

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

ST. DUNSTAN'S has taken the leading part in many battles to improve the status of blind people. Gradually we and others are breaking down the idea that the blind are so handicapped that they cannot do this and that, and are cut off from a great variety of activities. Sometimes it is a question of persuading employers or others concerned to give the blind person a trial; sometimes it's a matter of getting a professional body or a trade union to alter its rules or customs; sometimes an invention helps to get over a technical difficulty.

Men are very set in their ways and adhere strongly to custom and tradition, or to a policy or theme merely because it is well established. Sometimes changing your mind means eating your words, and to some people nothing is as indigestible as words.

Sometimes you meet a man who does not mind swimming against the tide, or backing his judgment against his professional colleagues; the kind of man Kipling had in mind when he wrote:

*"If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you
And make allowance for their doubting too . . ."*

Such a man was Surgeon Commander G. Murray Levick, who died on May 30th. Murray Levick went to the Antarctic with Scott as a surgeon and electro-magnetic expert and after the First World War was one of the earlier doctors to take up medical electricity. At that time I had just entered St. Dunstan's as an assistant in charge of the new-born After-Care Department, and one of my first jobs was to help the masseurs of that generation to start their private practices, and I found they were handicapped by the fact that the consensus of medical opinion was against their undertaking any but the most innocuous electrical treatment. It would be dangerous, said the doctors. They would electrocute or burn their patients. One of my hobbies was radio, then in its infancy, and I had a crude wireless transmitter and I had overcome the difficulty of judging the way my set was working by devising for my own use a meter with a locking device for the sensitive needle, so that it could be felt with the fingers without damage, and the amount of current ascertained by the relationship of the tip of the needle to a braille scale. We applied this to medical electricity and in improved forms it is still in use. But this was not enough, for the doctors held tenaciously to the view that it would still be dangerous for the blind to do this work; that they could not see their patients' reactions, and so on and so on. And the masseurs' organisation, partly out of prejudice and partly in deference to the doctors' views, refused to examine our men or to give them a certificate for medical electricity. This was where Dr. Murray Levick came in. We explained the whole matter to him, and he was willing to back his own judgment, notwithstanding the opinion of all the others. We suggested

that he set an examination and that he gave a certificate, and he did. A number of the early masseurs worked on this certificate and it opened the door to a remunerative aspect of practice. The pattern of life often repeats itself and in this case, as would be expected, the initiative of St. Dunstan's, the courage of Dr. Murray Levick, and the fact that we were willing to go it alone and defy the rest of the doctors and the whole of the massage profession was enough. To cut a long story short, they recognised us, allowed us to enter their examinations and to obtain their certificates, with the exception of the use of the ultra violet light, which was still thought to be dangerous, but which, I am glad to say, has now been admitted after a further invention, for which the R.N.I.B. School of Physiotherapy must have the credit.

I remember, perhaps thirty-five years ago, Dr. Murray Levick telling some of us in a lecture which many of us attended at the old Bungalow, something of his experiences in the Antarctic, when he and some others were marooned on an ice floe for the best part of a year.

He will be remembered by all who admire gallant explorers, but by us as one who helped us win a notable battle that has made a deal of difference to all blind physiotherapists the world over and, indirectly, to the blind world.

IAN FRASER.

1915 Fortnight at Ovingdean

As several St. Dunstaners who were trained during 1915 omitted to book holidays at Ovingdean for the 1916 fortnight, which was intended to include them, we have decided to hold a special 1915 fortnight, from the 13th to the 27th October, and any St. Dunstaners wishing to make reservations for this period should apply to their Area Superintendents.

Chess Week-End

Another Chess Week-end is being arranged at Ovingdean this year, from the 28th September to the 1st October (nights inclusive), and I shall, as usual, be contacting all those St. Dunstaners who are at present on my Chess list nearer the time. If there are any other men who are interested and would like to take part in this function I shall be very pleased to hear from them.

C. D. WILLS,
Welfare Superintendent.

The British Legion Conference

The British Legion Conference at the Royal Albert Hall, at Whitsun, was just too late for last month's issue of the REVIEW.

As in previous years, pensions took pride of place and Conference pledged full support to the Council's campaign for a 90s. basic pension. Sir Ian Fraser described the present discontent in the ex-Service community as "a running sore in the body politic, sapping our energy and our resolve," and added, "apart from conscience, it will pay the nation to heal this wound."

Our St. Dunstaner, Mr. E. Russell, of Leeds, whom we are glad to say has fully recovered from his recent illness, attended the Conference, where he spoke and successfully moved a resolution. Without doubt the loudest ovation which any delegate received at the Conference was given to Mr. Bill Webster, son of our late St. Dunstaner, Gilbert Webster, who deplored the present casual acceptance and recognition of the Two Minutes' Silence, and moved a resolution urging "a proper and collective observance."

★ ★ ★

Bill Webster, who met Sir Ian and Lady Fraser at the Conference, writes:—

"I wonder if it would be possible for my most grateful thanks to St. Dunstan's, and everyone who works and has worked for the care of St. Dunstaners, to be expressed. As the son of St. Dunstaner the late Gilbert Webster, I and my family can never repay the debt we owe for the guidance and way of life which your great organisation taught my father. My earliest recollections are all of times spent at St. Dunstan's. Perhaps by working in the Legion cause I can indirectly work for St. Dunstan's."

Calling All Hams!

Anthony Law, of Pensax-Stockton, suggests that all St. Dunstaners who have amateur radio call-signs should send them in for publication in the REVIEW. Here is the first one:

Anthony Law, Pensax-Stockton:
G.3. K.N.E. TONY.

London Club Notes

Bridge

We held a very successful Bridge Drive on Saturday, May 26th. There were eight tables and the results were as follows:—

1st, W. Bishop and partner.

2nd, B. Ingrey and partner.

3rd, S. Webster and partner.

The Parity Prize went to F. Jackson. Mrs. Willis prepared a very nice tea for us, which was greatly appreciated and much enjoyed.

On June 2nd we met a Four from Hicomind. We won this match and also the match with Lyons the following week.

Our visit to the Masters on June 16th was, as usual, most enjoyable and instructive. Of our five teams the top scorers were L. Cook and F. Jackson, R. Wylie and R. Giffard.

H. Gover expressed our sincere thanks to the L.C.C.B.A. for their generous hospitality. During the afternoon, Mr. Field presented the medals won by our team in the London Business Houses League competition.

JOCK BROWN.

Sixteen Miles Club Race

We took our longest club race to South Croydon again this year.

Being the last official race of the season this change of venue is, I think, a good thing after the flat of Regent's Park and on a hot day such as May 5th was, makes ideal training for the London to Brighton.

As only six men took part, only two handicap prizes were given (as per Club rules). These were won by Stan Tutton and Billy Miller respectively, but Mr. C. Harrison offered to give a third, and this was won by Les Dennis.

The first three received 1st, 2nd and 3rd scratch medals. The first four were inside the time standard of 2 hours 45 mins.

Chas. Williamson retains the Chittenden Bridges Cup, as the first T.B. man home.

St. Dunstan's 16 Mile Walk

| South Croydon, Saturday, May 5th, 1956 | | | | | |
|--|-------------|--------|-------------|-----------|--|
| Order of Finish | Actual Time | Allow. | H'cap. Time | Hep. Pos. | |
| 1 W. Miller | 2 30 29 | Scr. | 2 30 29 | 2 | |
| 2 C. Williamson | 2 38 14 | 6 00 | 2 32 14 | 4 | |
| 3 A. Brown | 2 41 09 | 4 30 | 2 36 39 | 5 | |
| 4 L. Dennis | 2 44 02 | 12 30 | 2 31 32 | 3 | |
| 5 S. Tutton | 2 51 35 | 21 30 | 2 30 05 | 1 | |
| 6 C. Stafford | 2 58 19 | 20 00 | 2 38 19 | 6 | |

Winner of the Dr. Chittenden Bridges' Cup
C. Williamson.
Winner of Handicap, S. Tutton.
Time Standard Medals (2h. 45m.), W. Miller,
C. Williamson, A. Brown, L. Dennis.

Stock Exchange London to Brighton Walk

For St. Dunstaners to go to Brighton is an almost everyday thing, but it is only one day in a year that a group of them set out to walk there.

That day this year was Saturday, May 26th, when the Stock Exchange held its annual London to Brighton walk, in which 35 competitors, six of them St. Dunstaners, started.

Opinion may differ as to why Big Ben was firmly supported, but even so he gave his usual rousing send-off.

Our six members got away to a good start, and as the field began to spread out Billy Miller was up with the leaders, and obviously out to better his last year's performance. The other five were far more friendly and remained fairly close together at first.

The miles passed slowly by and, as we reached the open country south of Croydon the sun broke through, and eventually became a scorcher. From then on it became thirsty work but our boys were well prepared for this, and Messrs. Willis, Harrison and Shooter were then kept busy with feeding, sponges, etc.

All went well for the first half of the race but at Crawley Les Dennis was so thirsty that he sacrificed time and called in "The George" for a pint. The hilly section of the course then followed, but Les didn't mind, he was quite refreshed, and Billy Miller and Archie Brown going comfortably. Chas. Williamson was having trouble with his leg and Chas. Stafford began to blister, but neither gave a thought to packing in. Meanwhile Stan Tutton was having trouble of a different kind, for his escort had blistered badly, and Stan had to slow down on his account, thus losing a considerable amount of ground, and although a replacement was eventually found, it was then too late to make any appreciable difference.

Billy Miller was again third to finish the 52 miles 694 yards course in a record time for St. Dunstan's in 9 hours 7 minutes 52 seconds, and retain St. Dunstan's Cup.

Archie Brown was our second man to finish; he was only three minutes slower than last year. A truly remarkable performance for a man of 60 years of age.

Les Dennis also improved on his previous performance, but whether they were faster or slower this year than last, between them they did a wonderful job, and certainly put yet another feather in the cap of the London Club Walking Section.

Mr. Lloyds, of Headquarters, and a great many others have sent them their heartiest congratulations.

W. M.

Detailed results:—

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| W. Miller (Royal Engineers) | 9 | 7 | 52 |
| G. A. Brown (5th Cheshire Regt.) | 9 | 46 | 28 |
| J. L. Dennis (Royal Engineers) | 9 | 59 | 15 |
| C. Williamson (Scots Guards) | 10 | 35 | 28 |
| S. Tutton (9th Worcestershire Regt.) | 11 | 29 | 59 |
| C. Stafford (Pioneer Corps) | 11 | 49 | 59 |
| R. E. Green | 8 | 47 | 35 |
| R. C. Hall | 8 | 58 | 39 |

And as Billie Miller did not say how close he was to the winner, here are the times of the first two men home:—

Derby Day

On Wednesday, June 6th, a happy party of London Club members left Headquarters for the Epsom Downs, the object being to see the Derby and fleece the bookies, and between us we managed to do both. The morning was bright and sunny when we drew up on the course next to the coaches from Brighton, and having exchanged greetings with our fellow punters we settled down to an excellent packed lunch, helped down with the right kind of refreshments to suit all tastes. We then all got down to the real business of the day. The racing was of excellent quality, but as the big race started the rain drops began to patter down. That did not damp our enthusiasm, and I noticed some fellows collecting damp notes from the layers. And so to the last race, and then we were away quicker than any of my horses were. The weather having cleared we had a nice run towards home, calling for tea at our usual restaurant in Streatham, and so on to the Club, and by the singing and cheerful atmosphere everyone must have enjoyed themselves.

Sitting down and thinking this over it must have taken a lot of organising for a day like this to run without a hitch. Many thanks to Bob Willis and perhaps a little whisper for Mrs. Willis.

P. ASHTON.

The Derby Sweepstake, 1956

Almost a Record

Two thousand, nine hundred and seventy-four! This was the total of tickets sold this year, just failing by thirty-four to reach the record of 3,008 set up ten years ago.

There were thirty-nine horses left in the race when the Draw was made at the London Club on Thursday, May 31st, but this had been whittled down to 27 by the time the Derby was run. The actual Draw was made by Messrs. W. H. Lacey and S. H. Webster, in the presence of a number of St. Dunstaners and their wives and escorts. Mr. Bob Willis supervised the proceedings.

After printing and postage expenses had been deducted (£25 15s.), a sum of £346 was left for distribution in accordance with the published rules. The result was as follows:

| | | | |
|-----|----------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1st | Lavandin | S. Duncan (2662) | |
| | | Carshalton | £173 0s. 0d. |
| 2nd | Montaval | F. Baugh (2331) | |
| | | Long Eaton | £69 4s. 0d. |
| 3rd | Roistar | P. Spencer (2197) | |
| | | Weston-Super-Mare | £34 12s. 0d. |

Those drawing starters were as follows, each receiving £2 17s. 8d.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------|--|
| Affiliation | | | |
| Order | H. V. Frampton, Welling | 1480 | |
| Al-Mojannah | A. G. Emerson, Three Bridges | 1194 | |
| Articulate | H. A. Baker, Billericay | 2061 | |
| Atlas | J. G. Healy, Blackpool | 2481 | |
| Birso Boy | W. P. Nolan, Pontefract | 1173 | |
| Buisson | | | |
| Ardent | L. Scales, Wallington | 2970 | |
| Cash and | | | |
| Courage | H. Day, West House | 2365 | |
| Chilham | R. Edwards, Twickenham | 2873 | |
| Full Measure | S. Bush, E.11 | 2048 | |
| Gilles de Retz | A. Law, Pensax-Stockton | 2266 | |
| Hornbeam | J. Taylor, Hounslow | 674 | |
| Idle Rocks | G. M. Jordan, Hove | 15 | |
| Induna | A. Needham, Swindon | 1227 | |
| King David II | J. Dunks, Ramsgate | 2098 | |
| Monterey | P. J. Conlin, Brentford | 2742 | |
| Nimrod IV | E. Denny, Pretoria, South Africa | 1972 | |
| Pearl Orama | A. Jordan, Mitcham | 295 | |
| Pirate King | T. Tasker, Tollerton | 1915 | |
| Royal | | | |
| Splendour | W. P. Peters, Huyton | 1622 | |
| Sacre Bleu | E. Lake, Scarborough | 273 | |
| Stephanotis | G. W. Elphick, Gillingham | 489 | |
| Stoney Ley | A. H. Robinson, Rayleigh | 858 | |
| Tenareze | C. Wilshaw, Worthing | 1064 | |
| Thunderbolt | C. T. Condon, Basingstoke | 1060 | |

The following drew horses which, unfortunately, did not start:—

Ardent Knight, A. W. Ballard, Nottingham (852); **Astrologue**, E. Baumann, Ovingdean (2702); **Beaucaire II**, J. Murray, N.11 (2043); **El Rubicon**, W. C. Keast, Clacton-on-Sea (1610); **Fighter Pilot**,

V. J. Powell, Solihull (363); **Goodheart Green**, A. F. Cooke, nr. Hereford (571); **Haut-Brion**, A. Allen, Stoke-on-Trent (2828); **Makings**, J. B. Purcell, Urmston (2935); **Megaton**, W. Roberts, Southend-on-Sea (2799); **Nantallah**, E. Butler, Hayes (1275); **Royal Preserve**, F. J. Mears, Chilwell (1575); **Woodruff House**, P. Ashton, Perivale (1755).
C. J. Pennells, Brighton (2794) drew **The Field**.

The South Norwood St. Dunstan's Group

At the 16th Annual Meeting of the South Norwood St. Dunstan's Group (Hon. Organiser, Miss M. Jameson, M.B.E.), Vice-Admiral Hughes-Hallett, C.B., D.S.O., M.P., was the principal speaker. At Miss Jameson's invitation, Lieut.-Commander R. C. B. Buckley, G.M., described his own administrative work and interviewed his fellow St. Dunstaners, Squadron Leader A. F. Bell, M.B.E., regarding his achievements as a mink breeder, and Mr. R. Brett, who demonstrated his skill as a handless wood-woroner and darts player. Mr. C. A. Luker gave a display of magic.

Also present were Lady Buckmaster, Mr. and Mrs. Jarrold, Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Luker and Mrs. Brett.

Tributes were paid to the late Mrs. Jameson, who was an untiring worker for St. Dunstan's.

Reunions

Some sixty St. Dunstaners and their wives and escorts attended the Ipswich Reunion on May 30th. Lady Fraser was present, as she was also at the Nottingham meeting two days later, and she brought good wishes to both meetings from Sir Ian, who had been detained at the House of Commons. Mr. D. G. Hopewell happened to be in Nottingham that day on business and he presided at the Reunion which was held for the first time at the George Hotel, in most attractive surroundings, with outstanding floral decorations.

Sir Neville Pearson, Bart., who was accompanied by Lady Pearson, presided at the Birmingham Reunion on June 2nd. This again was a highly successful meeting, being held for the first time at the Market Hotel. Nearly fifty St. Dunstaners and their wives and escorts were present to meet Sir Neville and Lady Pearson.

Placement

H. Millard, as a tobacconist, confectioner and newsagent, at Penhill Estate, Swindon.

Birmingham Club Outing

The Birmingham Club held their annual outing on June 10th, to Stratford-on-Avon.

The day was not particularly bright, but all the members were in very good spirits.

There were two coaches full of St. Dunstaners and their families, also our friends of the Red Cross, and Mr. Cooling.

Our first item was a trip on the River Avon; the majority of us participated in this.

We then had a walk along the river bank and crossed via the Ferry, to make our way to the British Legion; where there was an excellent spread awaiting us, also many old friends to talk to, including our old friend Miss Chadwick, who had very kindly given each St. Dunstaner a packet of cigarettes.

Our excellent tea over, we went back across the river to have some sports for young and old alike.

We all returned to the British Legion at 7 p.m. for a quiet drink before we eventually got back into our coaches at 7.45 p.m. I'm sure that we all agree it was one of the best outings we have had yet.

G.B.

A Memorial to Bill Shakspeare

On Friday evening, May 11th, a simple but impressive ceremony took place at the No. 1 Branch of the British Legion at Sheldon, Birmingham. The occasion was a special meeting to honour the memory of our St. Dunstaner, the late Mr. W. Shakspeare, M.B.E. A new quiet Reading Room, The Shakspeare Room, was opened and a portrait of Mr. Shakspeare, with a commemorative plaque, was unveiled.

Lieut.-Commander R. C. B. Buckley, G.M., R.N., represented the President of the British Legion and Chairman of St. Dunstan's.

The Branch Padre conducted a short Memorial Service and paid tribute to Bill Shakspeare as a man. Commander Buckley spoke of his long association with St. Dunstan's and of the material and personal way in which Bill had always expressed his gratitude for St. Dunstan's help to him.

Bill Shakspeare was held in highest esteem by the officers and members of the Sheldon No. 1 Branch of the British Legion. The Branch, which now has about four hundred members, has been built up largely through our late St. Dunstaner's efforts.

A number of St. Dunstaners living in the Birmingham area were present at the ceremony.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

*There was a young woman who hated cricket,
Who said "I don't know how I'll stick it.
When'er I switch on a radio program
It's cricket! And cricket! And cricket!*

(Mrs.) M. STANWAY, *Morecambe.*

DEAR EDITOR,

The sport I hate is the spoil-sport.

A. J. RADFORD, *Castle Cary.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested in Sir Ian's Notes in the REVIEW on gardening. May I suggest as a gardener of many years' experience "Don't start now." You will find it very irksome and tiring unless you are able to have raised flower beds just above knee height. I am now in the midst of reclaiming a very neglected garden and am cursing every minute of it. I am doing it now as a necessity and not for pleasure. Don't believe Kipling. You will drip with sweat, not "gently perspire."

S. F. PRIDEAUX, *Eastry, Sandwich.*

DEAR EDITOR,

With reference to the heading "Young St. Dunstaners." Are there any young St. Dunstaners? Surely not. We are men of St. Dunstan's, but there are no young St. Dunstaners. I think they might be termed "St. Dunstaners' Youngsters." I contend that the title is wrong. I read and appreciate all the news of the children of our men and am interested to hear of them.

ALFRED BENNETT, *Dover.*

[In September, 1929, there was a column in the REVIEW headed "St. Dunstan (*sic*) Juniors, and it began "Young St. Dunstaners have been covering themselves with glory to such a degree that they deserve separate notes . . ." After that, they had separate notes, and these were always headed "Young St. Dunstaners." Do St. Dunstaners want us to change now? If so, are there any more suggestions for a better title?—Ed.]

DEAR EDITOR,

Re new activities, I share Sir Ian's experience.

In 1952 my wife and I joined an Old People's Club and in 1953 seventeen of us formed a singing group. Since then we have given over fifty concerts. Before we started this Group, I had never thought of singing from a concert platform.

J. R. BURTON, *Portchester.*

Manchester Club Notes

On March 9th, 1956, the Club decided to create the additional honorary appointment of President and proceeded to elect Mrs. L. Lang as the first President of the Club. This appointment is well justified and acknowledges the valuable services rendered to the Club since its inception in 1948, and Mrs. Lang's continued interest in all matters relating to Club activities.

We have again to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Charles Clarke (son of our "Nobby" Clarke) for his generous support of the Club, and for cigarettes.

It has been our pleasure to welcome two new members, Messrs. John McDermott and George L. Edwards, and we hope that they may find the various activities a source of attraction and interest.

On June 1st, a Domino Drive was held instead of an intended Whist Drive. This arrangement enabled all the members to take part. The winner was Walter Bramley and the close runner-up was Bill Bentley.

The Club Outing to the Railway Hotel, Pleasington, at the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Hindle, will take place on Saturday, 30th June.

Owing to our Hon. Secretary having taken up residence in South Devon, Mrs. E. M. Dunphy reluctantly tendered her resignation as from June 1st, 1956. Appropriate resolutions of appreciation and thanks for her services were carried unanimously. As Mrs. Dunphy specially requested "No presentation, please," we are glad that we took the liberty of presenting her with a book-token recently when she went south for a "holiday."

In recognition of Mrs. Dunphy's past devotion to Club administration and of her general interest in the well-being of members, she has been elected an Honorary Life Member of the Club.

JIM SHAW, *Chairman.*

Guide Dogs on Buses

It was recently brought to Sir Ian's notice that guide dogs were not permitted to travel with blind passengers on the buses of Sheffield Corporation.

Sir Ian has now heard from the Minister of Transport that, following representations to the President of the Municipal Passenger Transport Association, "the one undertaking which did not permit the carriage of guide dogs has now agreed to come into line with the others."

Talking Book Library

May Models

At last there are five releases to offer a short report upon. Here they are:—

"The Golden Spaniard," by Dennis Wheatley, reader Peter Fettes, takes one back to the Civil War of 1936-37. The lovely girl aristocrat, covered by the title, in league with an Englishman and a Count, hunts a vast treasure in the bloody upheaval of war for use on the Franco side. An English Jew and an American hunt the same gold for use on the Communist side. There are exciting moments in the thrust and counter-thrust of the opposing parties, with a satisfying and emotional denouement. *Cat. No. 954.*

"Shirley," by Charlotte Brontë, reader Redvers Kyle, is set in Yorkshire in Chartist times. Two brothers, one a mill-owner, one a tutor, together with Shirley and the rector's niece, work out a romance punctuated by riot and attempted murder. Quite as good and rather less morbid than Jane Eyre. *Cat. No. 955.*

"The Crooked Wall," by Faith Compton-Mackenzie, reader Robin Holmes, traces the life of a girl and her friend through two disastrous marriages. A man of mature years hovers in the background worshipping and advising. Two old school mistresses help the heroine from time to time, but she has to retire to Italy when accused of poisoning her second husband. All told the story holds one's interest without hitting tremendous heights. *Cat. No. 957.*

"The Chequer Board," by Nevil Shute, reader Stephen Jack, I found most entertaining. Four men meet in a Cornish hospital early on in the recent war. One of the four, after the war, knowing he has not long to live, becomes obsessed by the fate of the other three. The divergence and converging of the four lives is most interesting. *Cat. No. 959.*

"The Edwardians," by E. Sackville West, reader Jack de Manio. An aspect of life in the early years of this century, written by a man whose youth coincided with the period. To readers whose youth fell in those days this book might be nostalgic, but to a youngster like myself it seems a glimpse of the past through the rosy spectacle of a happy, early manhood. *Cat. No. 960.*

"The Chequer Board" is my nap selection. "NELSON."

Liverpool Club Notes

On the last Saturday in April we held our annual general meeting and election of officers for 1956-57. The following were elected to office: *President:* Captain E. Holloway; *Secretary:* T. Milner; *Treasurer:* T. Kinder; *Chairman:* J. Blakely; *Committee:* J. C. Owens (*Vice-Chairman*), J. Davies, T. Cooper, A. Lincoln, Violet Formstone; *Games Master:* H. Formstone.

We cordially invite all St. Dunstaners on Merseyside to become members of the Club. We meet every other Saturday at 3 p.m. in Sefton Hall, British Legion, Leece Street.

On June 2nd the Club paid a visit to our old friends, the members of the Darts Club at Pleasington's Railway Hotel; we were welcomed by our hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Hindle and members of the Club. We were very glad to meet Mr. and Mrs. Bob Britton, who are the pioneers of these very pleasant and enjoyable functions. We were very glad to have with us Miss Doel who, alas, we are shortly losing, and her successor, Miss P. W. Everett, who was introduced to us all.

After a very nice "knife and fork" tea, to which all did full justice, we proceeded to the serious business of the evening, trying to beat our friends at darts. After a very close finish they managed to beat us by one game, 6-5. Dominoes were played in the snug, but nobody lost or gained a fortune even with a penny a knock, whatever this is.

After a short but very enjoyable evening, with suitable speeches of thanks to our friends and hosts, we left for home at 8.45 p.m., tired and happy and sober.

Our next outing will be the summer one, of which details will be announced later.

"SWANNEE."

Grandfathers

J. Thompson, of Parkstone, Dorset; T. Milner, of Liverpool (both daughters presented him with grandchildren in the same week); S. Molesey, of Halesowen; G. Nancarrow, of Newquay; F. Rodwell, of Tring (his second); L. Price, of London, E.12; J. E. Lambourne, of Bletchley, W. J. S. Pearce, of Hendon (his second); H. Perrett, of Devizes; R. G. Field, of Potters Bar (the second); J. McDonald, of Oldham (the twenty-fourth); J. Davies, of St. Neots; H. V. Frampton, of Welling; E. Waldron, of Weston-super-Mare.

From All Quarters

During Brighton's recent week of efforts in aid of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, W. ("Ginger") Taylor won first prize in a Disabled Hand-Weavers Competition with a scarf. Harry Bland was awarded second prize. This follows "Ginger's" success last month, when he was runner-up to Peter Harris in the big Handicrafts Competition, organised by the County of Sussex British Legion and Women's Section.

C. W. W. Cooper, of Worthing, who was recently elected Vice-Chairman of the Worthing Divisional Conservative Association, has been elected by the Association to be Worthing Representative of the South Eastern Provincial Area Council of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations. The Divisional Association has a membership of approximately 14,000.

Gerry Brereton, who has been appearing in Eddie Calvert's Road Show, as many who met him at Brighton will remember, has now made a gramophone record with the famous trumpeter. They have featured in a trumpet and vocal arrangement of "You Above All" and "The Bells of St. Mary's," accompanied by Norrie Paramor and his Orchestra (Columbia).

Our Malayan St. Dunstan, Samat bin Samat, of North Shields, has a nephew, Milan, who is a film actor at Pinewood Studios, and Samat was thrilled when Mrs. Omar told him that she had seen Milan, with his two children, in the film "A Town Like Alice." Until his marriage, Milan also lived in North Shields in Mrs. Omar's boarding-house.

W. Griffiths, of Blackburn, who has a grand hobby—singing—finds a tape recorder of great help to him in his lessons. He records them and then practices on his own; it helps him too in learning the words of new songs. Bill frequently entertains at a local Club.

Bob Britton is another St. Dunstan who rarely has any spare time. One of his great interests is the Royal School for Deaf Children at Blackburn. He and Mrs. Britton arrange parties for the little ones, many of whom are also dumb, and provide

delicious home-made food for the children, whose ages range from 3-11.

Dan Barker has sent us some interesting press-cuttings describing the opening of the new headquarters of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in Toronto. One of the most modern buildings of its kind in the world, it has been named Bakerwood, in honour of the two men who have done so much to aid the blind in Canada, Col. E. A. Baker (our own "Eddy" Baker) and Lewis M. Wood, its president from 1918-1954. The ceremony was performed by Governor General Vincent Massey, who paid high tribute to the work done by Colonel Baker and Mr. Wood.

V. Powell, of Solihull, who is on inspection work in a bakelite department of Messrs. Joseph Lucas, Ltd., had a half-page "write-up" in the April number of the firm's beautifully produced magazine, "Reflections." It described Victor's war record, his hobbies, and his lovely Alsatian guide dog, Gilda. A splendid photograph of them together accompanied the article.

From the "Perth Sunday Times" comes news of Trevor Baker, who was one of a group of nineteen Australians in training at Ovingdean in 1948. Trevor completed his training here and returned home in 1950 to take up a post as a switchboard operator with Shell Petroleum Company in Perth. The newspaper article says, "Perth comes first with blind telephone operator . . . Blind war veteran Trevor Baker has been offered a job on the switchboard at Shell Co. Head Office, Melbourne, but feeling too well settled here, he has turned it down. Melbourne's offer shows how highly Trevor's efficiency on the switchboard at the Shell installation, North Fremantle, is regarded. . . . Installation manager, Mr. Lance Kelton, said that Trevor was the best operator he had known . . . Trevor has studied uses of oil and other products."

A little grand-daughter has been born to Mrs. M. J. Printie, of Edinburgh. Our St. Dunstan, therefore, who died in January, did not live to see his little grandchild.

Mrs. J. R. Hopkins of Llanely, widow of our St. Dunstan, who died recently, has

Ovingdean Garden Party and Sports Day

A reminder to local St. Dunstaners that the Ovingdean Garden Party and Sports Day will be held on Saturday, July 21st, commencing at 2.30 p.m.

Ask Mr. Jarrold for details of the field events and get in touch with Miss Guilbert if you want tea tickets.

From "Smithie" (V.A.D.)

*I would like to say "Thank you" for six happy years
To the "Boys" who have helped me along;
Allowed me to share in their laughter . . . and tears,
And to join in the odd spot of song!
It's been grand to know you! I'm proud that we met!
And, now that the time's come to go,
I want you to know that I'll never forget . . .
So, God bless! . . . All the best . . . Cheerio!*

Young St. Dunstaners

Cyril Relf, Slough, has passed his examination for Petty Officer, with distinctions in General Knowledge, English and Geography. He is thus following his father, our St. Dunstan Arthur Relf, who was himself a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy.

Arthur Dakin, Blackpool, who plays the drums, met the American band leader, Stan Kenton, when he was in this country recently and was photographed with him. Arthur has just passed his driving test—a car of some sort is necessary when you have to carry drums around.

Senga Boseley, who lives at Wallasey, has been chosen by popular ballot to be this year's Rose Queen. The ballot was carried out twice to ensure fairness, and on both occasions Senga came out with almost a unanimous majority. She is to be crowned officially on Saturday, June 23rd.

Sally and Monica Kemp, Porkellis, Cornwall, have been awarded first class certificates in the recent Scripture Examinations of the Methodist Youth Department.

Marriage

Harry Simpson, Aylesbury, on June 2nd.

also become a grandmother. A little grandson was born on June 4th.

Wilfred Pickles' full-page article in "Illustrated" on June 9th was almost wholly devoted to Dickie Richardson, of Worcester. Wilfred recalled that, when he was doing "Have a Go" at Ovingdean shortly after the war, he met Dickie and promised to be his first customer when he opened his shop. Wilfred kept his promise. The article was illustrated by a picture of Wilfred with Dickie and Eileen Richardson and their lovely twins, and he called them "One of the finest families I've ever met."

J. Halsall, of Southport, had a double thrill on Cup Final Day. He saw the match and was on "In Town To-night" later. It all happened because he asked a local visitor for the blind if she knew how he could get to the Final. This was managed and another local official suggested him for the T.V. feature later. After the show he chatted for about a quarter of an hour with Norman Wisdom. One of the nicest sequels was that after the broadcast he was called to the telephone at the B.B.C. It was an old Southport friend, now working in London, who had seen him on T.V.

Mrs. Muller, the widow of our South African St. Dunstan who died last year, visited Headquarters recently. She is spending a holiday here. She brought us good news of the 36-year-old son of the late Mr. and Mrs. E. Nava. For the first eighteen years of his life he enjoyed perfect health. Then, following an accident, he became crippled, being paralysed in the knees and hips. Now a rare operation performed upon him by a Pretoria surgeon has enabled him to walk with crutches. Soon he hopes to lay these aside and walk naturally.

Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. G. Smith, of Guildford, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on June 4th. With them on this grand occasion were their children, and grandchildren and Mrs. Smith's bride-maid of fifty years ago.

Ruby Weddings

Warm congratulations, too, to Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Whitthorn, of Exeter, whose fortieth wedding anniversary was on June 17th, and to Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Shayler, of Liverpool (June 21st).

"In Memory"

Private William Rickaby, *Durham Light Infantry*

With deep regret we record the death of W. Rickaby, of Battersea, which occurred on May 28th at the age of sixty-one.

He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in November, 1924, and trained as a basket-maker, and he carried on this craft until the last war. In recent years he had been making wool rugs.

He leaves a widow and two sons, to whom our very sincere sympathy is offered.

Private Edward Hayes, *Royal Air Force*

We record with deep regret the death of E. Hayes, who for a great number of years has been a resident at West House. He died on May 26th, at the age of eighty-eight.

He served from 1918 to 1919 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1921, but was unable to undertake any training. He became a permanent resident of West House, where he was a great favourite with men and staff alike.

He was taken home to Wales for the funeral, and our deep sympathy is extended to his niece, Mrs. Devaney, and her husband, who had been such good friends to him.

Private Charles Wilshaw, *Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of C. Wilshaw, of Worthing. He was seventy.

He came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1918, and trained as a mat-maker, and he continued with this work until the end of 1950.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Wilshaw, whom he married in October of last year, and to his two adopted children. He lost his first wife in 1953.

Private James Matthew Branegan, *Australian Imperial Forces*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of one of our oldest St. Dunstaners, J. M. Branegan, of Whitby, Yorkshire. He was eighty-four.

He began his service in 1915 and came to St. Dunstan's in the latter part of 1916, having lost his sight at Armentieres. He suffered injuries also to his left hand. He trained as a mat-maker and returned for a short while to Australia, but his sister died soon after his arrival and he returned to this country. His age had prevented him from doing much work and he was a frequent holiday visitor to West House, where he also was a great favourite with everyone.

His death occurred very suddenly at his home in Whitby. He was a single man and our deep sympathy is extended to his niece, Miss Hutton, and to the other members of his family.

E. T. Wookey and R. Latham, *Australian Forces*

We have heard with deep regret from Mr. A. F. McConnell of the death of E. T. Wookey, of Castlemaine, Australia, who served in the First World War but never came to St. Dunstan's, and of R. Latham, of Merbien, who was a prisoner-of-war in the last war.

Our deep sympathy is offered to Mrs. Wookey and to Mr. Latham's relatives.

Lance Corporal Dick Alex, M.M., *2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force*

We have heard with deep regret from Mr. D. M. Dougherty, Hon. Secretary of the New Zealand Blinded Services Association, of the death of Dick Alex, M.M., a Maori lad.

This St. Dunstaner was awarded the Military Medal for outstanding bravery and devotion to duty at Cassino in March, 1944, and the citation ends: "By his personal bravery and fine work throughout the action he was instrumental in saving many lives and in alleviating the suffering of the wounded."

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and family and to his comrades who mourn his loss.

Births

BENSON—On June 6th, to the wife of R.

Benson, of Farnborough, a daughter—
Sharron Clair.

HARRIS—On June 3rd, to the wife of
J. Harris, of Coversham, near Reading,
a son—Howard James.

HOMWOOD—On May 20th, to the wife of
R. Homewood, of East Dereham, a son
—Gary.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the
following:—

BIRCHALL—To J. W. Birchall, of Layton,
Blackpool, who lost his younger brother
following an emergency operation.

GUNN—To J. Gunn, of Gravesend, and
Mrs. Gunn. Their son-in-law has died

suddenly as the result of an accident, and
his death has been a very great shock.

ROYLANCE—To J. Roylance, of Atherton,
Manchester, who has suffered two be-
reavements in the last few months. His
father died in January at the age of 92
and his brother died in March.

TAYLOR—To F. Taylor, of Worcester Park,
in the loss of his mother. He is a single
man and his home was with her.

WOOLLEN—To A. Woollen, of Leyton,
whose mother died on May 18th at the
age of 91.

Marriage

CARTWRIGHT—DAVIES.—On June 4th, A.
Cartwright, of Llandaff North, Cardiff,
to Miss M. M. Davies.