

# 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

### Dog Licences

At the St. Dunstan's Women's Reunion last month I was asked whether a blind person could have a dog without paying the ordinary dog licence. I gave a fairly accurate answer but having now looked the matter up, it may be of interest to set down the law as I understand it.

The present position governed by the Dog Licences Act, 1959, which operated from the 16th October, 1959, is that an annual duty of 7s. 6d. must be paid in respect of any dog kept in Great Britain which is over six months old, unless exempted for the following reasons:

1. Used solely by a blind person for his guidance.
2. Used solely for the purpose of tending sheep or cattle on a farm or by a shepherd in the exercise of his calling, provided ownership complies with certain specified conditions.

I have been particularly asked whether a dog used by a blind person who lives alone, solely for his or her protection, would be exempt. I think not, for the operative word seems to me to be "guidance," not "protection."

I would be interested to know if any St. Dunstaner has applied for exemption from payment and with what result and if they had any difficulty.

### Card-playing

I continue to hear from St. Dunstaners who enjoy the Bridge Weekends at Ovingdean as well as from others who play bridge or whist locally.

Charlie Temperton of Hull, a very early St. Dunstaner, writes:

"I don't play bridge but I do play whist and lots of other games with cards. When I am playing whist I use a waistcoat with four pockets—for instance, Clubs in one pocket, Hearts in another and so on. My hands are practically free; I know which pocket to go to for whatever card I want, always making sure my pocket is empty when the game is finished. I wonder if this idea will help you, also other fellow St. Dunstaners?"

I myself use the four spaces between my fingers and thumb of the right hand to separate the suits, placing the highest cards at the top. After sorting, I put the whole hand together in a fan and hold it between the thumb and forefinger of my right hand. I then pick out the card I want with my left hand, using the left thumb to read the Braille.

There is a disadvantage about sorting the suits between the fingers because my fellow players can see what I am doing and can tell if I am short of a suit. I am not suggesting that my friends want to take advantage of me but they really cannot help seeing a vacant space and so I do this sorting under the table. This is not ideal and I wonder what more expert Braille players do?

I congratulate Temperton on his method, which he devised for himself and which I think ingenious, but I am not sure whether it would suit me—for instance, I never wear a waistcoat.

### For the Record

I report that Colonel Ansell, by May 9th, had killed 28 salmon—2 on fly, 26 spinning. At the same date, Fraser's score was nil. Obviously, I must work hard and fast in August and September to catch up with him.

FRASER.

### Her Majesty's Official Birthday

The following telegram was sent to Her Majesty by Lord Fraser on June 8th:

"On behalf of St. Dunstan's men and women throughout the Commonwealth, I have the honour to wish Your Majesty many happy returns of the day.

FRASER OF LONSDALE.

The following telegram was sent to our Chairman from Buckingham Palace:

"I send to you and the men and women of St. Dunstan's throughout the Commonwealth my sincere thanks for your kind message on the celebration of my birthday."

ELIZABETH R.

### The Derby Sweepstake

The result of the Derby Sweepstake is given below. The number of tickets sold was 3,168—eleven fewer than last year.

After deducting £6 0s. 0d. to cover printing and sundry expenses, a sum of £390 was left to be divided as prize money in accordance with the published rules. The winners were:—

1st	RELKO	
	J. TRIGGS, Ashford	... £195
2nd	MERCHANT VENTURER	
	W. J. ROSE, Pearson House	£78
3rd	RAGUSA	
	J. JONES, Ovingdean	... £39

Of the thirty-five horses listed last month, nine were non-runners. The holders of the remaining twenty-three tickets drawing starters each received £3 8s. 0d.

### Golden Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. A. Abram, of Reddish, Stockport. Very many congratulations.

### Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. E. Grant, of Glossop, June 15th. Mr. and Mrs. G. E. G. Rushton, of Wooler, June 23rd. Many congratulations.

### St. Dunstaners in Stock Exchange London to Brighton Walk

Four St. Dunstaners were among the seventy-seven competitors taking part in the Stock Exchange London to Brighton Walk on May 25th. They were Messrs. Billy Miller, Les Dennis, Roy Mendham and John Simpson. Billy Miller finished 11th in 10 hrs. 30 mins. 5 secs., and Les Dennis 24th in 11 hrs. 24 mins. 54 secs. Roy and John did not finish but put up very good performances. Many congratulations to them all.

### Mr. and Mrs. J. Donbavand

#### A Correction

We deeply regret an error in last month's announcement of the marriage of Mr. J. Donbavand, of Swindon. Owing to a misunderstanding, it was reported that our St. Dunstaner had married Mrs. F. Wilcox on April 20th. In fact, Mr. Donbavand was married on that day to Miss Elsie Edith Love, who was for some time on the staff at Ovingdean; Mrs. Wilcox was the lady with whom Mr. and Mrs. Donbavand had stayed for a few days after their marriage.

We express our very sincere apologies for the distress caused to Mr. and Mrs. Donbavand in this matter. An amended notice appears on page 11.

### Colonel M. P. Ansell

From *The Times*, June 3rd, 1963:—

"Colonel M. P. Ansell, who will have completed 20 years as Chairman of the British Show Jumping Association at the end of next year, has announced his intention of retiring from this post. He has accepted the appointment of President-elect for 1965."

### Hands Across the Border

1963 was the due date for the St. Dunstan's bowlers to entertain their counterparts from over the border. On May 14th, the blind bowlers of the Scottish National Institution for War-Blinded, accompanied by Mr. Gillespie, Mr. Evers and Mr. Nichols, touched down at London Airport at 11.40 a.m. and were welcomed by Mr. Willis, of St. Dunstan's Headquarters, and the Committee of the St. Dunstan's Brighton Club—Messrs. H. Edwicker, T. Kirk, A. Martin, J. Walker and F. Rhodes. At this point the hosts were the guests of the visitors, who put on a most excellent lunch for us at the Airport Grill.

We arrived at Ovingdean in time for tea where the full contingent was met and welcomed by Matron Blackford, the Commandant and the rest of the St. Dunstan's bowlers. It was a truly Scottish invasion for Harry Forbes, with his pipes, made the rafters, or whatever it is that holds the structure together, ring and resound to his stirring music.

After tea the visitors were shown their quarters and got themselves installed. There having been no special entertainment arranged for the evening, the St. Dunstan's bowlers and their wives introduced the visitors to the various haunts.

Commencing Wednesday morning, the programme and activities really began to take shape. By 9 a.m., off to London for a conducted tour through the House of Lords and the House of Commons. For myself I can truly say I have sat in both the House of Lords and the House of Commons. We had an ex-Scots Guardsman to show us round. I think he was a bit of a turncoat for he had no return ticket to Glasgow.

After having got ourselves thoroughly exhausted and thirsty, we proceeded to the Grosvenor Hotel, where we were received by Lord and Lady Fraser. Both were in excellent form. This being the 72nd birthday of Frank A. Rhodes, skip of the St. Dunstan's bowlers, I was given the tip by Lord Fraser that something very special was to take place. It did. The Scottish boys presented me with a bottle of — well what do you think?

After lunch we quietly made our way back to Ovingdean, stopping en route for tea. In the evening it was again "all aboard" for The Plough, Rottingdean,

where the Commandant had arranged a splendid show both as regards the entertainment and refreshments. The St. Dunstan's bowlers, acting on Lord Fraser's instructions, did their best to get the Scots on the floor but they weathered the storm as you will now hear.

Thursday was the day for the great event. We did not get off to too great a start in the morning but everyone got into his stride by the afternoon. For the aggregate score the visitors had quite a good win; on the rink for the totally blind of Linburn and St. Dunstan's, the home team won by 17 to 13 shots.

The bowls match having been concluded, thoughts turned to the bowls dinner. This was held at "Stroods," a little way out of Brighton on the London Road. Mr. A. D. Lloyds, Secretary of St. Dunstan's, who presided, gave us all a very warm welcome. During the evening Mr. Lloyds presented the Cup to Mr. Bill Kay, Captain of the visiting team, who most suitably replied. This Cup was well and truly charged with the special brew of tea from across the border.

Speeches were made by Mr. A. D. Lloyds, Mr. Gillespie, Assistant Treasurer of the Scottish Institution, Mr. Bill Kay, and then... "after the Lord Mayor's Show..."

With the aid of escorts, the Scots devoted Friday morning to boosting the trade of Brighton. At 2 p.m. it was time to say goodbye, St. Dunstan's bowlers forming a guard of honour with Matron and Commandant to cheer our visitors on their way. Just before moving off, Mr. Bill Kay presented Matron with flowers and each St. Dunstaner was handed a rosette of the Stuart tartan colours from his opposite number on the green. Just to complete the picture, Matron's scottie was adorned with a rosette also.

FRANK A. RHODES,

*Skipper, St. Dunstan's Bowling Club.*

★ ★ ★

The Scottish team wish to take this opportunity to thank Lord and Lady Fraser, the Commandant and the Matron at Ovingdean most sincerely for the wonderful programme arranged for the visit, and for their unceasing efforts to make us feel at home during our stay in Brighton.

W. KAY,

*Captain, Scottish Team.*

## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

With reference to Lord Fraser's remarks on television and the blind, I have never listened to a TV racing commentary so I am unable to express an opinion as to whether the latter is superior to the sound commentary from a blind person's point of view. I think it is fair to say, however, that TV racing commentaries are more numerous than those on Sound, especially if one includes Commercial TV commentaries.

From my earliest arrival at West House, Brighton, way back in 1918, it has been the custom for St. Dunstaners staying there to pay frequent visits to all the theatres (there were four in those days), and the Hippodrome, for entertainment. Some years later, when the talkies became a practical proposition, the cinemas in Brighton were added to the list and these visits were fostered—and possibly in some cases sponsored—by St. Dunstan's. So it came about that thousands of St. Dunstaners visited entertainments designed for the sighted, and, moreover, enjoyed them, for there was never any lack of acceptances when the opportunity offered. No doubt many continued the practice in their own localities and I know that in many towns there were cheap or even free seats available to the blind at cinemas. I have never been a picturegoer to any extent but during my forty-five years of blindness, I have been present at literally scores of stage plays and I have always found plenty to entertain and interest me. With so many theatres and cinemas closing down, it is understandable that the blind are turning more and more to television to supplement their entertainment resources, and as I see it, there is no difference between TV and the cinema. It is true that writers and producers of TV plays tend to make use of film techniques, creating situations which could not be depicted on the legitimate stage and making it essential for the blind listener to TV to have the services of a sighted companion to give a few words, of description now and again; but this assistance has always been necessary. Given this assistance he can, as I have found for myself, follow the plot without difficulty and derive a good deal of enjoyment and interest from it. Such listening to TV,

for a blind person, is not in preference to listening to Sound but as an additional source of entertainment. By a study of programme details in advance, he can obtain the maximum choice.

Yours sincerely,

TOM FLOYD,  
*Teignmouth.*

DEAR EDITOR,

In my opinion, sound radio, with very few exceptions, provides the better medium for the blind person. Amongst the many sports commentaries, horse racing may be the one exception to this rule, but in all others, including both codes of football, cricket, lawn tennis, athletics and the rest, the commentators are able to give a word picture of all that is going on much more vividly than is necessary on the TV set. This is only natural, seeing that the sighted person knows exactly what is happening from the picture on the screen. Where my wife and I have a common interest in a sports event, and it is being covered by both sound radio and TV, we turn off the sound on the TV and let the sound radio provide the commentary—a most satisfactory arrangement. Incidentally, it reveals how very good the sound commentators are in keeping up with what is actually taking place.

I find that some TV plays and feature programmes lend themselves to "blind listening," provided they don't introduce too many characters, which becomes confusing.

Yours sincerely,

J. S. HODGSON,  
*Fatheringay, Peterborough.*

DEAR EDITOR,

Sound broadcasting puts us on an equal footing with sighted listeners and I think well caters for the purpose. How I should miss it if it were not there! I can pick and choose to suit my taste and fill in many an hour which otherwise would have been empty.

This last six months I have been able to try to listen to television but I must confess that I get nowhere with it. In this case the producers are doing their job alright but it is the picture that is the main thing. From my point of view, it is no good for me.

Yours sincerely,

W. BURGIN,  
*Northwood Hills.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I am only remotely interested in horse racing so that I cannot comment on such programmes. Whenever I am able, however, I do listen to TV's "Panorama," "Gallery," an occasional quiz programme (I like to try and answer the questions before the contestants!): "University Quiz," which is a wonderful programme, even if a little above my head, and "World in Action," in which our Chairman recently appeared in a programme about Charities, in fact, the programmes which are practically all dialogue. I am not so keen on plays on TV because I get too irritated with the excessive background and incidental music. This latter complaint is also becoming more applicable to many B.B.C. sound programmes nowadays.

It is true, as Lord Fraser said, that TV programmes are designed for a "seeing" audience but so also are productions in a theatre, and I am sure you will agree that blind persons are able to derive much pleasure and enjoyment from a visit to the theatre for a drama or a farce.

Quite often, excerpts from TV programmes are selected for the Sound programme, "Pick of the Week," and I am sure that they are just as vital and entertaining as the excerpts from sound productions. This emphasises the fact that there is much of TV which can interest and entertain the blind person.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. EDMUNDS,  
*Southampton.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I have read Lord Fraser's notes in the REVIEW re sound and television programmes and agree with him that sound commentaries and plays are better for us than are the television ones.

When we visit our daughter, say on Cup Final day, or on any particular day when television and sound are giving the same commentaries, our daughter cuts out the sound on television and puts on the radio for my benefit, and so in this way we all enjoy the commentary.

As for the plays, I like the radio ones much better than the television ones.

Yours very sincerely,

W. ROBINSON,  
*Welby, near Grantham.*

DEAR EDITOR,

Re Mr. Waterworth's plea for tips.

It is a good trick for smokers to use a small drawing pin in the top of a matchbox. This does not interfere with the drawing out of the match and can be removed and transferred when the box is empty. A drop of candle grease will also act.

I suppose all know the trick of lighting a fag without burning your nose, or in a wind, by laying the match alongside the cigarette and with just the head a fraction over the end, strike both, and whoopee! you've split the breeze and got a light.

Our Chairman always emphasises the blessing of braille which some find difficult by reason of their work, but keep the finger you read with in a stall at night. It will soon get sensitive and give reading its normal pleasure.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. RADFORD,  
*Castle Cary.*

DEAR EDITOR,

A wire paper clip will mark the bottom of a box of matches and these paper clips can also be used for marking packets of powder, etc., of the same size, using one for this, two for that, and so on.

Many people have trouble with tins but here elastic bands can be used to identify them. When I bought two bottles of French polish of different shades but of the same size, I had the shopkeeper put a piece of string round the neck of one.

One has to remember however, exactly how each tin, packet or bottle is marked.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD,  
*Pearson House.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested in our Chairman's notes when Lord Fraser pointed out the advisability of preparing for retirement by taking up some hobbies to occupy one's spare time.

The time comes in everybody's life when you have to collect your last pay packet or pay in your last salary cheque, and when that time comes many people find that retirement is not the happy state of affairs they hoped it would be. Time drags on their hands, and many retired people seem to go to seed or rust up altogether.

For blind or disabled people, the change-over is even more acute than it is for

sighted and physically fit people.

It might be a good idea to invite St. Dunstaners to send in suggestions of any hobbies or pastimes which they have found to pass their many leisure hours.

For my part, I have found amateur radio and tape recording wonderful hobbies which might well have been designed for the blind and disabled. The former hobby is a bit difficult to take up nowadays if you are starting from scratch, but it is by no means beyond our reach. There are at least fifty blind radio amateurs in this country alone, and as for tape recording, anybody can soon learn to handle a machine, and find many sincere friends in all parts of the world.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN MARTIN, *London, W.11.*

DEAR EDITOR,

In the last issue of the REVIEW, a St. Dunstaner records an incident in which a blind man fell down into a hole on the pavement where men were carrying out repairs. The man sustained an injury which resulted in deafness and on bringing action against the Council through the courts, his case was dismissed as the judge advocated that the hole was adequately protected for the sighted. The St. Dunstaner wanted trestles placed around holes.

The barricading of obstacles would appear to be a negative approach to the problem of getting about as there is no hope that all obstacles will be protected from a blind man's angle. Indeed, such precautions would increase expenditure enormously.

Talking to St. Dunstaners generally, the inability to be mobile through fear is a great cause of frustration, all of which can be avoided. There are two techniques available and as you get proficient in these, a third one opens itself to you.

The white stick as used in Great Britain serves a most useful purpose, but it is far outstripped by the "Long Stick" technique as used in Japan. In this technique, the blind man has a stick which is as long as from his navel to the ground when he has no shoes on. A rubber ferrule is placed over the tip instead of a noisy metal tip. If you hold the stick in your right hand and hold your right wrist with your left hand, you can walk quite confidently down a street because the stick is bounced with the aid of the rubber ferrule one whole step in front of the man. If it meets an

obstacle or a hole, avoiding action can be taken in time. Before getting my guide dog, I thought this technique was by far the best in use and particularly good for a newly blinded man.

This did not solve all my problems as I am 6 ft. 6 in. in my shoes and I kept cracking my head against overhanging obstacles which the normal shorty of 6 ft. passes straight under.

The other technique which is the best and safest is to use a guide dog. The freedom of movement which you can experience through a dog has to be experienced to be believed. I can go practically anywhere at any time on my own. I am far fitter physically and mentally, due to my dog lifting nearly all the tension of getting about from my shoulders. He is taught to take care of my height and where he cannot avoid it, he will refuse to go; recently he has developed his own way of telling me to feel ahead. These dogs are taught to obey such commands as "Find the door," "Find the steps," "Find a seat." This latter is useful on a bus or on a station while waiting for your train to come in.

The more you get about on your own, either by using the stick technique or with a dog, the more developed becomes the third technique of getting about by ear. On a very quiet night you can even hear a kerb, but I find this of no help in noisy places. I find the development of an obstacle sense a help to work in conjunction with the stick or the dog.

I do not set myself up as a mobility expert. Nor do I want you to think that a guide dog is perfect and never makes a mistake. He is thought better at guiding than the average sighted person.

To all those who like me cannot see any trace of light at all, I would ask you to put aside any prejudice towards a dog. Take up a white harness in your left hand and walk into the freedom of getting around again with safety and speed. I will not take any unnecessary chances and my dog will not let me. The Guide Dog Association teaches you to handle your dog and how to use it under all difficulties, and they take a month to do it. It takes a year or so for the man and the dog to work together as a unit. Are you prepared to gain your freedom? It is there if you want it.

Yours sincerely,

MIKE TETLEY, *Luton.*

DEAR EDITOR,

In last month's REVIEW, Mr. Pointon raised a matter in which I have been very interested since hearing of a similar case in which a blind woman's claim for damages was also dismissed. She fell into a sunken garden because the protecting wall had been removed and broke her hip. It appears the law offers no protection to a blind person who suffers physical damage through what is often the blatant carelessness of others. The blind are, except as my colleague points out for the purposes of rates and taxes, treated as abnormal and all accidents are attributed entirely to this abnormality. Can a blind person, within the law, not reasonably expect normal surfaces and borders to a footpath which he or she normally traverses, and cannot holes in such paths be classes as abnormal? The simple trestle, as Tiny says, would afford adequate protection to both sighted and sightless. Manholes are usually guarded by a three-sided canvas affair but usually has the open side in the direction of the pedestrian traffic instead of across or, better still, facing the wall.

The proportion of blind to sighted persons in England and Wales is, I believe, in the region of 1 to 625. Hypothetically, a hole in the pavement on a busy street could get very full in a very short time. We are a small minority, but vociferous minorities have succeeded in obtaining legislation regarding the means by which foxes can be trapped, and about the type of trap into which a rabbit may put its foot.

Last summer I paid an involuntary visit to the bottom of a hole in the road. When I picked myself up, found my walking stick, climbed out, dusted my clothes, I had not got very far when I was overtaken, tapped on the shoulder and asked if I knew I had broken one of the lamps near the hole... It was a lovely Sunday morning; I was on my way to church where I tried to retrieve some of the grace lost en route.

The question I would like answered is— as the law does not hold anybody responsible if a blind man suffers an injury which could have been avoided if such person were sighted, can we be held responsible if we cause an accident to another person or person's property, such accident being entirely due to the fact that the blind person could not, due to his disability, possibly avoid such accident? e.g. If I fall down

a manhole and break the chap's neck who is working therein, can he or his relatives successfully sue me? Or suppose I get my stick entangled in the spokes of a cycle and knock the rider off? Or was I liable to replace that lamp? How can "all reasonable care to avoid the accident" be applied in a situation wherein a blind person has caused the mishap?

I also am very sceptical regarding the efficiency of any sonic aid to finding one's way about. While I do not criticise the intention, I feel a lot of time and money is being wasted on "perfecting" the present "torch" device. If I understand it, the principle on which it is meant to operate is that the torch emits a radar impulse which is reflected from an obstacle and such reflection is perceptible to the blind person. Assuming the impulse is transmitted on a very narrow beam at a fixed level and on a particular bearing, it will only reflect an obstruction at that level and on that bearing. It will not prevent a blind person from falling over a bicycle lying on the footpath, nor indicate a post directly in line with the opposite shoulder, nor give warning of overhanging wet branches, nor stop Tiny from banging his head on the supporting frame of a sun-blind. It could completely miss an obstacle set at an incline, such as a ladder. If the idea is that the blind person should sweep or scan the path of his approach, then I am afraid he will be at a permanent standstill waiting for an opening to allow him to proceed down the busy street.

N.B. I am *not* putting forward what follows as an approach to the subject, but if any sonic device is ever to be of any practical use it must reflect, simultaneously, obstacles in both the vertical and horizontal planes corresponding accurately to the height and width of the person using it. A triangle of points of emission and reception of impulses could be arranged—one on each toecap and the other in front of one's hat. It must not reflect objects further ahead than about two yards; it must equally reflect from animate and inanimate substances. Let me hasten to add that I would not walk down the High Street wired in this fashion lest someone ask me if I was looking for a meteor, which might bring me back to that lamp I broke earlier on.

Yours sincerely,

M. DELANEY, *Maidenhead.*

DEAR EDITOR,

### Coincidences

The initial landing of the Anzio Beach-head was on January 22nd, 1944. That day happened to be my birthday. During the campaign I was wounded in the back (my sight was not affected).

For final treatment to my back I was eventually flown to Sicily and during my stay in a hospital there, I was told there was a young sailor who had been blinded and had also lost a hand. One bright and sunny day I saw framed in a doorway the slim figure of a young man. As he stood there a large brightly coloured parrot flew from his shoulder to the wire mesh of a window. The young fellow did not seem to mind and eventually it flew back to him. I had often seen the usual casualties of war but never a man blinded.

The day came for me to return to my unit who were still at Anzio. My job was concerned with mines and bridges and one day while in a German minefield, I was blinded instantly by a schumine.

After being in hospital in Naples for about three months, I was returned to England and like so many of our St. Dunstaners I landed up at Stoke Mandeville. One day one of the fellows in the ward shouted, "I hear that Danny Gallagher is coming in today." The other chap bawled back, "Has he still got that old parrot with him?"

Now up to that moment I had completely forgotten that slim figure standing in the doorway in the hospital in Sicily but with the mention of the parrot, it all came back. I felt some sort of excitement. Danny arrived and was put in a bed at the top of the ward. One of the other fellows took me to him. We shook hands, I said my piece—"I actually saw you in Sicily when you had just been blinded." I asked him if he still had his parrot. He laughed like hell. Yes. Danny had been allowed to bring his parrot home with him.

I have always looked back on this with irony. Seeing Danny when he was blind in those circumstances and some time after, having the same thing happen to me, but of course, not losing a hand as Danny did.

Good luck Danny. Have you still got the parrot?

Yours sincerely,

G. BROOKS,  
Bedford.

### Reunions

The Windsor Reunion was held on Saturday, May 18th, at the White Hart Hotel as usual, and Sir Neville Pearson presided. Seventy-eight St. Dunstaners attended and the party totalled in all nearly 180 persons. After welcoming the guests, Sir Neville called upon Mr. G. D. Warden, of Southall, to propose a special vote of thanks to Miss M. E. Stevens, who retires on June 30th, and on behalf of the St. Dunstaners in her area, he handed her a cheque and an Imperial "Good Companion" typewriter bearing the following inscription:—

"Presented to Miss M. E. Stevens by her St. Dunstaner friends as a token of their gratitude for the years devoted to their welfare and with affectionate good wishes for her happiness in retirement.

January, 1946—June, 1963."

Mr. Ted Dudley, after seconding Mr. Warden's proposal, handed Miss Stevens a gift voucher for long-playing records on behalf of the Sutton Club. The social afternoon which followed was a very jolly affair indeed.

A party of thirty-six, fourteen of them St. Dunstaners, assembled for the Dublin Reunion on Saturday, May 25th, at the Shelbourne Hotel. Mr. Donald Hopewell presided and the guests included Captain T. McKeever, who spoke as Area President of the British Legion, and Miss K. Fegan, the Legion's local Administrative Officer. Mr. N. S. Macauley, looking very well, received a warm welcome from old friends.

The Reverend F. Darrell Bunt, accompanied by Mrs. Bunt, paid his first visit to Blackpool for many years on June 12th to be warmly received by our St. Dunstaners when he presided at the Reunion at the Savoy Hotel. The party of 106 included forty-six St. Dunstaners, and old friends present were Miss Doel, Miss Vaughan Davies and Mr. Buckley. Both Bill Christian and Harry Dakin were celebrating their birthdays and A. Brooks, H. Hitchen and J. Wood were attending their first Reunion as new St. Dunstaners.

Twenty-nine St. Dunstaners foregathered at the Grosvenor Hotel, Chester, on Friday, June 14th, to meet Sir Neville Pearson and members of the Headquarters and Technical staffs. It was a good Reunion and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable day, especially two new St. Dunstaners, Messrs.

W. Evans and S. Jacobs, who made many friends before they departed. Les Hoult, a St. Dunstaner from Australia, and Mrs. Hoult came from Birkenhead where they were spending a few days' holiday and renewed an old acquaintance with Mrs. Maureen Lees, besides meeting several St. Dunstaners of whom they had heard from mutual friends.

During his speech at the Reunion at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on Saturday, June 15th, at which he presided, Lord Fraser proposed a toast to Mr. and Mrs. A. Abram, who had celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary the day before. This was drunk with enthusiasm and musical honours. He also welcomed three newcomers to St. Dunstan's, Messrs. B. Lang, J. Robinson, and J. Westwell. Mr. and Mrs. E. Grant, of Glossop, were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. Retired members of staff who both received a warm welcome from their many friends were Miss Doel and Miss Vaughan Davies. The party totalled 118 and fifty St. Dunstaners were present.

★ ★ ★

Speaking at the Manchester Reunion, Lord Fraser said:

"It will be a surprise to many to know that men are still going blind today as a result of the First World War. Out of 55 new St. Dunstaners admitted during the year ended last March, 36 had lost their sight through service in the First War and 19 from the last war and campaigns since then.

"Why should this be? I asked our Pensions Department to inform me about these cases and I learned that of the First War men, sixteen were 'paired organ' cases. This means that one eye was a war casualty and the other eye went blind subsequently. St. Dunstan's was the first to recognise this situation and to give help, but I am glad to say that the Ministry of Pensions followed our example in this matter. Twenty-one cases were due to gradual deterioration of sight over the years, nine of them from the effects of mustard gas."

Lord Fraser's speech was later reported in the 8.30 p.m. News Bulletin on the Light Programme.

### Guest of the Week

Miss Frances Ramshaw was the Guest of the Week in "Woman's Hour" on the B.B.C. Light Programme on June 19th.

### Birmingham Club

Sunday, June 9th, was the annual outing of the Birmingham Club. This year Symonds Yat was voted our destination. At 9.30 a.m. the two coaches set out from the Red Cross headquarters in Highfield Road in brilliant sunshine. Making our way through Evesham, picking up Mr. and Mrs. Dennick, we carried on through the lovely countryside to Tewkesbury and along the Ross Spur. Arriving at Symond's Yat we made our way down to the river. Most of the party went for a trip up the river, the others sat on the grass enjoying the beautiful scenery and sunshine. At one o'clock lunch was served at the Paddocks Hotel, each one doing full justice to a three-course chicken dinner. After dinner we roamed through the fields some in search of a cuppa, others for souvenirs, then sitting on seats or the grass listening to the band provided by a Welsh coach party—which gave us an idea to take our own the next time. So if you can play any instruments, bring them along (no pianos, please:). At five o'clock, back to the Paddocks again for fresh salmon and salad tea. Then, boarding the coaches at six o'clock, we all agreed it had been a very enjoyable day in all ways.

Our thanks to Mr. Shakespeare, Miss Newbold, and all concerned, not forgetting the weather man, on whom everything depended.

E. VARLEY.

### Sutton Club Notes

Our intention to increase the membership at Sutton is gaining strength and we heartily welcome three new members to date. If you are interested in hearing of our functions or would like to join us, please write or ring me and I will willingly give you all the help I can.

It was with great regret that we said farewell to Miss Stevens, our President. We wish her a very long and happy retirement and hope she will be able to visit us from time to time.

*Bowls.* If there are any St. Dunstaners who would like to play bowls, the Committee would like to hear from you and to give you details of dates and times.

REG. NEWTON.

★ ★ ★

R. Finch, of Quinton, Birmingham, has been awarded an "A" Certificate of Merit in the National War Disabled Homecraft Competition held in London early in May.

### From All Quarters

F. le Gros Clark, of London, N.W.2, is the author of a recently published survey, "Women, Work, and Age" (Nuffield Foundation, 7s. 6d.), which was referred to in a leading article in the *Guardian* of June 5th. "Mr. le Gros Clark rightly prods the economists who are apt to class wives only as 'dependants' . . . and has done useful work in composing a careful picture of the middle-aged and elderly woman at work."

★ ★ ★

C. D. Parker, of Grantham, has been commissioned to make three large mats for Chandos House, a new Home being opened in Grantham as part of the town's quinquenary celebrations. The Queen Mother will visit Grantham on June 26th in this connection.

★ ★ ★

The *People's Journal* of Dundee has recently devoted six long articles covering six weeks to the life story of W. S. Scroggie, of Kirkton, Strathmartine, Dundee. Mr. Scroggie, of the Lovat Scouts, has had a life packed with interest and we hope to reprint some extracts from these articles in the next month or so.

### Family News

The sympathy of all her friends will go out to Mrs. John Boyd, of Brighton, in the sudden death in Australia, on May 21st, of her son, Brian, following so swiftly on the death of her husband in March.

★ ★ ★

Eight year old Heather Richardson, Peacehaven, has passed the Silver Medal examination (Old Time), and the Two Dance (Modern) Test at her dancing school. In the last she was commended too. She is now training to win her Gold Medal.

★ ★ ★

Michael McConnell, Bangor, Co. Down, has been selected to represent County Down at the World Scout Jamboree to be held in Greece in August.

★ ★ ★

Hilary Forster, Leeds, won an Honours Certificate for a Classical Ballet Solo and a Silver Medal for a Greek Dance (the latter with a friend in the Junior Duet Class).

### Great-Grandfather

A. J. Mitchell, of Hove.

### From Miss Mary E. Stevens

Dear St. Dunstaner Friends,

Those of you who were at Windsor Reunion last month will know of the gift which was presented to me then, and will have heard my words of thanks—all too inadequate to express my feelings for your wonderful generosity on my retirement. The Imperial Portable Typewriter given me then is quite a super model—and all but types on its own! The balance was given in the form of a cheque which I have put by to purchase a greenhouse when my future is a little more clear.

There is also a heart-warming inscription plate fixed to the typewriter giving my years of service also—and these years have gone much too quickly.

A person is very fortunate who finds a job which enables him or her to express through it one's philosophy of life, and I thank "the Divinity which shapes our ends" that He led me in a very marvellous way to this job in early 1946. These have been the happiest years of my life, and I would be a very sad person today were I not to know that the retired Staff are invited to future Reunions and I hope, therefore, to see many of you again at these functions.

At Windsor Reunion, too, I was given Record Tokens by the Sutton Club members and I would like to thank them for this much appreciated gift.

Also at Windsor Reunion, the "Kingston Coach" gave me a wonderful bouquet of flowers and I would like to thank them, too.

I have been able to see many of you to thank you, and have written to some of you, and hope eventually to write or see all the rest of you.

God bless you all and thank you once again for all your kindnesses to me through our years of friendship.

Yours very sincerely,

MARY E. STEVENS.

### Grandfathers

W. R. Freeman, of Widdersham; G. E. Jackson, of Bridlington (a grand-daughter); J. J. Laffey, of Bradford; H. J. Selby, of Patcham (a grand-daughter—his first little grand child died shortly after birth); R. Scrimgeour, of Middlesbrough; another grandson for M. Cook, of Mapperley, Nottingham; and another for W. T. Fitzgerald, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

### Birth

HARMER.—On May 21st, to the wife of A. J. Harmer, of Rubery, Worcestershire, a son—David Alan.

### Marriages

DONBAVAND—LOVE.—On April 20th, J. Donbavand, recently of Ovingdean, to Miss Elsie Edith Love. Mr. and Mrs. Donbavand will live at Swindon.

HARRIS—EVANS.—On May 14th, Peter Harris, for the past few years a resident at Ovingdean, to Miss Joy Evans. They are living at Slinfold, Sussex.

WILSON—FLETCHER.—H. J. Wilson, of Chesterfield, to Miss Kathleen Fletcher, on May 22nd.

### Deaths

Our deep sympathy is sent to the following:—

BAILEY.—To J. Bailey, of Guildford, Surrey, whose father died on Whit Monday, June 3rd, after a serious illness.

BENTON.—To E. W. Benton, of Altrincham, whose wife died in hospital on May 24th.

BURNETT.—To W. Burnett, of Maidstone, in the loss of his father in January. Mrs. Burnett lost her father only three months before, so they have been doubly bereaved.

EARNSHAW.—To H. Earnshaw, of Manchester, who lost his mother on May 29th.

HARDY.—To H. C. Hardy, of Fulham, a new St. Dunstaner, whose mother passed away on May 16th. She had lived with Mr. and Mrs. Hardy until her admittance to hospital a month or two ago.

McCHEYNE.—To Mr. and Mrs. S. McCheyne, of Peacehaven, in the loss of their daughter, Sylvia, on June 3rd. Sylvia, who was our St. Dunstaner's step-daughter and lived with them, died at the age of 22 after a serious illness.

MOTTERSHEAD.—T. J. Mottershead, of Manchester, in the loss of his mother on May 31st.

### Blind Children in the Emergent Countries

Vastly increased supplies of educational equipment are needed for the thousands of blind children in the emergent countries, 99 out of 100 of whom it is thought are not receiving any education at all. An appeal is being made by Mr. J. C. Colligan, Director General of the R.N.I.B., Mr. J. Wilson, Director of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, and Mr. E. H. Getliff, President of the International Conference of Educators of Blind Youth, for apparatus or equipment for this purpose.

Braille frames, pocket frames, styluses, mathematical equipment, or games, **provided they are complete and in working order**, are urgently needed. If there are any St. Dunstaners who have such apparatus or equipment which is either surplus to their requirements or for which they have no further use, they are asked to send them to the Royal National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1, clearly marking on the parcel the letters "E.C." The R.N.I.B., in conjunction with the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, will see to it that they are put to good use.

### "In Memory" *Continued from page 12*

#### Thomas Till, *Munitions Factory*

We have to record with deep regret the death at his home on Monday, June 3rd, of Thomas Till, of Lancaster. He was 78.

He lost his sight in the First World War whilst employed as a munition worker and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1918. He trained in joinery and became a first class craftsman, making articles for our Stores almost up to the time of his death. He was taken ill at the beginning of May and seemed to be recovering but he died unexpectedly.

He and Mrs. Till had celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary last year and our very deep sympathy is sent to his widow and her two daughters.

#### Private Lewis Williams, *King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*

It is with deep regret that we record the death on May 24th of Lewis Williams, of Pearson House. He was 67.

He served with the K.O.Y.L.I. from 1914 until 1917, being wounded on the Somme. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1928 where he trained in netting and basket-making, carrying on these crafts for some considerable time. Owing, however, to ill-health, he became a permanent resident at Pearson House in 1952. His death was sudden and unexpected.

To his widow and her family we send an expression of deep sympathy.

## “ In Memory ”

### Private Edwin David Bates, *Cheshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the sudden death at his home on May 17th of E. D. Bates, of Clacton-on-Sea. He was 67.

He served with his regiment from 1915 until 1920 and was wounded on the Somme but it was not until 1951 that he came to St. Dunstan's, where he trained as a basket maker and netter. He then continued to make baskets and nets for our Stores.

We send an expression of our deep sympathy to his widow and family

### Private Arthur Thomas Brooks, *9th East Surrey Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of Arthur T. Brooks, of Littlehampton, at the age of 65.

He served from May, 1916, until May, 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's immediately. He trained as a shorthand typist and took a post in a bank. He continued with this work until his retirement in 1956. Until then he had lived in Bournemouth but shortly after his retirement he moved to Littlehampton. He became ill about two years ago and for the past months he had been seriously ill. He died on May 28th.

He leaves a widow, four sons and three daughters, to whom our deep sympathy goes.

### Lance Corporal William Henry Hill, *13th Manchester Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death at the age of 80 of W. H. Hill, of Bedford Park, London, W.4.

His war service was from February, 1916, until December, 1917, when he came to St. Dunstan's. He trained as a telephonist and continued with this work in the north of England until his retirement in 1951. He then moved to the south, doing wool rugs and netting as a hobby. His health had begun to deteriorate in 1960 and he died on May 12th after a short illness.

We extend our deep sympathy to his widow and family

### Leading Aircraftman Llewellyn Jones, *Royal Air Force*

We have to record with deep regret the death in hospital on May 12th of Llewellyn Jones, of Barnsley, at the age of 62. He served in the Second War from 1941 until 1945, but came to St. Dunstan's as recently as last year. As he was in very poor health he was in hospital at the time of his admittance. His death nevertheless, was sudden and unexpected and to his widow and grown up family we send an expression of our very sincere sympathy.

### Private Michael Robert Keenan, *2nd Leinster Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of M. R. Keenan, a permanent resident at Pearson House. He was 62.

He enlisted as a boy of fifteen in 1915 and left the Army in 1919. He came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1920, when he trained as a boot repairer. He did not, however, carry on this trade very long and subsequently became a permanent resident at Pearson House, where he died on May 13th.

He had no known relatives.

### Private James McNamara, *Royal Irish Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of J. McNamara, of Wembley, at the age of 69.

He first enlisted in October 1910, and was called up at the outbreak of war in 1914. He left the Army in 1919 but did not come to St. Dunstan's until October, 1958, when his poor health and age ruled out any training. He did, however, make a number of visits to our Brighton Homes. He and his wife had suffered the great shock of the death of their only son in 1961.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. McNamara, who is herself in very poor health, and to their devoted adopted daughter.

### Corporal William Mitchell, *1/4 North Staffordshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of William Mitchell, of East Ham, within a month of his 74th birthday.

He, too, was an old soldier, having enlisted in February, 1909. He left the Army in 1916 and came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1918. He became a bootmaker and carried on this occupation until the Second War, when his home was bombed. After the war his health slowly deteriorated but his death came very suddenly on May 12th.

He leaves a widow and grown up family to whom our very deep sympathy is sent.

### Private Harold Payne, *2nd Royal Welsh Fusiliers*

We have to record with deep regret the death of Harold Payne, of Grangetown, Cardiff. He was 73.

His First War service was from December, 1916, until April, 1918, and he was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits in June, 1934. He trained in boot repairing and took a shop, and he continued with this work throughout his life, latterly being helped by his son. For the past two years he had been in poor health and in February last he became gravely ill. He died on May 23rd.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and her family. One son is in Tasmania.

(continued on previous page)