



CHRISTMAS REVIEW

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The New Talking Book

We have decided to call the new Talking Book "The Mark IV Talking Book" and it will be officially known by this name from now on. It reads aloud to you from a tape in just the same manner as the existing Tape Talking Book. However, both the machine and the cassette are very much smaller than the older model. The machine is about one-fifth the size and the cassette is small enough to go into an ordinary Pillar Box.

The advantages to the administration of the Library are many. For example, as the cassette weighs only 6½ ozs. instead of 6½ lbs. it does not run the risk of damage in the post. Again, the system is such that it is much easier to copy and multiply tapes when a book proves to be popular.

There are over 22,000 blind persons in the United Kingdom who have the existing reproducer and the heavy cassette. However, these large machines contain a very good amplifier and loudspeaker and it would be quite impossible, financially and administratively, to scrap them.

We have, therefore, devised an adaptor plate or box 2½ inches high which consists of a metal container the same size as the top deck of the reproducer. This has to be permanently fitted to the existing machine to convert it to take the New Mark IV cassette. Thus, for a transition period of a few years, the old reproducers and the adaptor plates will be used to play the new cassette, and gradually the old cassette will be withdrawn.

The new system, whether operated by the adaptor plate or by the new machine, incorporates a rewind facility, so that when you go to sleep for a few minutes—as I often do—you can rewind the record and pick up the missing sentence or paragraph. This rewind method also has a special value for students, because it enables them to quickly refer back to anything they particularly want to study again.

New entrants to the Talking Book Library, from now on, will receive both the new machine and, of course, new cassettes. Old machines will be converted as rapidly as possible, starting with those St. Dunstaners who have had their machines the longest. There is no need to write to St. Dunstan's or the Talking Book Library—machines will be converted when their turn comes.

The Talking Book Service has a number of most valuable voluntary workers throughout the country, and one of them will visit your home, if necessary, to fit the adaptor plate or to show you how to work the new machine. These men are Radio Hams, men in the Radio trade or Engineers who have volunteered for this service, and we are most grateful to them.

I have myself, used the new Talking Book for some months and find it excellent.

There may be some St. Dunstaners who have not yet enjoyed the pleasure of having a Talking Book. I recommend them to try it, for example, when they go to Brighton for a holiday. If they would like to have one they should write to St. Dunstan's and one will be provided. The machine and Library service are free of charge but there is a nominal deposit which is repayable should you at any time cease to be a reader.

Our British Talking Book is now being used in seventeen countries. It is the only one that comes near to being of universal standard and it is a matter of pride to all those who have had to do with its development, and especially to St. Dunstan's who originated the Tape Talking Book and made the first prototype by about 1950.

Professor Beurle, who is now Professor of Electronic Engineering at Nottingham University, was then our Technical Advisor and expert. He is now Acting Chairman of our Scientific Committee. We owe him a deep debt of gratitude for his long and brilliant service in this field.

Fraser of Lonsdale

HANDLESS REUNION

by

RON SLADE

At Ovingdean on Thursday evening 12th October, Commandant and Matron welcomed us all at a dinner with them and some of the Staff in the Canteen.

As always with our Reunions, the Programme which had been arranged enabled us to participate with our wives and escorts in various activities, including an enjoyable social evening with dancing at the Stroods Hotel on the Friday, a coach-party to Ascot Races on the Saturday from which a lot of us returned with some financial satisfaction, despite the wet and gloomy conditions on the Race Course, and when we got back to Ovingdean that evening, a very happy party in the Winter Garden with Matron and the Staff—and we were delighted to have Miss Frances Ramshaw and other Guests with us—where we all enjoyed Community Songs and splendid singing by some of the V.A.D. Staff, Alice and Bill Griffiths and many others.

On the Sunday evening, in response to an invitation from the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk for us to visit them, we went to Arundel Castle, where Mrs. E. Dacre introduced all of us to them as we entered the magnificent State Drawing-room. After opportunity for everyone to converse with our Host and Hostess, and with their daughter, Lady Sarah Howard, the Duke gave a very interesting talk about the Castle and the many paintings of his ancestors hanging on the walls of the Drawing-room and the Long Gallery leading to it, and was most informative in his replies to our numerous questions. Before our visit ended, Ted Miller voiced everyone's very sincere thanks to the Duke and Duchess for their kind invitation and hospitality and presented the Duchess with an occasional table, the work of a St. Dunstaner, asking her to accept it from all of us as a memento of a most delightful and enjoyable occasion, to which the Duchess charmingly replied and

assured us that she would certainly put our gift to very good use.

Apart from providing many social activities, the Handless Reunion always has the primary and important purpose of giving us the opportunity to meet and talk together about our artificial hands, gadgets and equipment and other special matters and problems. This we did at length in our own session on the Friday and again during our discussions with Mr. C. D. Wills and Mr. N. French on the Monday morning in the Winter Garden, where we were also able to glean much useful information during the Conference period in the afternoon, when we heard from and questioned Dr. I. H. Fletcher and all those named in the report in the November *Review*.

We all met again later with Lord Fraser and the other Guests of Honour at Dinner at the Dudley Hotel where Bill Griffiths expressed, in his own inimitable way, our sincere thanks to Commandant and Matron and all the Staff concerned with the Reunion, and also to Ted Miller for his very able chairmanship at the discussions and his eloquence as our spokesman when the occasions arose.

Subsequently, on 23rd October, **Her Grace the Duchess of Norfolk**, wrote the following charming letter to Mrs. Dacre:

Arundel Park,
October 23rd

Dear Mrs. Dacre,

I am so glad that everyone enjoyed the Party last Sunday and we both loved meeting them all.

I am so delighted with my table and it has been in constant use and just what I needed. Please do tell everyone concerned how much I like it and couldn't have been given anything more useful.

Yours sincerely,
LAVINIA NORFOLK.

Bridge Notes

The Autumn Bridge Drive was held on Saturday 28th October, at the London Club Headquarters, Marylebone Road. Despite a depletion in the number attending, owing to a variety of reasons, thirteen happy St. Dunstaners with their guests took part, and thoroughly enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon.

The results were as follows:

- 1st Les. Douglas and Mr. Horstead**
2nd Paul Nuyens and Miss M. Byrne
3rd Bob Bickley and Mr. Barnes

The prizes were graciously presented by Mrs. Meleson and as always the guests were appreciative of prizes of various items made by our St. Dunstaners.

The 9th and last Individual Competition of the Brighton Section was held on Saturday, October 28th. The results were as follows:

F. Rhodes and R. Goding	45
J. Chell and W. Scott	45
A. Smith and Partner	44
B. Ingrey and T. Clements	38
W. Burnett and J. Whitcombe	37
C. Kelk and S. Webster	31

Final total of the five best results is now as follows:

C. Kelk	254
B. Ingrey	241
F. Rhodes	230
R. Goding	227
W. T. Scott	224
J. Chell	222
W. Burnett	218
J. Whitcombe	216
A. Smith	215
H. Selby	204
S. Webster	201
T. Clements	201

As a result the first four will play in the final for the Lord Fraser Cup.

The 9th Individual Competition, London Section, was held on Saturday, 4th November 1967. The results were as follows:

Miss V. Kemmish and Partner	66
F. Mathewman and G. Brown	65
R. Armstrong and H. Meleson	63
R. Fullard and R. Bickley	55
R. Stanners and P. Nuyens	54

Final table of the five best results for the London Section were as follows:

R. Armstrong	394
M. Tybinski	361
P. Nuyens	359
F. Mathewman	357
G. Brown	330
R. Fullard	324
H. Meleson	321
H. Kerr	315
Miss V. Kemmish	315
F. Jackson	298
R. Bickley	281

The first four have qualified to play in the final for the Lord Fraser cup on the Sunday morning of the Ovingdean Congress (19th Nov. 1967).

P. NUYENS

CHESS AND BRIDGE

"L" WEEK-END 1968

St. Dunstaners interested in learning Chess and Bridge, which are both very absorbing and interesting games should note the following dates and write to Headquarters in London for Ovingdean bookings.

TO BE HELD AT OIVINGDEAN.
Chess Learners week-end. 9th-11th February 1968, inclusive.
Bridge Learners week-end. 16th-18th February 1968, inclusive.

Fares will be paid during the week-end.



The Rev. Dennis Pettit takes the Remembrance Day service at the village war memorial in Spratton, Northamptonshire.

IN TOWN AND COUNTRY —

St. Dunstaners Remember

A party of 21 St. Dunstaners with half as many ex-service men escorting them, accompanied by Mr. C. D. Wills and Mr. N. Smith, assembled at Headquarters in London on Sunday morning, 12th November, where they were joined by Lord Fraser and the Rev. A. Nugee to form the St. Dunstan's contingent in the British Legion parade at the Cenotaph and the Service of Remembrance.

Afterwards they were entertained to lunch at the Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington by Lord and Lady Fraser. In a short speech, Lord Fraser described the proceedings at the Cenotaph which he had come to visualise during the many years he had taken part in and led the parade.

Mr. Wills paid tribute to Lord Fraser and four other 1st World War St. Dun-

staners who marched and thanked the 2nd World War men and their escorts for taking over the task of keeping the St. Dunstan's contingent in being.

Mr. George Eustace replied on behalf of the St. Dunstaners present and Mr. W. Slattery spoke for the escorts.

Festival of Remembrance

Five St. Dunstaners and their wives attended the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall during the afternoon of Saturday, 11th November and had the honour of being asked to sit in the Royal Box. Another five St. Dunstaners with their wives, attended the Festival in the evening.

Letters to the Editor

From J. Legge of Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

Ten Days at Ovingdean

Early in November I spent my first ever convalescent holiday at our St. Dunstan's home, at Ovingdean. I was made very comfortable and the food was very good. In spite of high winds and heavy rain during the first part of my holiday, I nevertheless returned home after ten days feeling very much better for it. It was a pleasure indeed, to meet such a friendly and cheerful lot of fellow St. Dunstaners, many of whom were new to me, others, I'd not met for more than twenty years. I have no doubt at all, that the success of my holiday was due largely, to the attention given to our many needs and wants by a most devoted staff, under Matron Blackford. To all of you, and in particular, the V.A.D.'s of the lounge staff, I would like to say, "thank you".

From Norman Nolde of Cheltenham, Victoria, Australia

I have had a fortnight's holiday since my illness and am feeling fit again. We went up to the river Murray to do a little fishing, a pastime I like a lot. However, the fish took off when I arrived and haven't been seen since, but I did catch quite a few freshwater crayfish. Ask some of the boys if they have ever tried this sort of fishing. It's a blind man's sport as it all depends upon touch and feel. The trick is to put a piece of meat on a string or line and when a cray or lobster accidentally gets a hold on the bait, one has to draw in the line very carefully until the cray is just below the surface, then someone else has to get a net under it, scoop it in, then try to transfer it into a bucket; this last isn't so easy as it seems. However, we have lots of fun and a good feed of crayfish at the end.

This is one aspect of Australian life that I love, the ability to go for a holiday even in winter, with just a tent and be sure of good weather all the time. We were only 150 miles from Melbourne but the weather was beautiful, a little chilly at night, but the days are glorious. There are times when we both miss England but there are lots of things which make up for it.

Incidentally, it may interest some readers of the *Review* to hear that my daughter, Beryl Ann, was a debutante this year at a "coming out" ball. She was 17 this year and looked a picture at the ball!

Mrs. Gladys Marshall of Market Drayton, Shropshire.

I should like to thank everyone at St. Dunstan's for all the kindness shown to me in the very sad loss of my husband. He was a wonderful man and I miss him so very much.

This seems the only way I can thank everyone for all their letters and sympathy and show my appreciation for all St. Dunstan's have done in the years my husband has been a St. Dunstaner.

From Lilian Kemp of Hove, Sussex, to Handless St. Dunstaners

Words alone could never express my deep appreciation of your kind and sympathetic thoughts in presenting me with such a lovely gift on 17th October, 1967. Please accept my most sincere thanks to you all.

Future Miss World?

Odetta, daughter of J. A. LEE of Bradford, Yorks., recently won first prize in the "Miss Elegance" competition at Filey Butlins Camp where she was on holiday with her family. She received a Silver Cup.

REMEMBERING SIR ARTHUR

The 46th Anniversary of the death of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., Founder of St. Dunstan's, falls on Saturday, 9th December and a Service of Commemoration will be held in the Chapel at Ovingdean on Sunday 10th December at 11.15 a.m. The Rev. D. M. Harper, M.A., Chaplain to St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, will conduct the service. The Address will be given by our St. Dunstaner, T. Taylor of Farington, Nr. Preston, Lancs. Sir Neville Pearson, Bt. will read the Lesson.

On the morning of Saturday 9th December, Lord Fraser of Lonsdale will lay a wreath on Sir Arthur Pearson's grave at the Hampstead Cemetery. A party of St. Dunstaners will leave Headquarters for the Cemetery to take part in this annual ceremony.

Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Lloyds at 191, Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

Apprentice of the Year

John, seventeen year old son of our St. Dunstaner, D. E. CASHMORE of Selly Oak, Birmingham, has been made Apprentice of the Year by his firm Peerless and Ericsons, and the directors have awarded him £5.

John has just finished a 12 months course at Bromsgrove Technical College with excellent reports. He entered for Grade 1 City and Guild examination and obtained a first class pass with merit.

During the course he made several different tools, one of which was a pipe wrench and the other was a small machine for special measuring work, which he made with three other apprentices. Both these items were entered in an exhibition at the Engineering Trade Centre in Birmingham. The small machine took first prize and the pipe wrench won second prize. These tools were then sent to the National Exhibition in London where they again won first and second prize. He is now working on another course at the College.

Wanted Aluminium

Our attention has been drawn to the fact that the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association no longer accept silver paper from people who want to help buy and train Guide Dogs because it is now virtually worthless. Instead they are asking for waste aluminium, such as milk-bottle tops, pie cases, etc.

It is interesting to note that in past years silver paper collectors have raised nearly £20,000 for the Association's funds.

I see . . .

Rain washed roofs, gleaming softly bright,
Neon lights, fire engines, sirens sound,
Red 'buses motionless, traffic bound
I see all this from my lone height:
The crawling cars and street lights fade,
Here hills of purple, here leafy glade,
Autumnal leaves, brown, yellow, red;
Birch, rowan tree and bracken dead,
A long, long lane of winding light,
The river flowing thro' the glen,
THEY see, who thought ne'er to see again,
A waterfall, golden corn—a salmon dart
Golden memories to keep a happy heart
For those now without the sight:

F. S.

From "The Guider" September 1967

Mary, daughter of our St. Dunstaner, Tommy Gaygan, whose photograph appeared in the August "Review" had the following write-up in "The Guider" September edition on being awarded the Star of Merit

Mary Gaygan, lately Sixer, aged 11 years, 1st Middlesex West Post Pack, Middlesex West.

Mary has faced three operations bravely and cheerfully and has done her utmost to overcome her difficulties. She has brought out the best in those who know her and is always willing to help other people. Mary has been a keen and helpful member of her Pack and gained several badges.

Mary is now a Girl Guide.

COOKING THE TURKEY

Here are some general hints for the preparation and cooking of the turkey. The temperature for roasting is, Gas Regulo Mark 7—Electricity 450°F. Depending on the size of turkey the time for roasting is 1½ to 3 hours. The best turkeys have white skins with smooth black legs. Chose a bird not under 10 lbs. and one that is plump and feels heavy for its size. Having either prepared your own bird for roasting, or getting the butcher to do it for you (this is the easier!) put in the stuffing you have decided on for this year, putting in as much as the loose skin will cover, fasten it with a small skewer. Rub your turkey all over with olive oil. Cover the breast with fat bacon, heat some dripping in a baking tin, put in the bird and place in a hot oven, keeping it basted well during the cooking to keep it moist. Remove the bacon five minutes before the bird is done, to brown the breast

Here are two methods for stuffing your turkey. The traditional Chesnut Stuffing can be made as follows:—

Chestnut Stuffing

2 oz. fine Breadcrumbs. ¼ lb. Chestnuts. 1 teaspoon finely chopped Parsley. 1oz. Butter or Margarine. Salt and Pepper. 1 Egg.

Remove the shells and skins from the chestnuts either by putting them in a hot oven until the skins crack, or scalding them and then removing the shells with a knife. Boil them until tender in slightly salted water. Then mash or rub them through a coarse sieve, mix them with the butter melted, pepper, salt, breadcrumbs and parsley. Bind with a well beaten egg.

Another slightly out-of-the-ordinary recipe for stuffing the turkey is this method.

Celery Stuffing

1 teacup finely chopped Celery. ¼ lb. Breadcrumbs. 3 oz. shredded Suet. 2 oz. Ham. 1 tablespoon chopped Parsley. Good pinch of dried mixed Herbs or teaspoon finely chopped fresh Nuts. Grated rind of ½ Lemon. Salt and Pepper. 1 Egg

Chop the ham very finely, using lean only. Take only the heart of the celery, otherwise it will be stringy when cooked. Mix all the ingredients together and bind with a well beaten egg.

Here is a Christmas Pudding which is very light and to be recommended to those who find it difficult to digest the ordinary plum pudding.

Christmas Pudding

½ lb fine Breadcrumbs. ½ lb. Raisins. ¼ lb. Sultanas. ¼ lb. mixed Peel. ½ lb. Demarara Sugar. 4 Eggs. 2 tablespoons Milk. 6 oz. Suet. 1 small wineglass Brandy [optional]. 1 teaspoon Spice.

Time 6 hours. Temperature—moderate. (The brandy is optional, as the pudding is quite a good one without it).

Prepare the fruit and mix all the dry ingredients together. Beat the yolks and whites of the eggs separately. Add them to the dry ingredients and then add the milk and brandy.

Fill basins or moulds with the mixture. Cover with greaseproof paper, then with a cloth and boil the puddings for six hours.

WALKING

Eight St. Dunstaners suffered from wind at Ewell on Sat. Oct. 14th. No, not the internal type, but the one that seems to blow continually down that long hill that we have to face on all of our walks at Ewell. Being the first walk of the season there, none of us were really fit, and so we were thankful that we had only a single lap to do.

No dark horses emerged, no sparkle from secret training, result—a rather routine afternoon.

Result

St. Dunstan's 1½ mile Ewell 14th October

Order of Finish	Handicap		Actual Time
	Time	Allowance	
Barratt	12.58	1.45	14.43
Mendham	13.38	Scr.	13.38
Stafford	13.46	2.40	16.26
Young	13.57	2.40	16.37
Miller	14.00	Ser.	14.00
Tutton	14.04	2.10	16.14
Burns	15.00	2.35	17.35
Simpson	15.10	1.05	16.15

Coming Events

December 2: 4½ miles at Ewell
January 20: 6 miles at Ewell

W. MILLER

J. M. HOGG of Clacton-on-Sea, has recently won 2nd prize for his basket work in a Handicraft Exhibition organised by the Essex County Association for the Blind.

Sixteen players took part in the successful Chess week held at Ovingdean from November 3rd-6th. They were divided into Major and Minor sections, eight players competing in each.

The present Champion, John Cruse won the Cup for the third successive time with four wins in four games. Runner-up in the Major section was Roy Hyett with three games. Wally Lethbridge put up a splendid performance by winning his four games in the Minor Section.

Making his first appearance in this Tournament, Ralph Preece did well to come second in the three games, while Phil Duffee showed great promise in his first effort by winning two games.

Among St. Dunstaners participating were Percy Blackmore, Ernie Lee competing again and three new players:— Charles Rentoll, Alan Mitchell and Stan Coe.

Mr. R. W. Bonham from Worcester adjudicated and as usual gave much help and advice to the players. His wife, Josephine presented the prizes in her usual charming manner.

The players were grateful to Mrs. McDonald for keeping everything running smoothly through all the sessions.

In February Mr. Bonham will come down for an instructional week-end when special attention will be given to beginners and time will also be devoted to players of varied experience.

All Chess players will be welcome, so look out for further news about the week-end in the *Review*.

C. KELK,
Captain

Christmas Quiz

For all the Family

1. What do we call the use of words to suggest different meanings appearing twice in this verse by Thomas Hood writing about a sailor?
" His death which happen'd in his berth,
At forty-odd befell:
They went and told the sexton, and
The sexton toll'd the bell."
2. Can you give three different names for places where monks or nuns live?
3. What English bird makes its nest on the bare ground and rises high into the air singing as it climbs?
4. "Tha she blows!" What person would use this exclamation? What does it mean?
5. Can you give the names of four English wild animals that live underground?
6. How can you tell a penny from a half crown in the dark?
7. Which common English bird has a bright yellow beak? Which has a speckled breast?
8. Can you give the names of two battles fought in England in which English kings were killed?
9. Can you give the names of three rulers who have been called "The Great?"
10. What is the word missing from the two blanks in these lines that begin a poem by Robert Burns? (The same word is needed for each blank.)
"My heart's in the my heart is not here.
My heart's in the a-chasing the deer."
11. With what other man and with what fictitious expedition do you associate Sir Henry Curtis and Captain John Good?
12. Who unpicked every night the tapestry that she had woven during the day? Why did she do this?
13. "His queer long coat from heel to head
Was half of yellow and half of red,
And he himself was tall and thin,
With sharp blue eyes, each like a pin."
Who is described in this quotation? What did he undertake to do and what was his fee?
14. "Now . . .
Is seen the rare, sweet, chastened face of May;
She is the daughter of the year who stands
With Autumn's last rich offerings in her hands."
How can you tell this does not refer to England? What month in England corresponds to May in this poem
15. Is it an acid or an alkali that turns blue litmus paper red?

16. What are the names of the first two letters of the ancient Greek alphabet? What common English word comes direct from them?
17. "Four gray walls and four gray towers
Overlook a space of flowers,
And the silent isle embowers" Whom?
18. An army commander knew that the enemy were sheltering at the foot of a cliff which was somewhere in front of him and his men. It was a very dark night, yet he had to know quickly how far away the cliff was. He told one of his men to fire a shot into the air, and a few seconds later he announced that the enemy were about 700 yards (2/5 mile) away. How did he know? It should be mentioned that he was carrying a stopwatch.
19. What were the names of the Roman god of sun and the Roman goddess of the moon?
20. Name two famous women army leaders. During which wars did they fight?
21. Where can you see the Charred Cross? What is it made from?
22. There is a well-known song called "The Road to the Isles". What Isles are these? Where are they situated?

Quizzes from Fred's Cafe

1. "The seven seas" is a phrase very widely used. Can you name them?
2. Many American States are known by popular names? Can you work out the correct state against the popular name given below?
Lone Star
Apache State
Cotton State
Hawkeye State
Treasure State
Desert State
Panhandle State
3. There are three cans—A, B, and C.
A. holds three gallons but has two gallons in it.
B. holds five gallons but has three gallons in it.
C. holds eight gallons but has five gallons in it.
By using the three cans only, can you leave EXACTLY one gallon in one of the cans?

The Answers for this Quiz will be found elsewhere in this issue. There are no prizes, but you can gain points with each question correctly answered. Maximum points: 70.



ST. DUNSTAN'S CLOCK

Aerial View

On November 2nd **John "Tiny" Pointon** spoke to the Queen Mary, 200 miles west of Lisbon on her last voyage. He was using new amateur radio equipment and a special aerial mounted on a mast. If two of his neighbours in Bexhill had had their way Tiny's transmitter would have been silenced by the removal of his mast and aerial. Although he had planning permission their complaint caused the local council to reconsider their decision. However, at a meeting held on November 1st, the planning committee decided to take no further action in the matter. Tiny told me, "This was entirely due to the interest of the local press and through them the national newspapers and television, which made the affair too hot to handle".

The mast is forty feet high but this is measured from ground level and the aerial—rather like a huge box kite pinched in the middle—is not much higher than most television aeriels mounted on house roofs. Tiny feels there is a matter of principle here: "I am most indignant that one complaint can cause so much trouble. It's not just me but all other radio amateurs. Anybody buying a television set can put up their aerial without planning permission so why should not a licensed amateur put up a transmitting aerial? I think it is all over as far as my case is concerned but another "ham" who is not blind might not find the same public sympathy as I received. The position should be as it is in America, that any person who has passed their amateur radio examinations should have the right to put up any aerial as long as it is behind the building line."

Second Term as Chairman

For the first time for ten years *St. Dunstan's* physiotherapists have re-elected their Chairman. In November **Gordon Smith**, well known to *St. Dunstaners* as resident physiotherapist at Ovingdean, began a second term as Chairman of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee. The elected Committee, whose members are all *St. Dunstaners*, advises the organisation on the interests of war-blinded physiotherapists.

The Vice-Chairman for 1967/8 is **Tom Hart** of Folkstone.

It Strikes Me

One Thousand dogs out of Exeter

Marking the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the battle of Alamein in October listeners to the radio heard Sir Brian Horrocks describe the dramatic moment when the offensive began with an artillery barrage of not far short of 1,000 guns. At about the same time the 1,000th dog to be paired with its master or mistress passed out of the G.D.B.A. Training Centre at Exeter.

Dogs bark and guns are said to do the same which prompted me to make this comparison because the student at Cleve House, the Exeter Training Centre often wakes up in the morning to a chorus of barking dogs. Like the artillery barrage the dogs all seem to give voice at about the same moment. Mr. **John Weeks**, Controller at Exeter, told me that in the first seven years since the Training Centre opened in 1950, 250 dogs were trained but in the succeeding ten years the figure was 750 and he hoped to keep up this rate of 75 dogs going home with their owners each year, in the future.

Incidentally there is now no rigid upper age limit for any blind person who wants to become a guide dog owner. It is your keenness to succeed your physical fitness and suitable conditions at home and at work that matter. In Guide Dog ownership you are as old as you feel or as others feel you to be.

What we want is Watney's

There was a double attempt by *St. Dunstaners* to be the first to win the trophy *St. Dunstan's* presented to the Hastings Blind Bowling Association for competition in their annual tournament. **Les Dennis** and **Ralph Preece** entered but Ralph was knocked out in the eliminating rounds. Les reached the final only to be beaten by 17 shots to 11. However he did win a singles shield presented by Watney's.

"The only snag was they didn't provide a pint to go with it", joked Les.

MAGOG



Photo George Gregory



Merry Christmas?

Christmas time is a time for good will to all and we try to make everyone as happy as possible, but young Olwen just sat in the corner, sullen, silent and on the verge of tears.

"What's the matter, Olwen?" my wife and I asked, trying to fathom her problem.

"You did it", she blurted out. "Come and see".

She led us to the rarely used cupboard in the back bedroom and on opening the door revealed the hood, whiskers, cape, trousers and high boots of my Father Christmas costume, hanging ready for use.

"You've SKINNED HIM", she bawled.

For Her

"Fred, can you suggest something I can buy my wife for Christmas?" said Sid, one of my regulars.

I was taken back at first, hearing this request, as Sid is well known in the cafe for his tight-fisted and mean ways. Nevertheless, I am not the sort to refuse support to such a gesture of good will at Christmas. I named several gifts he could buy his wife, ladies things, even a nice brooch. Some time later Sid returned and showed my wife and me what he had bought. "There" he said triumphantly, unwrapping his gift, "What do you think of it?" On the table lay a very small cheap-looking brooch. Sid capped it all by saying,

"I did not get an expensive one, for the wife would worry about losing it and I got a small one as too much glitter would be bad for her eyes. For it's not what you give, its the way its given".

CHECK YOUR

1. A pun. Score 1 point.
2. Monastery, abbey, priory, convent, nunnery—there are five such names. Score 1 point each.
3. The lark. Score 1.
4. The look-out on a whaler would exclaim this. A whale has come to the surface and is ejecting water from its blow-holes. Score 1.
5. Badger, field mouse, fox, mole, otter, rabbit, rat, vole, water vole. Score 1 point each.
6. The half-crown has a milled edge and the penny has not. Score 2 points.
7. The male blackbird. The thrush. Score 3 points, take off one point if you haven't said "male"!
8. The battle of Hastings (1066) in which Harold I died and the battle of Bosworth (1485) in which Richard III died. Score 1, Hastings—3, Bosworth.
9. Alexander the Great; Alfred the Great of England; Catherine the Great of Russia; Charles the Great (often called Charlemagne) of France. Frederick the Great of Prussia; Herod the Great; and Peter the Great of Russia. Score 2 points each.
10. The Highlands. 2 points.
11. King Solomon's Mines by Rider Haggard. Allan Quatermain was the other man and the expedition was to discover King Solomon's Mines. Score 1 for book, 2 for character.
12. Penelope, the wife of Ulysses. Her husband was away for twenty years fighting at and returning from Troy. Many suitors believing he was dead wanted to marry her. Penelope promised that she would choose one of them when she had finished the tapestry but unpicked it every night to delay finishing it. Score 3 points.
13. The Pied Piper in Robert Browning's poem—"The Pied Piper of Hamelin". He undertook to free Hamelin of its plague of rats for a thousand guilders. Score 1 point for each.

"IN" RATING HERE: Christmas Quiz Answers

14. May is not an autumn month in the northern hemisphere; the poem is about a country south of the equator—in actual fact it is Australia. May there corresponds to our November. Score 1 for spotting autumn, 2 for right month.
15. An acid. Score 2 points.
16. Alpha and beta from which comes the word alphabet. Score 2 points.
17. The Lady of Shalott (in the poem by Lord Tennyson). Score 3 points.
18. He knew that sound travelled approximately 1/5 mile a second. He timed the gap between the firing of the gun and the echo of the shot, which was four seconds. The sound must have taken two seconds to reach the cliff and two seconds to echo back, so he knew that the cliff was approximately 2/5ths of a mile or 700 yards away. Score 3 points.
19. Apollo and Diana. Score 1 point each.
20. Joan of Arc. (1412-31) who led the French Army against the English in the Hundred Year's War. Boadicea who in 61 A.D. lead Britons against Romans. Score 1 point each.
21. The Charred Cross is in Coventry Cathedral. It is made from beams charred in the German air raid of 1940 and stands in the ruined sanctuary of the old cathedral. Score 1 point each.
22. The Isles are the Hebrides which lie off the west coast of Scotland. Score 1 point each.

Answers from Fred's Cafe

1. The Arctic, Antarctic, North and South Pacific. North and South Atlantic and the Indian Ocean. Score 3 points.
2. Lone Star: Texas
Apache State: Arizona
Cotton State: Alabama
Hawkeye State: Iowa
Treasure State: Montana
Desert State: Utah
Panhandle State: West Virginia

3. Fill the three gallon can A. from the eight gallon can C., then simply fill up the five gallon can which requires two gallons leaving one gallon in the three gallon can. Score 2 points.

Results

Score 70 ...	...	...	Incredible!
Between 60-70 ...	...	...	Intelligent
Between 40-60 ...	...	...	Indifferent
Between 30-40 ...	...	...	Inefficient
Under 30 ...	...	...	Inebriated!

Talented Daughters

Julie, youngest daughter of R. VOWLES of Portsmouth has won this year the Aggregate Medal for the 5th year running at the All England Dancing Festival which is held in London. She also won the semi-final for tap and was 3rd in the finals.

Hilary, daughter of R. FORSTER of Leeds is also a keen dancer and has already passed many examinations and has now been successful in the following:

I.S.T.D. Modern Stage Branch. Grade II—Highly Commended.

I.D.M.A. Modern Stage Branch. Silver Medal—Highly Commended.

I.D.M.A. Ballet. Gold Medal—Highly Commended.

Of those who took the Gold Medal, Hilary was awarded the highest marks.

YOUNGEST ROTARY PRESIDENT

H. D. COUPE of Fulwood, Preston, has been elected President of his local Rotary Club for the year ending July 1968. He has been a member of the Club for seven years and is the youngest President they have ever had.

Club News

Brighton Club Notes

IMPORTANT. Will members of the Club please note that the date of the Annual General Meeting to be held in the Winter Garden, Ovingdean, has been changed to **THURSDAY, 7th DECEMBER, 1967** at 7 p.m. and **NOT** the 14th December as previously stated. I should like to take this opportunity to remind members that the usual service bus will leave at 6.45 p.m. for the 7 p.m. meeting.

FRANK A. RHODES
Secretary

Cardiff Club Notes

In spite of the weather, a very enjoyable meeting of the Club took place on Saturday, 4th November at the Cardiff Institute for the Blind, and we were pleased to see members from some distance away.

Unfortunately our Secretary was unable to attend owing to the illness of his wife and we all wish her a speedy recovery. We decided to hold the election of officers and Committee at a later date when our Secretary could be present.

We played dominoes and cards before tea and Frank Bell won the dominoes and Reg Parsons, the Cribbage. After tea we played Bingo.

We would like to take this opportunity of sending to all St. Dunstan's Social Clubs and their members our best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year and may the coming year see our Clubs stronger than ever!

A. C. EVANS,
Chairman

London Club Notes

Our heartiest congratulations to our St. Dunstaners Horace Kerr and Freddie Mathewman who share the first of this season's Pontoon Sweeps at the London Club. The "booby" was won by Harry Meleson.

As we had hoped Bob Bickley has recovered sufficiently to come back to the Club where his cheerful personality has been much missed during his recent illness. It is nice to note that he gained a third prize in our Autumn Bridge drive, and also that he attended the Individual Competition.

Our Thursday evening feature still gives great pleasure to our regular Domino players in the Club and is well attended. Winners of games during October were as follows:

5th October (1) **George Stanley**
(2) Bill Harding
Bill Miller

12th October (1) **G. P. Brown**
(2) Bill Harding
Bill Miller
George Stanley

19th October (1) **Bill Harding**
Sean McNamara
(2) Jim Murray

26th October (1) **Bill Miller**
(2) G. P. Brown

W. MILLER

Family News

Sutton Club Notes

On Saturday, October 14th, Miss D. Hoare, our Vice-President, kindly invited the Sutton Club to her home where we spent a very enjoyable afternoon. Some of the members played dominoes in one room, while others had dancing and a sing song in another. During the afternoon Miss Hoare provided us with a splendid tea which everyone much enjoyed. May I on behalf of the Club offer our sincere thanks to Miss Hoare and her helpers for giving us such a delightful afternoon.

We held our Club meeting on 28th October and played off the tournament games of dominoes, threes and fives, and cribbage. The former being won by Bobby Dow from Ted Dudley, who won the cribbage from Bill Kennedy. After tea we played a domino drive, the winner being myself.

We shall be pleased to welcome any new members at our next meeting on December 30th. Just telephone Ted Dudley after 6 p.m. at Croydon 0596 or me at Croydon 3066 for information.

GEORGE JENRICK,
Vice-Chairman

Family News

Ruby Wedding

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. A. CLOVER of Sudbury, Suffolk, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 8th October, 1967.

Golden Wedding

Very many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. F. J. WESTAWAY of Yeovil, Somerset, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on October 25th 1967.

Warmest congratulations to MR. AND MRS. W. J. ROBERTS of Prittlewell, Southend, on the anniversary of their Golden Wedding which was on 19th August, 1967.

Grandfathers

Congratulations to:

A. L. FLEET of Purley, Surrey, on the arrival of a grandson, Gary Alan, born on 19th October, 1967, to his step-daughter, Rosemary.

R. F. MAJOR of Bournemouth, Hants, on the arrival of a Grandson, born to his daughter Wendy on October 25th, 1967. He is to be called Andrew Christopher.

L. OLLIER of Lytham St. Annes, Lancs., on the birth of his third grandchild, a boy who is to be called Adrian Spencer Ollier Hilton, born to his daughter Joan, on 18th October, 1967.

J. B. PURCELL of Urmston, Lancs., on the arrival of a grandson, born to his son John's wife on 7th September. This is John Bernard Purcell—the third!

Family News

Great Grandfathers

Many congratulations to:

W. A. BRAMSON of Brighton on the arrival of a great-grandson, when his granddaughter, Pat, gave birth to a son on 6th October, 1967, who is to be called David.

W. J. ROBERTS of Prittlewell, Southend, who became a great-grandfather when his granddaughter, Sandra Lynch, gave birth to a son on 21st September, 1967, who is to be called John.

At the Annual Luncheon for "Men of the Year," held at the Savoy Hotel on 2nd November, Colonel Mike Ansell, C.B.E., D.S.O., was one of the men selected by the British Council for Rehabilitation of the Disabled as one of the outstanding men of the year. He was in good company for with him was Sir Francis Chichester, C.B.E.

D. J. M. Stephens of Ferryside, Carmarthenshire, in a letter to Lord Fraser, writes:

"The British Legion here are giving me and our Treasurer, who has just retired after 15 years, the Legion gold badge. We are having a dinner and the Lord Lieutenant is presenting the badges. The High Sheriff will also be present".

Gillian, granddaughter of our St. Dunstaner, W. A. BRAMSON of Brighton, was married on 30th September, 1967.

Jean, daughter of L. W. COOK of High Wycombe, Bucks., was married on 23rd September, 1967.

Frances Mary, daughter of our St. Dunstaner, ALAN R. REYNOLDS was married on 16th September, 1967 to Philip Mansell at St. Chad's Church, Shrewsbury.

Edna, daughter of our St. Dunstaner, L. WITHINGTON of Wigan, was married to Mr. John Green on 7th October, 1967.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

J. B. CAMPBELL of Houghton-le-Spring, Durham, who mourns the death of his mother on 23rd October, 1967.

R. H. COLLINS of Liverpool who mourns the death of his brother, Edward, who died on 17th October, 1967 at the age of forty-nine.

D. STOTT of Rumney, Cardiff, who mourns the death of his step-father towards the end of October, 1967.

P. STUBBS of Norwich who mourns the death of his mother at the beginning of October, 1967.

In Memory

It is with deep regret we have to record the death of the following St. Dunstaners, and we offer our deepest sympathy to their widows, families and friends.

William Edward Evans. *Lancashire Fusiliers and Kings Liverpool Regiment.*

William Edward Evans of Little Neston, Wirral, Cheshire died in hospital on 10th November at the age of 68 years.

He served with both the Lancashire Fusiliers and the Kings Liverpool Regiment from 1917 to 1919 and was the victim of a mustard gas attack. His sight did not deteriorate until later in life and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1962. He was a wonderful gardener and derived great pleasure from this occupation and also from his greenhouse. He was a faithful attender at Northern Reunions.

Robert Fairbairn Cook. *Norfolk Regiment and Royal Fusiliers.*

Robert Fairbairn Cook of Hexham, Northumberland died at his home on 6th November 1967 at the age of 70.

He served with the Norfolk Regiment and Royal Fusiliers from 1915 to 1919 being a victim of a mustard gas attack in 1918. His sight did not deteriorate until latterly and he came to St. Dunstan's in May 1966. In view of his age he did not undertake any occupational training but when he was well enough he enjoyed making stools and trays.

Edward Hardbottle. *Royal Garrison Artillery.*

Edward Hardbottle of Barnsley, Yorks., died in hospital on 21st October, 1967 at the age of 70.

He served with the Royal Garrison Artillery from 1916 to 1919 and suffered from a Gas attack in 1918. His sight did not deteriorate however, until latterly and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1957. On account of his age and indifferent health he did not undertake any occupational training, but he always enjoyed attending Reunions. He had been gravely ill for two months prior to his death.

David Marshall. *1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry.*

David Marshall of Market Drayton, Shropshire died at his home on 12th October, 1967. He was 77 years of age.

He served with the 1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry from 1916 to 1917 and was wounded at Loos in 1917 and came to St. Dunstan's in the same year.

He trained in boot repairing and mat making and carried on both these occupations for some years. He was a very keen gardener and derived much pleasure from both his garden and his greenhouse. He also attended the annual Reunions as often as possible. He had been in indifferent health recently but seemed to improve a little. His death was sudden and unexpected.

Frederick Francis Ahrens. *Royal Artillery.*

Frederick Francis Ahrens of Falmouth, Cornwall, died in hospital on 19th October, 1967 at the age of 72 years.

He enlisted in May 1911 in the Royal Artillery and served with them until his discharge in 1920. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1963 and had by that time already retired. He was admitted to hospital in July of this year where he remained until his death on 19th October.

David Naismith Livingstone. *Black Watch Regiment.*

David Naismith Livingstone died at his home in Mauchline, Ayrshire, Scotland, on 21st October, 1967. He was 91 years of age.

He served with the Black Watch Regiment from 1915 to 1917 coming to St. Dunstan's in 1919. He trained in basket making, netting and also kept poultry. He carried on these occupations for a considerable number of years. He enjoyed attending the Edinburgh Reunions but due to failing health had been absent from them for the last few years.

Leslie Northwood. *Royal Artillery.*

Leslie Northwood of Plymouth, Devon, died in hospital on 11th October, 1967 at the age of 50.

He enlisted in the Royal Artillery in 1935 and served with them until his discharge in 1944. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1943 and trained as a telephonist and carried on this work until he was taken ill in July of this year when he was admitted to hospital. Although still on the firm's staff, his illness was known to be serious and he remained in hospital until his death on 11th October.

Michael Vincent O'Neill. *Civil Defence.*

Michael Vincent O'Neill of Eastbourne died on 14th September at the age of 72.

During the 2nd World War Mr. O'Neill served in the Civil Defence as a firewatcher and came to St. Dunstan's in 1941. He undertook various forms of training, became a receptionist and latterly ran a boarding house in Eastbourne with his wife. This they kept on until this year when they gave up the boarding house and moved into a smaller house. Mr. O'Neill suffered poor health for some years and had been in hospital several times followed by periods of convalescence at Pearson House.

Joseph Strutton. *22nd London Regiment.*

Joseph Strutton of Rotherhithe, S.E.16 died at his home on 18th October, 1967 at the age of 71.

He enlisted in the 22nd London Regiment in 1914 and served with them until his discharge in 1916. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1952, but he did not enjoy the best of health and therefore, did not undertake any training although he was a frequent visitor to our Homes in Brighton. In latter years his health has shown marked signs of deterioration and during the past months he became seriously ill and died on 18th October, 1967.



Mrs. Curnow describes how the Christmas tree is arranged.

Ways of Life 4.

PERSUADER ON BROADWAY—Len Curnow

A St. Dunstaner for whom Christmas looms very large at present is Len Curnow, who owns a tobacconist and confectioners shop in Broadway, Bexleyheath, south-east of London. When the *Review* photographer called he and his staff were preparing the Christmas decorations for the shop and later Len spent some time with a watch and clock salesman laying in his stock for the season of present buying.

Clocks and watches? Yes, for Len Curnow has not been content to remain only a tobacconist and confectioner. "When you are in business you've got to keep one jump ahead of the times. I fully realised that when the swing came to super markets, general commodities and food stuffs would be the lines introduced as loss leaders so that's why I've arranged my shop so that I am not solely dependent on one article". He also sells stationery and greeting cards and he runs a sub-post office.

Len employs a staff of four—three in the post office and one assisting his wife, Louise and himself in the shop, "And I'm the general dogsbody you know, all over the place". There is a happy atmosphere among the staff which he regards as very important because a happy shop is attractive to customers. None of the staff has been less than two years in Len's employment, "I try to meet them half way over everything and try to solve their problems as well as our own. We do our best by them and they do their best by me".

It is Len's business sense and experience of shop management which makes for the efficiency and attractiveness of the shop but he also keeps his hand in behind the counter. He confines himself to serving tobacco, confectionery and his watches. Like other St. Dunstaners he has found the need for order with cigarettes always arranged in the same way in the wall fixtures and confectionery laid out in the same lines on the counters. Watches and clocks follow the same pattern, "But you cannot identify different watches by touch so when I am selling, or buying, I always call one of the girls across to make a final check".

Len Curnow has been trading in Bexleyheath for twenty years. The shop was his first business after completing his training at St. Dunstan's. "Before I was blinded I was in the engineering trade, but as a boy I worked with my uncle in the retail trade. As a lad I worked in the shop there to earn my pocket money". What made him turn to shopkeeping in making his second life? "Because I like the work. I like being with the general public. I always like people and I hope people like me".

"You must be able to assess your customer and make him a friend and in so doing you become a friend of the family. You get to know the family and they come to you with their problems. Especially in this particular shop with its sub-post office we do have some very sad cases, quite often they ask my advice and if I can't help I try to tell them who can. For instance I have been asked what are the best shares to buy and I tell them to contact a stockbroker". Not all the problems are serious: "The old age pensioners often lose their pension books and now when one comes in to tell us we always say, 'Have you looked on top of the wardrobe?' It's surprising how often it turns up there!"

Is the post office useful for bringing customers into the shop? Len doesn't think this is the main advantage: "Not necessarily because when people come into the post office they are often hurrying with their mind on whatever they are transacting and anything else other than that they do not see. But this one is a very large office one of the largest in the area and the remuneration is quite good".



Shining decorations fascinate a young customer.

He began selling watches by accident. "I was up at the factors and bought some watches for my twin girls and a customer came in and fancied the watches so I sold them and got my girls another two watches. That meant I got my girls' watches at half the price so I saw a future in this and I've been developing it ever since". Naturally his biggest turnover is in cigarettes and confectionery but, "Margin-wise you're better off selling clocks. You sell a clock for twenty pounds your margin is much greater on that than the same value of sales of confectionery". Len has customers for clocks and watches who come from ten to fifteen miles away and he acts as agent for Braille watches for the local branch of the R.N.I.B.

In an interview with a salesman Len showed how much expertise he has picked up in his fifteen years of selling clocks and watches. He drove a hard but fair bargain on each of his purchases to increase his stock for the Christmas trade. He was not too proud to call in his wife and assistants to give him visual comments on designs, and he was adamant on quality: "No, not that one it's too cheap, just a pin palate".



"What do you think of this?" Len Curnow asks sighted opinion before buying a clock of new design.

Ways of Life

Afterwards he explained: "You've got to know what you are buying and it's up to you to get your best prices. Quality is most essential, especially with something mechanical. If you are going to be pestered with after sales service you're working at a loss because not only have you got a dissatisfied customer you have time wasted in writing to manufacturers."

Buying for tobacco and confectionery is not so interesting: "Today the public are brainwashed. You listen to the television and what do you find? Big firms repeatedly advertising their brands. We're only an agent for the manufacturers, you haven't got to sell because customers are brand-minded. In my shop we specialise in the better class confectionery and if you want to be a success you've got to persuade people to try these different lines. First of all you've got to know your customer, don't pester him but suggest 'why don't you try this?' Nine times out of ten they will and then they will buy again. As long as you know what you are selling. That is the answer not to sell the customer once but to serve him again regularly."

Len tries all his special lines: "You can't speak as an authority on lines that you don't use yourself." He mentioned some of his quality chocolates: Suchard,

Fullers, Lindt, and the "best British brand, Gibbard"—Gibbard's only have one agent in each town and Len holds the agency for Bexleyheath. These quality wares are displayed prominently on the high shelves while the well-advertised brands which need less selling are arranged in the glass display cases below counter level.

"To be successful in business first of all depends on the position of your shop, whether you are on a good trading site or if you are in a position where you've got to depend on yourself. This shop is not on a busy thoroughfare and the competition is great but I still enjoy a fair amount of the trade. It is most important to make yourself . . . not necessarily make yourself because you can either do it or you can't . . . be able to get on with people. It's very important that you keep pace with events, local news and sport—you must take an interest when Blackheath are playing or the West Indies or when England play the All Blacks". With his still remaining west country burr—he was born of Cornish parents—it is easy to see that Len Curnow gets on with people and that is because he can say sincerely "Shop life is very, very interesting. It is a full life and in many respects a very rewarding life".