

HOLLAMBY.—To L. Hollamby, of Oldham, whose father died on December 12th.  
INGREY.—To B. E. Ingrey, of Rottingdean, whose father died early in December, at the age of 85.

STEVENSON.—To S. R. Stevenson, of London, E.17, who has recently lost his youngest sister.

TATTON.—To E. Tatton, of Twigworth, Gloucester, whose brother died suddenly on December 19th.

VENESS.—To W. V. Veness, of Edgware, whose sister has recently died.

### Marriages

BOOTH—SHOESMITH.—On January 15th, at Brighton, Peter Booth (Trainee) to Miss Peggy Shoesmith.

FRY—VINSON.—On January 8th, at Brighton, Robert Fry (Trainee) to Miss Joyce Vinson.

### Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. Henderson, of Dagenham, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on Christmas Day.

### Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. A. I. Gwyn, of Lowestoft, December 12th; Mr. and Mrs. T. Batt, of Oakhill, December 23rd. Congratulations.

★ ★ ★  
W. Buckham, of Birtley, Co. Durham, was eighty on December 23rd. Who is the oldest St. Dunstaner?

## “ In Memory ”

### Private Reginald Chaplin, *South Wales Borderers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of R. Chaplin, of Sandown, Isle of Wight. He died on January 3rd, two days before his sixty-fifth birthday.

He came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1916, and trained in boot-repairing and mat-making and he continued at the latter craft until his last illness.

He was a widower, and had no children, but had been looked after by a housekeeper.

### Private Herbert Lowe Cooper, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on December 4th, of H. L. Cooper, of Chadderton, Oldham.

When he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in October, 1954, he was in very poor health and he became seriously ill towards the end of November. His death, however, in early December was unexpected.

At the funeral, which was attended by the local Methodist Minister and the Vicar of the Parish Church, moving tribute was paid to his courage in the face of ill-health, and of his Church activities in his younger days.

Our sympathy is offered to his daughter, who is herself recovering from an accident, and who had nursed him.

### Corporal Frederick Creasey, *3rd London Royal Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of F. Creasey, of Lancing, at the age of sixty.

He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in February, 1917, and trained as a basket-maker and he continued with this work until within a few months of his death. During the past three months, however, his health had deteriorated rapidly.

Our very sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and daughter.

### Private Michael Deegan, *2nd Dublin Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of M. Deegan, of London, W.1, which occurred very suddenly on Christmas Day. He was sixty-three.

He came to St. Dunstan's in December, 1916, and trained as a basket-maker. He worked at this for many years but his health has not been good recently.

He was a single man and lived with his step-mother; we extend our sincere sympathy to her and to his brothers and sisters.

### Private James Patrick Donegan, *Royal Army Service Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. P. Donegan, of Brighton, at the age of sixty-nine.

He came to us in June, 1921, and trained as a netter.

On December 22nd he was admitted to West House as an emergency case, but he died there the following day.

### Private Frank Hemsworth, *25th Durham Light Infantry*

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on December 27th, of F. Hemsworth, of Doncaster. He was in his 69th year.

He enlisted in 1915, being discharged a year later, and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1919 when he trained in mat-making and netting. He was to have spent a Christmas holiday at Brighton but he was taken ill and died at his home.

He was a bachelor and our deep sympathy goes out to his sister, Mrs. Tetley, who had cared for him, and who had nursed him during his illness.

### Private Charles William Jay, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

With deep regret we have to record the death of Charles William Jay, of Ruislip. He was fifty-eight.

He was discharged from the Service in July, 1916, but did not come to St. Dunstan's until March, 1948, when, owing to his poor health, it was not possible for him to undertake training. Bill Jay was one of our deaf St. Dunstaners. He had been for many years on the staff of Westminster Hospital before coming to St. Dunstan's. He had been a keen sportsman in the days before the war, and he always took a keen interest in football and cricket. He died in hospital on January 1st. Cremation was at Golders Green.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

### Great Grandfathers

Mr. F. Mowtell, of Cramlington.

Thomas's little grand-daughter, whose birth was announced in October, has died in hospital at the age of nine weeks.

### Grandfathers

P. Johns, of Torquay; F. Crabtree, of Leeds; H. Bridgman, of Derby.

We have heard with regret that W.

We have also heard with regret that the little twin son born to the son of H. Bridgman, of Derby, has died. The little girl so far is making progress.