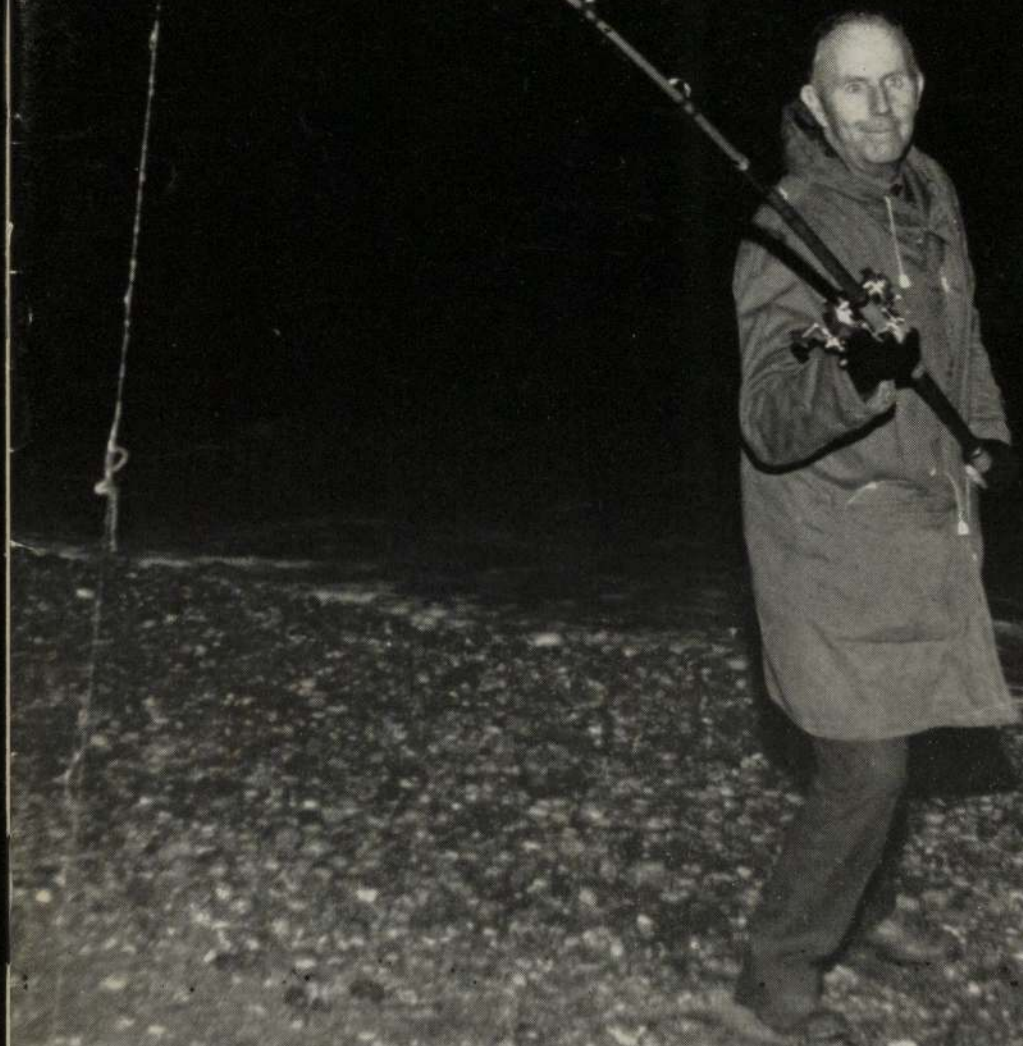


# FEBRUARY REVIEW





## DO IT YOURSELF ANGLERS

Dungeness is not much more than a mass of shingle sticking up out of the sea. It juts out from the flat marshlands of Romney with a few small shanty bungalows belonging to week-enders and the local fishing community and, incongruously, the futuristic ugliness of the atomic power station. It would be a bleak place in bad weather but this December afternoon the sea was flat-calm with haze hanging about to remove any warmth from the weak sunshine. Every two or three seconds the loudly plaintive note of the lighthouse fog horn disturbed the air. It did not seem to disturb Tom Daborn as he assembled 12 feet of fibre glass casting rod, methodically threaded his line through the rings and finally baited his hooks.

Nor did the fog-horn bother the other anglers whose rods bristled along the beach in either direction as far as the eye could see. Tom was an enthusiast among enthusiasts. Many of these men would still be fishing here at dawn the next morning, having braved the cold night with only camping stoves to brew up on and pressure

lamps dotting the shore like glow worms for illumination.

Many times Tom Daborn has fished here all night but this occasion was to demonstrate for the *Review* a beach rod he had built entirely himself. The rod cost less than £10 to make compared with nearer £20 for one of similar design bought in a shop. "It is a good thing," Tom said,

*Continued on page 22*

# St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

NO. 583 VOL. 52

FEBRUARY 1968

3d. MONTHLY

Free to St. Dunstaners

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### *Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L.*

Just too late for the January issue, we learned that Colonel Mike Ansell, a member of St. Dunstan's Council and himself a St. Dunstaner, had been made a Knight for services to British show jumping.

It is worth recalling his notable career, which I give below.

After Wellington and Sandhurst, Colonel Ansell served with the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards in India and became Adjutant. In 1939 he was appointed Brigade Major of the 5th Cavalry Brigade. A year later he commanded the 1st Lothian and Border Yeomanry division of the Armoured Regiment of the 51st Highland Division, the youngest C.O. at that time.

It was in July 1940 that he was blinded and wounded. For three years he was a prisoner-of-war in Germany until he was repatriated when he was awarded the D.S.O.

Colonel Ansell has always taken a keen interest in horses and riding. Between 1931 and 1939 he represented Great Britain at show jumping and played polo for England. In 1945 he was appointed Chairman of the British Show Jumping Association and he became President in 1949, the year he started the Horse of the Year Show which he still directs. In 1951 he was awarded the C.B.E. "for services to Show Jumping". He is now Chairman of the British Show Jumping Association Selection Committee and is responsible for all our teams who compete.

The whole of St. Dunstan's, as well as the sporting world, will rejoice at this well deserved honour. We offer Sir Michael and Lady Ansell our very warm congratulations.

### *Not U.N.O.*

I do not want unnecessarily to prolong the argument about Remembrance Day. I think the Editor reported this matter quite admirably in our last issue. I notice, however, that he quoted the Rev. E. F. Carpenter, Archdeacon of Westminster Abbey, as having said that he hoped Remembrance Day would go on, but that it would be in some way linked with the United Nations; though he added that he knew this to be a minority view.

I want to put on record for St. Dunstaners who did not happen to hear this broadcast, that I was asked to take part again in a television programme on this subject on 12th December last when, in a Television News Bulletin, the B.B.C. were reporting about a Committee which had been set up by the Archbishop of Canterbury to consider changes in Remembrance Day. I said that I had heard that some people wanted to link it in some way with the United Nations but that I objected most strongly to this. "The United Nations", I said, "does not unite people. On the contrary, it divides them."

My opinion is that if the United Nations does have a Day, they should have it on their own and not mix it up with Remembrance Day, which now stands for all the soldierly virtues, such as memory of our fallen comrades, thought for those who remain, courage and unselfishness.

Fraser of Lonsdale



**Ancient Colonnade.** A picture by Gordon Stent which has been exhibited in this country and America. In both cases the selection committees were not aware that the artist was blind when they accepted the painting.

## BLIND MAN'S BRUSH

Flt. Lt. Gordon Stent of Bournemouth served in the Royal Air Force during the 1939/45 war. Subsequently, he worked as a lighting consultant until the gradual onset of blindness made this impossible. A few years ago he started to paint, using a method of his own. He has been amazingly successful and one of his paintings has been accepted by H.M. the Queen and another by President Johnson.

Flt. Lt. Stent had never painted a picture before he went blind and he has described the reason he now does so in these words. "No traveller in the desert ever craved a drink more than I desired to paint." He uses crayons that are oil-based and smudgeless. "Painting is possible," says Flt. Lt. Stent, "and there is a wealth of dexterity within the fingers of the blind." He describes his technique in the following words.

"Take a sheet of cartridge drawing paper, not too large at first, and pin it to the drawing board using half-inch strips of cardboard that you can get the printer to guillotine off from inexpensive straw-board for you. Use these strips to border your paper all round. Under the art paper you must put about four sheets of newspaper to make a fairly soft background.

Using a slim wooden brush handle sharpened down like a pencil, draw the figures and shapes you wish to colour. The indentations so made can be followed with the fingers of the left hand quite well and so control the use of the colour.

At first, simple shapes should be practised without attempting a proper picture. Practise following straight lines such as a

rectangle and then draw a curved surface catching the light. This will give the leaf shape and a curved form instead of a flat shape. Larger surfaces, such as sky or sea, needing no indentations, are subject to longer practice for full coverage has to be achieved leaving no white paper showing through.

By adapting the kind of point you have on the crayon pencil either to a fine point or a long flat end according to what you are colouring; for the large surfaces mentioned you need the flat point and have to work methodically over the paper gradually. 'Tramline' effect can be avoided with practice.

Avoid using a board with an imperfect surface because these will affect the colour finish and show through. A good idea is to acquire a sheet of stiff card from the art shop or printers and place this under the art paper. This will completely prevent any blemish such as pinholes spoiling the colour work.

### Practise

Practise spreading thumb and first finger, and keeping them in position learn to bring two contour lines to meet at the thumb, having commenced them at the tip of the forefinger. This is an invaluable aid in almost all the drawing of original indentations. The left hand is the constant position finder.

It may occur to some that Braille tabs might be used to mark the pencils with their colour but I have found that this is too laborious and impracticable because you will not be able to raise your left finger from the particular place you are colouring merely to get another colour and read the tab. If you do so you will have to re-locate again. It is far better to adopt methods described later: by memorising, speedy changes of colour selection are possible.

Try to establish a uniform pressure on the pencil crayon because without it results may be patchy, losing the attractive density of colour and gloss.

If a picture is contemplated that involves perspective, it is useful to place one of the border half-inch cardboard strips right across the board to represent your horizon line. This will enable you to decide exactly where to place objects to be drawn in accurate relation to the foreground and

horizon. Indentations are not necessary for everything. Clouds, some tree foliage, certain foreground requiring bold treatment, and items to be represented on these foregrounds can be drawn with indentations after the base colouring has been completed. Care should be taken not to attempt to overpaint a light shade over a dominant dark colour; this is possible with proper oil paint but is not successful with these oil-bound pencil crayons. It is essential to use only oil-bound pencil crayons because the constant contact of the fingers of the left hand would ruin your work if other medium is employed. Oil-based colours are absolutely smudgeless, and after long and tiresome experiment I have found the very best of this marketed crayon. It is those supplied by the Eagle Pencil Company, Ashley Road, London, N.17. With these, when you have acquired the technique of obtaining full coverage and total colour depth, a beautiful polished oil colour effect can be achieved. The Eagle pencils are contained in sets of 24 in a zip wallet and these are easily memorised and must be replaced after use into their own sleeve. Because Rowney make pencils giving much greater range, about 60 in all, I use these for some of the detail work and organise these as required, just a few at a time in a holed peg-board that is made quite simply by yourself. I describe exactly what I want and my wife selects them for placing in the peg-board.

After trying indentations, remove the art paper from the board and by turning it over, use the opposite raised line that is formed. Some beginners have found that this is easier, being more like Braille. It is a matter of personal choice and suitability.

### Self Expression

Master this initial form of painting and there are many other ways of obtaining accuracy and effect that I have had to develop. What you have so far read gives only the basic method to get you going, but if you have a real flair for painting I would be pleased to help further as you progress. It will prove enough, however, to get you sitting at your board on the table and to begin to explore that treasure house of memory and imagination. So why not go ahead and enjoy this new means of self-expression?

## BLIND MAN'S BRUSH

I know that within the shadows of blindness there are brilliant treasures awaiting discovery, so I say to you—join the treasure hunt adventure and have a go!"

GORDON STENT

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Readers may wish to know that in April F/Lt. Stent will be showing some of his pictures and demonstrating his painting method on B.B.C. 2 in colour.

## LORD TEVIOT

The Rt. Hon. Lord Teviot, D.S.O., M.C., who died on the 7th January, was closely connected with St. Dunstan's from its early days; as Lt. Col. Charles Iain Kerr he was a member of the original Blinded Soldiers' & Sailors' Care Committee in 1922 and became a member of the first Executive Council of St. Dunstan's. He served on our Council for over 40 years until his resignation through ill-health a year or so ago.

Lord Teviot was commissioned in the Machine Gun Corps in the First World War after being transferred from the Royal Horse Guards. He was awarded the D.S.O., M.C., and a Mention in Despatches during his service.

He was actively concerned in the affairs of the Liberal Party and was elected Liberal National Member for Montrose Burghs from 1932 until his elevation to the peerage in 1940; during that year Lord Teviot became Chairman of the Liberal National Party, a position he held until 1956.

A native of Roxburghshire, Lord Teviot was for a number of years St. Dunstan's representative on the Executive Committee of the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded.

Mr. A. D. Lloyds represented the Council at the funeral on Wednesday, 10th January.

## Important Dates

For Your Diary

SEE PAGE 8



### An Ideal Cornish Holiday Home

Roy Hyett of "Penquite", Camelford, Cornwall, reminds readers that he and his wife offer comfortable summer holiday accommodation in pleasant surroundings. As well as writing for his descriptive brochure, why not invite your friends to do the same?

## Backing Britain

by  
Harold Swain

I am "Backing Britain",  
The country of my birth,  
So should every one of us,  
Who is of any worth.

An end to fruitless argument,  
Of who was right or wrong,  
We have all been travelling,  
The thriftless road, too long.

Let each and every one of us,  
Look deep into his heart,  
The shirker, and the profiteer,  
Each has played a part.

Roll our sleeves, bend our minds,  
To Britain's desperate need,  
Do something for our country,  
Less, for selfish greed.

Revive that Christian spirit,  
We claim, with our birth-right,  
Lend a hand, to those in need,  
And ask if "Jack's all right".

Come, let us all "Back Britain",  
Not in the betting shops,  
There's no need for blood and tears,  
Just sweat, a few more drops.



ST. DUNSTAN'S CLOCK

## It Strikes Me

### St. Valentine's VHF Day

St. Valentine's Day, 14th February, will have a special significance for St. Dunstaners living in the Brighton area. At 6.15 p.m. on that day Radio Brighton, the new local radio station, will begin broadcasting on 88.MHz in the Very High Frequency band. A St. Dunstaner with more than a passing interest in this occasion is **Harold Greatrex, M.M.**, who is one of 15 members of the Local Broadcasting Council for Brighton. He joins former Mayors of Brighton and Hove, solicitors, social workers and active members of the community on the governing body of the new station. Although it was not as a blind man that he was chosen—he is an Alderman on East Sussex County Council and a member of Chailey R.D.C.—Harold Greatrex will keep the interests of the blind before the Council. "We are discussing whether or not we can do something special for the blind," he told me, "but I would like to draw the attention of St. Dunstaners to the fact that it will be possible to receive the station on V.H.F. over an area extending from Peacehaven in the east to beyond Shoreham in the west. Our programmes will be on many aspects of the Brighton community. It will keep blind listeners in touch with local affairs."

### What a way to run a Railway!

One St. Dunstaner who has been suffering on British Rail during the recent snow is **Richard Dufton**. He tells this story of humour in adversity during a four-hour journey from Twyford to Paddington. "We had been in the train so long that some of the younger children were getting restive. There was a stream of youngsters passing us in the corridor making for the small compartment at the end. One group pushed by in neatly descending order of height and age, I should think, six, four and two. A wit standing beside me commented, "A bit longer on this journey and there'd have been a fourth!"

### Sutton's Cinderellas

For the first time wives of St. Dunstaner members of the Sutton Club were able to enjoy the annual Christmas party without the cares of preparing the meal and, what is worse, washing-up afterwards. This year Chairman **Ted Dudley** and his committee had arranged for the meal to be served by a firm of caterers. Entering into the spirit of the occasion Alf Shaw, one of the club's vice-presidents, showed the club's appreciation of their ladies with a kiss for Mrs. Dudley. Our photographer, heavily disguised as a guest of honour, got the picture reproduced alongside. I understand that, to the amusement of Ted and the company, Alf was happy to repeat his salute for the benefit of the camera. "Anyway," said Mrs. Dudley, "It's better than washing-up!"

**MAGOG**



## 1968 Sports may be International

Plans to give an international flavour to the 1968 Sports at Ovingdean are being considered and invitations have already been sent to a number of the official organisations for the War-Blinded in Europe to send two competitors each. So, what began as an experiment in 1964 looks like continuing to grow in 1968 and may yet become the first international event of its kind. If we are successful, this will most certainly be something dear to the heart of those who have organised the Ovingdean events from the first . . . and a challenge to all St. Dunstaners who have ever been interested in both sport and international co-operation.

The overseas competitors would be invited from Thursday, 13th June until the following Tuesday, 18th June. They would be staying locally. St. Dunstaners taking part in the events would be accommodated at Ovingdean for the same period and this would be immediately followed by three days of fishing for a party of up to twelve.

St. Dunstaners who have taken part in previous Sports Weekend events will be receiving a circular letter from Ovingdean in due course. This notice in the *Review*

is to draw the attention of those who have not previously participated, but who now feel they would like to do so, to the fact that they should send their names to Miss Guilbert as soon as possible so that they may be included in any necessary ballot for places.

*The date originally suggested for the Sports, which appeared in last month's Review, has now been amended to 13th-18th June, 1968. Further details will appear in these columns later.*

## Important Dates For 1968

St. Dunstaners wishing to take a holiday at Ovingdean from June to September are advised to apply for a booking as soon as possible to ensure that they get the dates they require.

### Weekend Events

Chess Weekend (Instructional)	9th to 11th February
Bridge Weekend (Instructional)	16th to 18th February
Ham Radio	
Get-Together . . .	22nd to 24th March
Deaf Reunion . . .	15th to 19th August
Handless Reunion	17th to 21st October
Chess Weekend . . .	8th to 10th November
Bridge Weekend	15th to 18th November

### Special Holiday Fortnights

for St. Dunstaners trained in:—

1915-1917 } . . .	20th April to 4th May
1940-1942 } . . .	4th to 18th May
1918-1920 } . . .	6th to 20th July
1943-1945 } . . .	22nd June to 6th July
1921-1925 } . . .	
1946-1948 } . . .	
1926-1939 } . . .	
1949-1967 } . . .	

C. D. WILLS

## REUNIONS

The full particulars of this year's Reunions which we publish annually in the *Review* will appear in our March number. Meanwhile, St. Dunstaners will want to know dates and places as soon as possible. These are: 6th April—Windsor, 25th April—Southampton, 4th May—Bristol, 9th May—Ipswich, 11th May—Birmingham, 8th June—Brighton, 20th June—Newcastle, 22nd June—Sheffield, 4th July—Manchester, 6th July—Liverpool, 20th July—London.

All reunions will be held at 12.30 p.m. for 1 p.m. lunch.

## NAVAL CAMP

An invitation has been received asking 50 St. Dunstaners to spend a week with the Royal Navy from Friday, 16th August to Saturday, 24th August.

Camp fee £2, payable in camp. Fares over £1 refunded up to £5, total paid by camp funds.

Send your names along as soon as you like:—

**Mrs. F. E. Spurway,**  
Mount House,  
Halse,  
Taunton, Somerset.

## British Talking Book Service for the Blind

Additional Tape Titles—FICTION

- | Cat. No. | Fiction  | Cat. No. | Fiction   |
|----------|--|----------|---|
| 1172     | BERRIDGE, ELIZABETH<br><i>ACROSS THE COMMON</i> (1964)<br>Read by Gretel Davis. Louise returns to the house where she was brought up and finds that under the calm surface mystery is lurking.<br>P.T. 7½ hours.   | 1176     | MONTAGU OF BEAULIEU, LORD<br><i>ROLLS OF ROLLS-ROYCE</i> (1966)<br>Read by Michael de Morgan. Since his death in 1910 at the age of 32, Charles Rolls has achieved immortality through the cars that bear his name.<br>P.T. 11 hours.   |
| 1173     | FRAYN, MICHAEL<br><i>THE RUSSIAN INTERPRETER</i> (1966)<br>Read by Garard Green. Satirical novel of a preposterous young man specialising in Anglo-Soviet trade in Moscow who apologetically involves his interpreter in odd and risky situations.<br>P.T. 6½ hours. | 1177     | MANTON, JOY<br><i>ELIZABETH GARRETT ANDERSON</i> (1965)<br>Read by Alvar Lidell. Determined and clever, she pioneered medical education for women, became a member of the B.M.A. at 37, and later Dean of a Medical School.<br>P.T. 16½ hours.                                  |
| 1174     | BROPHY, BRIGID<br><i>THE SNOW BALL</i> (1964)<br>Read by Robin Holmes. UNSUITABLE FOR FAMILY READING. Explores three subtly interwoven erotic relationships in the cinderella-like atmosphere of an eighteenth century costume ball.<br>P.T. 5 hours.                | 1191     | BUCK, PEARL S.<br><i>DEATH IN THE CASTLE</i> (1966)<br>Read by John Curle. A wealthy young American is determined to buy an ancient English castle from its impoverished aristocratic owners and a lovely girl acts as mediator.<br>P.T. 7½ hours.                              |
| 1178     | CHRISTIE, AGATHA<br><i>THIRD GIRL</i> (1966)<br>Read by Eric Gillett. A young girl walks in on Hercule Poirot's breakfast and announces she may have committed a murder, leaving him to puzzle out the truth.<br>P.T. 9 hours.                                       | 1192     | ROBINS, DENISE<br><i>LOVING AND GIVING</i> (1965)<br>Read by Garard Green. A forbidden love affair is the unexpected outcome of Juliet's stay in a French Chateau where she is employed as nurse to a small crippled child.<br>P.T. 9 hours.                                    |
| 1179     | CROSS, JOHN KEIR (EDITOR)<br><i>BEST HORROR STORIES</i> (1965)<br>Read by John Dunn. Old and new writers combined in a witch's brew of macabre and hair-raising stories.<br>P.T. 9½ hours.   | 1193     | GIBBONS, STELLA<br><i>THE CHARMERS</i> (1965)<br>Read by Elizabeth Proud. Efficient but narrow Christine finds a strange widening of horizons when she becomes housekeeper to a group of cultured, sophisticated flat dwellers in London.<br>P.T. 9 hours.                      |
| 1171     | INGLIS, BRIAN<br><i>THE STORY OF IRELAND</i> (1956)<br>Read by David Geary. Covers nationalism, culture, and religion, the land and her people.<br>P.T. 9 hours.   | 1194     | CHRISTIE, AGATHA<br><i>DEATH COMES AS THE END</i> (1945)<br>Read by Eric Gillett. Into the household of Imhotep comes the beautiful Nofret. The result is anger, jealousy, and finally death. Ingenious, baffling, it ends with a climax few could anticipate.<br>P.T. 8 hours. |
| 1175     | LORENZ, KONRAD<br><i>ON AGGRESSION</i> (1966)<br>Read by Duncan Carse. Shows that aggression in itself is not evil, but an instinct which serves the survival of the species. Refers, with examples, to the animal and human worlds.<br>P.T. 10½ hours.              | 1195     | GREENE, MICHAEL<br><i>THE ART OF COURSE ACTING</i> (1964)<br>Read by Garard Green. Amusing Account of the author's experience in Amateur Dramatics.<br>P.T. 4½ hours.   |

## Bridge Notes

After the Christmas and New Year Festivities, our "Individual" Competition got off to a flying start and the first was held on Saturday, 6th January, both in London and Brighton. The results were as follows:—

### LONDON

G. Brown and R. Fullard	..	74
J. Huk and P. Nuyens	..	71
H. Kerr and M. Tybinski	..	64
Miss V. Kemmish and R. Evans	..	60
R. Bickley and H. Meleson	..	54
F. Jackson and H. King	..	54

### BRIGHTON

B. Ingrey and A. Smith	..	76
W. Scott and H. Selby	..	63
W. Burnett and J. Whitcombe	..	62
F. Rhodes and J. Chell	..	61
R. Goding and S. MacNamara	..	60
W. Webster and M. Clements	..	56

## Par Bridge

by  
A. FIELD

An expression used in competitive bridge, meaning getting the best result on a certain deal against best defence, allowing plus 50 for a successful part-score or 300 not vulnerable for the game bid. In most cases it means over-bidding and being doubled, within the limits of opponents' anticipated score, i.e. N.S. bid and can make five clubs = 100 + 300 = 400. E.W. overbid to five Hearts and are two light doubled = 300. E.W. have the Par result.

Here is a hand actually dealt recently. I was asked to arbitrate. Step into my

10

shoes and give your verdict! Try first bidding the hands before you read on. South is the dealer. Love all.

### NORTH

S. —  
H. 7,6  
D. A,10,9,8,6,3,2  
C. Q,8,6,3

### WEST

S. 7,8  
H. A,10,8,5  
D. K,Q,J,4  
C. K,5,4



### EAST

S. Q,J,10,9,6,4,2  
H. Q,J,9,3  
D. 5  
C. 10

S. A,K,5,3  
H. K,4,2  
D. 7  
C. A,J,9,7,2

### SOUTH

You will find (as at the table) it is difficult to stop. Your bidding probably commenced, one Club, double by West? (Slightly unorthodox but "within the meaning of the Act". North now raises Clubs or bids Diamonds pre-emptively (four). East cannot bear to be left out and launches into Spades, doubled by South. Where do you stop? Give three possible contracts and also say which is Par of the three.

Answers next month.

### Miss E. K. McCullough

Some of our older readers will learn with regret of the death of Miss E. K. McCullough, who died at the age of 88, on 11th December, 1967. Miss McCullough came to St. Dunstons in March, 1916 and was a cashier in the Appeals Section of the Accounts Department for many years until her retirement in 1943. She had been living with her brother in Hastings.

## Club News

### London Club Notes

In our December Football Sweep, Mrs. F. Mathewman tied for the first prize with Mrs. C. Hancock. The 'booby' was shared by Horace and Mrs. Kerr.

Winners of the Domino Games in the month of December were as follows:—

7th December 1st **W. Miller**  
2nd J. Murray  
G. P. Brown

14th December 1st **W. Miller**  
2nd G. Stanley

It is unfortunate that the first half of the January story has become "The Winter's Tale." We do hope that the ice will melt sufficiently in the second half to enable our members to attend the club. By the way, I wonder how many of our readers know that Shakespeare fashioned this story of "The Winter's Tale" from one originally written in 1588 called "The Triumph of Time". It was apparently about an incident in the Bohemian and Polish courts in the late 14th century.

The Dutch used to call January 'Lauwmaand' (frosty month), but it was dedicated by the Romans to Janus, who, it is said, presided over the entrance to the year. Having two faces, Janus could look back to the past year and forward to the new one.

There has been no doubt that the Dutch version is reflected in this month's weather, but we do hope that it will soon improve enough to enable us to enjoy the happy 'get-togethers' again at the London Club.

W. MILLER



Racial discrimination is causing quite a lot of bother throughout the world today, yet it is amazing how people, regardless of age, colour, or belief, automatically join us in the friendly atmosphere of the Cafe, contributing to the "laughs" as the following incident shows.

Brooka and Stephen are two very young African boys who have just joined my list of customers. One day after serving them with some bubble gum, I asked how old they were. Brooka replied, "I'se five", but Stephen was silent.

Brooka broke it with, "How old is you?"

"Dunno" came the glum reply from Stephen. Another difficult silence followed, then Brooka broke it again with, "'as you got a gal?"

"Nope", says Stephen.

"Does you smoke?" Again the sullen "No".

"Den you is four", beamed Brooka.

### Children Notice Things

A Sussex woman whose 10-year-old son was visiting Japan with his father, received an informative letter from him.

"Dear Mother", it read, "Tokyo is not like Brighton. Love Peter".

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**Sutton Club Notes**

On Saturday, 30th December the Club held its annual party. This year we had a turkey dinner instead of the usual tea party and this was most enjoyable.

Our guest from Headquarters was David Castleton from the Public Relations Dept. who afterwards took some photographs of us all.

Later in the evening we were entertained by artistes Tony and Bettina, with Tony playing piano and piano accordion and Bettina singing some old time songs and of course, "the boys" joined in the choruses.

Ian Taylor, who is blind like his father, John, receives his prize from Ted Dudley (left)



Prizes were then distributed for the Sir Arthur Pearson games. John and Mabel Taylor getting quite a few of them and also Ted Dudley our Chairman!

We were very sorry that Reg and Betty Newton, and Miss Yvonne de Burlet were not able to be with us, the 'flu bug having hit them, and we all hope that they are recovering.

Don't forget, any one who would like to join the Sutton Club, will be most welcome. Just telephone E. Dudley at CRO 0596, after six o'clock and he will give you all particulars.

BILL KENNEDY

Bettina, who entertained with Tony Raymond, serenades Ted Dudley (right)



## Snow in January

by

Rev. A. C. Nugee

My mind goes back, in this wintry weather, to 1915. We were billeted at Petworth, two battalions of us, the 9th of the Rifle Brigade and the 9th of the 60th. The keenness and enthusiasm of those days coupled with our lack of military skill and shortage of equipment were remarkable.

The men had only one suit of khaki and one pair of boots, or what was left of them. They only had civilian pattern great coats, and a motley crowd we looked when they had to be worn. Everyone had a rifle of sorts, but only 400 to each battalion were safe to fire. With them went 400 bayonets—swords to us Riflemen—and 400 ancient buff belts with two large pouches. The rest had no equipment at all. But how keen we were. The officers had swords—in fact we had been ordered to have them sharpened—but hardly a revolver amongst us.

The French were getting rather sceptical about Kitchener's New Armies. Did they really exist? So in January they sent their War Minister, M. Millerand, to Britain to see for himself. We formed half of the 42nd Brigade of the 14th Light Division, and the whole Division were ordered to assemble in hutments near Godalming and then the next day to march five miles to a suitable common for Lord Kitchener and the Frenchman to inspect us. So we set off to march the 16 miles from Petworth.

It was a filthy afternoon, raining most of the way. We did not reach the camp till after dark and it was intersected by drainage ditches full of water, which were found by many of us. We got the men into their huts and saw that they had a meal and at about 10 p.m., we officers found our own quarters and a meal too. Orders for next morning were parade at 8.30 and no great coats, wet or fine. After all we had to look like soldiers. We woke next morning to thick snow. We got on to parade—no great-coats, wet or fine—and stood there for about an hour before we marched off to the common. It was snowing hard all the time. We formed up in close column, and then piled arms and were allowed to move about to try and keep warm. The cold was intense, and my batman, Odell by name, a grand little chap, just collapsed in the snow and had to be carried off. After an interminable wait we fell in again. The officers were ordered to draw swords. I could hardly hold mine, my hand was so stiff with cold.

We were called to attention and the tallest caught a glimpse through the driving snow of a procession of cars driving slowly past the head of the columns. The inspection was over and we hoped the Frenchman was impressed with what he saw. We marched back to the camp and had a hot meal and then at about 3.30 started back on the 16 miles march to Petworth. It had stopped snowing by then, but there was a good foot of snow on the road. The going was not too bad perhaps for the leading company but the beaten snow was like glass by the time the others reached it. The spirit of the whole battalion was tremendous. Mile after mile we sang ourselves along. Our C.O. from the 5th Ghurkas, limping on one leg from an old wound on the N.W. Frontier, was up and down the column cheering us on. He got the buglers up in front and when our lungs gave out they blew us along with stirring march tunes. Men marched till they dropped. I saw our adjutant with a rifle slung over each shoulder striding along supporting a man round the waist with each arm.

What really damped our spirit was a sight of lorries all ditched in the snow, and we thought they were ours, taking our blankets and kit back to Petworth, but they belonged to some other battalion, poor chaps. We reached Petworth about 10 p.m. After seeing to the mens' dinners we turned in to our quarters. I don't think I have ever seen a man so tired as our Major when I went to report to him in the company office.

My own military career was cut short by a whizzbang in July 1915, so I never saw any of the real hardships of the war, but I met a sergeant of my battalion after the war in Winchester, and he told me that for sheer hardship and exhaustion, nothing he had experienced on the western front was worse than our march and inspection in that January snow.

### THANK YOU

I should like to take this opportunity through the pages of the *Review* of thanking all St. Dunstaners, wives and widows who so kindly sent me such lovely Christmas Cards and Calendars. It is impossible to write to you all but, if it is not too late, I would like to send you my very best wishes for 1968.

MATRON HALLETT,  
*Pearson House, Brighton*

I want to thank you all for the many cards and letters of greeting I have received from you this Christmas and to tell you how sorry I am. I was not able to return them this year but I have doubly appreciated them, for I was sent into hospital in the middle of December with pneumonia and a nasty virus and had to stay there over Christmas and until after the New Year, but I am glad to say I am home again now.

Once again thank you for your remembrance of me and every good wish to you all for 1968.

MISS H. K. L. PEASE,  
*of Knaresborough*

Once again, it is my pleasure to send my sincere thanks to all my St. Dunstan's friends who sent me such warm Christmas greetings and charming cards bringing so many happy memories.

I hope that you all had a good time at Christmas and that I will see a great many of you at reunions in the summer.

Meanwhile, may 1968 bring you much happiness, good health and good luck.

L. D. WEBSTER

Through the Columns of the *Review*, I wish to thank the anonymous persons who kindly sent me a box of initialled handkerchiefs and a box of fancy handkerchiefs, but forgot to add their name or address.

MISS RODGERS  
*Southern Area Welfare Superintendent*

## HAM RADIO

by

R. DUFTON

Those who attended the Ham Radio Reunion at Ovingdean, will recall Lord Fraser's suggestion that tape recordings might be a useful way in which to provide Hams with additional information about their hobby.

As a first step we have recorded the current "Radio Amateurs Examination Manual" and have made a few copies (3¼ IPS) with the object of assisting any St. Dunstaner who may be thinking of beginning or who may just have taken up, a course of serious study to qualify as a Ham.

At the same time the recordings may appeal to Hams who may wish to use the tapes for refresher purposes or re-check on some particular aspect or other for, as they will know, the Manual is comprehensive. Should the recordings be used in this way we hope that Hams will bear with us if they feel that the basic formulae concerning transmission and reception appear to predominate here and there as the recording proceeds, for no attempt has been made to edit the Manual.

After listening to the first of the tapes, Lord Fraser feels that in the case of beginners an edited recording might be a more helpful way of introducing the hobby.

## WALKING

At the time of writing, walking is virtually impossible, for the country is covered with hard frozen snow, and any attempt at progression on foot extremely hazardous.

Since early December, the walking section has had a lazy time, and with the advent of Christmas and the New Year, a "flu" epidemic, and all the usual trials of winter, we are all badly in need of training, but alas, this is out of the question, at least for the time being.

I cannot offer any rosy outlook for the 6 miles at Ewell on 20th January, and so here are the results of the last two races to reflect upon:—



ST. DUNSTANS 3-mile v. Met. Police  
EWELL, 18th November, 1967

Order of Finish		Handicap Time	Allowance	Actual Time
1	Ross	P.		25.14
2	Ward	P.		25.30
3	Taylor	P.		26.32
4	Miller	St. D.	.40	27.35
5	Burns	St. D.	7.45	27.45
6	Chamberlain	P.		27.50
7	Kelly	P.		27.50
8	Tetley	St. D.	3.05	27.58
9	Stafford	St. D.	6.05	28.13
10	Tutton	St. D.	5.35	28.22
11	Mendham	St. D.	scr.	28.33
12	Levitt	P.		28.40
13	Barratt	St. D.	2.15	29.53
14	Clark	P.		32.48
15	Denny	P.		33.13

MATCH: ST. DUNSTANS 60, POLICE 45

ST. DUNSTANS 4½-mile  
EWELL, 2nd December, 1967

Order of Finish		Handicap Time	Allowance	Actual Time
1	S. Tutton		8.35	40.42
2	M. Tetley		4.45	40.47
3	F. Barratt		4.25	41.30
4	C. Stafford		8.45	42.12
5	R. Young		8.45	42.38
6	W. Miller		.10	42.36
7	R. Mendham		scr.	43.31

W. MILLER

## NELSON'S COLUMN

Four books, readers for the use of :

"The Death of William Posters" by Alan Sillitoe, reader *Robert Gladwell*, is a whimsical yarn based on the multitude of walls in this country painted 'bill posters will be prosecuted.' A rebel factory worker conjures up Bill Posters as a crafty character with whom he identifies himself. Leaving his bench, his wife and two children, he sets out on foot to travel. His object is to flout authority and convention whenever and wherever he finds an opportunity. The result is a sexual experience or two, a little travel abroad and then he sort of evapor-

ates. All somewhat pointless and sordid. However, there are moments of good fun in it.

"Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother" by *Dorothy Laird*, reader *George Hagen*, is a pleasant biography of one of the few chinks of light illuminating the gloom of the Commonwealth over the past 40 years. From a close-knit family, happy and rather removed from the public eye, Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, became Duchess of York in 1923, Queen in 1936 and Queen Mother in

## NELSON'S COLUMN—Continued

1952. Her happy personality had this island at her feet in 1923, thereafter she subjugated all the countries of the Commonwealth and collected from them as much tribute as ever this island paid her. Even Republicans can enjoy this very human story.

"Instead of a letter" by *Diana Athill*, reader *Gretel Davies*, is either an autobiography or a book written in that form. A pleasantly written book but, unless I'm very mistaken, a girlish offering for the ladies. A grandmother's plaintive cry at the age of 92 after an apparently full and faithful life, of 'Why doesn't God let me die?' induces the grand-daughter to launch into her life story. The result suggests she will ask the same question at a much earlier age than her grandmother. However, she has devised a pattern of living that is not as desolate as it seems and the question may never arise in her case. Avoid it, chaps!

"A Nice Derangement of Epitaphs" by *Ellis Peters*, reader *Michael de Morgan*, is

a gripping double-banked thriller. Double-banked because parallel with odd events at a Cornish holiday resort there always seems to be the likelihood of revealing stirring events that occurred two centuries ago. An old church and graveyard covered by the drifting sand of the dunes is the focal point. A project to excavate and open Jan Traverria's tomb encounters more than ordinary opposition. Along with the distant possibilities of the project the present day story concerning the family connected with Traverria Place and a policeman with his wife and son on holiday, is packed with human interest and drama. The denouement is fascinating and despite foot and mouth, this is my nap for the month.

## Au Pair—Mots

Hostess: "Well, Anneke, at least we've taught you to understand the British sense of humour".

Anneke: "Oh, yes, I understand the British sense of humour. You just got to laugh even if you don't think it's funny".

Peter McCormack with some of the members of his club for the disabled in Shoreham, the Brunswick Social Club—at the Christmas Party, he and his wife, Jennifer, organised in December



### Silver Wedding

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. L. WITHINGTON of Wigan, Lancs, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 26th December, 1967.

### Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. S. C. LORAM of Brixham, Devon, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 20th January, 1968.

### Grandfathers

Congratulations to:—

H. BARNETT of Morecambe who has recently become a grandfather for the second time on the birth of a granddaughter who is to be called Sarah.

E. FLYNN of Horley, Surrey, on the birth of a grandson, Grahame Desmond, on 27th October, 1967.

J. LANGHAM of Arnold, Notts., on the arrival of a grandson on 10th December, 1967.

W. PEARCE of Hendon, N.W.4, on the arrival of another grandchild, born to his daughter-in-law, Sheila, on 21st December. The baby is to be called Elizabeth.

H. POWNALL of Coulsdon, Surrey, when his elder daughter, Mary, gave birth to a daughter, Sheila, on 4th December, 1967.

D. J. WATKINS of Wanstead, E.11, on the arrival of a grandson, on 10th September, 1967, in Lyttelton, Canterbury, New Zealand. He is to be called Daniel Joseph.

### Great Grandfather

Many congratulations to:—

F. W. MATTHEWS of Soberton, Hants, on the arrival of his first great grandchild, Kay Haythorne, on 29th August, 1967.

Shirley May, daughter of our St. Dunstaner, R. BELCHER of Erdington, Birmingham (late of Medicine Hat, Canada), was married on 16th December, 1967, to Roger Wetton of Birmingham.

### Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:—

H. A. BAKER of Billericay, Essex, on the death of his wife, Dorothy May, who died in hospital on 5th January, 1968. She had, unfortunately, very poor health for the past four or five years.

E. BRADFORD of Sheffield whose wife died on 27th May, 1967 after a short illness.

V. C. BUCK of Moortown, Leeds, whose wife died on 22nd December, 1967.

T. FLOYD of Teignmouth whose wife Clara, died on 26th December, 1967 in a Devon hospital, after a long illness bravely borne.

J. LORD of Todmorden, Yorks, who mourns the death of a brother on 17th December, 1967.

L. A. ROGERS of Alton on the death of his father, on 13th December, 1967. The old gentleman had celebrated his 101st birthday on 24th August.

W. STORER of Rugby, Warwickshire, who mourns the death of a brother in November, 1967.

A. H. WHITTHORN of Exeter, whose wife passed away on 28th December, 1967. Our sympathy is extended to our St. Dunstaner and his grown up family, who have done so much to help their parents.

### In Memory

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



The late Miss Ethel Whiteman with Sammy Wain who died in 1966. At the time of this photograph they were the oldest male and female St. Dunstaners.

#### William Bentley. Royal Army Service Corps.

William Bentley of Arnold, Nottingham, died on 1st January, 1968 at his home. He was 76 years.

He served with the Royal Army Service Corps from 1916 to 1918 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1932. He trained in boot-repairing, mat-making and netting, carrying on these occupations for some years. He entered industry in order to help the war effort, carrying on this work until 1947. He enjoyed holidays at Ovingdean and regularly attended Northern Reunions. He had been in poor health for some considerable time but his death was sudden.

#### Allen Brooks. Royal Garrison Artillery.

Allen Brooks of Silverdale, Lancs, died in hospital on 23rd December, 1967 at the age of 71 years.

He served with the Royal Garrison Artillery from 1917 to 1919 and was a victim of a mustard gas attack. His sight did not deteriorate until 1962 when he came to St. Dunstan's. He rarely missed a Northern Reunion and also enjoyed a few holidays at Ovingdean.

#### Miss Ethel Whiteman. V.A.D.

Miss Whiteman died at Ovingdean on 13th December, 1967, at the age of 86 years.

Ethel Whiteman served as a V.A.D. in the First War, but had to give it up owing to ill-health and eventually came to St. Dunstan's in 1938. She did some basic training at Ovingdean and for many years lived quietly with her sister in Hove. After her sister's death in 1956, she lived at Port Hall and moved to Ovingdean in 1965. Her health had been failing for some time and she died very peacefully. Ethel was very well known to both men and women St. Dunstaners and she will be greatly missed by many old friends at Brighton.

#### Edward William Brookes. Labour Corps.

Edward William Brookes of East Meon, Hants., died on 5th January, 1968. He was 81 years of age.

He enlisted in the Labour Corps in 1915 and served with them until his discharge in 1917. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1923, and trained as a bootmaker and continued with this work for many years together for part of the time with mat-making.

## In Memory

Since the death of his wife in 1948 he first lived with various members of his family but eventually made his home with his married daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Gough. During these years he took a keen interest in his greenhouse and garden.

**Wyndham Burchell.** *Royal Field Artillery and Labour Corps.*

Wyndham Burchell of Midhurst, Sussex, died on 3rd January, 1968 at the age of 82.

He enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery in 1916, transferred to the Labour Corps and was discharged in 1918. When Mr. Burchell came to St. Dunstan's in 1941 he was already a gardener and he carried on this with greenhouse work. His son-in-law had a dairy farm and they worked very much together running poultry as well. Up to quite recently, Mr. Burchell had enjoyed quite good health, but was taken ill a few days before Christmas and admitted to a Nursing Home, where he died on 3rd January.

**Albert Charman.** *Royal Navy.*

Albert Charman of Longton, Lanes, died at his home on 23rd December, 1967. He was 84 years of age.

He served in the Royal Navy from 1900 to 1916 and saw action in the Dardanelles. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1918 and trained in poultry keeping and basket making, carrying on both these occupations for a considerable number of years. He enjoyed visits to Brighton and was a keen supporter of Northern Reunions.

**Horace Elsey.** *8th Suffolk Regiment.*

Horace Elsey of Beccles, Suffolk, died on 26th December, 1967 whilst staying temporarily at Pearson House. He was 88 years of age.

He served in the 8th Suffolk Regiment from 1915 to 1917 but his sight did not deteriorate until 1952 when he was admitted to St. Dunstan's. He was a very frequent visitor to Brighton, where he much enjoyed his holidays and he nearly always attended the Ipswich Reunion. He was a widower.

**Vincent John Fennell.** *7th East Surrey Regiment.*

Vincent John Fennell of London, S.W.17, died on 25th December, 1967. He was 78 years of age.

He enlisted in the 7th East Surrey Regiment in 1916 and served with them until his discharge in November, 1917 when he came to St. Dunstan's. He trained as a basket maker and carried on with this work for many years. He then changed over to making stools and it was only about 1962 that he gave up work. He had a large family, all of whom were most attentive to their parents, and since the death of Mrs. Fennell in 1948 our St. Dunstaner has been cared for by his son,

Charles, and two daughters and the remainder of the family have visited regularly. Mr. Fennell was taken ill just before Christmas and died on Christmas Day.

**James Joseph Genet.** *New Zealand Rifle Brigade.*

James Joseph Genet of North Beach, Christchurch, New Zealand, died on 22nd September, 1967 at the age of 86.

Mr. Genet enlisted in July, 1916 and served with the New Zealand Rifle Brigade. He was wounded at Ypres in October, 1917 and admitted to St. Dunstan's in February, 1918.

He trained in boot repairing and returned to New Zealand with his wife in July, 1919. Later he gave up boot repairing to undertake poultry farming, followed by vegetable growing. He leaves a widow, three sons and a daughter.

**George William Goodwin.** *A.R.P.*

G. W. Goodwin of Sittingbourne, Kent, died at Pearson House on 13th December, 1967, at the age of 89 years.

He was a retired Customs and Excise Officer, who became Air Raid Precautions Officer for Sittingbourne, was blinded at the age of 65 and went to Church Stretton for basic training. He became known as "Squire" and made many friends among the young Second War St. Dunstaners. When he returned home to Sittingbourne, he continued with woodwork and other hobbies and had many family interests. In August, 1967, when his wife had been ill and he was himself in poor health, he went to Pearson House, where he died very suddenly and peacefully in December.

**James Edward Langham.** *Sherwood Foresters.*

James Edward Langham died at his home in Arnold, Notts., on 10th January, 1968, at the age of 80 years.

He served with the Sherwood Foresters from 1915 to 1917 and came to St. Dunstan's the following year. He trained in basket and tray-making, carrying on these occupations for some years. In 1942 in order to help the war effort, he worked in a factory and carried on with this until 1952. He had been in poor health recently but his death was sudden.

**Frederick Hammond.** *R.I. Rifles.*

Frederick Hammond died on 7th January, 1968, at Pearson House, Brighton, where he had lived permanently for some time. He was 86 years of age.

He enlisted with the R.I. Rifles in 1915 and served with them until his discharge in 1919. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1954, and went to Ovingdean to live permanently. He used to spend his holidays with his eldest son. Mr. Hammond had two sons and two daughters but his daughters are no longer alive.

## In Memory

**George Moore.** *2nd Inniskilling Fusiliers.*

George Moore of Blackpool, Lancs., died on 7th January, 1968. He was 76 years of age.

He served in the 2nd Inniskilling Fusiliers during the First World War and was wounded in France in 1916. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1917. He trained in mat making and netting and carried on these occupations for some considerable time. He much enjoyed visits to Ovingdean and also North Country Reunions. He had been in indifferent health for some time but his death was sudden.

**Wilfred John Thomas Nash.** *Royal Engineers.*

Wilfred John Thomas Nash of Lowestoft, Suffolk, died at his home on 7th January, 1968. He was 73 years old. He served with the Royal Engineers from 1915 to 1918 and was wounded in France in November, 1917. He came to St. Dunstan's in the following year.

He trained in shoe repairing and ran his own business until he retired in 1961 and since then has made string bags and taken a keen interest in indoor plants. He was a widower.

**William Henry Quick.** *Royal Navy.*

William Henry Quick of Portslade died in hospital on 23rd November, 1967 at the age of 63 years.

He enlisted in 1919 in the Royal Navy and was recalled to the Colours in 1939. He served in the Royal Navy throughout the Second World War until his discharge in 1945. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1965.

After his discharge from the Navy Mr. Quick worked for the G.P.O. but retired from this work in 1964 due to his loss of sight which was attributable to his Service. He undertook handicraft training but earlier last year he became ill and he died in hospital. He leaves a widow, who nursed him devotedly until he went into hospital and two grown-up sons.

**Harold John Tweed.** *Suffolk Regiment.*

Harold John Tweed of Newmarket, Suffolk, died at his home on 12th December, 1967 at the age of 69 years.

He served in the Suffolk Regiment from 1915 to 1919 and was wounded in 1918. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1954. He was an expert string bag maker and enjoyed his garden. He also took great pleasure in his annual holidays at Ovingdean.

**William Sloan.** *Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.*

William Sloan, who had been a permanent patient for some time at the W.V.S. Craigaron Hospital, Belfast, Northern Ireland, died on 20th December, 1967. He was aged 40 years.

He served in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers from 1945 to 1949 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1966. He was a bachelor.

**John Smith.** *Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.*

John Smith of Reading, Berks, died suddenly on 30th December, 1967. He was 73 years of age.

He enlisted with the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry in 1916 and served with them until his discharge in 1918. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1966. Mr. Smith had already retired from business when he came to St. Dunstan's and did not wish to undertake any hobby training as he lived with his family on a caravan fair ground but during the summer months he travelled round with the family in the business.

**David Griffith Watson.** *Army Catering Corps.*

David Griffith Watson of Newry, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, died on 15th December, 1967, at Pearson House, where he had been staying temporarily. He was 48 years of age.

He served in the Army Catering Corps from 1939 to 1946 and only came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1967. He was in a very poor state of health. He thoroughly enjoyed coming over from Ireland to the London Reunion, and he entered Brighton for hobby training in last October. Despite his illness, his death was nevertheless sudden.

**Fred Winterbottom.** *Royal Army Service Corps.*

Fred Winterbottom of Chadderton, Lanes, died on 20th December, 1967. He was 78 years of age.

He served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1915 to 1919. His sight did not deteriorate until later in life and he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1963 when, on account of his age, he did not undertake any training. He spent happy holidays at Brighton and was also a keen attender of Northern Reunions.

**William Trickey Woods, M.B.E.** *10th North Otago Regiment.*

William Trickey Woods, M.B.E., of Christchurch, New Zealand, died on 9th May, 1967 at the age of 75.

He enlisted in September, 1914 and served as a Sergeant with the 10th North Otago Regiment. He was wounded at Cape Helles in the Dardanelles in May, 1915 and was admitted to St. Dunstan's in the following August. After training as a masseur, Mr. Woods returned to New Zealand in July, 1916 to take up a hospital appointment, later going into private practice.

He was very active in the affairs of the St. Dunstan's New Zealand Association throughout the years and at the time of his death was Vice-Patron of the Association. He was awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List in 1948 and visited England with his wife in the spring of that year. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Leila Woods, and family of four.



Two aspects of Tom Daborn's casting—note the whip in his 12 foot fibre glass rod



## DO IT YOURSELF ANGLERS

"because you can put on it what fittings you want and you can make little adjustments to the length of the butt or where you want the reel fitting to be. It's like having a suit made to measure or ready-made. Some small adjustment, even half-an-inch makes a big difference. Of course, the length of arm comes into this so that a rod made for one person is not necessarily much good for anybody else."

### Rod Making 'Disease'

Tom was speaking of the type of rod used by sea anglers for casting from the beach which, bending almost double during the cast, will whip a seven-ounce weight and baited hooks away out into deep water. In expert hands such a rod will send the line screaming out nearly a 100 yards over the sea. He has been making rods since he was a boy cutting a piece of garden cane and attaching a bent pin by a piece of cotton. Nowadays his rods are rather more sophisticated. He has made about eight or nine and frankly admits it is a disease. "You see a rod and you think, that's jolly good, but I can make it cheaper—but you don't really need it at all. It's just that you make it a hobby—fire-side fishing, in fact."

### Exact Copies

When Tom copies a rod he obtains measurements, even to finding the taper by using callipers. Then he goes to a dealer in fibre glass and specifies exactly the length and taper of the material he requires. "On this rod I bought the fibre glass in a 12-foot length which I had cut in half for transport. There are two ferrules, male and female, which fit together to join the two parts, then there are six rings and a top ring which are attached to the rod by whipping. I use slightly heavier nylon cord than necessary, it's stronger and I find that you can get a better finish. If it overlaps you can feel a dirty great bump in it." He has simplified the winch fitting, normally a metal sleeve to which the reel is attached. A small platform of two pieces of thin wood is bound on to the rod with heavy nylon cord and the reel is attached by means of its ordinary thumb screw and nut. The method saves Tom £2.

He thinks that rod making is a hobby to be recommended to St Dunstaners interested in fishing, "especially if you can get something to start on that's not too difficult. There is something nice about whipping, binding the cords of nylon round a rod and binding the rings on. It makes a nice relaxing hobby. You can sit by the fire and do it—I thoroughly enjoy it."

### Boat Rods

No doubt Tom finds this fireside aspect of his pastime a pleasant change after the bleakness of Dungeness in December and there is another St. Dunstaner who would agree with this recommendation of the hobby. John 'Tiny' Pointon, who lives in Bexhill, also makes rods. He started when he bought a small boat and felt the need for some extra rods for anyone who goes out with him and has no rod of his own. Tiny's rods are boat rods, shorter than Tom's, in fact his fibre glass blanks are also used for the top sections of beach casting rods, but they require the same whipping technique for attaching rings.

"I got in touch with a chap who runs a tackle shop over in Eastbourne, and I asked him if he could supply the necessary bits and pieces. He said he could and told me how to put them together and that was how it started", said Tiny.

### Cork Handles

One variation on Tiny's rods are the handsome cork handles which he painstakingly assembles using 42 cylinders of cork, each about  $\frac{5}{16}$ " high. "First of all you fit 28 of these corks. This has to be done by sandpapering the hole in the centre to make a tight fit. When you first push it over the thin end of the fibre glass blank it comes about a third of the way down. You wrap a piece of sandpaper round the rod, push the cork over that and rub it until it will slide down to where you want it." After the first 28 corks are in place, Tony sandpapers the top 13 from about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " down to  $\frac{9}{16}$ " thick to allow for the winch fitting. "This again has to be a tight fit, having sandpapered it down to your satisfaction you then cover it with glue and shove the winch fitting on and once it's there, that's it, it's stuck. You then fit the other 14 corks to complete the handle so that you've got a cork grip above and below the winch fitting. You see you handle it that way."



Tom Daborn "fireside fishing"

"Tiny" Pointon also enjoys whipping





Michael Pointon acts as 'eyes' for his father in maintaining the boat or finishing a rod

### DO IT YOURSELF ANGLERS

The final job is to put the butt fitting on: "You can put different size butts on but I can't see any advantage or disadvantage in any particular size. You put the butt in your groin and use it as a pivot. Your left hand on the cork grip and your right hand controlling the reel and the brake in case a big one takes you. Of course in sea fishing you never know what's going to happen. That's the whole point of it. The bite you get may be a dab weighing just a few ounces or it may be something weighing 18 or 20 lbs. or whatever weight you like to think of".

Tiny's son, Michael, helps by checking the rods and applying the final coats of varnish. He is also a big help when they take out their 11 foot clinker-built dinghy, the "Tinkerbelle".

They have a technique for beaching, which can be tricky at Bexhill where there is often a lot of surf: "Michael beaches her and as soon as she beaches he cuts the engine and pulls the propeller up out of the way. I jump into the sea and start hoiking the rest of the thing in."

They learned this the hard way, said Tiny. "The first time I had the motor and Michael was in the bows, but he forgot to shout when we neared the beach and we motored right in before I realised and cut the engine." Tiny explained that the first year with the boat they have been concentrating on improving their boatmanship. "It is a matter of getting used to the system of getting her into the sea. It had to be worked out and perfected. Now Michael seems to get her in and out without any bother. One day we got her into the water nicely, only there was a regatta on. Do you think that blasted outboard would fire? Not likely! We drifted straight through the middle of the regatta!"

However, Tiny and Michael's preparations are thorough and painstaking. A season of boat handling followed now by a winter of refitting the "Tinkerbelle", now lying in the family garage, and finally those rods so carefully built, should ensure a successful season of 'do it yourself' angling this year and in the future. Let's hope that for them and for Tom Daborn their catches will be as big as the ones that 'got away'.