

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

1914

BY the time you read these words we shall be approaching August 4th, 1964, the 50th anniversary of the day when the Kaiser's War, or the Great War, broke out, and the face of Britain and of the world began to change.

Each of us will have his own recollection and I set down mine, not because it was important, but because it might evoke memories. I was just under 18 years of age and was staying with my uncle in Buckinghamshire, who was a famous breeder of racehorses. For those who know anything about racehorses I might mention that he bred Dark Ronald and Son-in-Law, two of the great sires whose blood still courses in the veins of the stayers of today.

We had no radio and when, therefore, we went to bed at midnight on August 3rd, we ordinary people did not know that we should wake up to find our country at war; how different now when the B.B.C. would have stayed awake to tell us.

At dawn some gravel was thrown at my window and I put my head out to see a local police inspector who said: "War has been declared. Will you wake up Mr. Donald Fraser and tell him please." I did this and within an hour my uncle and I and his stud groom were touring the immediate countryside stopping at each village and buying horses from the farmers for the cavalry, the yeomanry and the gunners. The police had already warned the farmers to bring out their horses for compulsory purchase, and my uncle opened his sealed black box in which was a Government cheque book. By breakfast we had bought 50 horses, paying for them on the spot, branding their hooves with a broad arrow and sending them off to the remount depots.

A glimpse of a different war where there was no radio and where men went to war with horses.

That war killed one million of the flower of our youth; perhaps it sowed the seeds of the next war which was to come 20 years later. What of the changes we older ones have seen? Much suffering at the time, and for widows and many wounded and disabled, a great new effort at rehabilitation in which St. Dunstan's played a notable part.

Most of all, perhaps, a tremendous change in British society, less privilege than in those days, more equality of opportunity and, in the last 20 years, the advent of the welfare and so-called affluent state.

We have a long way to go before we attain the classless society—if ever we do—but I doubt if any 50 years in history has seen such rapid changes in men's conditions and in men's minds.

Looking back I do not regret these changes but welcome them.

Donald McPhee

During the Second War a young lieutenant in the Fleet Air Arm walked into our house to greet us. His name was Malcolm McPhee and he was the son of Donald McPhee, who died the other day and to whom a tribute is paid on another page. This episode was typical of scores of cases from overseas which I call to mind.

All of us in St. Dunstan's who knew Donald McPhee, and a great many others besides in New Zealand, will mourn the loss of a notable St. Dunstaner and a good man.

Dangerous Pavements

Two St. Dunstaners have recently raised points which are of interest to us all.

In a letter to the Editor in May, P. Appleby, of Luton, referred to overhanging garden hedges which can cause discomfort, if not slight injury, to blind persons walking alone. He added: "There is some sort of law about cutting these hedges but it is very rarely enforced".

Appleby is right. Under the Highways Act, 1959-1961: "where any tree, hedge or shrub overhangs a highway or footpath so as to endanger or obstruct the passage of vehicles or pedestrians, the Local Authority may serve a notice on the owner or occupier of the premises requiring him within 14 days to prevent the obstruction or interference and in default, may carry out the work."

John Oriel, on another page of this month's Review, asks: "What is the law concerning the parking of motor vehicles on the sidewalk?"

Under the same Act, and possibly other older Acts, it is an offence to "wilfully cause an obstruction on a public footpath or public thoroughfare," and prosecutions for such obstructions can be taken by the police.

When I raised this matter in Parliament a year or so ago I asked the Minister whether additional powers were required to prevent people parking motor cars on the pavement, but the Minister said then that the police already had full powers to deal with these offenders.

There is a remedy, therefore, in the case of overhanging hedges and anyone who is inconvenienced by these at any time should notify the Local Authority concerned.

With regard to the parking of cars, we can only hope that the police will do their best to enforce the law, difficult though that may be in some areas. The police have always been our friends, and I am sure that they would co-operate wherever possible to see that our comfort and safety are not jeopardised.

As we go to press we have not yet heard the House of Lords judgment about the Haley case, but the correspondence in the Review on the subject during recent months and the letters from my two friends to which I have now referred, indicate a very healthy interest in getting about alone. I am glad to know from my correspondents, and from talking to St. Dunstaners, of the large number who walk alone, some going long distances to work, others for a short airing in the vicinity of their homes. Whichever it is, it shows a fine spirit of independence.

Many I think will agree with me that it is better to risk the hazards of the roads and the pavements than to sit in a chair and curse the darkness.

Television or Radio

On the evening of Saturday, June 27th, I noted that there were two plays—one on T.V., namely a Perry Mason play called "The Case of the Greek Goddess," and the other on the Home Service called "No Other Tiger."

I thought this was an opportunity for a comparison from the point of view of blind men's listening. Accordingly I listened to the Perry Mason play on television and recorded the other play on the radio and listened to it the next day.

I was more than ever impressed with the inadequacy of the T.V. sound track and the superiority of the radio play. The sound track was noisy. There were many gaps in it when no doubt the actors were miming or performing visual acts that meant something to the viewer but nothing to me. On the other hand, the radio play might have been designed for the blind because it was entirely an aural performance and all the gaps were filled in.

It may be that for family reasons or companionship, some blind people prefer to listen to T.V. plays or find it inconvenient to listen to radio. This must be a matter of personal choice, but I am quite sure that where possible the radio play is more suitable and enjoyable, at any rate for me.

Talking to the Deaf

George Fallowfield, well-known deaf St. Dunstaner, tells me how much he appreciated the fact that many of the staff and some St. Dunstaners have learned the manual alphabet which enables them to talk to their blind-deaf comrades and tell them the news and so on, but he asks if I can do anything to urge others to help.

I am sure we all have the utmost possible understanding of the isolation of a deaf-blind person. We have only to think for a moment of the pleasure which we ordinary blind persons get from listening to the wireless to appreciate how cut off our friends are.

If any St. Dunstaners at Brighton or who visit our Homes want to learn the manual alphabet, Matron Blackford would gladly arrange lessons. Matron tells me that the system is easy to learn, though of course it takes a good deal of practice to become skilful in using it.

Some of us are, I expect, a little shy and reserved in this matter—indeed, I have to confess that I am myself. However, Fallowfield's appeal makes me feel deeply that those of us who can spare the time should do what we can in this matter and I have no doubt that in addition to helping a deaf-blind St. Dunstaner, we will find the practice an interesting one as well.

FRASER.

Sutton Club Notes

Our doors are open to all St. Dunstaners and their wives, and we extend a hearty welcome to all, and any views you may have on bettering the Club's programme.

Do not sit at home because you think your particular interests are not held here. Come along and tell us so and we will do all in our power to see that your interests are taken up if they are in the favour of the majority.

We welcome Mr. and Mrs. W. Dudley as new members. They come from Horley, Surrey. Also we were very pleased to see Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons, of Redhill, whom we hope will come again and join us as members.

Among new ventures being tried out is a monthly Chess session and, even if you cannot play, we are willing to give you instruction on the game. This could be followed up by the very enjoyable Chess Weekend at Ovingdean each November. If you are interested ring Ted Dudley at Croydon 0596, or myself at Redhill 4254, evening please.

REG NEWTON.

Walking

One of the best remedies against stagnation is Walking. You do NOT have to be a fast walker, but the spirit that you find among our walkers is as good as a visit to

the doctor and better. We meet and make many friends at our Walks, and you would very soon be at home. If you think it will make you tired, you can take my word for it that it does just the opposite.

If you are interested please write or phone Mrs. Spurway, The Vicarage, Holmwood, Surrey, (Dorking 73191), or Robert Young, (Dorking 73140), for details of our next walk.

REG NEWTON.

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The Highgate Harriers Walk will take place on Saturday, September 26th.

Archie Brown Memorial Cup

The Archie Brown Memorial Cup, awarded for the best aggregate points for the walking season, has been won by Ray Benson, with 58 points. Sixteen walkers took part. The runner-up was R. Young with 51 points.

Five Mile Walk

The winner of the 5-mile Walk (Handicap) at Ewell, on June 27th, was R. Young, whose actual time was 53 minutes 4 seconds. Ray Benson was runner-up and R. Newton was third. The fastest loser was R. Mendham in 45.20.

Sports Weekend at Ovingdean

June 19th-21st, 1964

Although our sporting St. Dunstaners were at first slow to respond to our invitation to join us in a trial Sports Weekend at Ovingdean, we started the weekend with a splendid entry of 27 keen types.

From letters received, there is no doubt that the weekend gave great interest and pleasure to all who took part. We, here, were very impressed with the enthusiasm of all the competitors, particularly our more disabled St. Dunstaners. Some excellent results were achieved in the various events and we print the full results below.

I should like to thank Mr. Jarrold for generally organising the weekend and Miss Guilbert who dealt with all the correspondence and other paper work. We are also indebted to Brighton College and pupils for use of the pool, Brighton and Hove Stadium for the Walk, Rank Ten Pin Bowling, A.A.A. Judges and Timekeepers, and our many friends who acted as walk-escorts, braille transcribers, etc. We made more friends, too, amongst the Brighton and District Group of the Institute of Advanced Motorists who, through their Secretary, Mr. C. Wingate, organised the very novel Braille Rally and gave us a strawberry tea after an anxious dotty afternoon!

The things I heard during the Weekend:

Shooting	"That's the second shot into the extractor fan."
Walking	"They have greyhound racing on this track, too." "I know, I've just lapped the hare twice."
Swimming	"Who is that handsome man in the topless swimsuit?"
Ten Pin	"Jack! I've bowled an attendant over three times—how many do I get for that?"
Braille Rally	"Matron says she had a 'fast' driver!"

COMMANDANT.

Sports Weekend Results

- RIFLE COMPETITION** (Friday, 19th June, 1964) *No. of Competitors—17*
1st, W. Thomas (67); 2nd, S. Spence (66); 3rd, W. Griffiths (65).
The above scores were out of a possible 100 with 10 Shots.
- THREE MILE WALK** (Saturday, 20th June, 1964) *No. of Competitors—17*
1st, M. Burns (T.B.); 2nd, R. Newton (S.S.); 3rd, C. Williamson (T.B.).
A special award for style was made by the A.A.A. Judges to C. Williamson.
- FIELD SPORTS EVENTS** (Saturday, 20th June, 1964)
 - 70 yards Running. Totally Blind—1st, C. Williamson (11.4 secs.); 2nd, R. Goding (11.5 secs.).
Semi-Sighted—1st, F. Barratt and W. Bray (9.6 secs.); 2nd, W. Miller (10.2 secs.).
 - Throwing the Medicine Ball. 1st, W. Bray (S.S.), 36ft.; 2nd, F. Barratt (S.S.), 35ft. 6in.
 - Standing Long Jump (19 Competitors). 1st, C. Williamson (T.B.), 6ft. 11in.; 2nd, M. Tetley (T.B.), 6ft. 10in.
 - Sack Race. 1st, F. Barratt (S.S.); 2nd, C. Williamson (T.B.).
 - Guessing Weight. 1st, R. Hyett (96). Actual Weight, 96½.
 - Guessing Money. 1st, R. Mendham (£1 12s. 4d.). Actual amount, £1 12s. 11d.
 - Darts Score (T.B.). 1st, R. Goding (88).
 - Darts Score (S.S.). 1st, R. Mendham (92).
 - Treasure Hunt. J. Wright.
 - Ladies Shoe Race. 1st, Mrs. W. Griffiths.
- TEN PIN BOWLING** (Saturday, 20th June, 1964) *No. of Competitors—13*
1st, G. Brooks (T.B.); 2nd, R. Mendham (S.S.); 3rd, J. Padley (S.S.).
- SWIMMING** *No. of Competitors—14*
1st, M. Tetley (T.B.), time 18.7; 2nd, G. Brooks (T.B.), time 22.4.
Double Handicapped. 1st, W. Griffiths, width 12.3; 2nd, R. Hyett, width 25.
- BRAILLE CAR RALLY** (Sunday, 21st June) *No. of Competitors—15*
1st, J. Whitcombe (T.B.); 2nd, R. Goding (T.B.); 3rd, F. Ripley (T.B.).

THREE MILE WALK

No.	Name	Handicap	Result	Actual Time
1	Cookson, E.	go.	37.50.4	37.50.4
2	Proffitt, E.	-30	37.42	36.34.2
3	Newton, R.	1.5	35.40.6	34.35.6
4	Wright, J.	2.00	37.50.8	35.50.8
5	Burns, M.	2.15	35.37.6	33.22.6
6	Kingsnorth, M.	4.5	44.59.6	40.54.6
7	Howes, F.	4.5	37.56.8	33.51.8
8	Griffiths, W.	4.5	43.37.6	39.32.6
9	Watkins, D.	4.5	Retired	
10	Young, R.	4.5	37.24.2	33.32.6
11	Tutton, S.	4.30	38.14	33.44
12	Benson, R.	4.40	37.40	33
13	Tetley, M.	4.40	37.22.4	32.42.4
14	Williamson, C.	7.50	36.53.4	29.3.4
15	Miller, W.	9.35	37.27.4	27.49.4
16	Mendham, R.	10.5	40.4	29.59
17	Barratt, F.	4.35	39.48.2	35.13.2

70 YARDS RUNNING

Name	Actual Time	Name	Actual Time
Barratt, F.	9.6	Miller, W.	10.2
Benson, R.	13.0	Padley, J.	12.5
Bray, W.	9.6	Tetley, M.	12.0
Bird, Le Roy	10.5	Tutton, S.	18.2
Burns, M.	12.1	Whitcombe, J.	14.8
Griffiths, W.	13.2	Williamson, C.	11.4
Goding, R.	11.5	Wright, J.	14.2
Howes, F.	14.5		
Hewitt, G.	9.8		
Mendham, R.	10.5		

RESULT:
Semi-Sighted: 1st, Barratt and Bray
Totally Blind: 1st, C. Williamson

LONG JUMP

(In order of Jumping)

Name	Distance	Name	Distance
Burns, M.	6ft. 7½in.	Hewitt, G.	5ft. 1in.
Young, R.	4ft. 4½in.	Bray, W.	6ft. 4½in.
Howes, F.	3ft. 11in.	Cookson, E.	4ft. 0in.
Barratt, F.	6ft. 5in.	Tutton, S.	5ft. 8in.
Heys, S.	3ft. 6in.	Thomas, W.	5ft. 2in.
Griffiths, W.	5ft. 9in.	Wright, J.	5ft. 0in.
Williamson, C.	6ft. 11in.	Mendham, R.	6ft. 3in.
Padley, J.	6ft. 1½in.	Proffitt, E.	4ft. 3in.
Benson, R.	6ft. 2in.		
Goding, R.	4ft. 7½in.		
Tetley, M.	6ft. 10in.		

RESULT:
1st, C. Williamson (T.B.), 6ft. 11in.
2nd, M. Tetley (T.B.), 6ft. 10in.

BRAILLE RALLY RESULTS

	Navigators	Drivers	Penalty Marks
1.	Mr. J. Whitcomb	Mr. M. Spratt	20
2.	Mr. R. Goding	Mr. J. Wallace	50
3.	Mr. F. Ripley	Mr. L. Booth	60
4.	Mr. R. Young	Mr. L. Hose	110
5.	Mr. E. Cookson	Mr. D. Taverner	120
6.	Mr. W. Thomas	Mr. B. Denney	130
7.	Mr. G. Brooks	Mr. J. Banks	160
8.	Mr. M. Burns	Mr. E. Babler	350
9.	Mr. J. Mudge	Mr. F. Gander	360
10.	Mr. C. Williamson	Mr. C. Bristow	380
11.	Mr. P. Bagwell	Mr. G. Pinker	420
12.	Mr. J. Wright	Mr. C. Cooper	460
13.	Matron	Mr. J. Martin	470
14.	Mr. M. Tetley	Lt.-Col. T. Prince	580
15.	Mr. S. Spence	Mrs. P. M. Brill	610

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Very interesting information has been given, by Lord Fraser, on the hazards we may expect when holes temporarily opened up on "sidewalks" are only reasonably protected against normally sighted people. He has made the law on this matter clear.

I should now like to ask him what is the law concerning the parking of motor vehicles on the "sidewalk"? I have walked into such vehicles on two occasions, once into a motor car and once into a motor cycle. Fortunately, I have not been injured except for slight bruises but my confidence in walking abroad has been considerably undermined.

Yours faithfully,

J. A. ORIEL,
Banbury.

DEAR EDITOR,

Is it not possible beforehand to circulate to those who have signified their intention of being present at a reunion the list of all those who will be present? This would enable a more leisurely study of the list to be made.

This leads in to my second point; i.e. that some means should be available for enabling friends to find each other in the general *melée*. During the meal, unless lists are circulated beforehand, one cannot chat with friends. During the dance men cannot describe to their wives and escorts the person whom they wish to meet again and the named lapel labels do not easily enable even escorts and wives to pick out the St. Dunstaner with whom one would like a word. I suggest that if at the reunion a room is made available for such encounters, one could be taken there to cool off after jiving and chat merrily away without being elbowed in the back at the edge of the dance floor.

Alternatively, messages could be passed through a loud-speaker at the request of St. Dunstan's men, that, for example, Bob F. would like a chat with Tom D.

Yours sincerely,

BOB FULLARD,
London, S.W.16.

Mr. C. D. Wills, Welfare Superintendent, writes:—

"It would not be a practical proposition to despatch lists of people attending the

Reunions to them in advance in view of the fact that so many alterations occur to the lists beforehand, they can only be duplicated at the last moment.

"In any case, it would not materially affect the ability of a St. Dunstaner to find his friends at a Reunion and, of course, a copy of the list is always handed to each man as he arrives. Members of the staff are circulating amongst the St. Dunstaners present the whole time, and part of their duties is to bring St. Dunstaners together. A message can, of course, always be broadcast over the loudspeaker system.

"Wherever possible we do arrange for a private room to be available for interviews between staff and St. Dunstaners and there is no reason why it should not also be used by any St. Dunstaner who wants a quiet talk with an old friend."

DEAR EDITOR,

The blind man and his cheque book. How does he fill in a cheque and sign it?

An idea occurred to me recently, and although not entirely new, I do not think it has been used before in connection with the filling in of cheques.

The idea is for a "gate card" or "window card" which could be placed over the appropriate cheque when it becomes necessary for a blind person to make one out. Thin cardboard, plastic, or even metal foil (for a more permanent job) could be used. About five windows would be needed, as follows: DATE PAYEE WORDS FIGURES SIGNATURE.

A further advantage would be for the necessary headings to be brailled (abbreviations) at the relevant windows. If the idea proved successful, supplies of these cards could be sent to banks, or they might even be incorporated into the cheque book at the binding stage. These books could then be issued to bank customers who are blind persons.

It would be interesting to know if other St. Dunstaners have met with this difficulty or if anyone has his own particular method. The card could provide us with yet another way of becoming more independent, one more job we can do for ourselves.

Yours sincerely,

F. SUNDERLAND,
Greenford, Middlesex.

Reunions

The DUBLIN Reunion was held at the Shelbourne Hotel on Saturday, 30th May, and attended by 15 St. Dunstaners from all parts of the Emerald Isle. Lord Fraser, accompanied by Lady Fraser, presided, and Wing Commander Keelan, a representative from the British Legion, was also present. Mr. W. Rutledge, of Belfast, proposed a warm vote of thanks on behalf of his fellow members. This small, but entertaining gathering, was followed on Saturday, 6th June, by the largest BRIGHTON Reunion on record, when 141 St. Dunstaners assembled at the Hotel Metropole. Lord Fraser, accompanied by Lady Fraser, presided here also, and the guests included the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton, Councillor and Mrs. W. H. Clout, the Deputy Chief Constable, Chief Superintendent Beard, and representatives from Southdown Motors, the Brighton, Hove and District Omnibus Company, and the Grocers' Association, who do so much for St. Dunstaners in Brighton. The staff from Headquarters and Ovingdean was well represented and many retired members of staff were present too.

Colonel Mike Ansell presided at the NEWCASTLE Reunion on Tuesday, 9th June, at the Royal Station Hotel, and 24 St. Dunstaners assembled for this jolly gathering of Geordies. The EDINBURGH Reunion, which was held at the Roxburghe Hotel on Thursday, 11th June, attracted 12 St. Dunstaners from many parts of Scotland. Distance is no obstacle to our hardy Scots and Mr. W. Mackay had a 12-hour journey from Castletown, almost as far north as one can go in Scotland. Mr. Donald Hopewell presided at this get-together, and also at the LEEDS Reunion on Saturday, 13th June, which was held at the Metropole Hotel again this year. Here 56 St. Dunstaners had a grand time together, and there must have been many husky throats the next day!

There was a good attendance of First War St. Dunstaners, looking bronzed and fit, at the Great White Horse Hotel, IPSWICH, on Wednesday, 24th June, when 29 of them, with 13 fellows from the Second War, assembled for the Reunion presided over by Sir Neville Pearson, whose speech after lunch drew many hearty laughs. Sir Neville also presided at the Reunion on Friday, 26th June, at the

DEAR EDITOR,

I expect you will be inundated with correspondence from all quarters about the Sports Weekend at Ovingdean. I would like to be one tiny ripple of this flood to express my very great pleasure in attending this function. Through the REVIEW I would like to congratulate the Commandant and Matron for their superb organisation and particularly for creating such a happy atmosphere. It was a true reflection of Church Stretton days.

A new way to apply Braille has provided an interesting and exciting outlet for expression. I refer to the Rally run efficiently with the co-operation of the Commandant and Staff by the Sussex Association of Advanced Drivers. I know I speak for all who took part in this and the Sports Weekend in general, that I hope it will be repeated next year definitely.

I am really at a loss to convey my enjoyment of the whole affair and the happy atmosphere that brought back the long-lost feeling of *esprit-de-corps*. Let what I have not said be eloquent and in conclusion, may I commend to the Chairman that it was due entirely, I am sure, to the co-operation of the Commandant, Matron and Staff at Ovingdean. I advise all St. Dunstaners to make this a date for next year.

Yours sincerely,

STEWART SPENCE,
Hillingdon.

Golden Wedding

Warmest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Garbutt, of Stockton-on-Tees, who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on July 9th.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Harmsworth, of Oxford, May 27th. Congratulations to them.

Grandfathers

E. R. Jenson, of Wembley, who, at the age of 44, must be one of our youngest grandfathers; R. Britton, of Blackburn (Marion had a daughter on June 28th); R. Stone, of Herne Bay; L. Scales, of Wallington (Barbara's second child was born on April 30th—a daughter); J. Newton, of Southport (for the second time); F. Cunliffe, of Rufford, (for the fifth time); A. Ward Smith, of Hailsham (the eighth grandchild).

Victoria Hotel, NOTTINGHAM, where again 29 St. Dunstaners from the First War, but only nine from the Second, assembled for a very happy party.

The BIRMINGHAM Reunion on Saturday, 27th June, in the Queen's Hotel, at which Mr. Donald Hopewell presided, attracted 39 Second War and 24 First War St. Dunstaners and provided a contrast to the previous Reunions that week. It was a very gay affair and everyone was particularly pleased to see Miss M. K. Wilson looking very well indeed.

The LONDON Reunion was held this year as a luncheon party at the Hotel Russell on Saturday, 11th July, and 103 St. Dunstaners were present, including a number who normally attend a Reunion at Luton or Welwyn. Lord Fraser, accompanied by Lady Fraser, presided, and many guests and staff from Headquarters were present. Speaking at the Reunion, Lord Fraser said: "I urge all St. Dunstaners to read the St. Dunstan's 'Review' in braille, or to ask their wives to read it in print. Every now and then St. Dunstaners ask us why they have not been informed about something or other and only the other day we had such an enquiry about a matter which had been notified twice, two months running, in the 'Review.' There are often matters of great interest and advantage which are mentioned in the magazine."

Lord Fraser added that he had learned that 45% of St. Dunstaners had entered for the Derby Sweepstake, the first prize for which was £200 12s. 6d. Thus it was obvious that some aspects of the "Review" are read, but he urged St. Dunstaners and their wives to look through the other pages.

It was a very successful occasion, and during tea Lady Fraser presented a large number of prizes for the draw, and was in turn presented with a beautiful bouquet of pink roses by Mrs. H. Foster on behalf of all present.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. H. M. Steel.

"Big John"

Jan Lasowski ("Big John") who now lives at Crepy en Valois, France, wishes to be remembered to his friends at St. Dunstan's.

Wanted

SMALL 44 ROUND PEG FRAME. Willing to purchase. M. H. Albertella, St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, Brighton.

Staff Retirements

Mr. W. A. Game, Superintendent and Technical Visitor, Mat Department, leaves St. Dunstan's this month after 44 years' service, during which time he has become the firm friend of all our mat-makers.

Mr. Game joined St. Dunstan's in May, 1920, as Assistant Storekeeper and Mat Instructor, under the late Mr. W. Osborne, whom he succeeded as head of the Mat Department in 1936; more recently he had been doing technical visiting as well. Both at Raglan Street and, latterly, at Headquarters, his quiet, kind personality has won him many friends among the members of the staff.

★ ★ ★

Also retiring shortly is Mr. L. A. Ovenden who came to St. Dunstan's Accounts Department in June, 1922, as Cashier. He, too, was for some years at Raglan Street and since 1949 has been Industrial (Shops) Accountant at Headquarters.

All St. Dunstaners will join with us in wishing Mr. Game and Mr. Ovenden the very best of luck in the years to come.

From Miss Webster

DEAR FRIENDS,

Now that I am a "lady of leisure" drawing the retirement pension, it is my great pleasure to send this note to the REVIEW to tell you all how truly I appreciate all the affection, good wishes and most generous gifts which you have showered upon me on the occasion of my retirement. The beautiful silver candlesticks adorn my bureau and the volumes of the Encyclopaedia are on the book shelves in the study, so I am constantly reminded of all my very good St. Dunstan's friends.

As I told those of you who were able to attend the Bournemouth and Exeter Reunions, your friendship has given me the best years of my life. Now that the time has come to leave you I can say with all sincerity that the work has brought deep and abiding joy.

I will not say "goodbye" for I look forward to seeing you at Reunions, and there will always be a very warm welcome for any of you who can manage to call at Mead Cottage.

Your sincere friend,
LETTIE D. WEBSTER.

St. Dunstaner's Fine Welfare Work

Roy Armstrong, of Walthamstow, who by occupation is a capstan lathe operator, has a most rewarding spare-time activity. He and Mrs. Armstrong are members of the Salvation Army and Roy is in complete charge of the Salvation Army Junior and Senior Youth Clubs in Walthamstow, being only answerable to the S.A. Officer for the district and the National Youth Organizer and Secretary. Mrs. Armstrong fills her spare time with service for others in the Over-Sixties Club.

We thought Roy's work so interesting that we invited him to tell us about it for the benefit of other St. Dunstaners, and this is what he wrote:

"The Youth Club for which I am responsible is of the type called an 'Open Club.' This is the general trend of clubs today. This means that it is an open club to all young people, irrespective of colour, race, creed, etc. It is a club with no strings attached whatsoever. We do *not* say its members must go to church and such-like, although we do have a Five Minute Non-denominational Epilogue which they are asked to respect and honour with their presence.

"The system that I am operating at present is in a very experimental stage. I have three halls that we use, plus another if I need it, also a room and a kitchen. I try to put a Leader in charge of each complete Hall with two or three of the older Club members to help them run the various activities, and to keep law and order within the Club itself. I act as the main nerve centre to deal with all the on-the-spot problems, meet new members, mix and get to know the other members better. It is a recognized thing in youth work that before you can really get on terms with young people, you must visit their homes, meet their parents and understand their home life and their background. All these things I cannot carry out to anywhere the degree that I feel is necessary, but it is the ultimate aim, and you will see that I just have not even the time to get bored or fed up with life. There are not just enough hours in the day! In return for the help that the older members give me, they get quite a number of concessions.

"I have devised a questionnaire to find out the interests of the members and if you study that list you will see where St. Dunstaners could really come into their own. Good leaders and instructors are worth their weight in gold. Now just look at the things that most St. Dunstaners have had expert instruction in—basketry, woodwork, weaving, rug making—and so we could go on. How many clubs would not give their right arm for a physiotherapist—what an asset to the outside sports activities on the list—swimming, football, cricket, netball, tennis, etc. All the things mentioned above need organisers to arrange fixtures, inter-club competitions, internal club tournaments, etc. Even things like helping to run the Club Library, or the Quiet Room with its draughts, chess, dominoes, etc., to be looked after, especially if the St. Dunstaner has a little knowledge of the game and takes his braille set with him and gives a little instruction. There's nothing the kids like better than to play their Leaders, especially if they know the Leader is a good player and they happen to beat him!

"Another thing that has to be organized are Club Quizzes, panel games, mock trials and so on. A tape recorder can be a great asset here.

"Lots of clubs run various classes on different subjects. There are quite a lot at my club who would like to learn typing. We at St. Dunstan's were taught to type by a blind person and the touch typist is the best at it they tell me.

"Many of the things I have mentioned could also be done by the wives, plus other things like dressmaking, cookery, etc. One of the hardest positions to fill is on the canteen staff.

"I have had over a hundred children turn up at the junior club before now, and you just cannot have enough helpers with that kind of figure. I hate having to turn young people away but without the helpers there seems to be no other solution. The one thing I have learned since I started this work is that everyone of these young people is an individual in himself; each has a character of his own; and they are all different. Each is as important as the other and in each one there is something to be learnt. The deeper that we delve the more good we can find. It is this that makes it all so worthwhile.

"How to get in touch with a local Club? The local Youth Officer or the local Education Officer will suggest one or two clubs in the district, or will refer you to a local organisation. The local authorities also run some very good courses for potential Youth Club leaders. And if you are not sure you could manage a course of this nature, then again the local Youth Officer will help you.

"If I can help anyone in any way or at any time, or able to advise on any matter, I will be only too willing to do all that I can.

"Lastly, I must just add this. Never in all my life have I had so many friends and never has the time gone by so quickly as since I met up with the Salvation Army and youth work."

ROY W. ARMSTRONG.

The Over Sixties Club

Mrs. Roy Armstrong, too, sometimes finds that 24 hours per day are insufficient for the work she wants to do. She is just an ordinary housewife with the many calls upon her time in the everyday household duties, but she finds time for service among the old folk at the Salvation Army Over-Sixties Club which has over 200 members. With the Secretary of the Club she visits those who are sick in their homes or in hospital, she follows up absentees to find out if they need help. There are outings to arrange, factory visits to be organised, other places of interest to see. As Mrs. Armstrong says, "It gives them something to look forward to. So many of these old folks would not see the other side of their street if it were not for our organisation arranging for them to spend holidays at reduced rates."

Mrs. Armstrong adds: "So to the people who are bored I would say—just look around you. Maybe in your street there are some old folk who never get out, who perhaps are so alone that a few words from you would cheer them up and, of course, if you could make it a weekly visit, something for them to look forward to, you yourself will find the greatest joy in knowing that you are giving a helping hand."

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A poem, "Were I so Blind", by Edward C. Slaughter, was published in "The Field" of May 28th.

From All Quarters

E. Jenkins, of Ferring-on-Sea won First Prize in the Cane Work Class in the Handicraft Exhibition organised by the West Sussex Association for the Blind.

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Maureen Lees tells us that her next Exhibition at Hesketh Hall, to show the work of blind and handicapped people, will be held from Thursday, October 22nd until Saturday, the 25th.

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Jimmy Wright, whom St. Dunstaners from Church Stretton will remember, and who is now head of a film company, has won two awards with one of his advertising films at the "Television Mail" Award Festival and at the Venice International Film Festival.

"The Yorkshire Stingo"

Yet another link with 19th century London will be lost when the "Yorkshire Stingo" in Marylebone Road is demolished later this year to make way for road widening. New buildings are already creeping up on it.

Shilibeer's omnibus, the first of its kind, began to run from the Stingo via Islington to the Bank in 1829. The fare for the full journey in the three horse van was 1s., and 6d. as far as Islington.

The present buildings are on the site of a tavern which, through the enterprise of an actor-composer, George Hodson, became a music-hall centre. One singer, Robert Glindon, had much success with his ballads "The Literary Dustman" and "Biddy the Basket Woman".

Peterborough in the "Daily Telegraph".

To Guide Dog Owners

Our St. Dunstaner's widow, Mrs. E. Grant, of Littlehampton, has a dog basket which she would like to give away to a St. Dunstaner's guide dog. Its inside measurements are 21 inches across the bottom and 25 inches across the top, and it would be suitable for a labrador or collie. Their own Alsatian tried it, and found it wasn't big enough for her.

If any St. Dunstaner is interested, Mrs. Grant would like them to call and see it. Her address is 26 Meadow Way, Littlehampton, Sussex.

Studying Retirements

By F. LE GROS CLARK

In the June issue of the REVIEW the Chairman mentioned a proposal that those of us who are of a suitable age might jointly discuss questions of retirement and how to prepare for it. Because he knew of my interest in the subject generally, he suggested that I should start this off. It was to be a contribution made by St. Dunstaners towards the welfare of the whole community including, of course, sighted people. That is my own idea of what it should be. But one can also say that just as men of the First World War have had a chance of assisting by their experience those of the Second, so some considered views about retirement may be useful to others in the future.

I began by consulting a number of St. Dunstaners of about my own age. How should such an inquiry be carried out? It seemed clear that we ought to omit financial questions, unless, of course, anyone wished particularly to discuss them. Most of us probably know sighted people who find this aspect of being retired a special worry to them; and I suppose we all have our personal opinions about the adequacy of otherwise of the State pension. But it will perhaps be better to concentrate entirely upon the question—how one is to get in retirement as full and active a life as possible?

There are, however, other matters we might consider. I have often asked myself whether Local Councils might not do more to enable retired men to pursue their various interests, hobbies, social or welfare activities, and so on. This is where some constructive imagination could be very useful; and if such imagination is needed, I do not see why we should not supply it. It could help eventually to influence and shape future policy. After all, there are now several million retired men in the country, and a good number of them are obviously still fit and vigorous. That is likely always to be the case, especially as medical and health services improve.

But I will not anticipate what other St. Dunstaners may have to say on this and similar questions. That, of course, is what we should want to find out.

I think the aim should be that of gradually

collecting opinions and some facts. One would then try to arrange them in such a way as to represent the combined views on the subject. There will, no doubt, be a few differences of opinion and experience, and these will have to be allowed for. Part of this can be done in correspondence. But obviously it will all take time.

This is not to be an account of the lives of individual St. Dunstaners, interesting as they are. Neither is it to be concerned with our individual private affairs. But you will agree that what we need are personal experiences. In other words, we should want to learn of points of view that are derived after careful reflection from each man's personal recollection.

It will be good if a short report of progress can be published from time to time in the REVIEW. This preliminary note attempts to set the scene in a few words, following as they do the Chairman's original announcement.

Cardiff Club Notes

A meeting of the Cardiff Club was held today in the headquarters of the British Legion.

The room allocated to us for holding our meetings in are at the top of two flights of stairs. Most members are of the first war, and as age creeps on they find it very hard to climb, and so we have for some time been trying to find somewhere on, or near to, the ground floor. The Cardiff R.N.I.B., 20 Newport Road, have kindly offered us a room on the first floor, with a lift, which has been gratefully accepted by our Members, and we will henceforth hold our Club there. For next month's meeting a slight departure from the usual date, it will be the second Saturday, which is the 8th of the month, instead of the first. All at today's meeting were in favour of the change-over, and so settled down to their games of dominoes and cards which they always enjoy, and so on to tea, and the usual chat on holidays at Brighton, etc., and finishing up with several games of Bingo to swell our outing funds.

A. C. EVANS,
Secretary.

As in past years there will be no "Review" for the month of August.

Miss H. L. Dodd

On Thursday evening, July 2nd, a presentation was made to Miss H. L. Dodd who resigned from her post of Welfare Visitor (London) at the end of last year. In the presence of Mr. Wills, Miss Rogers, Miss Midgley and a number of St. Dunstaners, Mr. J. Murray, of Wood Green, with some well-chosen words, presented to Miss Dodds a gold wrist watch which was inscribed: "To Miss H. L. Dodd, from her St. Dunstaner friends, April, 1964."

Miss Dodd, replying, expressed her deep appreciation of this gift. She had much enjoyed the six and a half years in which she had worked as St. Dunstan's Visitor for the London area she said, and she was looking forward to the London Reunion when she hoped to meet many of her old friends.

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To St. Dunstaners—London Area

Thank you all very much for my beautiful gold wrist-watch. I shall treasure it greatly. It will be on my wrist and in constant use—reminding me always of my six and a half happy years of visiting you and your families in your homes. I often think of you all.

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity. With all good wishes for your health and happiness,

H. L. DODD.

Family News

Mrs. Muriel Ellis, wife of Hugh Ellis, has been elected again, with increased votes, to serve another three years on the West Mersea Urban District Council. Mrs. Ellis is also on the Education Committee and the Water Board.

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The daughter and son-in-law of J. Halsall, of Southport, have been accepted as houseparents by Dr. Barnardo's Homes. They will have charge of eight children in one of the Society's Homes in Barking-side Village. They already have a baby daughter of their own.

Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Neil Swanston, Edinburgh, on June 6th, to Miss Leila Lisbeth Milne.

Iris Tutton, West Hounslow, was married on July 11th.

Terry Roden

Tommy Rogers writes:—

"Those who live longest lose most. Sadly, this thought became uppermost in my mind when I learned of the death of my old friend, Terry Roden: another of those St. Dunstaners who, by the shining light of good example, have contributed so much to the prestige of our community. Terry was an optimist who found his interpretation for the meaning of life in service, service to others, and whether it took the form of financial or physical help, gave to the limit of his capacity. He was never happier than performing a service for someone else: even in the face of personal danger, his first thought was for others. I remember when returning from a Mediterranean cruise, at about two a.m. and in thick fog, a French freighter rammed our boat, the *Doric*, and damaged her so seriously that the order 'Abandon Ship' was given. We managed to get away in a life boat and when the sailor in charge called for volunteers to row, Terry was the first to respond; whilst performing this service a girl was horribly sick into his lap, but his only concern was to reassure the unfortunate girl and tell her not to let it worry her. Later we were taken off by the *Orion*.

"Terry was one of the most unselfish men it has been my good fortune to meet. During the whole of our acquaintance I never knew him, when staying at any of our hostels, to go out without first enquiring if anybody wanted a walk; his bit of vision was at the disposal of anyone who wished to use it. I was his close friend for many years and know of many gifts he made in money and kind to various charitable organisations, they and we are the poorer for his passing. If I were asked to write his epitaph, it would be, 'He doubled his pleasures by sharing them with others.'"

Mr. Cyril Stokes

St. Dunstan's bridge players will be deeply sorry to learn of the death on June 4th of Mr. Cyril Stokes who, for many years, assisted Mr. Alf Field in the organisation and running of the Ovingdean Bridge Congress. He was also well-known at the Bridge Drives at Headquarters.

The Bridge Club was represented at the funeral service on June 9th by Paul Nuyens.

Births

KIRKBY.—On July 4th, to the wife of J. Kirkby, of Wallasey, Cheshire, a daughter.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy is sent to the following:

COUPE.—To H. D. Coupe, of Preston, who lost his father on June 25th.

MATTHEWS.—To F. W. Matthews, of Soberton, near Southampton, whose twin brother died suddenly on June 6th.

RANSOME.—To E. G. Ransome, of Victoria, Australia, whose wife died on March 4th last at the age of 69.

TREMAIN.—To Maurice Tremain, of Prospect, South Australia, whose wife died on April 17th last. She was 69.

"In Memory" (continued from page 14)

Sergeant Donald McPhee, O.B.E., 2nd New Zealand Rifle Brigade

As announced last month, we have heard with deepest regret of the death of Donald McPhee, one of our most eminent New Zealand St. Dunstaners. He died on June 15th at the age of 70.

Enlisting in December, 1914, he was wounded at Messines in June, 1917, and he came to St. Dunstan's the following October. After training as a masseur, he returned to New Zealand in September, 1919, with Mrs. McPhee whom he had married that year. Upon arriving home, he first obtained a post at the Military Annexe of Auckland Hospital but in 1922 he gave up his hospital work to concentrate on private practice.

He also assisted Clutha Mackenzie who, on his return from St. Dunstan's, had become Director of the New Zealand Foundation for the Blind, and when Sir Clutha went to India at the outbreak of the Second World War to start the Indian St. Dunstan's, Donald McPhee became the head of St. Dunstan's in New Zealand. He was closely concerned with the setting up of the "little St. Dunstan's" in that Country which cared for those New Zealanders of the Second World War who did not come to St. Dunstan's for training and for his work in this connection he was awarded the O.B.E. in 1946.

An expert oarsman himself, Mr. McPhee was the founder of the Jubilee Rowing Club for both sighted and blind. In 1939 he was elected President of the New Zealand Trained Masseurs' Association and the following year was appointed by the Government to be a member of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee to the Medical Committee, in connection with the New Zealand Army Physiotherapy Services.

In 1962 he retired as St. Dunstan's Honorary Representative in New Zealand on the Blinded Servicemen's Trust Board and on the Executive of St. Dunstan's New Zealand Blinded Services Association, but he continued to practise his profession and to take the keenest interest in work for the blind generally.

Our deepest sympathy is sent to Mrs. McPhee and her family.

Private Thomas Bell Aitchison, 13th Australian Field Artillery

We have heard with deep regret of the death on March 16th last of T. B. Aitchison, of Canterbury, Victoria, Australia. He was 72.

He was a First War St. Dunstaner who served from June, 1915, until his discharge in August, 1919. He leaves a widow to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

Private Kenneth James Davison Mackenzie, Australian Army Medical Corps

We have just heard with deep regret that K. J. D. Mackenzie, of Adelaide, South Australia, died on January 4th last, at the age of 60.

He enlisted in March, 1943, and served with the A.A.M.C. until August, 1945, losing his sight as a result of service in New Guinea.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and family.

James McGuinness, 2/1st Pioneers

The death in March last is also reported, with deep regret, of another Australian, J. McGuinness, of Bondi Beach, New South Wales, and our deep sympathy is sent to his relatives.

Sergeant Frederick A. W. Mahon, New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

We have heard with deep regret that Frederick A. W. Mahon, of Auckland, New Zealand, died on March 4th last at the early age of 45. He had been an invalid for some time and had spent many years in hospital.

He enlisted in March, 1941, with the N.Z.E.M.E. and served until his discharge in November, 1945. His health prevented him from taking any training after losing his sight.

A group of our New Zealand members represented St. Dunstan's at the funeral.

He leaves a widow and two daughters, aged 17 and ten years, and our deep sympathy goes out to them.

George William Pratt, 54th Bn., Australian Imperial Forces (H.Q. Signals)

The death has only recently been reported to us of G. W. Pratt, of Papua, New Guinea, who served in the First World War from September, 1915, until June, 1919. His sight failed as a result of mustard gas poisoning received in April, 1918. He died on October 24th last at the age of 80.

He was a single man.

"In Memory"

Private John Baughurst, *Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death on June 12th of John Baughurst, of Biddenden, Kent. He was 77. He was on holiday at Ovingdean when he collapsed and died quite suddenly.

Enlisting in April, 1915, he was discharged from the Army in 1918 but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until March, 1952. His age precluded him taking any full time training but he did make dog leads and work at other handicrafts. He was a widower and lived in lodgings but he was a frequent visitor to Ovingdean and very much enjoyed his stays there.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his nephew and to his faithful friends, Mrs. Atkins, with whom he lodged, and Mr. Blackman, who gave him so much help.

Private William George East, *Royal Air Force*

With deep regret we record the death on June 28th of W. G. East, of London, S.W.9, at the age of 71.

He served in the First World War and was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits in June, 1962. His health was far from good and he was unable to walk far without assistance. He was also very deaf.

He had been a widower for many years but has been looked after by his faithful housekeeper, Mrs. Scott.

He leaves a married daughter and two sons and our deep sympathy goes to them and to Mrs. Scott.

Sergeant William Christopher Fewster, *Royal Army Service Corps*

We record, with deep regret, the death of W. C. Fewster, of Pearson House, at the age of 82.

He was an old soldier—he had enlisted in September, 1901—and he served in the First World War until his discharge in December, 1915. It was not until 1962 that he came to St. Dunstan's. He was a bachelor and he lived in Lancing until his companion-housekeeper died, and since then he had spent most of the time at Pearson House where he died on June 27th after a comparatively short illness.

His nearest relations are several nephews and nieces to whom our sympathy is expressed.

Frederick H. Hughes, *Australian Imperial Forces*

It is with deep regret that we record the death at Pearson House, where he was staying temporarily, of F. H. Hughes, of Norwich. He was 71.

He served in the Australian Imperial Forces in the First World War and was wounded at Ypres in 1917. He came to St. Dunstan's the following year and trained as a physiotherapist and he followed his profession up to a month or two ago.

He recently remarried, and to his widow we send an expression of very sincere sympathy in her loss.

Private Terence George Roden, *72nd Canadian Regiment*

As briefly announced last month it is with deep regret that we have to record the death of T. G. Roden, of Wembley Park. He was 71.

He enlisted in September, 1916, and came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1918, one of the first Canadian St. Dunstaners to do so.

He trained as a masseur, and in 1921 sailed for Canada to take up an appointment at Vancouver General Hospital. He came back to England in 1924 where he stayed to become one of our most distinguished physiotherapists. He was also an osteopath. Many of his professional colleagues, and particularly the Second War men, will remember his skilful and helpful demonstrations at a number of the Physiotherapy Conferences at Ovingdean. Not only did he so willingly pass on his professional knowledge to the younger men but he did it with such innate friendliness. He had a warm helping hand for everyone who needed it. He was a friend to all.

He continued in practice until October, 1954, when he retired. Terry was a most popular member of the London Club and a founder member of the Bridge Club. He had enjoyed considerably good health until the summer of 1963, but since then his health began to fail. He was admitted to Pearson House where he died on June 22nd.

He leaves a widow, a daughter and two sons, and our deep sympathy is sent to them all.

Private Percy Thornton, *East Yorkshire Regiment*

We have to record, with deep regret, the death at Ovingdean on June 9th of Percy Thornton, who was a Permanent Resident. He was 69.

He served with the East Yorkshire Regiment from 1914 to 1919, but his vision did not fail until 1954 when he became a St. Dunstaner. On account of his age he did not undertake any training.

We send an expression of our sympathy to the member of his family.

(continued on previous page)