



REVIEW

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Free to St. Dunstan's Men

FOR MEN AND WOMEN BLINDED ON WAR SERVICE



FIFTY YEARS OF ST. DUNSTAN'S

Just fifty years to the date of publication of this anniversary issue of the REVIEW the first war-blinded men moved into the house, St. Dunstan's, in Regents Park.

Our photograph (below) shows St. Dunstaners and V.A.D's walking in the grounds. The clock of St. Dunstan-in-the-West, Fleet Street, with its twin giants who strike the hours, from which the house, and in turn, our organisation took its name, can be clearly seen on the left of the picture.

In contrast is the unusual view of St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean (left). A contrast which sums up our fifty years: St. Dunstan's has always been ready to move forward with the times and Ovingdean was, probably, the first building in England conceived and built expressly for the blind.





A charming and characteristic portrait of Lord and Lady Fraser, whose individual contributions to St. Dunstan's are immeasurable.

GOLDEN JUBILEE

Friday, 26th March, 1965, is a date which must always remain significant in the history of St. Dunstan's. On this day we are to be honoured by the presence of Her Majesty the Queen at a reception to be held at St. James's Palace attended by three hundred St. Dunstaners from different parts of the country and the Commonwealth, together with their wives, escorts, and members of our staff. It is also fifty years to the day since the first sixteen war-blinded soldiers moved into St. Dunstan's Villa, from which the organisation derives its name. On this occasion Lord Fraser of Lonsdale writes:

At the age of 67 I am one of the younger St. Dunstaners of the First War. The average age of First War St. Dunstaners who now survive is 72, and by contrast the average age of Second War St. Dunstaners now surviving is 49½.

I came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1916, within a month of being blinded in the Somme battle and when I was still under 19 years of age. My experience is typical of that of hundreds of others, for it was in the latter part of 1916 and 1917 that St. Dunstan's grew from a handful of men to many hundreds. The first four blinded soldiers, including one Belgian, had been assembled by our Founder, the late Sir Arthur Pearson, early in February, 1915, and took up residence at 6 Bayswater Hill for a brief period before moving into St. Dunstan's Villa. When I came the Bungalow, a large war-time building on a vacant site in Regents Park, was just being brought into use and we were inhabiting not only the original house, but also the College—one-time religious academy—and a dozen or so of other houses, great and small, in the neighbourhood. Regent's Park was an ideal place because you could learn to walk alone, or row on the lake. The local authority, to protect blinded men who walked often alone from our other houses to the centre and had to cross the Outer Circle, put up a large notice, "Beware—Blinded Soldiers." I often thought this was a fair warning, not only to motorists, but to the hundreds of girls who flocked to St. Dunstan's to help us.

At the peak there were nearly 700 blinded soldiers, sailors, and airmen in our training establishment, and they included men from all over the British Isles and from Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand. We estimate that a total of some 5,500 St. Dunstaners have passed through our gates for rehabilitation, training and aftercare during the past fifty years, and about 2,400 are still alive, including 24 admitted in 1915.

St. Dunstan's Villa was lent to Sir Arthur by the American, Mr. Otto Kahn, for use during the war years and had to be vacated subsequently. In January, 1921, still in Regents Park, we moved to St. John's Lodge, and meanwhile, in 1917, West House at Kemp Town, Brighton, a gift from the Federation of Grocers' Associations, later renamed Pearson House, in memory of our Founder, came into use as a holiday and convalescent home.

BETWEEN THE WARS

It fell to my lot to maintain the St. Dunstan's organisation during the inter-war years and during this period the question of a large permanent home for St. Dunstaners was under review by our Council. After exhaustive inspection of all available sites on the South Coast within reasonable access of London, the position at Ovingdean was selected, and the home constructed and opened for occupation in October, 1938. With the German occupation of the French Channel coast in 1940, the whole of our south-east coastline became a defence area and obviously unsuitable for our use. Both Ovingdean and Pearson House were vacated for about five years until the war was over.

While the elderly and infirm were temporarily accommodated at Malplash Court in Dorset, the blinded men and women casualties from the Second World War received their initial training at Church Stretton in Shropshire. Our invasion of Church Stretton and our occupation of most of the hotels will be remembered with affection by the new generation who learned to be blind there, just as we older ones remember Regents Park.

THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. DUNSTAN'S

Looking back over the past fifty years, we must all be thinking about what St. Dunstan's has meant to us. It seems to me that an important distinction must be drawn between the war-blinded and the blind members of our civilian population. The great majority of the civilian blind are already well advanced in years when sight is lost, whereas the average age of the serviceman when blinded must be somewhere in the early twenties and his main problem is to earn a living. I have always felt that if each St. Dunstaner could be placed in the employment most suited to his talents, then with hard work and a cheerful outlook on life all his other problems would be solved. This principle holds good even in the case of those of our number with severe double disabilities, and St. Dunstan's makes every effort to provide them with occupations which they can manage successfully, and, with aids and gadgets of all kinds, to enable them to achieve a maximum degree of independence.

Of course St. Dunstan's has also meant a great deal more to us than that. There is the brotherhood which belonging to our organisation brings to its members through contact with each other at Reunions and on other occasions; there are the holidays arranged at Ovingdean annually or more often for those who require convalescence, or perhaps simply have time on their hands; there is the help, always available, from the various departments of St. Dunstan's to assist in solving innumerable personal difficulties, and there is the feeling of absolute and permanent security. It has been my aim since I became Chairman of St. Dunstan's on the death of Sir Arthur Pearson in December, 1921, to maintain these ideals and services, and to expand the potentialities of the war-blinded, notably in the fields of employment, as much as circumstances allow.

I often think that St. Dunstan's rendered two great services, not only one. The first, most important to us, was that it gave us a new way of life. The second was that the publicity which attended its foundation and its forward strides from strength to strength, from decade to decade, excited interest all over the world and produced a surge forward in activities for the welfare of blind people generally. Thus, in a sense, we can claim that some good came out of evil—as it often does—and that we were collectively able to repay the world to some extent for its great generosity to us. I would like to pay a warm tribute to all members of our staff, present and past, to all those thousands of friends who have helped us in countless ways in a voluntary capacity, and to all St. Dunstaners each of whom has written his own page in the history of St. Dunstan's by his individual courage, adaptability, cheerfulness and good example.

Fraser of Lonsdale.

ST. DUNSTAN'S ANNIVERSARY CLOCKS

Clocks are destined to play a large part in St. Dunstan's history. There is the famous clock from which the organisation took its name, the braille watch—symbol of better times to come for each new war-blinded man; and now appropriately, the presentation of a handsome striking clock to St. Dunstaners to mark the Golden Jubilee.

As we go to press, operation "Jubilee Clock" begins. From the works of the manufacturers, Messrs. Tucker, Nunn and Grimshaw, more than 2,000 clocks will be despatched day by day to St. Dunstaners in the British Isles and all over the world.

The clocks, eight day striking movements in polished walnut cases, will each bear an inscription plate with the words "St. Dunstan's 1915-1965" embossed in braille characters and engraved in letterpress. They have been specially built to St. Dunstan's specification: there is no glass and, like a braille watch, three enlarged braille dots will indicate 12, 3, 6 and 9 o'clock, while raised bars will indicate the other numerals. The hands are strengthened to allow many years of telling the time by touch.

The specification has been the responsibility of the Research Department so that no possible snag in the adaptation of the design for the use of the blind has been overlooked—even to ensuring that the clocks are capable of facing the climatic conditions in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa, for one-fifth of the total will be sent abroad.

Winding is done from the back of the clock to preserve the clean design of the face, but to make this easier holes are provided in the rear access door in line with the winding spindles. The author of the poem "Ovingdean Lament" in the January *Review* will be pleased to learn that the striking mechanism can be muted.

The Research Department makes this point: the clocks have a "floating balance" movement, which means they have no pendulum to be easily upset by slight variations in level or when winding. Do not try to start them by shaking as you would a watch. Just hold the clock in a

vertical position and gently rotate from side to side.

LONDON REUNION

If anyone in the Kingston or district area would like to go to the London Reunion (10th April) by coach, please contact George Eustace, 170 Tolworth Rise South, Tolworth, Surrey. *Telephone:* Derwent 6471.

TROOPING THE COLOUR

We have once again been fortunate enough to receive an allocation of tickets for the Trooping the Colour Ceremony, which will take place on the morning of Saturday, 12th June, and for the Private View of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court on the afternoon of Wednesday, 14th July.

St. Dunstaners wishing to attend may apply to me for tickets by 30th April.

C. D. WILLS.

For Sale

No. 1 Diplomat Gas Boiler with wind-up clock for setting. Suitable for three big heaters. £10 0s. 0d.—R. SMITH, 71 Hartfield Road, Seaford, Sussex.

Wanted

Has anyone a lightweight tape recorder, portable type, which he or she could loan to me from the end of August until the beginning of October? I want it to get some first-hand knowledge of pioneering days in Northern Canada, and I do not want to buy a new recorder if someone will be generous enough to lend me a portable one.—Mrs. MAUREEN V. LEES, 23 Ben Nevis Road, Birkenhead, Cheshire.

PERSONALITIES OF ST. DUNSTAN'S

by

The Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, C.H.

There have been hundreds, if not thousands, of individuals who have, over the past 50 years, contributed to our success at work or play. To begin to make a list involves a choice and this inevitably means that one will leave out names others would have put in. However, there are some connected with St. Dunstan's over the last fifty years which will evoke memories and this is the test I have applied to the few I am going to mention.

There was "Auntie" Read, the first Head Nurse or Matron; she was famous for the bottle (No. 9's) which it was alleged she carried in her pocket and gave indiscriminately to everyone who had any illness whatsoever. Captain Russell Roberts was the first Adjutant. Humanist, disciplinarian and friend. Hetherington was the first one-armed Chief Porter. He closed the gate of the original St. Dunstan's house after the pubs had shut and the boys were supposed to be home. Here is a nameless one, the St. Dunstaner—I am sure he must have been an Irishman—who rolled up to the gate after it had been closed and climbed over it, some 20 feet, and reached the ground on the inside safely although he was undoubtedly doubly blind. Sir Arthur Pearson had him on the mat for having come back home in a bad state of repair, but congratulated him upon his mountaineering exploit.

Miss Mace should go on the list for her service extended from Bayswater to the present day. She sat in a room outside Sir Arthur Pearson's office and intercepted everybody who piled up to see him, she was soon to become Mrs. Fraser.

Then there was Miss Eleanor Goole, Personal Secretary to the first and second Chairman for well over forty years. Another whose service spanned two wars was Miss Wilson, After-Care Superintendent. Mrs. Chadwick Bates, the first Secretary of St. Dunstan's who subsequently took charge of our South African sister organisation; Mr. Askew who followed her as Secretary and was my

principal adviser during most of my Chairmanship, and Mr. Lloyds, the Secretary of recent years.

The man who charged along the linoleum path at the "House" and encountering a lady put his arms around her and whirled her around in an affectionate old-fashioned waltz. The lady was Queen Alexandra—not a figure to trifle with. However, Her Majesty was delighted.

Miss Pearson (Sir Arthur's sister) the first Matron of West House, who had a warm heart and a rough tongue for those who deserved it, and, as the years went on, other notable Matrons such as Miss Thellusson, Miss Boyd-Rochford and Miss Ramshaw.

Then, with the second war, came Miss Payne again, for, having been head of the Braille Room in the first war, she returned to become Matron and then Commandant Matron at the opening of the second war. Air Commodore Dacre, the principal Commandant at Church Stretton during most of the second war period and afterwards when we moved back to Brighton; stern but kind, a disciplinarian where discipline was needed, and one who took a very special interest in the doubly disabled.

Dr. Bridges, whose cough mixture has now been replaced by anti-biotics; I often wonder which does the most good. Many famous ophthalmic surgeons, including Dr. Ormond, Sir Arnold Lawson and Mr. Davenport.

Mr. Bampton, bandleader, who cheered us up with his concerts at Church Stretton and taught many of us what he called the Um-cha chords so that we could strum on the piano.

The St. Dunstaner girls. Women played a much larger part in the second war than in the first, and some twenty or more of them joined us at Church Stretton and added to our gaiety.

Pubs and Houses are not persons, but they have personality, and it would be a pity to forget the Volunteer, the Chester Arms, the Plough and the Lord Ernest,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

May I refer the "gratitude to the public" propagandists to the opening page of the *St. Dunstan's Review* for January, 1965, where it states that Her Majesty, our patron, has been graciously pleased to make a Christmas donation to St. Dunstan's. Surely for St. Dunstan's men and women to give away to another charity is tantamount to insulting our Royal patron.

Yours sincerely,

BOB FULLARD,
London, S.W.16.

Dear Editor,

Several months ago I submitted an idea for a Gate or Window card to be used in conjunction with a cheque book which would enable the blind person to make out his own cheques without the aid of a sighted person.

Listening to the radio a few days ago I was interested to hear that an American bank had now adopted a similar method for its blind depositors. The machine is issued by the bank, free of charge, to all its blind clients. In addition, a new department has been opened whose staff are all accomplished Braillists, and all blind person's accounts are made out in

Braille. Thus complete privacy in regard to financial matters is assured. The bank is to extend the service to its London branch.

Yours sincerely,

F. SUNDERLAND,
Greenford.

Dear Editor,

Grace ad Infinitum

Horace Kerr's idea for a practical expression of our appreciation of the generosity of the British public is laudable, but a little perplexing.

If successful, no doubt that same public will wish to start a special fund to show its gratitude to St. Dunstaners for demonstrating their gratitude to the public which has showed such gratitude through the years for the war services of St. Dunstaners.

This will give the chance to Jock Macfarlane and myself to launch a fund with which to express our gratitude to the public . . .

Need I go on?

Yours truly,

DOUGLAS WARDEN,
Southall.

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and the Longmynd and Brockhurst.

Sir Neville Pearson, member of the first St. Dunstan's committee after his father's death and for many years President, and a regular visitor to our reunions all over the country.

Sir Arthur Pearson himself, whom the first thousand remember with personal affection, and all the rest of us remember because his spirit lived on and inspired—and still inspires—the whole organisation and everyone in it.

Above all, every reigning monarch from King George V to the present Queen who took a personal interest in St. Dunstan's and came to see us.

Each one of my readers will think of a

dozen names that should be in the Roll of Honour, for no organisation in the world has had such wonderful people to help it.

Editor's Note

A story about "Auntie" Read that we have heard tells of a St. Dunstaner who dared to prescribe a cure for himself—he bandaged a damaged ankle. Now Matron had her cure for this, as for any other complaint, and gave him the usual pill. Nothing daunted, he kept his bandage on, and when later asked why by the indignant Matron, assured her that it was the only means that he could think of to keep the pill in place.

I Catch a Tunny or Two

by

The Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, C.H.

On Sunday, the 28th February, I spent nine or ten hours outside Cape Point, in the South Atlantic, fishing for tunny. I was lucky enough to get 4½ fish, ranging from 12 to 20 lb. The half is accounted for by a strange incident, for one fish took my hook as well as that of my neighbour's and we both landed it together. I was with a friend of mine, Mr. Jack Gerber, owner of the best private fishing vessel at the Cape—a 50-foot, 30-ton glass fibre ship, capable of 17 knots and, therefore, able to get to distant fishing grounds quickly. Echo sounding, radar, to find the fish, an automatic pilot and many unique features distinguish this vessel.

False Bay is a large area of sea to the east of Table Bay, and during January and February, some large tunny round about the 500 lb. mark (I weigh 208 lb.) have been caught. But they had disappeared on this Sunday, and so we went out 20 miles into the open ocean to look for tunny. We found shoals of the smaller variety, called the Long Fin tunny, and caught 37 of them—12, 15 and 20 pounders. The exciting moment is when four or five rods, fishing from the stern and the side of the ship or even from the upper deck, strike a fish simultaneously as we enter the shoal. The reels shriek and the sounds around me suggest pandemonium. But, although we have four or even five fish on at a time and there is a great risk of lines crossing as the fish race for freedom, our host, Mr. Gerber, is very skilful and contrives to manoeuvre the ship so that the risk of getting the lines tied up with each other is minimised. I think we had 40 strikes and we "boated" 37 of them. From his upper bridge, Mr. Gerber directs the fishing, watching the birds who swoop down to pick up small silver fish which shoal on the surface, indicating that the tunny are chasing them from below. Who would be a sardine to be dive-bombed from above by a seagull and torpedoed from below by a voracious tunny? Having found the shoal, we slow up and then suddenly a strike comes.

The sun is so hot for one like me from a northern climate that it burns your face by reflection even though you have a wide protective hat; though some of the Capetonians, including Pam, the only woman aboard who wore a bikini, exposed most of their bodies including the head and face to hours of sunshine, none of them died of sunstroke nor got a headache. The days of hats except for aesthetic purposes seem to have disappeared in South Africa.

I go to South Africa for forty days hard labour without respite, my holiday being on board ship, but this Sunday outing was one of the pleasantest I have experienced.

BRIDGE NOTES

The second match of the Individual Bridge Competition, London Section, took place on Saturday, 6th March.

The results were as follows:

Brown and Freer, 57;
Fullard and Nuyens, 48;
Carpenter and Bishop, 46;
Molison and Partner, 38;
Jackson and Delaney, 35;
Stanners and Scott, 31;
Kerr and Mathewman, 29.

The second match of the Brighton Section was held on Saturday, 13th March.

The results were as follows:

Smith and Partner, 39;
Ingre and Roughley, 38;
Whitcombe and Kelk, 35;
Giffard and Webster, 30;
Clemmens and Burnett, 17.

We regret that it is necessary to alter the date of our next BRIDGE DRIVE from April 24th to May 22nd.

Please note this on your fixture list.

Harrogate Weekend

Your Committee is very grateful to members who have already applied. If there are any others who are thinking of coming, please let us know as soon as possible.

P.N.

From the North-West

From June to October, Mrs. Maureen Lees and her Good Neighbours team have a display of St. Dunstan's goods to show at various exhibitions and shows in the North-West. She hopes that St. Dunstaners will visit her stand at some of these events.

HOOTON PARK SHOW, June. We hope to be in the Country Produce Marquee and will be pleased to welcome our friends.

In July we are to be at LIVERPOOL SHOW, with quite a big marquee and a good variety of our men's work.

We also hope to be invited to the Boy Scouts Fete at the Park, BROMBOROUGH, and any other event in Wirral where anyone might be interested to see and admire our men's woodwork, etc.

In August we have a very busy month. DENBIGH, followed by RUTHIN and, the same week, BEBINGTON ANNUAL SHOW. We also think we may be at other Welsh shows that month.

September, we think we are invited to ALTRINCHAM, and we will accept if so.

But now we come to October. From 7th to 9th we are holding the usual exhibition at Hesketh Hall, PORT SUNLIGHT and, as usual, a very wide variety of our men's work will be displayed for sale.

Later the same month I have a very much bigger and more ambitious event at the Drill Hall, T.A. (The Cheshire Regiment), Grange Road West, BIRKENHEAD, and this will open from 21st to 23rd October, closing at 7 p.m. on the Saturday night.

We would also welcome anyone willing to help in any way, as it means everyone can then have a chance to see something of the bigger shows if they wish to do so.

* * *

H. G. Bull, of Dagenham, has recently won first prize for a tray which he made, at the Chelmsford Welfare for Blind Handicraft Exhibition at Ilford Town Hall.

His prize was a pair of leather slippers.

WERE THOSE THE DAYS?

Last weekend my old friend Danny called to see me and, as usual, gave me a lesson in realistic thinking before he left.

His admonition was incurred through my grumbling over the cost of living. After complaining about the almost prohibitive price of individual items of wearing apparel, I went on to enumerate the number and quality of things that could be bought for a pound in the "good old days," including the best English joints of meat a ninepence a pound, beef steak and mutton chops at sixpence and ninepence a pound, and continued, "Remember, Danny, when you could buy five Woodbines for a penny, a pint of beer or a glass of whisky for twopence?"

At this point Danny interjected with, "Yes, and I remember when many of the things you mentioned were considered luxuries and could only be enjoyed on special occasions. I remember when, after a little self-indulgence over the weekend we were back at work on the Monday morning stint and waiting for the next payday, and if there was no work there was no pay. I remember when there was nothing for many of the poor old people at the end of their working life, but the stigma and dread of the workhouse, so don't give me that stuff about 'the good old days,' give me the present, and as for you, it's time you related your thinking to the facts of history."

This well-directed battery of straight lefts and right crosses put me down for the count, and when my scrambled thoughts returned to normal it was an atrophied grumbler who listened to Danny declaiming on the many ways in which the lot of the proletariat has been improved during the past couple of decades.

T. ROGERS,
Huddersfield.

* * *

A. E. Patton, of Portsmouth, was among the thirty-one proud survivors of the Battle of Gheluvelt belonging to the Worcestershire Regiment who met in Worcester on 31st October, 1964, for their 50th anniversary celebrations. Each man was presented with a special Gheluvelt memento lapel badge to mark the occasion.

BRaille COMPETITIONS

The thirty-sixth E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition will be held on Saturday, 22nd May, 1965.

Unseen passages will be read and prizes awarded for fluency, ease of diction and general expression. (Should the entries in any class be very limited, prizes will be awarded only if merited.)

Adult

Sturmev-Wyman Challenge and Medal Competition

This class is in competition for the Sturmev-Wyman Cup and is open only to previous winners of the Open and Medal classes. The winner will also receive a silver medal. *Readers entering for this class may not enter other classes.*

Class A

Advanced readers in competition for the Blanesburgh Cup.

Class B

Other readers in competition for the Stuart Memorial Cup.

Class C

Readers who have lost their sight since 1939 and who have learnt to read Braille since the age of 16 (and who do not feel competent to enter the more advanced classes), in competition for the Lady Buckmaster Cup. (Entrants for this class will not read in the afternoon, but the winners will receive their prizes in the afternoon.)

Open Competition

A special competition open to all readers eligible to enter Classes A and B and to all previous winners of Classes A, B and C for reading from Shakespeare's sonnets.

Junior

1. Children under nine years of age in competition for the Holmes Memorial Cup. (Competitors in this class to be allowed their choice of reading contracted or uncontracted Braille.)

2. Those between the ages of nine and 12 in competition for the Louis Braille Centenary Cup.

3. Those between the ages of 13 and 16 in competition for the W. H. Dixson Memorial Shield.

Class D—Moon

Open to readers of Moon type. (Entrants for this class will not read in the afternoon,

but the winners will receive their prizes in the afternoon.)

Class E—Deaf-Blind Readers

Open to blind readers of Braille who are also deaf. (Entrants for this class will not read in the afternoon, but the winners will receive their prizes in the afternoon.)

Intending competitors should send their names to the Secretary, National Library for the Blind, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1, not later than Friday, 15th May, 1965.

* * *

Midland Club Notes

Only twelve members attended the meeting of this club which was held on Sunday, 14th March. This was a very poor attendance when you consider that twenty members were present at the social evening held in February.

Several items were brought up at this meeting, the main one being this year's outing. It was decided to have one outing only this year. This would include tea at Stratford, it has yet to be decided where we should go for lunch.

The idea will probably mean that regular members of the club will get a free outing. Late August or early September have been suggested as a likely time for the outing. This means that there will be five more meetings before this event, therefore a regular member will be one who attends three of these five meetings. To anyone else wishing to come on the outing a charge will be made. Anyone who normally attends meetings, but cannot make three in the next months because of illness will, of course, come along free. The decision of the Committee will be the deciding factor in any other case.

The possibilities of holding other Saturday evening meetings once a quarter are being looked into, and more news of this will be given at a later date.

Many thanks once more to the ladies who so kindly arranged tea for us.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, 11th April.

D. E. CASHMORE,
Hon. Secretary.

FAMILY NEWS

Birth

ROAKE.—On 7th March, to the wife of G. Roake, of Catford, a daughter, Alison Lesley.

Deaths

We send our very deep sympathy to the following:

ALBERTELLA.—To M. H. Albertella, of Worthing, whose wife, though she has been ill for some time, died suddenly on 11th March after an emergency admission to Worthing General Hospital
MCCARTNEY.—T. H. McCartney, of Belfast, whose wife's mother died in February.

MILLER.—To William Miller, of Perivale, Middlesex, whose father died in Leeds on 13th February.

MUIR.—To W. Muir, of Kingston-on-Thames, who has recently lost two brothers, both living in Edinburgh.

Grandfathers

F. Sunderland, of Greenford (a step-granddaughter, Sharon, born on the 21st January); T. A. Carter, of Darlington (his first grandchild, Mark David, was born on 9th January); A. Cook, of Mapperley, Nottingham (a granddaughter, born on 27th February, his third grandchild); J. H. Dalton, of Middlesbrough (his daughter, Flora, gave birth to a girl in September of last year).

Great Grandfathers

E. W. Hall, of Chilton, near Didcot (his granddaughter gave birth to a son on 28th December, 1964); S. C. Smith, of Derby (his granddaughter has recently given birth to a son).

* * *

The grandson of A. Baird, of St. Helens, has been chosen by his firm as the most outstanding apprentice of his year, and the firm are sending him, at their expense, for a week's holiday at Sir John Hunt's house in Wales.

Marriages

Richard, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Gimber, of Kettering, was married to Miss Geraldine Summerton at St. Giles' Church, Northampton, on the 4th August, 1964.

H. Pownall, of Old Coulsdon, announces the wedding of his eldest daughter, Patricia, to Thomas Lennon, on Saturday, 3rd April.

Peter, the only grandson of F. E. Doncaster, of Canonbury, London, N.1, was married on 6th March to Christine Wolsley at the Church of St. John of Jerusalem.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following, who have celebrated their Silver Weddings:

Mr. and Mrs. S. Tutton, of Hounslow, on 24th February; Mr. and Mrs. F. Mills, of Tavistock, also on the 24th February; and Mr. and Mrs. G. Miller, of Sale Moor, on 16th March.

* * *

Linda, daughter of J. Cowan, of Boreham Wood, took the part of Josephine in a very successful production by her school of Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore." The play was no doubt enjoyed by the school as much as the audience—it ran for a week, had a cast of nearly seventy, and the set had been made by the pupils in the Art Department.

* * *

Michael, the son of D. McGoohan, of Tolworth, is a keen Scout. He won a competition by sending up a winning slogan, and this gave him a fortnight's Scouting in Liechtenstein. He then did a hike, with another boy, in Surrey, writing up his trip in a log book. He did this so well that his Scoutmaster is encouraging him to re-write it and send it up for another competition.

Nelson's Column

I managed to read only four threads from the bolt of books turned out this month. However, each one of them is entertaining and, for a change, the end of each came too soon as far as I was concerned.

"The Fell of Dark," by James Norman, reader P. J. Reynolds, is a fantastic story set right at the end of the Spanish Civil War. The view is entirely from the losing side and a kaleidoscopic array of characters is marshalled in masterly fashion. Somehow the author creates an authentic atmosphere and he extracts some order from the confusion of defeat. Quite fascinating and with a minimum of horror, too! *Cat. No. 772*

"To Catch an Angel," by Robert Russell, reader Michael Aspel, is the autobiography of a Yankee blinded at an early age. His fight through school, college, Yale and Oxford is full of interest and incident. He has his share of frustration but manages to put over a buoyant, bubbling personality. *Cat. No. 755*

"You Only Live Twice," by Ian Fleming, reader Duncan Carse, is a James Bond thriller. Assigned to a job in Japan requiring a deal of diplomacy, James' only chance of getting what he is after lies in accomplishing for Japan's Chief of Intelligence a most horrific job in Fuoko. He finds a lovely shell diver to help, completes his task and afterwards is left with a convenient touch of amnesia in the tender care of his charmer. Altogether spine-chilling and good value! *Cat. No. 780*

"Nicola," by A. Erskine Lindop, reader Anthony Parker, is a straightforward novel of a young girl returning to her village after a three year stretch as accessory after the fact in a murder case. The local bank manager, alternating between a stick-in-the-mud, a stinker and Sir Galahad, together with his mother a dear sweet misguided woman, take the girl in and thereafter things become a trifle dodgy! *Cat. No. 781 NELSON.*

90th BIRTHDAY

We send our congratulations to Mr. W. H. Ottaway, who celebrated his 90th birthday last month. Mr. Ottaway will be remembered by his long association with

St. Dunstan's since its early days, first as Workshops' Superintendent, then as Welfare Superintendent of the Southern Area.

Collecting the Experiences of St. Dunstaners

by

F. Le Gros Clark

(Readers will remember that Le Gros Clark, as a first world war St. Dunstaner, has been asked by the Chairman to help in gathering together a record of the experiences of some of us.)

In talks with many St. Dunstaners I have realised that a number of them have interested themselves in the welfare of the civilian blind. Now, I had always felt that St. Dunstan's in the course of its existence has made a great contribution towards the happiness of all who in the future have to face the handicap of blindness. But I am struck by the fact that this effort is not limited to Headquarters. Several individuals among us have played an active part in the local societies and clubs established for civilians. It seems to me that collectively they have done much to advance and diversify them. They have, as it were, been able to lift many of them towards our own standards.

I should be very glad to be in touch with other St. Dunstaners who have busied themselves in similar ways in their own parts of the country. The best method of asking for such information is obviously to insert a note in the *Review*. Since I cannot expect to travel very widely, may I request any reader who has been active in joining civilian organisations for the blind and promoting their welfare, to write to me at St. Dunstan's. Those with whom I have already been in communication about this interesting subject will know that there is no need for them to reply. It is those with whom I am not yet acquainted that I am asking to send me a line. We can then perhaps exchange one or two letters.

Of course, as I understand the idea of these enquiries, we want to make only a collective record of St. Dunstaners. The names of individuals would therefore be confidential.

Nuffield Talking Book Library For The Blind

Additional Tape Titles—FICTION

Cat. No.		Playing Time Hours approx.
784	CARR, CATHARINE—THE GOLDEN CITY (1963) Read by Joan Murray-Simpson. When Pamela's father deserts her mother, the family follow him to Rome to persuade him to return. Once there, each eventually finds his own happiness.	5½
788	FLEMING, IAN—DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER (1956) Read by Duncan Carse. James Bond becomes involved in diamond smuggling and fixed horse-racing. His adventures lead him to Las Vegas, Saratoga and back to England on the "Queen Elizabeth."	7½
780	FLEMING, IAN—YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE (1956) Read by Duncan Carse. After a personal tragedy, James Bond goes to pieces. An impossible assignment in Japan provides the necessary shock treatment and his zest for life is restored.	7
786	HERBERT, A. P.—NUMBER NINE (1951) Read by Gabriel Woolf. An amusing story of a young man's opposition to the use of his ancestral home for aptitude tests of Civil Service candidates.	8½
791	LANE, MARGARET—A NIGHT AT SEA (1964) Read by Arthur Bush. The conflicts of a drifting marriage culminate on board a yacht and are contrasted with the problems of the husband's mistress left alone in London.	8
794	LEASOR, JAMES—PASSPORT TO OBLIVION (1964) Read by Anthony Parker. A country doctor is unexpectedly asked by the Secret Service to investigate the disappearance of a British Agent in Persia. The action takes place in Canada, Rome and Teheran.	9½
781	LINDOP, AUDREY ERSKINE—NICOLA (1959) Read by Anthony Parker. When a girl returns from prison to her village and tries to forget her past, the villagers reveal their true feelings towards her.	12
796	WALLACE, BRYAN EDGAR—MURDER IS NOT ENOUGH (1964) Read by Arthur Bush. A young farmer discovers evidence of a secret crime and when a murder is committed in his home, has to prove his innocence and find the murderer.	7½
789	WERFEL, FRANZ—THE SONG OF BERNADETTE (1941) Read by Michael de Morgan. Describes how a vision of the Virgin Mary appeared to a young peasant girl, the reactions of the people of Lourdes and the early fame of the grotto.	23½

NON-FICTION

790	ATTENBOROUGH, DAVID—ZOO QUEST TO GUIANA (1956) Read by Anthony Parker. A delightful story of expeditions through creeks and swamps of British Guiana to bring back alive some strange and lovely animals and birds.	7
801	BROAD, LEWIS—WINSTON CHURCHILL: THE YEARS OF PREPARATION (1963) Read by Duncan Carse. Early years; prisoner of the Boers; Member of Parliament; First Lord of the Admiralty, 1911-13; in the wilderness; opponent of Nazi appeasement.	14½
802	BROAD, LEWIS—WINSTON CHURCHILL: THE YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT (1945) Read by Duncan Carse. (Sequel to Cat. No. 801). Wartime Prime Minister; the events of the war and final victory; Leader of the opposition 1945-51; third term, and retirement from public life.	15
792	BRYANS, ROBIN—MADEIRA (1959) Read by David Broomfield. A visit to this beautiful sub-tropical island, with its flowers, baroque churches; fishing boats and colourful fiestas.	7½
793	FERMOR, PATRICK LEIGH—MANI (1958) Read by Eric Gillett. Journeys off the beaten track through Southern Greece and the Greek islands, by an author who fought there with the resistance, and understands and loves the people.	14

(continued on page 14)

Nuffield Talking Book Library for the Blind—*continued*

<i>Cat. No.</i>		<i>Playing Time Hours approx.</i>
787	GOSSE, EDMUND—FATHER AND SON (1907) Read by David Broomfield. Sir Edmund Gosse tells, with many touches of humour, of his very strict upbringing by his father, a Plymouth Brother.	9
798	GIBBINGS, ROBERT—SWEET THAMES RUN SOFTLY (1940) Read by Alvar Lidell. A journey down the Thames in a small boat with many vivid descriptions of the natural life in the river and on the banks.	7
783	JONES, ERNEST—THE LIFE AND WORK OF SIGMUND FREUD (1953) Read by Alvar Lidell. A description of Freud's personal life and ideas, the development of psycho-analysis and the difficulties he had to overcome in the face of opposition and misfortune.	31
779	MACKENZIE, COMPTON—MY LIFE AND TIMES, OCTAVE TWO (1963) Read by Eric Gillett. (Sequel to Cat. No. 480). Boyhood in Kensington from the age of 8 to 17, and life at St. Paul's School.	16
782	MAUROIS, ANDRE—THE QUEST FOR PROUST (1950) Translated by Gerard Hopkins. Read by Eric Gillett. Marcel Proust's life, letters and literary development, illustrated by quotations from "Remembrance of Things Past."	15
797	NOYCE, WILFRID—THE SPRINGS OF ADVENTURE (1958) Read by Duncan Carse. Describes the motives that inspire men to discover the unknown and challenge danger. Illustrated by exploits and writings of famous climbers, explorers and pioneers by air and sea.	8
785	PRIESTLEY, J. B.—LITERATURE AND WESTERN MAN Read by Eric Gillett. Describes the achievements of European, Russian and American novelists, dramatists and poets from the sixteenth century to the present day.	22½
800	SPEECHES AND EXTRACTS FROM THE LITERARY WORK OF SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL In his own voice.	10½

In Memory

Robert Stone, 4th East Surreys

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on 14th February, of Robert Stone, of Herne Bay.

He served in the 4th East Surreys from 1915 to 1916 and was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1917. He trained as a basket maker and carried on with this work very successfully until about 1933. During the next few years he did some seagrass stool work but then, in 1947, he went back to basket-making. His health had not been good for some time, he has been in hospital and has spent many long periods of convalescence at Pearson House.

His wife died in 1959, and we send our very deep sympathy to his son and daughter-in-law, with whom he lived.

Reginald Henry Shaw Mitchell, Labour Corps

We have to record with deep regret the death at Ovingdean of Reginald Henry Shaw Mitchell, on Tuesday, 2nd March.

He served in the Labour Corps for the Bedfordshire Regiment from 1915 to 1918, though he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1957. Before this time he had been a resident in a Home for the Blind at Felixstowe, and on admission to St. Dunstan's he became a permanent resident at Brighton.

He was a widower, his wife having died in 1954.

Joseph Curnow, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

We record with deep regret the death on the 1st March of Joseph Curnow, of Troon, Camborne. He was 79 years old.

He enlisted in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in 1915. When he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1916 he was unable to take industrial training owing to hand injuries, but he did do boot repairing and carried on with this work for some time. He had to give up this work when his health began to deteriorate and he had been seriously ill for the past few months.

We send our very deep sympathy to his widow and grown-up family.

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Church Stretton was our war-time home from 1940-1946.
Here a group of St. Dunstaners relax in peaceful, almost alpine, surroundings.

Milestones of St. Dunstan's

- 1915 Early February. Four blinded soldiers, including one Belgian, were received by Sir Arthur Pearson for rehabilitation and training at 6 Bayswater Hill.
- 1915 26th March. War-blinded now numbered sixteen. Moved into St. Dunstan's, Regents Park, lent for the duration of the war by the American financier, Mr. Otto Kahn.
- 1917 January. West House, Kemp Town, Brighton, a gift from the Federation of Grocers' Associations came into use.
- 1921 January. St. Dunstan's Headquarters moved to St. John's Lodge, Regents Park.
- 1921 December. Death of Sir Arthur Pearson.
- 1929 July. First Conference of St. Dunstan's delegates from overseas. It lasted two weeks, and the delegates were presented to the Prince of Wales at St. James's Palace.
- 1938 June. Queen Mary paid a surprise visit to Headquarters.
- 1938 October. Opening of St. Dunstan's Ovingdean Home.
- 1940 July. Training Centre moved to Church Stretton in Shropshire because of the German occupation of the French channel coast.
- 1946 September. Church Stretton finally closed and Training Centre transferred to Ovingdean.
- 1948 H.M. Queen Elizabeth—now Queen Mother—visits Ovingdean.
- 1960 Second Commonwealth Conference.
- 1962 July. H.M. Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh visit Ovingdean.



This Golden Jubilee issue would not be complete without a portrait of the man who began it all, our founder, the late Sir Arthur Pearson. We feel it appropriate that the last words of this edition should be his, and hope that our readers will agree that they not only mirror the man who wrote them, but also sum up the philosophy of those who followed him through St. Dunstan's:

"We who are blind cannot see the glory of the sunrise, the splendour of the sunlit days, nor the pageant of the sunset; we cannot see the tender beauties of the moonlit night nor the brightness of the stars; the hills, the woods and the fields, the sea and the winding courses of the rivers are hidden from us; we cannot see the buildings of our cities nor our homes, nor the movements of life, nor the faces of our dear ones. There is much that we cannot see; there is one thing we will not see, if we can help it, and that is the gloomy side of our lives. This is the gospel of St. Dunstan's."