

OCTOBER
REVIEW



St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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OCTOBER 1967

3d. MONTHLY
Free to St. Dunstaners

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Brighton Homes—An Assurance

When I was at Brighton a few weeks ago, a number of St. Dunstaners asked me when we would be starting to re-build Pearson House and whether and when Ovingdean would be closing. No firm answers can at present be given to either of these questions but as some men seem to be anxious to know what is likely to happen I will try and set out the various steps that have to be taken in a matter of this kind.

At the moment, as I said in these notes in the August *Review*, we are only at the stage where we have asked a firm of architects to give us preliminary advice in the design and planning of a new building but we hope draft outline plans will be available to us by the end of the year. Then working drawings, detailed lay-outs, forms of construction, etc. have to be considered and gone into; all this will take some time and I would think it would be a full year before we are in a position to agree a final scheme. Also we shall have to obtain final planning approval from the local authorities and obtain contracts from builders for the work to be carried out.

Assuming all goes well, it is unlikely that work on the site could start before early or the middle of 1969, and I am told that it will probably take up to two years to complete the job, which brings us to 1971 for a completion date at the earliest.

Whilst the work of re-building is going on all Pearson House residents will be transferred to Ovingdean and we shall probably have to restrict holidays at the latter Home during this period; we have had to do this before and I am confident St. Dunstaners will understand the position. As I have previously stated we have not come to any decision about the future of Ovingdean as we feel the wise course is to leave this over for the time being and look at the position later on, and depending on our bed requirements. It could be that we shall need both Homes, the new Pearson House and Ovingdean as well for a while longer but we shall have to wait and see how everything turns out.

St. Dunstaners can rest assured that we shall keep them informed of any definite dates as and when they become known to us, and we shall do everything possible to minimise any inconveniences that may arise.

Three Notable St. Dunstaners

Chartered Accountant

It is hard to believe that a totally blind person could succeed during a life time of work as a Chartered Accountant but that is exactly what Geoffrey Pemberton did.

He died during August at the age of 82 and St. Dunstan's has thus lost one of its senior and most highly respected members. He served in the First World War and was commissioned in the 5th Queen's R.W.S. Regiment, after he had qualified as a Chartered Accountant and worked for a few years in the firm of Rowley Pemberton and Company. He was blinded in 1918 and came to St. Dunstan's.

I well remember talking over his future with Sir Arthur Pearson. This was one of those cases where Sir Arthur showed his imagination and determination and thereby set a

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES—*continued*

pattern which we have followed ever since. In effect, Sir Arthur said to Geoffrey Pemberton: Why not go back to your profession? To cut a long story short, Pemberton did go back. By devoting himself to those aspects of the work of an accountancy office, such as interviewing clients, getting business, discussing principles and reconstructions, taxation problems and so on, leaving the pure accountancy work to others, he succeeded in a full partnership and played a leading part in the firm.

Geoffrey Pemberton took a great interest in the Talking Book; he was a member of our Committee for many years and brought to our transactions much business sense and knowledge of books.

St. Dunstan's—and particularly his many warm friends—will miss him and will want to express their consolation and sympathy to Mrs. Pemberton, who helped him so much, and to the members of his family.

Two New Lives

Before World War II, Paul Francia had worked in Radiation, the famous firm which supplies apparatus for gas used in the home, such as stoves, water heaters, etc. and he returned to a well-paid job in this firm after his war service in the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment. This was his first new life, carrying on his old job, but in a modified way, with his old firm.

He came to St. Dunstan's for training in 1960 after his remaining sight had deteriorated.

Three years ago, he came to me and said that he wanted to break new ground and improve his chances of satisfying employment, through an University education. He was then 42 years of age so this idea represented very courageous determination. I am bound to say that I discouraged him from taking this drastic step but he persisted and, looking back now, I congratulate him warmly upon his courage.

He has now obtained a B.Sc. (Econ.) external degree of London University at the Portsmouth College of Technology and has been appointed a Special Lecturer for the College for six months. This is an excellent beginning and we all hope that Francia's second new life will continue as well as it has started.

Boy Seaman

At the age of 16, Maurice Aldridge, who may be said to have been "born in the Navy", joined that Service as a "boy", was blown up and blinded on H.M.S. "Eagle".

During the last eleven years he has passed six O Levels, three A Levels and got an Exhibition to the Queen's College, Oxford University, where he obtained his B.A. and M.A.

Now he is going to South Africa, with his wife and baby son, to take up an appointment as a Lecturer in English Language at Rhodes University, Grahamstown. He starts work there early in 1968.

What a wonderful record!

Fraser of Lonsdale

PLEASE NOTE:

New Headquarters telephone number
outside the London area:

01-723 5021.

New Headquarters telephone number
inside the London area:

723-5021.

When given verbally to other persons
the full number should always be quoted.

New Ovingdean numbers.

Rottingdean 2266 is now Brighton 31033/7.
Rottingdean 2362 and 2977 is now
Brighton 32362 and 32977 respectively.

The new postal code for Ovingdean is
Brighton BN2 7BS.

The new postal code for Pearson House is
Brighton BN2 1ES.



Contractions in Braille

BY
RICHARD DUFTON
Director of Research

Recent comments in our correspondence columns on the relative merits of French and English Braille prompted Richard Dufton to write this article. Mr. Dufton represents St. Dunstan's on the National Uniform Type Committee.

The French Braille code does in fact use many more contractions than Standard English Braille and therefore one would assume that the learning task is increased. This at once poses the question: Is a code of considerably more bulk than Grade II Braille, easier to learn and handle especially by those who, by virtue of age or capability, are just about able to handle the 185 contractions in Grade II? We must be careful that we do not end up by facing a beginner with learning something resembling Braille shorthand. A fluent reader of Grade II can undoubtedly handle additional contractions, although it is difficult to say whether his reading speed or ease of reading is improved by innovation. A balance has to be struck between these factors.

Some years ago the National Uniform Type Committee undertook a survey to establish the frequency of occurrence of all the contractions and space saving in Grade II compared with Grade I. The efficiency of the code had often been questioned and the researchers were aware at the outset that there existed many words and letter sequences that might be more valuable than many already in the code. A team of volunteer readers read over half a million words of representative interpoint and the frequency and space saving results were classified.

The word "THE" headed the frequency list with about sixteen appearances per page of interpoint, while second in the list "ER" appeared nine times per page. By the time the 23rd contraction "WITH" had been reached, the frequency rate was only an average of less than two per page.

The results showed considerable imbalance in the code, so far as the amount of work performed by individual contractions was concerned, nearly half the 185 occurred less than twice in every four pages, while from a space saving aspect the first 14 contractions saved nearly as much as the remaining 17.

As I mentioned earlier, the researchers tentatively checked several possible new words and letter sequences for frequency and space saving. In several instances better values did in fact result. However, in the absence of a research study to establish the ease of reading that might result from incorporating a significant number of additional contractions, it is difficult to predict how useful they might be. The recent incorporation into Standard English Braille of half a dozen or so mathematical signs including the new

Braille—*continued*

decimal point shows that small additions to the code can be handled without much difficulty but new readers might well find such additions an extra burden.

In recent years various Sub-Committees of the N.U.T.C. have produced up-to-date reference manuals on science notation for the guidance of transcribers. In addition comprehensive tables of standard abbreviations have been prepared and incorporated, as many will have noted, into magazines and periodicals in the past few years.

The N.U.T.C. have also made strenuous efforts to agree on a unified code with the U.S.A. Although this has not been achieved, the considerable number of U.S.A. Braille publications circulating in the United Kingdom is an indication that our respective codes are not too far apart.

It is possible that many initial signs, capitals, italics, etc. are responsible for breaking reading rhythm but, today, the

majority of periodicals and magazines use these signs very sparingly. For the individual reader I would suggest that far more significant improvements in reading speed and ease of reading are likely to be produced by devoting more time to reading Braille than by modifying the code. In my own experience the achievement of reading speeds, say between 45-60 words per minute, brings with it better comprehension and greater facility in sensing the dots. Could it be that the associated reduction in stress can be attributed to an improvement in technique?

The maintenance of a standard code is clearly essential, not only from educational and literary stand-points, but for the considerable band who have reached the happy state of breaking through their personal "reading barrier". The justification for using the conventions is surely that they enable us to comprehend more precisely the author's message.

Are you covered?

Fire and water damage in the home are two events which can disrupt the lives of many people and cause a great deal of worry and distress. Fire is a constant hazard; water damage either as a result of burst pipes or weather might have to be faced in the coming months.

Many of you, we know, will have made adequate provision under your insurance policies for this type of damage. However, we constantly hear of St. Dunstaners who, when in trouble, find that their insurance cover is inadequate, or worse still, they are not insured at all. The psychology of "it can't happen to me" is not much help when a large bill has to be paid.

The householder's policy issued to-day provides a wide range of insurance in respect of household goods, and also if required, the private dwellings of owner/occupiers. We have at Headquarters an insurance department which works very closely with the St. Dunstan's insurers, and this department will be pleased to give you any help that you need in connection with your insurance problems,

not only in respect of the householder's policy mentioned above but also for motor insurance, personal accident insurance and many others.

The gross premium for a contents policy, for example, to insure the sum of £1,000 is £2 10s 0d per annum. To insure buildings the rate is 2s 6d for every £100 insured. There is a minimum premium of £2 on all householder's policies.

Anyone interested please contact Miss Dale in the Estate Department at Headquarters, when a proposal form will be sent to you.

Emigrations to Canada

Several members of the family of our St. Dunstaner, F. WHYTE of Gainsborough have recently emigrated to Canada.

Their eldest son Jack and his wife Helena and family have gone to Canada as have their eldest daughter Dora and her husband. Another daughter Julie has also gone to Canada to work.



It Strikes Me



Photo—Derby Evening Telegraph.

Postmark

Ever had a letter with a St. Dunstan's postmark on it? I was interested to find the one reproduced here with a photograph of the sub-Post Office in Derby to which it belongs. We share our Saint with Churches, Hospitals, and Schools but this is the first Post Office I have discovered.

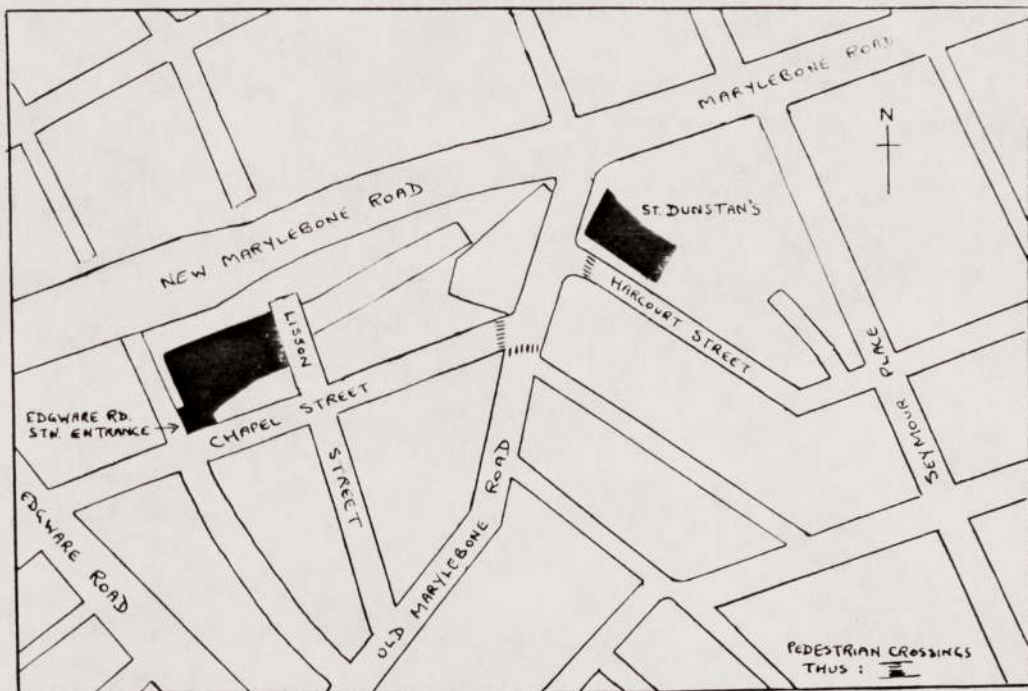
Revolutionary Braille

The Braille edition of the December issue of the *Review* will be printed on Britain's only rotary Braille press. I learned this when I talked to **John Broadley**, manager of the Scottish Braille Press, the organisation which prints our *Braille Review*. 52-year-old Mr. Broadley who has worked all his life as a printer of Braille, said, "I think readers will find it makes an excellent dot of the orthodox embossed type which the blind should find very acceptable". The rotary press is modelled on an American machine and will increase the Scottish Braille Press production from 2,000 to 24,000 pages of Braille an hour—a revolutionary machine in every sense of the word.

Desirable Residence

Micky Burns told me of the estate agent's brochure received by his father-in-law. It described a cottage as being "near loose Women's Institute". I understand Micky was going to make an offer until he discovered that Loose is a place near Maidstone!

MAGOG



THE APPROACH TO HEADQUARTERS

The traffic around St. Dunstan's Headquarters has for several years past been affected by road works in the area. The work is primarily concerned with the widening of Marylebone Road in order to provide a free flow of traffic between the City and the West along this route and part of the scheme includes the building of a new approach road and fly-over bridge to link Marylebone Road with the Harrow Road, taking traffic above and clear of Edgware Road. The opening of the fly-over is scheduled for 12th October 1967 and there are a number of other less important features of the scheme still to be completed. However, we thought St. Dunstaners who travel to and from Headquarters would want to know the position as it now is, even though we stress that not all the details of the work are as yet decided.

Walking out of the main entrance to Headquarters and standing at the top of the short flight of four steps down you are facing roughly South West. In front of you is Harcourt Street along which the traffic flows one way from left to right. This traffic moves into Old Marylebone Road, as it is now called, since New Marylebone Road is the approach to the fly-over mentioned in our preceding paragraph. Traffic from Harcourt Street can turn either way—left towards Edgware Road or right towards Baker Street. The only other road visible to the person standing outside the main entrance to St. Dunstan's is Chapel Street. This enters Old Maryle-

bone Road opposite Harcourt Street but some 40 yards down in the direction of Edgware Road. Traffic along Chapel Street is one way, towards Marylebone Road, into which it can turn either way, left towards Baker Street or right towards Edgware Road.

There are, of course, a number of ways for pedestrians to approach Headquarters but we propose to describe only one route here, the safest walk from Edgware Road Underground—(Circle, District and Metropolitan Lines). Leaving Edgware Road Station through the main entrance (there is also an entrance at the other end of the Station open only during rush hours) you

emerge on the pavement with Chapel Street before you and traffic flowing one way from right to left. It is best to turn left at once and walk towards Marylebone Road, with the traffic in Chapel Street on your right. Cross Lisson Street in which, on this side of Chapel Street, there is now virtually no traffic and continue walking along until you reach Marylebone Road. Turn right on the pavement and cross Chapel Street on the pedestrian crossing. On reaching the other side of Chapel Street, turn left and cross Marylebone Road on the pedestrian crossing. Then turn left again and walk the 40 yards to Harcourt Street. Cross Harcourt Street on the

pedestrian crossing and you will be outside the main entrance to St. Dunstan's. Please note that when crossing Chapel Street and Harcourt Street on this route the traffic will be coming from the right only but when crossing Marylebone Road the traffic will be coming from both right and left. A further point of some importance is that the arrangements for the flow of traffic, the siting of pedestrian crossings etc. around Headquarters must be regarded as provisional and subject to change at a later date. However, we will try to give up-to-date information in the *Review* as, and if possible before, any changes are put into effect.

Australia Calling

Interest in the activities of our St. Dunstan's bowlers has prompted Mr. Ernest Newton, Liaison Officer with the Braille Society for the Blind in Western Australia to send us news of St. Dunstaners with whom he has been in contact during the past four years. Here are points from Mr. Newton's letter which may interest our readers:

Ed. Bullen lives at Denmark, on the south coast and is very interested in fishing. His home is about 300 miles distant from Perth. Mrs. Bullen is unfortunately in poor health and it is remarkable how these two battle on in spite of their handicaps. Ed. is handy with tools and the Society has been able to help him with small items of equipment to make his job easier.

Mark Benjamin lives in Yokine, a suburb of Perth. Mr. Newton believes that Mark served in France and Belgium with the 2nd L.R.O.C., came to Western Australia from South Australia about eight or nine years ago and is now 78 years of age. Mr. Newton met Mark through bowls at which he is very competent indeed. He first had a bowl in his hand at the age of 65 and practised for three months on the mat without delivering a bowl. He plays second for one of the middle divisions of a leading Bowling Club and his wife who accompanies him everywhere keeps score for him.

M. E. [Dickie] Clark lives at Bunbury, on the coast, about 115 miles from Perth. He has a very nice home and a double garage, half of which is used as a workshop and is very well fitted out. He is known for his excellent cabinet making and french polishing. He made a very good set of book shelves for the office of the Society's Executive Director.

W. [Bill] James lived, until recently, in a suburb of Perth, and for many years has been extremely active in an honorary capacity on the executives of the R.S.L. in Western Australia and also the Braille Society of which he is a past President. For many years Bill was a very keen bowler but had to give this up for health reasons. Not long ago his wife passed away and although Bill's health has been rapidly deteriorating for some time, this has been rather a severe blow and he is now in the Edward Millen Home for chest patients at East Victoria Park.

Three other St. Dunstaners, all bowlers and active in the Blinded Ex-servicemen's Association are mentioned by Mr. Newton. All three work at the W.A. Institute and Industrial School for the Blind.

Jim Ward is a member of one of the leading Bowls Clubs and last season won the Club's pairs championship with a sighted player. He usually plays lead in pennants.

Wally Jones is also a keen bowler and plays for his own Club—usually second in his team. **Alf Hayman** plays occasionally.

Bridge Notes

The 8th *Individual Competition* was held by the Brighton Section on Saturday, 15th August. The results were as follows:

F. Rhodes and J. Whitcombe	50
C. Kelk and A. Smith	46
J. Chell and R. Goding	45
B. Ingrey and H. Selby	40
W. Scott and Partner	30
S. Webster and Partner	29

Table of the total of the five best results up to date.

C. Kelk	254
B. Ingrey	241
F. Rhodes	223
R. Goding	221
W. Scott	219
W. Burnett	218
J. Chell	215
J. Whitcombe	211
A. Smith	206
H. Selby	204
S. Webster	201
T. Clements	201

Queen's Scout

Stephen, grandson of J. ROBINSON of Manchester is a Manchester City Police Cadet. In his spare time he is also a Scout, and on July 14th of this year he was presented with his Queen's Scout Certificate by the Chief Scout, Sir Charles Maclean, at the Mansion House, London.

Stephen has also earned the Silver Award in the Duke of Edinburgh's scheme and is shortly going on a course at the Atlantic College.

The 7th *Individual Competition*, London Section, was held on Saturday, 2nd September. The results were as follows:

R. Armstrong and F. Matthewman	82
P. Nuyens and M. Tybinski	70
G. Brown and H. Meleson	60
Miss V. Kemmish and H. Kerr	54
R. Fullard and F. Jackson	45

Table of five best results obtained so far.

R. Armstrong	394
P. Nuyens	359
M. Tybinski	359
F. Matthewman	351
R. Fullard	316
H. Meleson	314
G. Brown	313
H. Kerr	306
V. Kemmish	303
F. Jackson	298
R. Bickley	272

Important Notice

The 8th *Individual Competition*, London Section, will not be held on Saturday, 7th October but on SATURDAY 14th OCTOBER.

Will those who have, as yet, not replied to the circular sent out last month about the Ovingdean Congress, please reply as soon as possible, indicating whether they have a partner, in which case stating the name. Those without partners will be found one by the Committee. This information will greatly facilitate the work of those concerned with booking, drawing for "Fours" and sending out the programme of the events.

P. NUYENS

Club News

Laughs at Fred's Cafe

Young Olwen has only recently started school and the following story shows that she is well aware of the importance of speed in answering school questions.

She was asked, as were the rest of the class, "How far away is Africa? 1,000 miles, 500 miles or 100 miles?"

"I don't think any of the answers are right", she replied, "cos we have two African children in this school—and they go home to dinner every day".

MAUREEN LEES REPORTS :

Following on Bebington's wet day, the caravan was reloaded and made its way to Denbigh for Saturday, 26th August.

It was a nice marquee but without tables the ladies had to manage with planks of single wood. My mother's green table covers hid the deficiencies.

The interest aroused was great and a lot of friends hoped to visit the Ruthin Show.

Alas on 30th August the caravan had departed and that night the heavens opened. It was pouring with rain at 4.30 a.m. 31st August but the big hired car was here at 5 a.m. The team found a small marquee but when a large one was available they showed mats and baskets there.

Usually there are coaches from all the North Wales and Cheshire Resorts but the rain kept them away. The team managed to keep good tempered even if sales were low.

Thirteen-years-old Lillian wants to be a window dresser so she now does our St. Dunstan's display. Next year, I will, for the first time since I won the premier award for weaving in London, ask if we can enter for the awards at Shows.

I was absent from the two Welsh events owing to illness.

Sutton Club Notes

A visit to Waddesdon Manor

The Sutton Club visited Waddesdon Manor on 27th May. This is a very lovely house built for one of the French branches of the Rothschild family. It contains some beautiful French tapestries hanging on the walls, also furniture and miniatures. The grounds were also very pleasant to stroll in and it was a very worth while day considering it is only 50 miles from London (between Aylesbury and Bicester). We can thoroughly recommend it to anyone who wants a good day out.

Our meeting on 5th August was very well attended considering that this is the peak holiday period.

During the afternoon Diane (Miss Hoare) gave us an invitation to visit her home on 14th October. We were very pleased to accept. We are also making a visit to Hastings on 23rd September.

After our usual sit-down tea we enjoyed a knockout game of dominoes.

We shall be pleased to welcome any new members on 30th September at the Adult School Hall, Benhill Avenue, Sutton at 2.30 p.m.

TED DUDLEY

Chairman

Dancing Successes

Julie, daughter of R. J. VOWLES of Portsmouth, Hants, dancing with her partner took two gold medals in the All England Dancing Festival held recently in London.

Ursula Mary Anne, 13 year old granddaughter of A. STERNO of Cheltenham, Glos. has won a Gold Medal with honours for ballet dancing.



The line-up across the perimeter track at Lee-on-Solent for the start of the walking race.

NAVAL CAMP — *H.M.S. Daedalus*

BY

FRANK HICKS

"Dogs to the left of them, dogs to the right of them, dogs to the front of them. Never they stumbled". I will make no apology for the misquotation in reference to St. Dunstan's Summer Camp at H.M.S. Daedalus, although some people might take exception to my referring to fifty members of the Fleet Air Arm Field Gun's Crew as dogs. But one thing is certain; the Gunners won't complain. After all, sailors have long been known as Sea Dogs!

Anyway, to pursue the Charge of the Light Brigade a little further. Whether they reasoned why or not there they were standing by, ready to escort us faithfully when we got off the coaches on Friday, August 18th. And as usual it was a great camp, with Chiefs, or to give it its rightful name, "The Chief Petty Officers' Mess" as our main base.

On that first evening our guide dogs took us down to Chiefs for an initial get-together. Saturday was given over to sports which, alas, owing to bad weather, had to take place in the gym. In the evening, a dance at Chiefs. On Sunday, Padre Frank Spurway took the service in church after which we were all entertained for coffee and drinks in the wardroom. The rain had ceased during the night, and the weather was beautiful for the afternoon's gliding programme. Later there was a car rally and Paddy Humphry and myself found ourselves making an impromptu tour of Hayling Island. I hasten to add, with my tongue in my cheek, that this was through no fault in Braille reading, but was merely a detour to prevent our being first to complete the course—which modesty forbade.

Monday was given over to a trip across the Solent to Cowes on board a fleet

auxiliary, which, of course, meant a visit to the ever-welcoming British Legion there. In the evening, Chiefs had laid on a concert for us and thus completed a very satisfying day. Tuesday was occupied mainly with swimming or lounging on the lawn, with a dance at the Eagle Club in the evening. Alas, during the dance, Jo Gimber suffered a heart attack and was rushed away to Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar. We were very sad later to hear that he had died in the ambulance. But as one of his oldest friends put it, "He passed away in the midst of his friends and at the Annual Camp he loved so well."

Wednesday, we were taken to lunch as the guests of Mr. Downs, proprietor of the 106 Club at Cattsfield, near Fareham, and while we were there an anonymous donor insisted on giving a pound note to every St. Dunstaner in order that we could have a drink with him.

On Thursday, we went over the Commando carrier Albion and had tea and cakes on the quarterdeck. That evening a dinner was held to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Gun Crew's association with the St. Dunstaners. Mr. Lloyds attended from Headquarters and in his speech of thanks to the Gun Crews pointed out that some of the Gunners present at the dinner had not even been born in 1946, when the Gunners first became Guide Dogs to the St. Dunstaners.

On Friday, Hovercraft trips were the order of the day and we were amazed to find that we could cover the distance from Lee across to Shanklin, Isle of Wight, round to Cowes and back to Lee in something like twenty minutes. That evening the Pipers of Gosport's Rose and Thistle Band beat the retreat outside Chiefies, after which St. Dunstaners enjoyed a dance, and a barbecue was held on the lawn. After the Pipers had played,



John Black experiencing the ups and downs of Naval life on the Trampoline.

George Hewett and "guide dog" disembarking from a hovercraft.



Letters to the Editor

From Ernest Carpenter of Kings Langley, Herts.

I was interested in the Chairman's Notes in the July *Review* on the number of St. Dunstaners still reading Braille.

I was with one of our men and his wife one Saturday in London and the following Friday his wife died very suddenly. The next time we met I offered my condolences and his first words to me were,

"All my married life I never read Braille or wrote a letter and now I am lost".

I am sure that this must happen to many. I find much pleasure in reading, writing and the Talking Book is a great comfort. I seldom sit down without picking up something to read.

From Betty Dutton [ex V.A.D. Logan] of Bushey, Herts.

Watford, Hertfordshire, too, has its swimming club for the handicapped. Its members are known as the Sealions and meet each Saturday at the Watford Baths where both the learner's pool and the

NAVAL CAMP—*continued*

a pleasant coincidence further brightened the week for Jock Rushton for one of the Pipers had served with him in the Cameronians.

So much free beer was put on by Chiefies during the week that we wondered whether they had their own brewery, or if Chief Petty Officer Pertwee was a member of the Mess. Either way, Bud Abbot and his merry messmates weren't going to admit it.

To all concerned who helped in this wonderful week, our most sincere thanks.

Sports results—November Review.

larger pool are reserved for the use of club members only, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Helpers and instructors are present and you may bring an escort in the water with you.

So if any keen swimmer, would-be-swimmer, or mere dabbler-in-the-water, who would like to come along at 4.45 p.m. and learn more about the club, we shall be pleased to see you and we hope you will become a member.

Another similar session is held at the Ruislip Baths at the same time.

From Frank Hicks of Teddington, Middlesex

I was pleased to read Mike Tetley's letter and to learn that he had raised the subject of "Deep sea fishing" with Lord Fraser.

I have been out on many of these trips and have never failed to thoroughly enjoy one. Certainly as a doubly disabled man, it is a sport which I can really get my hook into!

Thanks for raising the subject, Mike, and the next time I haul your weights up thinking, "This must be a beauty", I won't even mutter!

From F. H. Wareham of Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.

I do hope this will be of some interest. It is Bingo with dominoes, using two sets. Four players have seven each and the caller uses the other set. The player whose seven dominoes are called first wins.

I am sure this will cotton on in our world as it is a change from 'fives and threes' or 'run-out'. One can play for money, your car, or estate or even your house, and it is a good game for a private party, where a blind person can join in.

Letters to the Editor

From Maureen Lees of Birkenhead, Cheshire.

I think that of all the war blinded men I have known Colonel E. A. Baker is the one for whom I hold genuine admiration

On my first arrival in Toronto 18 years ago I well remember the friendly blind man who greeted me. I have often thought of our conversation and I would wish to join in with the good wishes of all St. Dunstaners who, having met Ed. Baker are truly glad that Canada has honoured this man, who for so many years has helped not only his own blind people but those from all over the world.

I shall always be proud to know I have met this Canadian St. Dunstaner.

From Stewart Spence of Hillingdon, Middlesex

With their joint letter in the last issue of the *Review*, Bob and Mike hit the nail fair and square on the head.

The reasons for fishing week-ends could not be put more succinctly nor with a more striking economy of words so I lend my support and look forward to hearing more of the idea.

WAR PENSIONS — Unemployability Supplement

One of the conditions imposed by the Government on the award of the additional Wife's Allowance to a War Pensioner with the Unemployability Supplement is that the wife must not have income in her own right of over 50s. a week. This seemed an unreasonable condition, particularly in the case of a blinded Pensioner who for convenience sake might wish to have all his capital in his wife's name. We accordingly suggested to the Ministry of Social Security that the condition should no longer apply, and have just heard that the income limit is to be abolished with effect from the 1st November next and is to be replaced by an earnings limit of 56s. a week.

This change in the conditions will affect only one or two St. Dunstaners, as the majority of married men with the Unemployability Supplement either already have the additional Wife's Allowance or their wives are at work and have earnings of over 56s. a week or are in receipt of the National Insurance Retirement Pension or other Benefit which still debar them from receiving the additional Wife's Allowance. If however, any St. Dunstaner with the Supplement has had his claim to the additional Wife's Allowance refused on the grounds that his wife has private income of over 50s. a week, will he please write to our Pensions Officer, Miss Warter, at Headquarters, so that she may look into the matter.

H. D. RICE

Deaf Reunion at Ovingdean

BY

CLIFF STOCKWELL

August 10th saw the Silent Drums gathered together once again for their bright and stormy Reunion. We started off well, with a most excellent dinner on the 4th floor with the Commandant and Matron and our old friend Miss Carlton as our guest with Matron Hallett from Pearson House. We were all glad that Teddy Mills had joined us and he was on top of his form. The Commandant in his short speech of welcome said how well we all looked except Cliff and his blood pressure! Little did he know that Cliff had been at his Port bottle beforehand! After the dinner, we retired to the Committee Room for drinks where our great friend, the one and only Dr. O'Hara popped in and entertained us with his stories.

Friday saw us braving the elements at Newhaven for our fishing trip. Mr. Bates, the owner of the boat, not wishing to disappoint us, put out to sea in a force eight gale. As soon as we got outside the breakwater that boat did everything but turn over. Every thing and every one was slopping and skidding around but after an hour of it, it was getting worse, and it was also impossible to anchor, so although we were disappointed we just had to turn for home. I do believe that Matron landed up with a pair of kippers . . . Billy Bell, Wally Thomas and Ron Ellis caught a crab, whilst Cliff caught a cold!

Saturday saw us on our way with a picnic lunch to visit Sir Winston Churchill's home at Chartwell. It was very revealing. Just a small comfortable home full of his treasures. One could just imagine the great man striding around the place and doing all his writing and painting there, it was so good.

On Saturday night we played our Domino Tournament, with Ron Ellis winning the Jackpot sitting in crook's corner and Billy Bell as runner-up.

On Sunday we went away to Devil's Dyke for tea. The V.A.D. escorts had quite a time on the merry-go-round trying to get us tea and buns.

On Monday afternoon we had tea with the Welfare Department when each of us had our little chat and moan! Then we were off to our well-known rendez-vous at Stroods for our Farewell Dinner, where Mr. Wills joined us and, for the first time, Mr. Hopewell was our guest and we hope he enjoyed himself as much as we did thanks to our most charming escorts and to Mrs. Mac for its organisation. We had a lovely dinner of duck with all its

trimmings and drinks; afterwards we all tried to rob the one-armed bandit in the bar. With escorts feeling sleepy and the boys full of cheer we made our way home to bed to disperse the next day.

It is like the two deaf men on a bus in London, one yells to the other "Is this Wembley" the other shouts back "No, it's Thursday", the first replies "So am I, let's get off and have one".

In passing I should like to thank some of our men and their families for taking the trouble to learn our deaf lingo, "Thank you".

Muffled Oars for Jo Gimber

by

W. T. SCOTT

Jo Gimber was in residence in the College Annexe in Regent's Park when I arrived there in January 1919. One could not but be impressed by this giant of a guardsman. His lovely Northamptonshire brogue with his great sense of humour, he was a great sportsman and always ready to be anchor-man in tug-of-war and was readily selected for the rowing teams to represent the College against all comers.

There was always keen competition and Jo with his bulk and wit and joyful spirit helped to build up the College tradition. He was very happy to join in the great camp reunions for an opportunity to meet his old pals. I was sorry not to meet him more often. I join with all our rowing men of the good old days and the campers in a tribute to his memory.

Family News



Helen, daughter of L. Thompson of Gateshead, leaving home on the way to the Church with her father for her marriage to Peter A. Martindale of Durham City on 22nd July, 1967.

Births

On 5th June 1967, to Molly, wife of Reginald Barrett of Southampton, a son, Alan Keith Lewis—a brother for Martyn and Murray.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. S. Barton of Bootle, Liverpool, 20, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 8th August, 1967.

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. P. J. CONLIN of Maldon, Essex, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 2nd August, 1956.

Sincere congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. G. P. BROWN of Twickenham, Middlesex who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 19th September, 1967.

Silver Weddings

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Cooper of Rhyl, North Wales who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 29th August, 1967.

Warm congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Salters of Liverpool whose Silver Wedding Anniversary was celebrated on 3rd August, 1967.

Ruby Wedding

Sincere congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Platt of Huddersfield who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 4th August, 1967.

Golden Weddings

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. G. Carter of Southchurch, Southend-on-Sea, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 26th August, 1967.

Very sincere congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. J. Hughes of Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Cheshire, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 8th September, 1967.

Warmest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. Stamp of Keelby, Grimsby, Lincs., who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 22nd August, 1967.

Warmest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. C. Temperton of Hull, East Yorks., who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 15th September, 1967.

Family News

Golden Wedding

Very many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Walker of Beckenham, Kent, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 12th August, 1967.

Grandfathers

Congratulations to:

G. C. ANDREW of New Southgate, N.11, on the arrival of his 4th grand child, on 18th June, 1967, a granddaughter who is to be called, Michele.

G. BRERETON of East Molesey, whose daughter gave birth to a girl on 23rd July, 1967. The new granddaughter is to be called Tracy.

A. J. BOARDMAN of Acton, W.3, on the arrival of a grandson on 29th June, 1967, who is to be called Anthony Paul.

C. DUCKETT of Reading, Berks., on the arrival of his 11th grandchild, on 23rd June, 1967. The new grand-daughter has been christened Samantha.

T. EVANS of Allt Goch, Flint, N. Wales, became a grandfather for the 3rd time, when his son's wife recently gave birth to a daughter.

L. FAULKNER of Norwich, Cheshire became a grandfather on 15th July, when his son's wife gave birth to a daughter, who is to be called Janice.

W. GRIFFITHS of Blackburn, on the arrival of a grandson born to his daughter-in-law, Christine, on 31st July, 1967.

H. HOCKING of Bacup, Lancs., who became a grandfather for the 3rd time when his daughter Dorothy recently gave birth to a son, Michael.

L. HOLLAMBY of Oldham proudly announces the arrival of a grandson, his youngest daughter Kathleen having given birth to a son, Andrew on 13th May, 1967.

G. MILLER of Sale Moor, Cheshire, on the arrival of a granddaughter on 6th August, 1967. This is his first grandchild.

G. MOORE of Blackpool on the arrival of his 19th grandchild, when his son's wife gave birth to a daughter on 22nd August, 1967.

A. OUTTRIM of Hertford, who became a grandfather for the first time on the arrival of a grandson, Mark Nicholas, born on 20th July, 1967.

H. ROBERTS of Dukinfield, Cheshire, on the birth of 3rd grandchild, when his son's wife gave birth to a daughter on 5th July, 1967, who is to be called Elaine Mary.

A. STERNO of Cheltenham, Glos. on the arrival of a second grandchild on 24th July, 1967, born to his eldest daughter, Olivia, a girl, who is to be called Rebecca Nina.

K. WARD of Winchester on the arrival of his 11th grand-child, born to his youngest daughter Patricia on 25th July, 1967, a daughter who is to be called Angela Christina.

R. WARD of St. Leonards-on-Sea, on the arrival of a grand-daughter, born to his son, and daughter-in-law, Ian and Vivienne, on 4th September, 1967. This is his second grandchild.

Family News

G. WELDRICK of Hull, who became a grandfather for the 21st time on the arrival of a grandson on 13th July, 1967.

H. WINDLEY, of Salford, Lancashire, on the arrival of his first grandchild, David Vincent, on 25th July, 1967.

Great Grandfathers

Many congratulations to:

W. BURCHELL of Midhurst, Sussex, on the arrival of his 4th great grandchild. His grandson's wife gave birth to a daughter on 19th July, 1967, and she is to be called Tamsin Elaise Marriner.

H. F. SOUTHGATE of Chelsea, S.W.10, who became a great grandfather for the first time, when his grandson's wife gave birth to a daughter, Karen, on 24th March, 1967.

W. THOMPSON of Lower Broadheath Worcester became a great grandfather for the 7th time on the arrival of a great grandson in April, 1967.

A. TROOP of Bere Regis, Dorset, on the arrival recently of a third great grandchild.

John, son of our St. Dunstaner, G. M. ALLEN, of Hull, married Miss Lynn Palmer of Bilton on 2nd September, 1967.

Leonard, son of our St. Dunstaner, L. HOLLAMBY of Oldham, was married to Miss Eveline MacDonald on 2nd September, 1967.

Julius, son of J. WEEKS of St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, was married on 29th July to Miss Sally Estouffe.

Sheila, daughter of E. SQUIRES of Ringwood, Hants., was married on 26th August, to Kenneth John Carter.

Peter, son of F. GRIFFEE of Rottingdean, Brighton, was married on 19th August, 1967, to Miss Susan Elizabeth Firth.

Patricia, daughter of our St. Dunstaner, G. W. DENNIS of Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex, was married to Rodger Ashworth on 18th August, 1967, at St. Stephen's Church, Enfield.

Barbara, granddaughter of J. G. HOWES of Thornaby-on-Tees was married to Norman Allison on 31st July, 1967, and the happy couple emigrated to Canada the next day.

Terry, son of A. J. LANE of Sale, Cheshire, was married to Margaret Flynn at Sale on August 19th, 1967.

Alan, son of our St. Dunstaner, M. LEIGH of Warrington, married Miss Dorothy Price on 29th July at Nantwich, Cheshire.

Paul, son of R. McDONALD of Maghull, Lincs., was married to Jean Heyes of Liverpool on June 2nd, 1967.

David, son of A. PECKETT of Manchester married Ann Platt at Royton, Lincs., on 16th September, 1967.

Carol A. Shotter (daughter of the late W. F. SHOTTER) of Ilford, Essex, was married to Trevor G. Dicker, on 26th August, 1967, at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Ilford.

Jane, daughter of S. G. STARK of Bristol, was married to Simon J. Millhouse on 9th September.

J. E. DAVIES of Llandyssul, South Wales, announces proudly that his wife has won 1st prize at the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales held at Bala recently for a composition on a Rural District and its characters.

In Memory

Edward Callaghan. *Royal Field Artillery.*

Edward Callaghan of Dublin, died in hospital on 29th July, 1967. He was 90 years of age.

He served in the Royal Field Artillery from 1912 to 1920. He was wounded on the Somme in 1916. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1927 and trained in mat making. He was able to carry on this occupation for some time. He also derived great pleasure from the cultivation of his garden. He had been in poor health since 1966 when he was admitted to hospital. He lived with his sister, Miss A. Callaghan, who cared for him all his life.

Frederick Polley. *17th Kings Royal Rifles.*

Frederick Polley of London, W.12, died on 5th August, 1967, at the age of 77.

He enlisted with the 17th Kings Royal Rifles in 1916 and served until his discharge in 1917. He came to St. Dunstan's in that year and trained in mat-making, continuing this work for a number of years. In 1926 his first wife died leaving him with one little girl. He re-married in 1928. In 1950 they moved to the Shepherd's Bush area and his daughter, now married, settled with them with her husband and children. His daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Tann, cared devotedly for Mr. and Mrs. Polley and after Mrs. Polley died in 1960 they continued to look after Mr. Polley. His health began to deteriorate in 1966 and later he became partially bedridden. On 27th July he was admitted to St. Giles Hospital where he died on 5th August.

Frederick G. Richardson. *1st Norfolks.*

Frederick G. Richardson who was a resident at Ovingdean, Brighton, died on 7th August, 1967. He was 76 years of age.

He enlisted in the 1st Norfolk Regiment in 1916 and served with them until his discharge in 1919. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1923.

On becoming a member of St. Dunstan's Mr. Richardson worked in the Propaganda Department, which later became the Appeals Department. His work for St. Dunstan's was well-known right up to the time of his retirement in 1955. On his retirement he made himself available for lectures on behalf of St. Dunstan's whenever he was required. Mr. and Mrs. Richardson spent a happy retirement in Sussex but unfortunately his wife died in 1959 and shortly afterwards he went to live at Ovingdean where he remained for the rest of his life.

Joseph Roughley. *Royal Garrison Artillery.*

Joseph Roughley died on 4th September, 1967, at St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, Brighton. He was a permanent Resident there, and was aged 71.

He served with the Royal Garrison Artillery from 1915 to 1918 and was the victim of a Mustard Gas attack. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1930. He trained in basket making and stools and made both these items for our stores up to 1961, when he went to live in Ovingdean. His wife pre-deceased him in 1958.

William Sargeant. *Royal Army Service Corps.*

William Sargeant of Brighton, Sussex, died in Brighton General Hospital on 6th August, 1967. He was 71 years of age.

He enlisted with the Royal Army Service Corps and served with them from 1915 until 1919. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1947. Owing to his age Mr. Sargeant did not undertake any training and at the time of his admission to St. Dunstan's his wife was seriously ill and died a few months later. After his wife's death he stayed with his daughter and other relatives and was also a frequent visitor to Ovingdean. He remarried in 1959 and he and his wife settled in Patcham. As a hobby Mr. Sargeant took up joinery and it was not until September 1966 that his health began to fail. By the end of the year he became seriously ill and was nursed most devotedly by his wife. He was admitted to Brighton General Hospital on 3rd August where he died on 6th August.

Richard Scrimgour. *5th Yorkshire Regiment.*

Richard Scrimgour of Easterside Estate, Middlesbrough, Yorks, died on 13th August, 1967, at the age of 75 years.

He served with the 5th Yorkshire Regiment from 1915 to 1917 and was wounded in France. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1946. He made rugs and string bags for some considerable time. He had been gravely ill since the beginning of the year and bore his suffering with great fortitude.

Henry Strafford. *M.M., Welsh Fusiliers.*

Henry Strafford, M.M. of Moss, Nr. Wrexham, Denbighshire, N. Wales, died on 6th August, 1967, at the age of 82 years.

He served with the Welsh Fusiliers during the 1st World War from 1915 to 1918. He was a victim of a mustard gas attack and was awarded his medal for rescuing wounded under fire. His sight did not deteriorate until later in life and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1952. He had been ill for some little time and his death was not unexpected.

Ways of Life 3.

MYSTERY MAN OF SOUND—Ron Gray

Ron Gray is slight of build, fair haired with something of the look of an academic about him. He talks fluently and well on a variety of subjects but especially upon music and the reproduction of sound. He should, because it is his job at the London College of Furniture where he is a lecturer in musical instrument technology.

There must be many St. Dunstaners who have found their niche in life since becoming blind. Ron Gray is one of these. After service in Canada, a chest condition brought about his discharge from the R.A.F. His sight deteriorated leaving him a strip of vision on the edge of his right eye. He said, "If my vision business hadn't happened I would never have had the opportunity".



Ron Gray at work on a piano.

After 18 months' training at Ovingdean: "I am the world's worst Braille reader—that's why I was there another six months to try and get it up to the mark", Ron went to the Northern Polytechnic to learn the art of piano tuning. Quite a contrast to his pre-war studies in architecture but he had always played the piano and at one time played semi-professionally with a dance-band just after the war—"My ruination as a pianist".

At the Northern Polytechnic he used to tape record the lectures on a machine loaned by St. Dunstan's. He also recorded text books read to him by a remarkable man of 72, Colonel Stone, "He would read very involved technical work with an absolute rightness of expression—anybody listening would imagine he was an expert and then he would put the book down at the end and say, 'Did you understand that, Ronald? It was all Greek to me!'"

At the end of the course he stayed on to study for the graduateship of the Institute of Musical Instrument Technology and became the first registered blind person to achieve this. Later it was to become the key to his entry into his present work as a lecturer, in spite of competition from eight other applicants—all sighted.

(Continued on inside back cover)



A bank of hi-fi equipment in the lounge.

Ways of Life—continued

Before this appointment he worked as a piano tuner for the Bromley, Kent branch of Robert Morley and Co. Ltd. In 1962 the London College of Furniture advertised in *Pianomaker* for a part-time teacher of piano tuning and repairs.

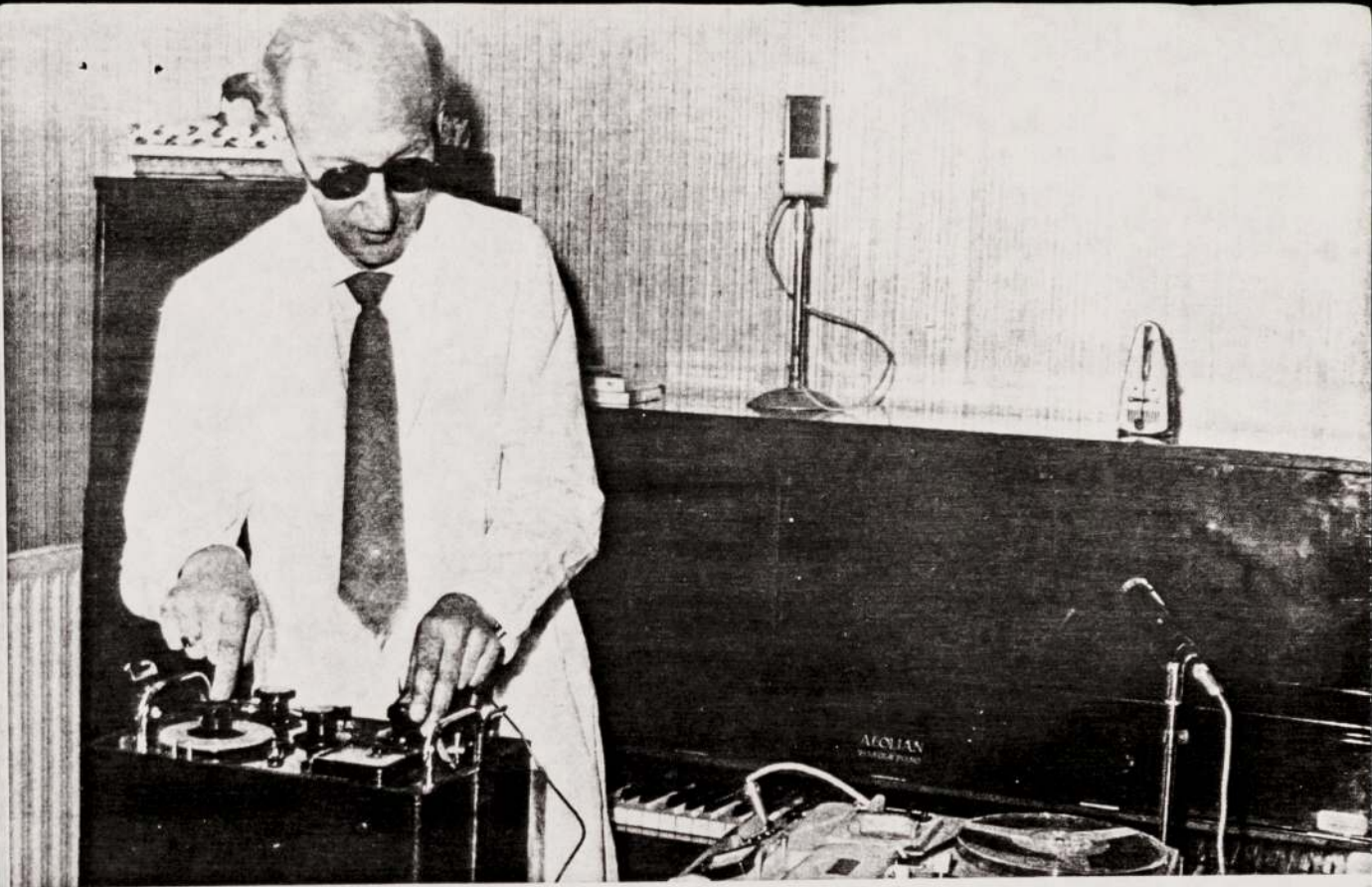
Lecturing soon won him away from Morley's: "I was offered another day and two evening classes—well you can't work for a firm and take a day and a half a week off". So Ron began tuning on a free-lance basis but not for long for he soon became a full-time tutor. His subjects: theory and practical piano tuning, acoustics of the piano and elementary room and building acoustics.

What were the problems he faced as a lecturer? "The problems I anticipated never existed because my job concerns not my vision but my hands and my ears. I feared the possibility of having to refer to written notes but, without being conceited, I think if you know your subject you don't need notes. A great deal of it is repetition. Every year you are dealing with the same course. If anything fresh crops up you simply have to swot it up and present it when you really know it".

Ron Gray's spare-time interest is hi-fi recording and he has a bank of equipment on high level shelves in his lounge linked to stereophonic speakers. "This thing that started really as a hobby became eventually an aid to me in work. I use quite a lot of tape recording in my lectures. It is so much easier to have the thing well prepared and on a tape you can go over it again and again and make it flow and alter it. It's very useful, also, to be able to suddenly say in class, 'Now here is the sound of what I am talking about' and have it on tap immediately".

In each class of about twelve students there are usually some blind or semi-sighted people for whom Ron takes some special responsibility. It was in response to his suggestion that permission was obtained from the education authority to run separate practical classes for these students. Here again his recordings are useful: "Bearing in mind my own experience of note-taking I started to make a library of my lectures which the blind and semi-sighted students borrow and they appear to get some benefit from them".

He went on to talk about a recent research project for a student taking a graduate examination for which he had to submit a thesis on some original work.



Demonstrating the use of the harmonic analyser.

"One of the advantages of the technical college is not only that you get time for research but you are actively encouraged to do it".

The project used a new piece of laboratory equipment, a harmonic analyser, to detect and present the difference before and after a piano had been "toned". Toning is a process by which the felt hammer heads in a piano are conditioned by piercing with special needles which break up the underlayer of the felt surface giving a more even texture and some cushioning effect. Each note of the piano was tape-recorded before and after toning and the recordings fed into the harmonic analyser.

"The student wrote his thesis on how it was done and drew up some very complicated looking and efficient graphs which show exactly the amount of alteration in actual intensity content of each harmonic up to the eighth on every one of the 85 notes on the piano concerned. The tapes and the harmonic analyser can now be used in a lecture to show students the difference between one and the other".

The course at the college covers, in theory at least, every musical instrument including electronic organs. What began as the piano section has now become the department of music technology. In much

the same way Ron's knowledge has expanded, "I went there originally with a very definite job to do—to teach tuning and repairs but you can't work in a place like this without learning yourself all the time from the different activities you find going on".

Ron says all piano tuners should be able to play, "Because a tuner is a man of mystery to the customer. Unlike the electrician who mends a fuse or the decorator who transforms a room, he fiddles about in the front room on the piano. It seems he bangs the notes unnecessarily because they sounded right the first time. But if he can play, customers are drawn to this, they understand the musical performance of the instrument and can tell it has improved".

He has a strong belief in the importance of the work of the music instrument technologist, "Music is such an international language. Actual language may prove a barrier between one country and another but music is understood by almost everybody. The technician should always keep in the forefront of his mind that the instrument is going to be played by a performer. Like the performer, he is contributing to communication ultimately between the composer and the public".