

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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{FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### Salute to Drummer

**I**F ever there was a man who embodied the spirit of St. Dunstan's it was Drummer Downs. He was one of the most cheerful and friendly persons I have ever met and he had more common sense than most men. Thus he was a good influence, radiating confidence among St. Dunstaners whether it was at Church Stretton, at Brighton, or in the London Club.

He also, in his work for the Appeals Department, personalised the virtues of humour and courage wherever he went, influencing thousands of people to think well of St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners. Most of us knew him and were fond of him, and all of us salute him.

When he approaches the gates of Heaven, which I am sure he deserves to do, I can see him with his tea-pot under his arm and a joke on his lips for the gatekeeper.

You have drummed well, Drummer!

### The Australian Economy

The thing that struck me most about Australia and especially about Victoria, where I stayed for eleven days in November, was that the country has absorbed a million immigrants in ten years. This involves an enlightened and public-spirited view on the part of all those who may fear that their jobs might be threatened by such an incursion of new workers, and, if I may say so, Australians are to be warmly congratulated upon this. It also involves finding a very large amount of money to provide the capital for industrial and commercial buildings and plant, roads, sewers, transport, telephones, etc., to cope with the new demand. I learned that exceedingly few of these new immigrants had failed to settle in their new country, and I met quite a number who told me that they like it and had no intention of going back to Europe or Britain. Moreover, this extraordinary expansion seems to have taken place without social friction and without causing an undue amount of inflation.

I gained the impression from His Excellency, The Governor of Victoria, Sir Dallas Brooks, and from the Premier, Mr. Bolte, and from a number of commercial and industrial leaders and others whom I met, that Victoria is booming, but not dangerously so, and that there is an air of confidence for the future. My impression was that Australian politics are lively but not iconoclastic, that industrialists and trade unionists are aware that the wealth of all is the wealth of each and that Australia is set fair for a period of progress, profitability and a rising standard of living. I would certainly recommend sturdy ex-servicemen or others who have the good old-fashioned urge to seek their fortunes overseas to go to Australia.



I broke my journey to Australia by three or four days in the United States, where I was shocked by the interruption of every radio news bulletin I heard by advertisements.

I favour commercial radio programmes but think that news is news and that I should not be diverted in the middle of it by toothpaste and soap and second-hand cars. I was glad to notice amongst the few news bulletins I heard in Australia that they were unadulterated.

I thought the food and wine were good, though Australian fish—except for Sydney oysters—is inferior to either British fish or South African fish; perhaps nothing can be done about this. I thought the telephone and the beer were good and the leading newspapers in Melbourne and Sydney had a high standard.

### St. Dunstaners Spread the Gospel

I was delighted, as the guest of Joe Lynch, C.B.E., and his organisation, to meet over eighty blinded ex-servicemen who had been to St. Dunstan's and were on the whole, occupied and happy citizens.

I have often said that there is hardly a place in the Commonwealth where you cannot meet a St. Dunstaner or someone who has worked at St. Dunstan's. This was borne in upon me during my recent visit to Australia, and even as I passed through the United States I heard from people who live in North America and have had something to do with us during the last forty-five years.

Apart from our primary interest in the welfare of blinded ex-servicemen, the impact of St. Dunstan's upon the blind world generally is something to remember and be proud of. Men like Joe Lynch, whose leadership and advocacy was emphasised for me in Australia, Donald McPhee, who flew over from New Zealand to meet us, and Eddie Baker in Canada, and the late Mike Bowen and others in South Africa, took more than a successful personal adjustment back to their own countries; they took the gospel of St. Dunstan's with them and spread it abroad to the great benefit of all the blind.

I am not claiming too much if I say that St. Dunstan's, with its great publicity and the example of its thousands of graduates in every corner of the British world and elsewhere, brought comfort and help directly or indirectly to tens of thousands of blind people, encouraging Governments, societies and the general public, as well as the blind themselves, to take new heart and conquer blindness.

### "K.H."

I have read almost all the King-Hall News Letters in Braille for the past twenty-two years, as have many St. Dunstaners. I have not always agreed with his findings and he has sometimes been wrong—what journalist has not? But he is an extremely good expositor of public affairs, making difficult subjects simple and clear to the ordinary man, and I think he may be very proud of his life's work in this field.

I shall miss my National News Letter each week but I wish "K.H." the best of good luck in his semi-retirement.

### St. Dunstan's Solicitor

Captain K. C. Revis, M.B.E., a Second War St. Dunstaner, has passed his final examination to qualify as a solicitor. Amongst St. Dunstaners I call to mind the late Captain A. Buchanan, V.C., M.C., who was a solicitor in Britain, Captain W. E. M. Blandy, M.A., who has recently retired from practice in Reading, and Mr. D. A. Tregent, M.B.E., B.A., LL.M., of Melbourne, Australia, who still has one of the best law practices in that city and who told me on my recent visit that he was doing well; and we remember also three other Second War St. Dunstaners, Michael Barstow and J. B. Kitson, both of whom hold Civil Service appointments, and Howard Simcocks, who is an Advocate in the Isle of Man.

Not many blind men have passed these difficult examinations and fewer still have made good in practice. All St. Dunstaners will join to congratulate Ken Revis and wish him luck.

FRASER OF LONSDALE.

### London Club Notes

On Thursday evening, December 17th, a variety of folks numbering about eighty, mainly St. Dunstaners and their wives, foregathered at 191 Marylebone Road to participate in the Club's Christmas get-together.

We were very pleased to welcome amongst our guests Lord and Lady Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Lloyds and Mr. W. G. Askew.

The catering department, presided over by Mrs. Willis, are to be highly commended for serving up such a wonderful variety of good things to eat and drink. Thank you, ladies.

Jacques Brown once again brought along some first-rate artists to entertain us. They included the Fraser Hayes Four, Tollefsen, the celebrated Norwegian accordionist, and the inimitable John Blythe. A first-class show worthy of the occasion. There was a pause in the proceedings around about 7 o'clock for the presentation of the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Trophy prizes by Mrs. A. D. Lloyds, to whom our thanks are due.

At the conclusion of professional entertainment, Lord Fraser, in a few well-chosen words, thanked all those folks who had contributed to the evening's success.

Gifts were distributed to the ladies by Mrs. Harding and Mrs. Webster, and Bob Father Christmas did a similar job amongst the merry males. To sum up, an excellent evening in every way. A very big "thank you" is due to all members' wives for their co-operation throughout the year.

SAM WEBSTER, *Chairman*.

*Bridge*.—St. Dunstan's Bridge Club held its Christmas Bridge Drive on December 12th. About forty members and friend enjoyed a good afternoon's bridge and an excellent tea provided by Mrs. Willis and her band of helpers.

After tea Lady Fraser presented the prizes to the winners. Lord Fraser, at the end of an enjoyable afternoon, wished everyone a happy Christmas and continued success to the Club.

### Braille Reading Tests

*Preliminary Test*: F. Greenaway, Bournemouth.

*Repeat Senior Braille Test*: T. Milligan, London, W.8; D. Parmenter, Brighton; W. T. Scott, Streatham.

### Retirement

Peter Martin, of Thornton Heath, retired on December 31st after 35 years with the Admiralty and many years as telephonist at the Imperial Defence College. On leaving he was presented with an electric razor, an electric blanket and a handsome arm chair, together with two scrolls signed by the members of the College executive and by the staff of the various offices.

The news of his retirement was included after the six o'clock B.B.C. news and Peter heard it himself quite by accident—he had no idea that it would be broadcast.

### Visitor to Brighton

Mr. W. M. F. Vane, T.D., M.P., Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions, visited St. Dunstan's at Brighton last month.

Mr. Vane was received by Mr. A. D. Lloyds, Secretary of St. Dunstan's, and the Commandant, and was shown over Pearson House and the Ovingdean Centre. At both Homes he met several St. Dunstaners and at Ovingdean took part in a shooting match on the electronic rifle range, his opponent being Mr. Dick Brett.

### A College Reunion

Further to the note in last month's REVIEW, a Reunion of men and staff who were at the College Annexe, Regent's Park, has now been arranged for *Saturday, July 9th*. It will be held at Hanover Lodge, Regent's Park, and if you have not already sent in your name to W. T. Scott, 46 Leigham Avenue, London, S.W.16, please do so.

### Result of Christmas Competition

The solution to last month's Word Square puzzle was as follows:

1. P A S T I L
2. A S T H M A
3. S T R O P S
4. T H O L E S
5. I M P E D E
6. L A S S E S

(It will be seen that the letters of these words read the same both across and from top to bottom).

A. Palfrey, of Barry, Glam.; E. L. Gray, of Romford, Essex, and W. Robinson, of Grantham, were the three winners, each receiving two guineas.



### Mr. N. Downs

Drummer Downs, St. Dunstaner and member of the Appeals Staff for thirty-five years, died at Ovingdean on January 4th. A notice of his death appears on page 9. We print below some of the many tributes which have reached us:

★ ★ ★

In spite of his multiple disability, "Drummer" Downs, as he was affectionately called, radiated courage, good humour and happiness wherever he went.

Few St. Dunstaners, if any, have served their St. Dunstan's colleagues better or for so long.

All who knew him well will agree, I'm sure, that he will live on in the minds of those who, like myself, had learned not only to admire his courage, particularly during the bombing raids on London, but to love his generous, ever-helpful kind heart.

It has been nice knowing him and his memory is worthy of the honoured place I'm sure he will have in "St. Dunstan's Hall of Fond Remembrances."

Good-night, Drummer old friend, good-night.

TERRY RODEN.

It seems impossible to realise that no more shall we see that sturdy figure striding majestically along nor hear that stentorian voice demanding "all hands on deck." A man generous, even beyond his means, kind, thoughtful—not one of his friends or acquaintances was ever ill or bereaved without some good wish, thought or gift from Drummer—his great gift of humour his indomitable chuckle, endeared him to all. The world is a poorer place for the loss of such a man.

J. F. ARMSTRONG.

We at Ilkley will also miss him. A great and genial character, and bridge will be the worse for this loss.

GEOFFREY FELL.

(Major Geoffrey Fell, many times Captain of the English International Bridge Team and Chairman of Ilkley St. Dunstan's Bridge Congress).

I only knew our dear old friend, Drummer, for about twelve years but during that period I learned much. He always helped any St. Dunstaner he ran against; his cheery chuckle, his husky voice, all hid his enormous heart.

Many of our colleagues of 1914 will miss him, but we of 1939-45 will also miss

him, and he can never be replaced.

JOHN A. MUDGE.

To me Drummer Downs was the personification of courage.

JEAN BURNHAM.

It can all be put into one sentence—Drummer loved us all and we all loved Drummer. More Drummers and this world would be a happier place.

NESTA MORRAH.

Those of us in Ilkley who have known Drummer for the past fourteen years had come to love and admire him. He was a unique character and we shall all miss his cheery smile and his marvellous sense of humour.

DONALD PEARSON.

In the passing of Drummer Downs, we older St. Dunstaners have lost a highly esteemed friend. Without a doubt the most deservedly popular of the First War men, his contribution by way of service to St. Dunstaners of both wars was outstanding.

Between the wars when unemployment was grim and life for many of us a struggle we can now hardly remember, Drummer helped many a man, and not only St. Dunstaners. It was the same during the war; he carried on through all the dangers and difficulties with his customary cheerfulness. His typical reply when a fellow St. Dunstaner offered him and his wife a fortnight in the country at the height of the blitz—"Blimey, what will happen to London if I leave?" And he stayed.

And in the difficult days after the war it was to Drummer one turned to in need, and seldom in vain. He was always ready to help whoever needed it and his easy, natural manner was the same to all-comers, whoever they were.

Associated as I was with him through the Appeals Department, in many activities for and with St. Dunstan's, I have come to the conclusion that, after his extraordinary kindness of heart, his outstanding charactership was good sportsmanship. I cannot imagine a better loser, or for that matter, a better winner. I remember in the early days Sir Arthur Pearson addressing us. "Remember," he said, "St. Dunstan's is yours; look after it and keep its name high." I am sure he would have felt that Drummer had made a good job of it.

BOB YOUNG.

### From All Quarters

E. West, of Egham, collected one first prize, two seconds and five third prizes at the local Chrysanthemum Show in November.

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John Windsor, of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, has given up his work on the local Council so as to devote more time to writing; he has had several talks accepted by the Canadian radio network and now has a play being considered.

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W. Griffiths, of Blackburn, was placed third in the Baritone Class at Colne Musical Festival on December 5th, and was awarded a Certificate. He was only two marks behind the winner. The adjudicator was Miss Isobel Baillie.

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J. Humphrey has been appointed Senior Physiotherapist at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

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Our New Zealander, James E. May, writes: "The Reunion in Melbourne was a memorable occasion. Many happy memories were revived with friends I had not seen for over forty years. St. Dunstan's is a great brotherhood, and we must ensure that the younger men carry on our traditions."

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Through the Rector, Canon H. S. Verrells, a donation has been sent to St. Dunstan's Appeals Department from the Parish of Ringsfield. Canon Verrells wrote: "Mr. Horace Elsey is an old and good friend to this little country parish. In gratitude for his many kindnesses we send a small Christmas gift to St. Dunstan's. Mr. Elsey is greatly respected in this whole neighbourhood and is an excellent ambassador for St. Dunstan's."

★ ★ ★

It was good to have news from J. E. Ellis, of Cape Town. Jimmy writes: "I am happy to say that I am settled into my new job as National Public Relations Officer for the S.A. National Council for the Blind. Everyone has given me a very cordial welcome into the National Institute and I am very pleased to say that in these earlier months I have been something like King Midas from the point of view of fund-raising; long may it continue."

Long may it, indeed, Jimmy.

S. Allott, of Hornsea, near Hull, who is an enthusiastic pigeon fancier, won the Young Birds Cup of the Hornsea and East Riding Homing Society and was presented with his trophy at the Society's annual dinner last month.

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From the Blackburn *Evening Telegraph*, December 21st, 1959:

Blackburn baritone, "Bill" Griffiths, is lucky to be alive to-day. And one of the people whom he has to thank for his miracle escape is a former military hospital matron in Java, Mrs. M. A. de Jonge, now living in Holland.

Eighteen years ago, when he was only 21, Bill lost his sight and his hands when a booby trap in a Japanese ammunition dump blew up. His life was despaired of but he was nursed back to health in the hospital of which Mrs. de Jonge was matron.

She lost contact with him for some time but through Mr. Andrew Crichton, who worked in the Consulate Service in Java, she traced Mr. Griffiths to Blackburn.

Mrs. de Jonge has just ended a flying visit to Mr. Griffiths at his attractive Queen's Road home.

The daughter of a former Governor General of the Dutch East Indies, she received her elementary education along with Queen Juliana and two other girls in the Palace at The Hague.

### Birth

WALTON.—On December 14th, to the wife of J. B. K. Walton, of Grindon, Sunderland, a daughter. The little girl is their sixth child and the sixth daughter.

### Deaths

Our deep sympathy is sent to the following:

COOPER.—To Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Cooper, of Bridlington, on the death of their fourteen year old grand-daughter, Helen, on November 7th. Helen had been an invalid since early childhood.

CUNNINGHAM.—To W. E. Cunningham, of Liverpool, whose sister died suddenly at the beginning of December.

RASMUSSEN.—To C. Rasmussen, of Australia, who lost his wife last September. Our St. Dunstaner will be 85 next May and is shortly to enter hospital.

WILLIAMSON.—To W. M. Williamson, of Denton, near Manchester, whose brother died at the beginning of December.



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

In a week's time I shall be starting another year of lecturing to cadets in a local A.T.C. Squadron. This has prompted me to write of my experience in this work in the hope that some St. Dunstaners, whose lives have settled into a pleasant but perhaps dull routine, would like to find some outside interest and, at the same time, help boys in this rewarding way.

I thought about it for a long time before I eventually contacted the local R.A.F. recruiting office, who put me in touch with the C.O. of this small Squadron. I was warmly welcomed as a lecturer in armaments and explosives and lately I have changed to jet engines. At first this meant a lot of work for my wife in reading and dictating to me from manuals so that I could get it into braille. After that it was up to myself to learn it—an odd note or two on some special point is all I need now before I stand in front of the boys.

A year ago when I changed to jet engines (which I knew nothing about), I borrowed a tape recorder from St. Dunstan's which was a great help. My wife recorded when she could during the day and I played it back in the evenings.

Just a word about the pleasant social side—a drink with my fellow lecturers at our home-made bar in Squadron H.Q., and occasionally allowing wives to join us for a "get-together."

I do hope some of the chaps will find the confidence to start on something like this, as the A.T.C. (and other Services) are always short of keen lecturers.

Yours sincerely,  
J. SHONFIELD.

Reading.

DEAR EDITOR,

Recently I got in touch with the Consumers' Advisory Council to see if they could help me in any way with a shopkeeper who had sold me goods which weren't perfect and for which I had paid the proper price. The shopkeeper had inspected them previously but had just passed the matter off, so I got in touch with the C.A.C.

I had a form to fill in, giving details, and eventually the shopkeeper heard from them. To cut a long story short, I got some satisfaction but my point is this.

Maybe other St. Dunstaners have been sold shoddy goods. If they get in touch with this Council, it will do its best to get things put right, but of course the shopkeeper cannot be forced to replace goods.

Yours sincerely,  
(Mrs.) M. STANWAY,  
Morecambe.

DEAR EDITOR,

About the middle of 1909 I went to work as an apprentice at a small cabinet-maker's shop. Not very far from the workshop we had a small showroom which was used to show the furniture we had made. As I was the youngest apprentice it was my job every Saturday morning to go along to wash the windows outside and inside, and I did this each week until about 1913, when another apprentice took over.

In the early 1920's, after I had finished my training at St. Dunstan's, my wife and I took over this very same shop and I did my boot-repairing in a small room at the back, while my wife had the main shop for hardware and brushes. As usual, once again, every Saturday morning I took over the job of cleaning the windows on the outside—as I knew every inch of them it was no difficulty for me.

Opposite our shop was a branch of the C.W.S. Grocery Store and one Saturday morning as I was cleaning the windows I overheard two women talking outside the store. "I thought that man was supposed to be blind," I heard one of them say, "He's washing those windows; I don't believe it!"

At that time I had very good hearing and I mentioned the conversation to my wife. Thereupon we decided after that day to engage a window cleaner as we were a little afraid that if I carried on doing them myself it may have started a lot more talk.

Yours sincerely,  
E. J. GUISELEY,  
Menston, near Ilkley.

## R.A.O.B.

The Mayor of Winchester was the Chief Guest at the annual dinner of the Minden Rose Lodge when the Lodge's senior member, Bro. W. Lowings, presided. Our St. Dunstaner made a tray which was presented to the Mayor (Councillor Mrs. P. A. T. Lowden) and later Mrs. Lowings was presented with a clock in recognition of her help to her husband.

## Talking Book Library

## A Hangover from 1959

Four books this month which those addicted to very light reading will be unlikely to enthuse over.

"Darkness no Darkness," by Father R. Raynes, and "The Light of the World," by Father Andrew, reader Andrew Timothy, are bound together in one book of religious meditations which need to be read several times to get into the mind of the meditator. *Cat. No. 508.*

"A Reed Shaken by the Wind," by Gavin Maxwell, reader Duncan Carse, is an unusual travel book, telling of a trip by boat in the swamps of Iraq and throwing out in the process many quaint historical sidelights. An interesting 20th century trip in an atmosphere almost biblical. *Cat. No. 383.*

"Framley Parsonage," by Anthony Trollope, reader Eric Gillett, concerns the ups and downs of the Rector, Mark Robarts, his wife, Fanny, and his sister, Lucy. There are two social sets in the young Rector's world and quite naturally he slips into the wrong one. The account of his calamitous slipping and his subsequent restoration to the proper clique is humorous and unobtrusively rather touching. Lady "L," in whose gift Mark's living is, proves not to be the dragon she is at first painted, and finally love is triumphant and all vicissitudes are shrugged away. *Cat. No. 535.*

"Goodbye to all That," by Robert Graves, reader Derek McCulloch, is a short patch of autobiography by the well-known poet. I believe this book was written in the late twenties, and it covers the author's schooldays, his wartime experiences and some difficult, uncertain years afterwards. Among others, Lawrence of Arabia was one of his close friends. Finally he settled down in a Chair at Cairo University. I doubt the book sold much, but I'm sure it did the author good to get it down on paper and out of his system. *Cat. No. 531.*

NELSON.

## Family News

## Marriages of Sons and Daughters

On December 30th, 1959, Richard Martin, Bray, Co. Wicklow, to Miss Angela Whelan.

## Personal

Very many thanks to all St. Dunstaners and their wives, both in this country and overseas, for your good wishes which I so much appreciate. I wish that a personal word of thanks could be sent to each one of you.

I hope the New Year will bring you much happiness and good health.

MATRON.

Matron Avison thanks all the St. Dunstaners and their wives who have sent her such lovely Christmas cards and calendars. She wishes them all a very happy and successful New Year.

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On behalf of everyone in the Southern Area Office at Headquarters, may I thank all who sent us Christmas greetings. It is always such a pleasure to receive these and we would have liked to have written to each family personally, but some three hundred letters would not reach you as quickly as a "thank you" in the REVIEW.

We send you our wishes for good health and happiness in the coming year and we should like to give a special thought to those Southern Area St. Dunstaners who, unfortunately, do not always enjoy the best of health.

P. J. ROGERS.

★ ★ ★

Northerners—Thank you all very much indeed for the hundreds of beautiful Christmas cards wishing me and my staff seasonal greetings. The cards were so numerous that it would be impossible to answer them individually. I hope that you will accept this acknowledgement. I am most appreciative of being remembered at this time in this kind way. I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.

M. A. MIDGLEY.

DEAR NORTHERNERS,

Again so many of you, your wives and families have remembered me this Christmas and sent charming greetings and letters that I must ask you to allow me to send my best thanks through the REVIEW. It was grand to hear from you. I hope to answer letters in due course. A wonderful New Year to you all and to all St. Dunstaners everywhere who did not forget

"M.K.W."



### Manchester Club Notes

The Club completed its year of activities for 1959 on December 16th, when the Christmas dinner party was held at the Wellington Hotel, which is the Club's headquarters.

Members and their wives and escorts were pleased to welcome as guests Miss (Matron) B. Vaughan Davies, Miss P. W. Everett, Welfare Visitor, Mr. J. F. Brady (Estates) and Mrs. Brady, Mr. Brewer (Baskets) and Mrs. Brewer.

A message of greetings and good wishes was received from Mrs. E. M. Dunphy, of Devon, former Secretary of the Club, who also forwarded a donation. This message was received with acclamation and appreciation.

The menu was read by Miss Everett. Grace was said by Miss Vaughan Davies, after which full justice was given to the beautifully prepared full Christmas dinner served by the hotel staff.

Four prizes given by the Club, and one each from Miss Everett and Miss Vaughan Davies, were drawn for.

The Chairman, Mr. H. W. Bramley, expressed a sincere welcome to the guests and seasonal greetings to all present. The rest of the evening was "free and easy," as the white-coated waiter was busy with his tray and Mrs. Bramley provided music on the piano. An excellent function enjoyed by all.

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The Annual General Meeting was held on January 6th when the activities undertaken during 1959 were reviewed. The following appointments were made:

*President:* Mr. J. Mooney; *Chairman:* Mr. H. W. Bramley; *Vice-Chairman and Games Steward:* Mr. H. Frost; *Hon. Treasurer:* Mr. W. McCarthy; *Hon. Secretary:* Mr. J. Shaw.

Club meetings will continue to be held on the first and third Wednesdays in each month, and the Committee extend a hearty welcome to all St. Dunstaners living reasonably near to Manchester to become members and come along to the Wellington Hotel, 6(a) Nicholas Croft, Manchester 4, at 7 p.m. The hotel is along High Street from Piccadilly, or along Withy Grove from Corporation Street.

J. SHAW,  
*Hon. Secretary.*

### Sutton Club Notes

We held our Christmas Party on December 19th, when Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Lloyds and Mr. Wills attended as our honoured guests. Our President, Lady Onslow, was unavoidably unable to be with us as she was indisposed. All members and their families spent a very jolly afternoon which included tea with two large iced cakes. The children had a fancy dress contest.

As we commence another year we shall be pleased to see new faces among our members—this means any St. Dunstaner in the Surrey area, man or woman.

Our next meeting is on February 20th, from 2.0 p.m. until 6.30 p.m. at the Sutton Adult School Hall, Benhill Avenue, Sutton. (The 154 'bus passes the door). For further information please get in touch with me at 74 Waddon Court Road, West Croydon, or telephone me at CRO 0596.

TED DUDLEY,  
*Chairman.*

### Ewell Walk

The Sutton and London Clubs took part in a 2-mile Walk on Saturday, December 5th, at the L.C.C. Playing Fields, kindly lent by Mr. L. Plant. The Metropolitan Police and Epsom and Ewell Harriers acted as escorts. Superintendent James was in charge of arrangements. Mr. W. Harris was unfortunately prevented from attending but framed a most successful handicap.

Lady Onslow came to the Walk for which Captain B. Wildish, Royal Navy, acted as starter. Mrs. Wildish presented the prizes. It is hoped to have another 2-mile Walk at Ewell on Saturday, March 12th.

Name	Results		
	H'cap Start	Time	Actual Time
1. Madgwick ...	6.20	23.39	21.19
2. Reed ...	7.40	23.57	23.27
3. Cookson ...	7.25	24.15	23.30
4. Taylor ...	7.10	24.26	23.26
5. Wright ...	6.40	24.43	23.13
6. Golding ...	5.50	25.00	22.40
7. Stafford ...	3.00	25.24	20.14
8. Hewitt ...	0.05	25.31	17.26
9. Miller ...	Scr.	25.36	17.26
10. Simpson ...	0.05	25.55	17.50
11. Robinson ...	8.10	26.05	26.05
12. Tutton ...	3.00	26.39	21.29
13. Redford ...	7.25	26.52	26.07
14. Halliday ...	4.50	27.34	24.14

*Continued on page 9*

### Ewell Walk—Cont. from page 8

Handicap Prizes			
1st. F. Madgwick	23.39	6.20	21.49
2nd. G. Reed ...	23.57	7.40	23.27
3rd. E. Cookson	24.15	7.25	23.30
London			
1st C. Stafford	25.24	3.00	20.14
1st Unplaced Novice:			
John Taylor	24.26	7.10	23.30

### Cardiff Club

The Cardiff Club held their annual Christmas Dinner at the Bristol Hotel, Cardiff, on January 9th. Our happy party enjoyed real Christmas fare, roast turkey, etc., beautifully cooked and served. Glasses were raised in a toast to Her Majesty the Queen, and birthday greetings were passed on to our member, Mr. David Williams, who attains the age of 65 and is still going strong. Our absent members, through illness, were not forgotten.

Music was provided by a pianist engaged for the evening and almost every member gave a song, old or new; dancing and games went on until 11 o'clock. There were prizes in all events to lucky winners.

Our Chairman brought a happy evening to a close, reminding everyone that the Club meets on the first Saturday in each month. Old and new members are welcomed.

ARTHUR LANE, *Hon. Secretary.*

### Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. J. Walch, of Saltdean, December 13th; Mr. and Mrs. T. Callaghan, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, December 24th; Mr. and Mrs. Madieson, of Brighton, January 1st, and Mr. Madieson wants to say: "We've been together now for forty years, and it don't seem a day too much, etc., as the song goes."

Many congratulations to all six.

### Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. R. Lowrie, of Portslade, December 29th. Congratulations.

### Great-Grandfather

A. C. Brignall, of Brighton. A great-grandson was born last November when our St. Dunstaner was 69 and he asks, "Who is the youngest great-grandfather at St. Dunstan's?"

### Grandfathers

P. Bargery, Grays; C. E. Temperton, Hull (the eighth grandchild); J. Mitchell, Leith (the tenth); G. J. Maskell, Hunmanby (the thirteenth); P. Sheridan, Wishaw (the thirty-third).

### "In Memory" (continued from page 10)

#### Drummer Nathaniel Downs, Loyal North Lancs. Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of N. Downs, of Hanwell, known throughout St. Dunstan's as "Drummer." He was 67. He passed away peacefully at Ovingdean on January 4th.

When Drummer was wounded in France in 1915, he had already served for nearly eight years in the Army—he had joined in 1908 at the age of sixteen. His injuries included the loss of his sight, amputation of his lower right arm and the almost complete loss of his left hand.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1916. For a short while he had a business, but in 1923 he joined the Appeals Staff and there he remained, one of its most popular members, until his retirement two years ago. Drummer's many interests included the Bridge Club, of which he was a founder member and of which he was for many years secretary. During the last two years his health had not been good and he had stayed at the Ovingdean Home for long periods, to the great pleasure of his many friends there, both new and old, and of the members of the staff.

The funeral took place at Greenford Park Cemetery on Friday, January 8th. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack and the service was taken by the Rev. F. E. Spurway, who had known Drummer for so many years.

A party of fourteen of his St. Dunstaner friends travelled from Brighton to attend the funeral and there were many from the London area, including members of the London Club and of the Bridge Club. Mr. A. D. Lloyds and several members of the staff were present. The Appeals Department was represented by Mr. J. Pringle, Mr. J. Boyd (Brighton Appeals Office) and Drummer's old friend and colleague, Mr. Robert Young. Mrs. Spurway, Miss Hensley, the Hon. Ruth Scott and Mr. Jack Armstrong were also among the many who were present.

Drummer lost his wife in November, 1948, and our deep sympathy goes out to his daughter, Irene, and his grand-daughter, with whom he had lived when he was in London, and to all the other relatives and friends who mourn his loss.



## “In Memory”

### Private Samuel Betney, *Royal Worcestershire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of S. Betney, of Nuneaton, at the age of 67.

He saw service in the 1914-18 war with the Royal Worcestershire Regiment and in the Second World War was a member of Nuneaton Corporation Fire Guard. He was injured in June, 1942, whilst fire-watching and he came to St. Dunstan's seven years later. Owing to his age and ill-health, he was never able to undertake training.

He leaves a widow and three grown-up children to whom we send our deep sympathy.

### Private William Victor Clampett, *Labour Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of W. V. Clampett, of Luton. He died in hospital on January 1st at the age of 61.

Enlisting in April 1915, he served until November 1st, 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's the following year where he trained in home crafts, specialising in baskets. He continued his craft right up to last November and was very hopeful of carrying on after Christmas. He was, however, admitted to hospital where he died a week later.

To his widow and family we offer our very sincere sympathy.

### Private Peter Norman Crane, *1st Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry*

With deep regret we record the death of P. N. Crane, of Penketh, Warrington, at the early age of 44.

He served with his regiment from 1943 until 1944 when he was injured in action in Normandy. He then came to St. Dunstan's.

He trained first as an upholsterer and followed this occupation from 1947 until 1950. He changed soon after this to assembly work in industry but in 1958 he was compelled to give this up also as a result of his ill-health.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and two sons.

### Private William Richard Evans, *Royal Welch Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death on January 10th of W. R. Evans, of Rhyl. He was 67.

His service with the Army was from May, 1915, until July, 1916, but it was not until July, 1953, that he came to St. Dunstan's and he was then not able to undertake any training owing to his age and poor health. He had been seriously ill for about a year.

Our sincere sympathy is sent to his widow and family.

### Private John Francey, *Royal Engineers*

We record with deep regret the death of J. Francey, of Ballymena, Co. Antrim. He was 77.

Enlisting in December, 1915, he served until August, 1919, but was not admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits until as recently as February, 1957, when his age forbade any training.

He was a widower and leaves no children.

### Private William Reed, *7th Welsh Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Reed, of Barry, South Wales, at the age of 64.

He served with his regiment from the outbreak of war in 1914 until September of the following year. He entered St. Dunstan's in December, 1937, and trained in wool rug-making and netting and he was able to make these articles for our Stores until 1945, when ill-health forced him to give up. He had been seriously ill for the past year and he died at his home on Sunday, January 10th.

Our deep sympathy goes to his widow and daughter.

### Private Harold Nelson Derby, *East Yorkshire Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of H. N. Derby, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. He was 69.

He served from August, 1914, until March, 1916. He was wounded at Gallipoli in 1915 but did not come to St. Dunstan's until March, 1952, his age then precluding any training. Until recently he had enjoyed very good health and his death was sudden and unexpected.

He was a bachelor and our sympathy is extended to his relatives.

(Continued on page 9)

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Wally Thomas is in his late thirties. On Easter Monday, 1944, he was a Corporal in a Bomb Disposal squad which had been detailed to dismantle a 2,200 pound German bomb dropped on an American-manned aerodrome in

Essex. Something went wrong while the TNT was being burned, and Wally was blown up. After a series of operations it was obvious that he was to be totally blind and totally deaf for the rest of his life.



Wally Thomas

But **LIFE IN MY HANDS** Wally Thomas is no appeal for pity. Rather it is a remarkably well remembered and unsolenn account of what it means to be blown up (Wally retained consciousness during the explosion), to enter into a strange private world without sight or sound, and gradually to find a way back to contact with people and things.

To Wally, with a wife and family, the worst blow of all was to be told that he was not employable, at which news even his sense of humour deserted him. Today, however, he works in his garden shed for a light engineering firm, is looking forward to a new career as an author of books in Braille, plays the piano and goes regularly to football matches. How he learned to 'hear' again through his sense of touch, and how the patience and ingenuity of the staff of St. Dunstan's and various other hospitals guided his own determination to be an active person again are told in Wally Thomas's own racy language - taken from tape-recordings. **LIFE IN MY HANDS** Wally Thomas must be one of the most original and moving ever to be written in the annals of human courage.

