

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

**M**ANY St. Dunstaners have said that they would like to subscribe for a presentation to Mr. Askew on the occasion of his retirement. They want to express their thanks to him for all that he has done for St. Dunstan's during the last thirty-six years. As a St. Dunstaner myself, I share this view. We will be happy to place our services at the disposal of those who wish to join in such a presentation, and I have asked Mr. Lloyds to act as Honorary Treasurer. While the amount of individual subscriptions will not be disclosed, we would nevertheless like to be able to tell Mr. Askew that his presentation brings him the good wishes of all St. Dunstaners, and I therefore hope that as many as possible will join in. Subscriptions should be sent to me at 1 South Audley Street, in an envelope marked "Personal," and I will ask Mr. Lloyds to send each subscriber a receipt. We will publish the result in the REVIEW in due course.

### The Television Licence

It looks as if the modest concession on television licences is nearly "in the bag." On April 27th I asked the Postmaster General the attitude of Her Majesty's Government towards the proposal that blind persons should be allowed a rebate of £1 on the combined television and wireless licence of £3, thus reinstating where appropriate the concession originally granted in the Wireless Telegraphy (Blind Persons Facilities) Act, 1926, and he replied, "I am glad to say that Her Majesty's Government agree with this proposal in principle."

I can reveal that I have the support of members of all parties, and the fact that the Post Office has now given the proposal its blessing will no doubt stand us in good stead whatever Party wins the Election.

I should have introduced a little Bill to bring about this modest reform in this Parliament, but there was not time to get it through all its stages, so if I am returned to the House I shall take the first opportunity of doing so in the new Parliament.

As I write these words I am just off to Morecambe and Lonsdale for the Election, and will be speaking in a dozen different constituencies in Lancashire, and then I go on to the British Legion Annual Conference at Llandudno at Whitsun.

IAN FRASER.



### Derby Sweepstake

The result of the Draw for the Derby Sweepstake appears on page 10.

### When You Vote

It is hoped that this REVIEW will reach St. Dunstaners before Polling Day, in which case they might like to be reminded that under the Blind Voters' Act, which Sir Ian Fraser introduced into Parliament, a blind voter may either (a) take to the polling booth a companion, who may be any other person having a vote in the constituency or ward, or his or her father, mother, wife or husband, brother or sister, son or daughter, such persons being 21 years of age, to mark the ballot paper; or (b) ask the presiding officer to mark the ballot paper in the presence of representatives of the candidates, as was the case before the law came into force in 1934. If the blind person wishes to use the first method, he must tell the presiding officer that he is blind and that he has brought a companion to mark his paper. The companion must then fill in and sign a simple declaration, which will be given to him by the presiding officer. This declaration merely states who the companion is, and that he will keep his knowledge of the vote secret.

Under the Elections and Jurors Act, 1945, yet another method is made available for blind persons, namely, what is called the Postal Vote, and it may be that some St. Dunstaners have already exercised their right in this way. We mention it for information only, because by the time these words are read, it will be too late to get a postal vote, though, of course, either of the methods mentioned at the beginning of this article may be employed on Polling Day itself.

### Honoured

Our sincere congratulations to John A. Oriol, C.B.E., M.C., M.I.CHEM.E., who, at the annual dinner of the Association of Chemical Engineers, held on Tuesday, April 26th, was invested as President of the Institute for the coming year. H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh was the principal guest at the dinner.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. V. A. Saunder, formerly Mrs. V. A. Ross, of Saltdean, would like it to be known that she can no longer take visitors.

### The New Zealand St. Dunstan's

We learn that, following the death of Mr. James McGuire, since 1947 Director of the New Zealand St. Dunstan's, Mr. W. H. Cocker, C.M.G., M.A., LL.B., has been appointed to succeed him. Mr. Cocker has personal knowledge of St. Dunstan's work for in 1953 he came to this country and took the opportunity of visiting Headquarters and also Ovingdean. He himself lost his sight some years ago as the result of an accident. He has had a most distinguished career as barrister and solicitor, being a member of the New Zealand Broadcasting Board, and member of the Senate of the University of New Zealand, among other distinctions.

### Trevelyan Hall Dance—May 6th

"From the four corners of the earth they came"—Somerset, Leicestershire, Southend, Hertfordshire, Surrey—and it was fun. The eats and drinks were served in the dance hall and this seemed to encourage dancing. Dennis Deacon gave spot prizes, and Ben Mills helped the band out with two numbers on the bagpipes. Miss Hoare had Red Cross cars running everywhere to meet trains and buses and see people off. But—where are the boys of the Old Brigade, where are the knuts we knew? Nearly everyone who came was Second War.

A. O. S.

### Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review" May, 1925:

"Be sure to listen-in on the wireless from 8.55 to 9.30 on the evening of Monday, May 18th. You will hear speeches broadcast from a dinner which is being attended by subscribers to and influential supporters of St. Dunstan's to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of our Foundation. Be sure to listen-in on your own set, or if you have not got one, ask a neighbour to let you come in for the evening. The following are the speeches you will hear:—

- 8.55 H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught proposing the Toast of 'St. Dunstan's.'  
 9. 9 Reply by Captain Ian Fraser.  
 9.16 Lord Desborough proposing the toast of 'The Founder.' This toast will be drunk in silence, and there will be no reply.  
 9.24 Admiral Lord Jellicoe proposing the Toast of 'St. Dunstan's Throughout the Empire.'"

### London Club Notes

#### Walking

On Tuesday evening, April 19th, St. Dunstan's had a five mile match with C. E. Heath and Pearl Assurance Companies, which was an overwhelming victory for St. Dunstan's, who were by far the stronger and more experienced team.

The single handicap prize, donated by our opponents, was won by Charles Williamson.

*Seven Miles All England Championship, Regent's Park, April 23rd.*—We had anticipated a small number of entries for the Seven Mile Championship, and this proved to be the case, for only eight London club walkers arrived to take part. With the absence of our Metropolitan Police friends, the race was a straightforward one, and the result was a more or less foregone conclusion, with Billy Miller leading from Archie Brown and Charles Williamson third. They were awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd scratch medals respectively.

The Sir Arthur Pearson prizes for the first T.B. and S.S. men home went to Charles Williamson and Billy Miller.

The sealed handicap was won by Charles Stafford, Archie Brown was second and Billy Miller was third.

The Aggregate Points Trophy for the most handicap points received during the season just finishing were awarded to Charles Stafford in the T.B. section; Archie Brown and Billy Miller tied in the S.S. section.

#### Bowls

Two rinks on the Public Bowling Greens in Hyde Park, next to the Albert Memorial, have been hired each Monday evening from 6 to 8 p.m., commencing May 16th. If sufficient numbers are interested and come along, members of well-known clubs will attend to give instruction and advice. Overshoes for use on the green are available at the Bowling Greens. W. M.

### The Australian Flood Relief Fund

As we go to press, we learn that the total amount subscribed by St. Dunstaners to the Australian Flood Relief Fund is £66 0s. 6d. The fund is now closed.

### Personal

If anyone has a pair of small Tom Tom Drums for sale, will they please get in touch with T. Woods, 9 Rutland Road, Hightown, Wrexham, North Wales.

St. Dunstan's Seven Mile Walk All England Championship Regent's Park, Saturday, 23rd April, 1955				
Order of Finish	Act. Time	H'cp. All.	H'cp. Time in	Pos. in H'cp.
1. W. Miller ...	63.15	Scr.	63.15	3
2. A. Brown ...	64.45	1.45	63.00	2
3. W. Williamson ...	65.45	2.15	63.30	4
4. P. Cryan ...	67.55	2.45	65.10	8
5. L. Dennis ...	69.40	5.45	63.55	5
6. C. Stafford ...	69.45	6.50	62.55	1
7. S. Tutton ...	70.48	6.20	64.28	6
8. A. Bradley ...	72.17	7.15	65.02	7

Handicap: 1st, C. Stafford.  
 2nd, A. Brown.  
 3rd, W. Miller.

Scratch Medals: 1st, W. Miller.  
 2nd, A. Brown.  
 3rd, C. Williamson.

Aggregate Cup (T.B.) C. Stafford.  
 (S.S.) W. Miller } Tie  
 A. Brown }

Sir A. Pearson prize for first T.B., C. Williamson.  
 Sir A. Pearson prize for first S.S., W. Miller.

### Five Mile Inter-Club Walk St. Dunstan's v. Pearl A.C.

Regents Park, 19th April, 1955

Order of Finish	Club	Time	H'cp. All.	H'cp. Time in	Pos. in H'cp.
1. C. Williamson	St.D.	45.49	2.00	43.49	1
2. W. Miller ...	"	46.34	Scr.	46.43	6
3. A. Brown ...	"	47.41	1.40	46.01	3
4. L. Dennis ...	"	48.46	4.00	44.46	2
5. Dyer ...	Pearl	49.15			
6. Roberts ...	"	49.17			
7. Berridge ...	"	49.47			
8. T. Gaygan	St.D.	49.57	2.30	47.27	7
9. Masters ...	Pearl	50.51			
10. C. Stafford	St.D.	50.52	4.30	46.22	5
11. A. Bradley	"	51.06	5.00	46.06	4
12. Rackett ...	Pearl	51.57			
13. Warrilass ...	"	52.59			
14. Bishop ...	"	57.43			
15. Black ...	"	61.03			

Match Result: St. Dunstan's 39 points  
 Pearl A.C., 66 points.

### We hear that—

Jimmy Ellis, Appeals Organiser for St. Dunstan's in South Africa, was the author of a two-column leader page article in the *Rand Daily Mail* on April 7th. It was called "The Psychology of St. Dunstan's" and was an extremely well-written and well-balanced report showing how St. Dunstaners achieve readjustment.

★ ★ ★

Surprise visitors to Headquarters last month were Alec and Mrs. Craigie, from Australia. They hope to settle in England.

★ ★ ★

Frank Cooley, of Langley, Slough, has won his Bronze Medal for Old Time Ballroom Dancing (Amateur Test), awarded by the British Association of Teachers of Dancing, London.



### Manchester Club Notes

On January 28th last, we were pleased to welcome about thirty members of the St. Dunstan's Darts League (Bolton Branch) at the Swann with Two Necks Hotel, Manchester, and whilst we regret the delay in submitting a report of this function, we do assure all our readers that a very enjoyable evening was spent with our enthusiastic friends from Bolton as our guests.

Following on this event, we accepted an invitation from them to visit Bolton on April 15th, this being a great occasion when admission had to be limited to ticket holders, who came from many miles around Bolton. Thirteen St. Dunstaners, with guides, attended, including Dick Brett and Joe Walch, who had travelled from Brighton.

In the late afternoon our party was entertained to a sumptuous meal, prepared and served by the Bolton ladies, under the leadership of Mrs. Preston and Mrs. Porter. The grateful thanks and appreciation of St. Dunstaners and guides for this very refreshing part of the proceedings was expressed by Jim Shaw, supported by Joe Walch, and endorsed by acclamation.

After tea, we made our way to the Old Veterans' Club, which is the headquarters of the Darts League, where places had been reserved amidst a great gathering of supporters and eager workers for St. Dunstan's, most of whom were anxious to see Dick Brett play in the darts team, which was made up by the following players: E. Earnshaw, Joe Walch, Jim Blakeley, H. Pollitt, Dick Brett and Jim Shaw, the last two named being winners in the St. Dunstan's team.

Very loud applause accompanied these two victories, as it was a close struggle in each case to get the elusive last number to secure game.

Following the darts match, the rest of the evening was given over to an excellent concert, the artistes being introduced, and the general proceedings conducted very ably by Mr. Preston, the Chairman of the St. Dunstan's Darts League (Bolton Branch), who, along with Mr. Porter and a team of willing helpers, were responsible for the whole arrangements.

It was not generally known amongst those present that Sam. Russell, without ceremony or fuss, made a presentation of a shopping basket to Mrs. Porter, as a token of appreciation of all the kindness shown to our party.

I know Dick Brett will excuse me if I relate a rather neat and amusing little incident which evoked great laughter when he, along with Joe Walch, were being conducted around a local works earlier in the day. It appears that at the entrance to the works there was a notice which briefly read "No Hands Wanted," and Dick's immediate retort was "At last I've got a job of work." No doubt the Management would have gasped understandingly and admiringly at such a translation of the notice.

At a meeting of the Club held on April 22nd, amended arrangements were agreed upon for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions, in order to speed up the games, which are decided on aggregate points.

We also acknowledged with grateful thanks a donation of £8 1s. 6d., the proceeds of dances arranged by Mr. C. Clarke, son of our member Arnold Clarke. Mr. Clarke has for some time past shown very keen interest in our Club.

Saturday, September 17th, has been provisionally fixed for our annual outing. The place to be visited is still to be decided upon.

The following re-elections have been made, viz., Mr. J. Shaw, Chairman; Mrs. E. M. Dunphy, Hon. Secretary; Miss E. Hill, Hon. Treasurer. Annual meetings are to be held in future at the end of each calendar year.

"MANCUNIAN."

### Bhopal to Brighton

Good Friday, 1955, found me having a clean up on the third floor of Ovingdean, alone in the ablutions, when a fellow entered also desiring to freshen up. The usual greeting from me, "Who's that?" and a strange voice replied.

In fact, a new voice to me. Then the stranger asked me a rather weird question, "Have you been on the radio in Wilfred Pickles' Show?" I confirmed that I had had that pleasure. Then came more questions from my unknown new colleague. "You were in India, you had a strange experience with an Indian fortune teller." I agreed to his interrogation, and our chat was ended by the supper bell.

Having whetted my appetite for further investigation, I sought my friend out in the lounge and then the fun started. MacAlpin, a new boy at St. Dunstan's, was

an old colleague in far off Bhopal, India, where in 1942 I had served on the staff of a Prison Camp Hospital. He in his turn had been serving upon the staff of the P.O.W. Camp itself. It appears that Mac had attended social functions out there where I had been present, and he had been my indirect guest at our Mess Dances, happy days. We had not exactly had a "Chotah Peg" together, but possibly taken a snifter from the same bottle.

This earth is indeed a small place. We discovered that his C.S.M., one Lancashire lad, was actually in the same small ward as I when I first was put into my bed in hospital.

Mac has given me once again memories of One Tree Hill, with its little "Temple" upon its summit, the only place to get a good meal in the Station Refreshment Rooms on Bhopal Station. I again have seen the lovely lake, so beautiful lake, yet full of My Lady Mosquitoes with the Malarial Injectors.

The story does not really end here. My son is now working in Bombay and Mac has a sister in that seaport, so what is more enjoyable. My son can call upon Mac's sister, it is a contact for him, and also Mac's sister can be informed of Mac now having all his problems solved in our great family of St. Dunstan's.

Well, well, Bhopal to Brighton. I feel a "Pukka Sahib" again.

JOHN A. MUDGE.

### Calling All Chums

I am now able to publish the full list of names of all the starters for the V.O.B. Cup; it is a grand bunch and they should be congratulated on their success over the years.

It has occurred to me, however, that Generalissimo Anno Domini, the handicapper, has been rather severe with some of the Top Weights, and they have about as much chance as a snowball in hell against some of the Lighter Weights. Therefore, by kind permission of the Jockey Club, I am able to introduce a new race, which I am going to call "The Naughty Nineties Stakes," with a purse of 100 National Savings Certificates with accrued interest as from April 1st, 1955, together with a trophy; and the winner will be the boy attaining the age of 90 first. In this event F. Marsden, Border Regiment, with only five laps and a bit to complete, becomes a firm favourite, and it looks like there is

nothing to stop him toddling home in a canter.

Below is the complete list of entries for the V.O.B. Cup and the Naughty Nineties Stakes.

Will those who have not already sent in their passport forms, together with photograph, in the stamped addressed envelope which I sent them, please do so immediately. Anyone with a valid passport already should also let me know.

We shall leave Ovingdean on Sunday, August 21st, at 8 a.m. Our route will be via Dover, Dunkirk, Ypres, and Mons, then to the battlefields.

ALAN NICHOLS (1889),  
Durham Light Infantry, *Chum Chair*.

Name	Regiment	Date of Birth
Capt. F. T. Matthews	Oxfordshire ...	1887
Capt. A. E. S. Whiting	A.S.C., M.T. ...	1896
W. Abbott ...	R.A.S.C. ...	1879
E. W. T. Arthur ...	R.A.S.C. ...	1887
A. E. Alexander ...	Black Watch ...	1895
A. W. Ballard ...	Sherwood Foresters	1890
F. J. Brown ...	R.H.A. ...	1890
Wm. W. Burden ...	The Buffs ...	1893
E. Butler ...	North Staffs. Regt. ...	1881
E. H. Carpenter ...	Royal Marine Artillery	1894
P. Cashmore ...	Royal Warwickshire	1891
W. H. Collins ...	R.F.A. ...	1888
R. Finch ...	1st Worcesters	1894
J. Gimber ...	Grenadier Guards ...	1895
M. E. Goundrill ...	Northumberland Fus. ...	1887
W. F. Halls ...	1st East Lancs. ...	1892
H. E. Hill ...	1st Wiltshire ...	1889
W. G. Hodgman ...	Royal Marine Brigade	1894
A. H. W. James ...	25th Field Ambulance	1892
P. E. Johns ...	Grenadier Guards ...	1894
J. W. Kerr ...	1st Irish Guards ...	1883
G. Lyttle ...	R.G.A. ...	1885
J. McAndrew ...	1st Scottish Rifles ...	1892
T. McDonough ...	King's Liverpool ...	1886
J. Macfarlane, B.E.M.	Seaforth Highlanders	1897
D. McLoughlin ...	Connaught Rangers ...	1893
J. W. Mahony ...	1/9th London ...	1894
F. Marsden ...	Border Regiment ...	1871
J. Mitchell ...	Seaforth Highlanders	1886
J. G. Moeller ...	1st Manchester ...	1891
Jas. Murray ...	Cheshire Regt. ...	1882
R. G. Orchard ...	13th London (Princess Louise's) ...	1893
John Orrell ...	R.F.A. ...	1892
G. B. Priest ...	Royal Welsh Fusiliers	1889
B. Quigley ...	1st West Yorkshire ...	1892
A. J. Radford ...	K.O.Y.L.I. ...	1889
G. H. Richards ...	Grenadier Guards ...	1887
A. W. Roberts ...	R.A.M.C. ...	1892
W. A. Robinson ...	Lincoln Regt. ...	1887
Wm. Shayler ...	R.F.A. ...	1888
G. F. Smith ...	R.F.A. ...	1882
G. J. Smith ...	Royal Artillery ...	1883
A. E. Snook ...	Royal Artillery ...	1898
F. V. Spenceley ...	1st Buffs (E. Kent) ...	1887
H. Taylor ...	Sherwood Foresters	1893
F. W. Ward ...	K.R.R.C. ...	1888
G. W. Wardle ...	3rd Bedfordshires ...	1897
Wm. Webb ...	Connaught Rangers ...	1887
F. Williams ...	R.E. ...	1879
R. J. Williams ...	1st Middlesex ...	1895
S. Worlidge ...	3/2nd Scottish Horse	1887



### Reunions

Owing to the General Election on May 26th, the ASHFORD reunion has been changed from that day to Wednesday, May 25th.

The CHESTER meeting is confirmed for Friday, June 10th.

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There were four Reunions in April—at Luton, Bournemouth, Truro, and Bristol.

Sir Neville Pearson, our President, and Lady Pearson welcomed the guests at the most successful meeting at Luton on the 16th, and on April 20th Lady Fraser, Air Commodore G. Bentley Dacre, and Mrs. Dacre were present. It was a very happy meeting and some forty St. Dunstaners were present. Truro, on the following Friday, was a much smaller gathering, of course, St. Dunstaners coming from the scattered districts of Devon and Cornwall, but the nine who attended with their escorts voted it right up to standard. Mr. Percy Barton, of the British Legion, welcomed the guests. Bristol, on April 30th, was the largest of all, when sixty-nine St. Dunstaners attended. The Rev. Darrell Bunt, Member of St. Dunstan's Council, was the chief guest at this very successful gathering.

### Points from Letters

"I have always been passionately fond of reading, but I had one very bad habit—of 'skipping' a page or two. Listening to the Talking Book will not allow this. Many of the recorded books I have read before, but, as I listen, I seem to get a very different insight into the build-up of the characters and the development of the thrills."

W. A. THOMPSON.

"The 'Ham' (Radio Amateur) receiver is a great interest. It could be an enormous outlet for blind folk. It interests a lot of people besides me."

ANTHONY LAW.

### Liverpool Club

The Annual General Meeting of the Liverpool Club was held on Saturday, April 2nd. In the absence of our President, Captain E. Halloway, who was indisposed, Mr. J. C. Owen presided. In giving thanks to all members for their splendid support, he also had a special word of thanks to the wives for the valuable service rendered.

The following are the members of the committee who were elected for the coming year. *President*, Capt. E. Halloway; *Chairman*, J. Blakeley; *Vice-Chairman*, E. Cooper; *Secretary*, T. Milner; *Treasurer*, T. Kinder. Also Elsie Aldred, Violet Formstone, A. Lincoln, H. Matthews.

It is regretted that J. C. Owen, Chairman for the past three years, expressed the wish not to stand for election, but we are assured of his continuous and valuable membership.

The committee look forward to another successful year and invite any Merseyside St. Dunstaners who have not yet joined the club to come along and enjoy good company. We meet fortnightly and our next meeting is on May 14th.

### Young St. Dunstaners

Bill Thompson (Gateshead), son of Leslie Thompson, has passed the entrance examination for Gateshead Grammar School with flying colours. He was 43rd out of some two thousand entrants.

Arthur Dakin (Blackpool) plays the drums and is getting some good engagements.

### Marriages

On March 26th, in London, Sister Betty Owen, S.R.N. (Rhos-on-Sea) to Mr. David Williams.

On April 2nd, Leslie Brown, South Shields, to Miss Ruth Norden.

### Grandfathers

C. E. Thomas, of London, N.W.2; A. H. Whittorn, of Exeter; Tom Corboy, of Victoria, Australia; E. J. Jenkins, of Porth, Glamorgan; A. T. Brooks of Bournemouth.

### In Brief

S. Betney, of Nuneaton, is a very proud grandfather. His grandson, aged fifteen, played in the English International Rugby Football Schoolboy Championship and won his cap.

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D. Kirkland has been getting in some trout fishing on the River Loud, and has caught several nice ones.

★ ★ ★

All is well now with C. J. Murray, of South Perth, West Australia, although we regret to learn that Mrs. Murray has had a long spell of illness.

### "Medical Gymnastic"

Maggie Druscillus, my temperamental escort, was in gloomy mood.

"What ails you, Maggie?" I asked, solicitously.

"There's nothing the matter with me," she said, "but there is with my lodger, 'Dusty' Miller. He fell off a bus, fell in the road, and lost his smell."

"Was the bus moving?"

"'Dusty' said you couldn't say it was and you couldn't say it wasn't. It just jerked him off. Now he's sitting at home with his feet in a mustard bath trying to get his smell back."

"And you've been out shopping to ease your tension," I said, nodding at the parcel in the crook of her arm.

"I've been out to buy 'Dusty' a pyjama suit," she said, "and I want you to take it to his room to him. He wants to ask you some questions about what the doctor said."

We went to Maggie's house. 'Dusty' was before the fire with his feet in mustard water and a blanket around him.

"Glad you've called," he said to me. "I've asked everyone else for advice, and now I've had to send for you."

I blushed at the flattery.

"Maggie told you I was pushed off a bus, I suppose, and the doctor what called here last week is comin' again to-day. Before he comes can you tell me what he meant when last week he said I was suffering from syncopation. Now, old man, what's syncopation? I've always been bronchial, and this doctor says it's now got chronic, and these attacks of syncopation are responsible for much of the damage. Now what does he mean—what's syncopation?"

"Syncopation is virtually an uneven movement from bar to bar."

"What," said 'Dusty' fiercely. "Does the doctor mean to say I was tiddly and fell off that bus!"

"Goodness only knows," I said lamely.

"Well, if he did, he's backing the wrong horse," snapped 'Dusty.' "I want some compensation for losing my smell. I'm not going to have my health broken in two parts, and my back, too, for nobody—not for nothing."

I said "So long, 'Dusty,'" and wished him the best of luck.

W. E. BROOKES.

### Indian Comrade

The following lines were sent to us by an Indian blinded soldier, who went to St. Dunstan's, Dehra Dun, when it was under Sir Clutha Mackenzie's direction. Ghulam Qadir not only lost his sight but his hands also.

My name is Ghulam Qadir. I was Soldier, also my Father.

I only obey God's order. Don't worry, I do not mind.

I have written the subject, which is founded on a fact.

Every word is quite correct, no evil is behind.

I am helped by God, perhaps my faith's reward,

Though was problem very hard, searching words to find.

When I was in the school, seeing the war my heart and soul

Spoke to me to leave school, therefore Army I find.

If you go to Burma ever, you will see the Chinven River,

Where I fought in English favour, became armless, and blind.

I am your blinded brother, Blinded soldiers, look me rather

But request, it is not order, may God bless you, God the Father.

For you I have great affection. In my mind is intention

These poems to get Brailled, may be taken necessary action.

This voice is in your favour, moreover it's poet's mirror.

Poor poetry is my bearer, although profession of claver.

I am waiting for your letter, great pleasure of this matter.

If you like this poetry, would be writing this then better.

Has been finished with greeting, read the Poem in the meeting,

Love's sentiments in my beating. Sorrow, sadness, I am eating.

### Elected

Congratulations to R. Black, of Sea-houses, who has been elected for another three years to the Parish Council and also to Belford Rural Council. He polled the third highest number of votes.



### The Things They Say—

Last month St. Dunstaners were invited to send us their children's amusing or smart sayings. Below is a first selection, each of which earns 10s. 6d.

"A story which illustrates the different approach in modern education concerns my son, who was rising five at the time of the story. He knocked on the door of the Headmistress's room and, when invited to come in and explain his business, said 'Shall I tell you a secret? The others think I am at the end of the line following them out to P.T., but I'm not. I'm here.' After his first day at school, he returned home and was asked how he had fared. 'I'm tired out. They make you work. If it goes on like this I shall have to leave.'"

WALTER THORNTON, *Birmingham.*

"After a tour of inspection of our present house, into which we moved when he was five years old, our son said, with much concern, 'Gosh! this is an old house. Done B.C.' (the initials of the company on the bricks)."

ARTHUR T. BROOKS, *Bournemouth.*

"Father making baskets. Something goes wrong. He says 'Damn!' Small daughter, 'I've finished it for you, Daddy—and blast!' Collapse of father."

W. BURTEISHAW, *Wimborne.*

"Our small son, six, had returned home from Sunday School and was telling his father all he had learned. 'Daddy, I know now what our souls are made of.' Immediately his sister (four and a half) answered 'So do I. Leather.'"

E. A. WALKER, *Gosport.*

"It was a few days after the Queen had returned from her Commonwealth tour and the whole country had seen the home-coming on the television.

"We had just finished a simple tea, and my two daughters decided to re-enact the home-coming scene.

"The dressing-up box provided their regalia—small hats, handbags, gay dresses made to fit with pins and tape.

"The scene was set, 'Her Majesty' had set foot on Westminster landing stage: 'Princess Margaret' (aged six) was waiting to greet her. The crowd surged forward for a closer view—the atmosphere was tense—two pairs of oversized high heels wobbled almost out of control.

"'Hello, Elizabeth.' 'Hello, Margaret.' They embraced, and the greeting was exchanged.

"Six year old stepped back. 'Cor! You don't half smell of fish paste!'"

A. G. BRADLEY, *West Harrow.*

"When my son, Ron, was going to school he came in one day and asked me the quickest way to get to Dover. I said aeroplane, of course. He said, 'No. You just take the D off and you are over.'"

H. TAYLOR, *Bournemouth.*

"Edward, my son, aged 4, went to a birthday party where there were twins. He came home and said, 'Mamma, if you marry a twin do you have to take both?'"

EDWARD M. BROCKIE, *Torphins.*

"My young daughter was singing her head off, and in desperation I told her to 'pipe down' or she would strain her vocal chords.

"A few seconds later she asked me what I said about the telephone. I told her I had never mentioned it.

"'Oh yes, you did,' she said. 'You told me to stop singing or I would strain my local calls!'"

MARGARET STANWAY, *Morecambe.*

"I am enclosing an item about my daughter, when she was about 4 years old. She had been taken to hospital to have her tonsils out, and was there about three days. When her mother went to fetch her, she was told by one of the patients that the nurse had been unkind to the little girl. Her mother said to the child, 'Has the nurse been unkind to you?'"

"'Oh, yes,' she said, in a very clear voice that sounded loudly in the quiet ward, 'but do not take any notice. It is the way she has been brought up.'"

A. F. LENDERYOU, *Southend-on-Sea.*

"With Sir Winston again in the news, here is a funny story concerning my son, at the time aged nine years.

"In 1944 we lived in Brighton, one day my son arrived with his new friend, Kenneth, and asked if he could go to tea with Ken's mother, who was a W.R.E.N. telephonist at the Naval establishment at Roedean College. This was approved and off they went. On arrival at the lodge gates they were stopped by the Petty Officer on gate duty and questioned. Incensed at their apparent cheekiness, he boxed their

ears and sent them off. The Padre, seeing the incident, made enquiries, and offered to take them to the W.R.E.N. and verify the story. This he did, at the same time giving them a lecture on telling the truth to their elders. Apologies all round came later when he found they were telling the truth. Apparently, when asked their names, they had said rather saucily Churchill and Montgomery, which was quite true as one was my son, Brian Arberry Montgomery, and the other Kenneth Churchill.

"This was explained to us later by Mrs. Churchill, who brought the two boys home after tea.

"Incidentally, this story has already been told to Sir Ian and Lady Fraser."

C. V. L. MONTGOMERY,  
*Slinfold (Capt., Retd.)*

"When wounded, I sustained facial injuries. For a long time my face remained swollen and scarred. My four year old son said to his mother, 'When daddy gets his other face back, I'll take him for a walk in the park.'"

WALLY THOMAS, *Southampton.*

"Many years ago my eldest son arrived home unexpectedly for one night. My wife, thinking it wasn't worth while to air another room, suggested to the 8-year-old that he could give up his room and sleep with her. Noticing the blank look on his face she asked what was the matter, to which the boy replied 'I don't like sleeping with old people.' The wife (who had just celebrated her 50th birthday) explained 'I'm not old.' 'Oh, well,' said the boy, 'I don't like sleeping with women over 50.'"

C. T. CONDON.

"Blindness in a parent seems to have all sorts of peculiar effects upon children. It certainly has upon my own small brood. Both of them soon accepted the blindness as a matter of course, unlike the neighbour's children who, after their first sight of me, invented a fine new game in which they all shut their eyes tightly and wandered about the road with arms outstretched. Out of the eight or nine who enjoyed this novelty, about three of four went home crying with lumps on their foreheads after surprise meetings with lamp posts and walls. No, my children never played that game. Instead they have shown a devastating and

all-too-clear understanding of the situation. When David was about three years old he was sent by his mother to have his shoes changed. I took him on my knee and proceeded to re-shoe him. I did the job very well, I thought, but when I dropped the child to the floor he ran out to my wife in another room saying 'Has he put them on the right feet, Mummy?'"

GEORGE ELLIS, *Liverpool.*

"My small son had come back from playing in the garden with our local doctor's children. He told me that the Stork had visited the doctor's house during the previous night, depositing a new baby. As a result of this happy event, my son explained, the Mummy at the doctor's house had remained in bed that morning.

"'But,' he added, his tone of voice clearly suggesting the superiority of the male sex, 'the Daddy got up just the same!'"

C. C. R. BUCKLEY, *S.W.10.*

"In 1943, as a Lieutenant, I was travelling in service dress complete with Sam Browne belt, with my wife and children, in a long distance train. There were only two other people in the compartment with us when, at one stop, a major, dressed the same as myself except for badges of rank, entered. He was an officer of the old school and somewhat elderly, and my son, who was then five years old and had only just started school, turned to me and said, 'Daddy, look. That man is in your class.' My wife burst out laughing, the other passengers hid themselves behind their papers, I sat trying hard to control my features, whilst the object of my son's remarks sat stiff as a ramrod with beetling eyebrows and a look that might have said, 'By gad, Sir, I'll have you court-martialled for this.' Exit major at the next stop."

GEORGE B. REED, *Kingston-on-Thames.*

"She is a trifle over five and a half and she found it under her bedroom window. It is a pathetic bundle of decaying fluff, once a junior member of the starling tribe. She grabbed her brother, not quite three, co-opted nurse to supervise a burial, then after breakfast, complete with trowel, she headed the little procession to one of many unusable patches in the garden. No tears marred the solemnity of the soil-lifting, nor was the final covering more bedewed. All



was completed in silence; then he uttered, 'Me dig it up now,' but she gravely hissed 'You mustn't make the poor bird unhappy.' He thought hard awhile before retiring to the house. That was this morning and we, their parents, are agreed that the body is almost sure to rise again, and we dread to imagine all the inconvenient places to which it might find its way. Bless the little so-and-so's."

G. A. PRESTON, *Addlestone*.

"My daughter, then aged four years, often accompanied her Grandma, Grandpa, and Great-Uncle for an afternoon in the country and then to a local hotel for tea. After tea, Grandma usually made her way outside with the child while the gentlemen attended to the bill.

"One day it chanced that her mother and I took her to the same hotel for tea and, to my horror, after we had finished she said in a voice which could be heard all over the tea room, 'Let's sneak out without paying, like Nana does.'"

A. C. EVANS, *Newport*.

### Matron Ramshaw

Matron has been in a London hospital for an operation. This, we are very glad indeed to tell St. Dunstaners, has been a complete success and Matron returned to her home on May 14th. She later left for Cornwall for a short convalescence.

### Marriage

OWENS.—R. Owens, of South Africa, was re-married on May 19th.

### Holiday in France?

Gustave Envin, a French war-blinded soldier, writes again to remind us that he would welcome St. Dunstaners at his villa at Biarritz as paying guests.

He says: "I can give modern comfort, and first-class French cooking for 1,250 francs a day in the season. Biarritz is a very well-known seaside resort and very crowded during the season. All the St. Dunstaners who have visited me have been very pleased, I think, and are now my pen friends."

His address is: Gustave Envin, Itsas Mendia, Chemin de Salon, Biarritz (B.Py.).

## STOP PRESS

### Derby Sweepstake

Here is the result of the Derby Sweepstake draw which took place at the London Club, 191 Marylebone Road, on Thursday evening, May 19th.

Acropolis	... F. C. FLEETWOOD, Brighton	57
Bicester	... H. FARRELL, Portslade	2262
Bryn	... A. G. BRIGHT, Blackpool	693
Cardington King	... J. MARTIN, W.H.L.	375
Daemon	... C. COOPER, Worthing	531
Datour	... F. L. HUNT, Hove	565
El-Zahbi	... S. W. WAIN, Derby	1303
Hafiz II	... W. CLAMP, Wolverton	2489
Hartwell Prince	T. W. WALTER, Gillingham	501
Hugh Lupus	... W. J. HARRIS, Fareham	1609
Kookaburra	... C. J. PENNELLS, Brighton	1619
Magnum	... J. FRANCIS, Hastings	1643
Marwari	... C. B. REED, Kingston	475
My Smokey	... W. CAVANAGH, Patcham	1516
National Anthem	... V. DAVIES, Braunton	1719
National Holiday	E. JAMES, Darlington	1921
Noble Chieftain	A. NEEDHAM, Swindon	299
Our Babu	... G. E. G. RUSHTON, Wooler	2539
Panaslipper	... J. FRANCIS, Hastings	697
Phil Drake	... W. T. SCOTT, Streatham	210
Point Gamma	... TED BATES, Purley	1306
Practorian	... A. PARTINGTON, Colwyn Bay	643
Royal Palm	... R. WOODCOCK, Ingleton	1588
Solarium	... F. G. TRENDELL, High Wycombe	1841
Square Dance	T. D. DONNELLY, N.18	1374
Starlit II	... H. CRANE, Thornton Heath	1409
State Trumpeter	G. E. G. RUSHTON, Wooler	2541
Tippecanoe	... G. LINGHAM, West House	2346
True Cavalier	... J. P. MEIGHEN, Clacton-on-Sea	2557
Weather Permitting	CHRIS. WILLIAMS, Beckenham	1529
Windsor Sun	... A. C. NUGEE, Berkshire	2497
Zinosca	... E. BUTLER, Hayes	1721
The Field	... E. LAKE, Scarborough	467

### St. Dunstaner's Double Bereavement

As we go to press, we hear with deepest regret that Eddie Quinn, of Offaly, Eire, whose father's death is reported on page 12, lost his 43-year-old brother Paddy just six days after—the result of a car accident. Paddy was such a good friend to his brother and our St. Dunstaner's loss is indeed a great one.

### Plumpton Races

Sing a Song of Plumpton, the old St. Dunstan's bus,  
Every seat is occupied by the Boys and us.  
There we sit in luxury, isn't it a treat?  
All except the Commandant—left without a seat!  
Bowling down the Sussex lanes, stopping at a pub,  
On our journey once again, munching lovely grub!  
Easter Monday traffic soon slows us to a crawl  
As we pass the jellied eel wallah at his stall.  
"Here we are! Get out quick, time to lay our money!"  
"Doesn't it look grand here when the weather's sunny?"  
Where's my nice new shooting stick—bought with sweat and tears?"  
All the Boys are taking turns propping up their rears!  
"Nearly two o'clock, Boys!"—Goldie, self, and Vrenie—  
Never have so few worked harder for so many.  
Then "They're off!" I murmur, "Think I'll rest a second."  
But without the dear Boys I had surely reckoned.  
"Ernie, where's the shooting stick? Chalky wants a turn!"  
"Nonsense, George is after me, will you never learn?"  
"Half-past two. Come on, Boys, they're off again."  
Look, it's clouding over now, look's a bit like rain.  
"Two to one the favourite!" but cunningly I saw  
Just one Bookie, all alone, laying six to four.  
Back I go, triumphantly, full of righteousness,  
"What a woman!" cry the Boys, "don't you know that's *less*?"  
Quickly, change the subject, avoiding their reproach—  
"There's a lovely place to sit, on that old stage coach!"  
Sink on to the narrow step; rest at last I've found!  
Whereupon the offside wheels slowly leave the ground!  
"Get up, Smithie!" Vrenie cries, doubled up with mirth.  
But the step is narrower than my ample girth.

"Vrenie! Goldie! Chalky! Bert! Someone! Pull me out!"  
"Put that coach down, Madam, please!" comes an angry shout.  
Out I'm drawn with grunts and groans from the steely vice.  
"Thirsty work!" they all exclaim.  
"Wouldn't tea be nice!"  
Through the mob we fight our way, red in tooth and claw,  
Goldie makes the counter first, feet well off the floor!  
Just the time to gulp our tea, then to lay our bets.  
"How much have we lost to date?" Somehow one forgets.  
Time goes on. My lunch remains just as it began,  
All my horses will appear labelled "also ran."  
Half-past four—my one last hope loses by a head,  
But I have the dear Boys' cash to collect instead.  
Panic! Where's the Bookie gone? Up and down I search,  
Looking for that little man on his little perch.  
Not a penny will they get! Shall I be to blame?  
If I can't locate him soon, MUD will be my name.  
Then, Oh joy! O happy sight! Bless his little heart.  
Grab the money, count it out, hurriedly depart.  
Tea and cake, comparing luck, "Take a look at Bert!"  
Wearing trousers, coat and vest, having lost his shirt!"  
Sing a song of Plumpton, and all the songs we know,  
As along the Sussex lanes home again we go.

"SMITHIE" (Ovingdean).

★ ★ ★

G. H. Richards, of Manchester, attended the Reunion Dinner of his old regiment, the Grenadier Guards, held at the Grand Hotel, Manchester.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Edna Wright, well known to Irish St. Dunstaners, has married Mr. Cecil Victor Smylie who, like Mrs. Wright, is a prominent member of the British Legion.



## "In Memory"

**Private Albert Chaffin, Royal Army Service Corps**

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. Chaffin, of Leighton Buzzard, at the age of sixty-eight. He died in hospital on April 14th.

He came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1920, where he trained as a poultry-farmer, and he made a great success of his profession. He won many awards for his poultry and had continued with this work up to a few years ago, when his health forced him to give up. He continued, however, his work for the British Legion, of which he was a Vice-President of the Leighton Buzzard branch, and he was also St. Dunstan's representative in the district for many years. It was his wish that instead of wreaths, donations should be sent to St. Dunstan's.

Members of the British Legion and the W.V.S. attended the funeral. A Union Jack covered the coffin, and as it was borne into the Church the British Legion standard dipped in salute.

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

**Sergeant Frederick William Boorman, 11th London Regiment**

We record with deep regret the death of F. W. Boorman, of Petersfield. He was fifty-seven.

Coming to St. Dunstan's in November, 1918, he trained as a poultry-farmer and he continued with this work until the end of 1949, when ill-health forced him to give up. His health continued to deteriorate and he passed away on May 7th.

He leaves a widow, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

**Thomas Charles Smith, Australian Forces**

We have heard with deep regret from Mrs. Smith that her husband, Thomas Charles Smith, of Coogee, New South Wales, Australia, died in June of last year. He did not come to us for training, but had been on our overseas books since 1935. He had been blinded in 1915.

We extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. Smith and her family.

### Births

**MENDHAM.**—On April 22nd, to the wife of R. Mendham, of Chadwell Heath, a son—Brian Roy.

**ORMOND.**—On April 25th, to the wife of J. Ormond, of Burgess Hill, a son—David John.

**SOUTHALL.**—On April 13th, to the wife of S. Southall, of Smethwick, a daughter.

**WHARTON.**—On May 8th, to the wife of R. Wharton, of Witton, Birmingham, a daughter—Lavinia.

### Deaths

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the following:—

**EMERTON.**—To W. Emerton, of Luton, and Mrs. Emerton, in the loss of Mrs. Emerton's father, who lived with them. He died at the end of January.

**EVANS.**—To Tom Evans, of Lloc, whose brother has died at the early age of thirty-eight.

**LETHBRIDGE.**—To W. Lethbridge, of Oldham, whose father, Councillor John Lethbridge, has died in tragic circumstances. He was found dead in bed and his death was due to accidental gas poisoning.

**PARKER.**—To F. E. Parker, of Luton, whose wife died in hospital on May 5th.

**QUINN.**—To Eddie Quinn, of Killeigh, Eire, whose father died on May 2nd at the grand age of ninety-five.

### Mr. Charles Gibbon

St. Dunstaners will hear with the deepest regret of the death of Mr. Charles Gibbon, a member of our orderly staff since November, 1936. Many will recall the courteous, helpful escort through London during the war years; others may have met him at 87 Albany Street, where he lodged in those days. Many more will just know him as "Charles," who greeted them in the Front Hall when they came to Headquarters.

Charles Gibbon had his own handicap—he lost his right arm in the First World War, and in recent years had had more than his share of serious illness and operations. But he remained always pleasant and unruffled, and with that quiet, dry humour which was his own.

He had been in hospital for three weeks, after an emergency admission, and was looking forward to coming out in two days, but he died very suddenly on April 21st.

He was taken home to his beloved Yorkshire. Mr. Harry Burgess, an old friend and colleague, travelled from London for the funeral, and the flowers included a wreath of poppies from Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, and the officers and men of St. Dunstan's, a wreath from the members of St. Dunstan's London Club, and another from the members of the staff.