

NOVEMBER REVIEW

ST. DUNSTAN'S SHOPKEEPER'S
& THE PRICE WAR — A REPORT

**CUT PRICE
CIGARETTES**

PLUS

**GREEN SHIELD
STAMPS**

SAINT DUNSTAN'S PRIESTS



The Rev. Andrew Nugee



The Rev.
Geoffrey Treglown

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St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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Free to St. Dunstaners

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Geoffrey Preston

I always read the Obituary notices in the *Review* with grief at the loss of so many old friends. This month the list includes Geoff Preston, of Woking, Surrey, who died suddenly on the 28th September. He was one of the most courageous men I knew, facing his many disabilities and conquering them.

I call to mind that he was the first English blinded soldier to go through Dehra Dun, our war-time rehabilitation centre in India, and our first knowledge of him came in a letter from the late Sir Clutha Mackenzie, who wrote: "Just before Christmas, Geoff Preston left us at a few hours' notice to join a hospital ship for England, and perhaps Church Stretton will see him soon. Though he was heavily handicapped by not having the use of either hand, he was always full of jokes, and ready for banter or argument. He is a wizard at crossword puzzles."

By the time Geoff reached Church Stretton, he had developed his aptitude for solving crossword puzzles still further, and the idea occurred to him that he might compile them professionally. I encouraged him because I thought he had all the things he needed for success: an independent spirit, a good clear brain, and, despite his double handicap, he could work a typewriter. For a man with Geoff's mental gifts and physical handicaps it was an ideal occupation, involving much thinking and little writing. He would compose the whole puzzle in his head in perhaps a couple of hours, and then spend five or ten minutes setting it down on a specially designed typewriter which he operated with a metal finger strapped to his right arm. Soon Geoff was selling his efforts on their merits to newspapers and magazines at home and all over the English-speaking world, incidentally earning Canadian dollars which were of value not only to him, but also to Britain.

Readers of the *Review* will remember a regular article, which Geoff Preston humorously called "Nelson's Column", in which he briefly reviewed new talking books. I always read this with interest and it guided me in my own choice.

In 1947, Geoff married Miss Isobel Pepall, a Toronto girl who led a group of Canadian Red Cross workers, who came to us to act as guides, readers and friends of the newly blinded men, and she herself became Matron of one of our hostels in London.

My wife and I and Geoff's many friends at Ovingdean and elsewhere will mourn the loss of this very gallant gentleman. We express our sympathy to his widow and family.

St. Dunstan's Priests

The retirements this year of the Rev. Andrew Nugee and the Rev. Dennis Pettit—or perhaps I should say semi-retirements for they will both continue to serve the Church—prompted some thoughts about St. Dunstaners who have taken Holy Orders.

There have been seven—all of them men of character. The first, **Harold Gibb** was among Britain's long line of militant and sporting priests. He went to France in 1914 as chaplain to the 4th Dragoon Guards but after the great retreat from Mons he became a combatant officer, continuing to hold services on Sundays. He was blinded in action and, after going through St. Dunstan's, returned to the Church as Vicar of Sherbourne, Warwicks. From there he reported to Sir Arthur Pearson on his sporting activities including

riding to hounds, badger and rat hunts. He also described the occasion, when on Ascension Day, his horse, "Took into its head, most pardonably on that particular day, to cross his legs and pray in the middle of a very hard road. I shot over his ears turned a topsy-turvy and landed on my feet right about. How it was done I am still wondering. . . ."

Gibb served the Church until his retirement through ill-health in 1935 and he also found time to edit "Braille Pie" a magazine for blind Rover Scouts. It was he who presented to St. Dunstan's the medallion of sixteenth century glass recovered from the Cloth Hall, Ypres, which is inset in a window of the Chapel at Ovingdean. He died in 1941.

Andrew Nugee blazed the trail for other St. Dunstaners who felt called to the Church after their blindness when, although he had been studying for the Civil Service before he lost his sight, he decided to read for Holy Orders just after the first world war. He was ordained in 1921 and, as many St. Dunstaners will recall, he served us as our Chaplain during our time at Church Stretton in the second world war.

Another trail blazer was **W. Gilbert Speight**, later Canon Speight. During the first world war his first attempt to enter the Ministry failed but, determined, he went to India for the Church Missionary Society to take charge of a school for the blind in Palamcottah in 1919. In 1939, 21 years after he first tried to enter the Church he was ordained by the Archbishop of Canterbury but he returned to his work in Palamcottah, for which he was awarded the Kaisar-i-Hind Silver Medal in 1942. He died in 1960 after serving in English parishes in Worcestershire and Leicestershire.

The men who followed include the **Rev. Charles C. M. Rogerson**, who was blinded at the Battle of Polygon Wood in 1917. Studies at Oxford University and Theological College led to his appointment to the incumbency of St. Margaret's Church, Hapton, Lincs. in 1939. Later, the Rev. Rogerson emigrated to Australia after some years as Vicar of All Saints, Pendleton-in-Whalley, near Clitheroe, also in Lancashire. He is now retired.

Another St. Dunstan's Parson who has left this country is the **Rev. Michael Norman**, who studied at Queen's College, Cambridge and Theological School before his ordination in Canterbury Cathedral in 1951. After two years he returned to his homeland, South Africa, where he is now Rector of St. Stephen's, Pinelands, Cape Town, one of its most famous and old-established parishes.

The Rev. Geoffrey Treglown, a Methodist Army Chaplain, won the M.B.E. for his action in protecting fellow officers during a battle inoculation course in the second world war. Exploding gelnite cost him his sight and one hand but he returned to the Methodist Church as a Minister. Later he was received into the Anglican Church and is now Vicar of Cricklade with Latton, Wilts. He is a well-known religious broadcaster, one of the best I have ever heard.

Readers of last month's *Review* will already be aware of the **Rev. Dennis Pettit's** career and the esteem in which he is held by his Rural Dean, but not all our readers may know that he was not ordained until 25 years after he was blinded. After 17 years as a shorthand typist he decided he wished to enter the Church of England and to this end studied in his spare time for the London University Matriculation, subsequently entering Theological College. So, strangely, our first ordination during the second world war in 1943 was that of Dennis Pettit, a first war man.

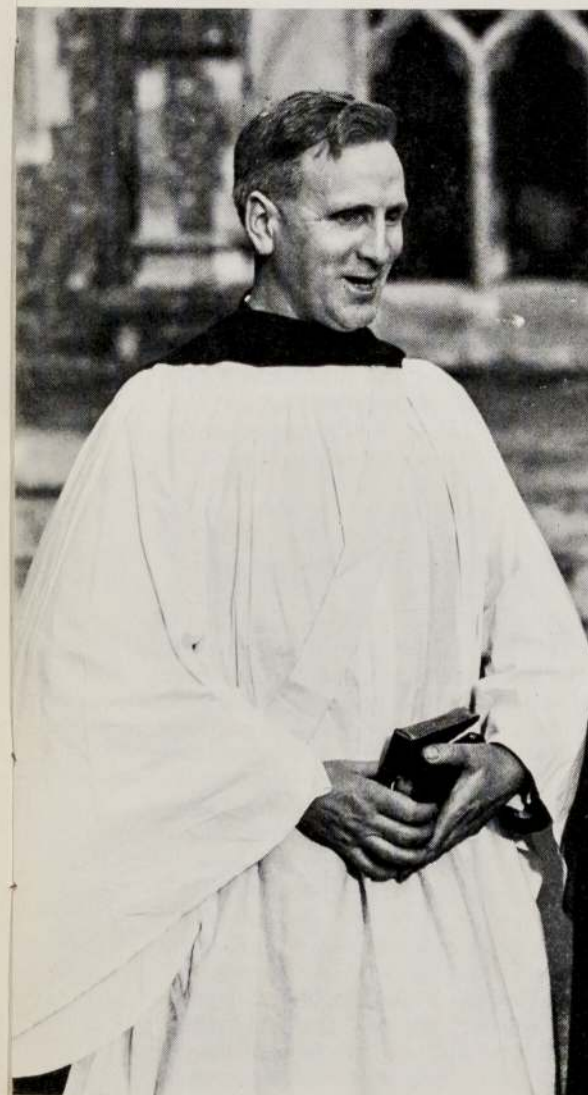
This is a vocation in which a blind man may find great satisfaction if he really has a call to this kind of service. I can vouch for this because I have known and admired all those whom I have mentioned.

Blindness does not impose a handicap that cannot be overcome, for a man can learn to read braille fluently and almost certainly knows most of the regular services and prayers by heart. There is, of course, the difficulty of getting around the parish but a congregation is almost bound to include volunteers who will help the padre in various ways.

I would say that our St. Dunstan's padres have not only enriched the Church but have proclaimed the success of St. Dunstan's and been an inspiration to us all.

Fraser of Lonsdale

SAINT DUNSTAN'S PRIESTS



The Rev. W. Gilbert Speight



The Rev. Michael Norman

The Rev. Dennis Pettit with Miss M. A. Midgley, Northern Area Welfare Supervisor, at a Reunion.



Club News

London Club Notes

On Thursday, the 26th of September, we were delighted to welcome Mrs. Hancock and Charlie back to the Club. All our members were especially pleased to note Mrs. Hancock's good spirits and the fact that she was looking so fit and well after her recent operation in Moorfield's Hospital. We are glad to have you both back in our midst again.

The first winner of the London Club's Football Pontoon Sweepstake this season was Les Douglass, who had drawn the team Everton. Mr. Fullard and Mrs. Stanley tied for the "booby" prize.

In the second round of the Sir Arthur Pearson Fives and Threes Knock-Out Competition, W. Harding won in two straight games against C. Hancock, and is now awaiting the name of his opponent in the third round.

Winners of our domino games in September were as follows:

5th September	1. W. Harding 2. J. Murray P. Nuyens G. P. Brown W. Miller
12th September	1. W. Harding J. Murray P. Nuyens
26th September	1. W. Harding 2. C. Hancock

We take our London Club very much for granted, but I wonder how many St. Dunstaners know how the word "Club" came into being? It was originally applied to persons bound together by a vow. Carlyle wrote: "It (1190) was the era of chivalry—for bodies of men uniting themselves by a sacred vow, gelubde. This word has passed to us in singularly dwindled condition, we now call it 'Club' . . . and the vow does not rank very high!"

Perhaps the vow our members will make this winter will be to attend their Club as often as possible.

W. MILLER

Cardiff Club Notes

A meeting of the Cardiff Club was held on Saturday, 5th October, at the Institute, Newport Road, Cardiff.

It was a lovely day and our meeting was in keeping with the weather. We played cards and dominoes before tea and after the football results we played a few games of bingo.

D. Stott, our secretary, was away for the week-end. As Chairman of the Club, I invite all St. Dunstaners in the Cardiff area to come along and join us in a very pleasant Saturday afternoon.

A. CONWAY EVANS,
Chairman.

Weight Watchers

As a result of our article on Weight Watchers in the October *Review* several blinded but overweight people have been made very welcome when they joined their local class. The results are very good, as besides widening their circle of friends they are already some pounds lighter! St. Dunstaners might be interested to know that the diet sheet or programme as it is called, is now available in Braille and the matter of scales being brailled, is receiving attention.

If you are overweight why not telephone or write now to:— **Mrs. Bernice T. Weston, Weight Watchers Ltd., 2 Thames Street, Windsor, Berks., Tel. Slough 44917 or 43678** and find out where your nearest class is held. You will never regret it! You could be in a size smaller dress for Christmas!

Bridge Notes

Harrogate Bridge Week

It was a gay, happy party of eleven St. Dunstaners escorted by Norman Smith, who boarded the train on Saturday morning the 14th of September for Harrogate. The Harrogate Bridge Week is probably the "most looked forward to" event on our Bridge calendar for the year.

We arrived at Harrogate shortly before 4 p.m. to be greeted at the station by our good friends Ada and Betty with Norman Green, "Hoppy" and others. After settling in and having had our evening meal we went by car to the home of Mrs. Nora Manby, where we had a very enjoyable evening's bridge with delightful home-made refreshments.

During our stay in Harrogate we played bridge matches at I.C.I. Oakdale Social Section, Knaresborough Golf Club, Oakdale Golf Club, I.C.I. Crimple House, and the Ladies Section of the Pannel Golf Club, winning two games and losing the remainder. We also played for the St. Dunstan's Cup at the Harrogate Bridge Club, Adelphi Hotel, on the Sunday evening. This was won by Harrogate. The tournament director on this occasion was the Chairman of the Harrogate Bridge Club, Mr. W. Laker, who has been so kind and helpful to the St. Dunstaners.

We were entertained on the Sunday morning by Norman and Margaret Green. This is an occasion which we always look forward to particularly. On the Monday afternoon we played bridge at Miss Pauline Webster's home, with the usual delicious home-made refreshments.

Tuesday afternoon saw some St. Dunstaners royally entertained by Miss Talbot at Kiplin Hall. The Thursday of this year's Harrogate Week, I shall always remember as "Hoppy's" Day. On that morning our party, with other friends, went to the Drover's Inn at Bishop Thornton at the express invitation of "Hoppy" where we were entertained to lunch.

We visited I.C.I. Crimple House, on the Thursday evening. This is a delightful

place overlooking a beautiful wooded valley which is partially spanned by some twenty-six arches of a railway viaduct and a magnificent view.

Our fixture for the Friday evening was one with a difference. For this was our "At Home" night to entertain all our kind friends who had extended such marvellous hospitality to us all during our stay at Harrogate.

We had mustered thirteen and a half tables for our "At Home" which meant that fifty-four people took part, twelve St. Dunstaners and forty-two guests from the various clubs where we had played during the week. Our visitors won prizes donated and made by St. Dunstaners which Mrs. Norman Green presented and were greatly appreciated.

Our Captain, Paul Nuyens, thanked the Harrogate people for their week's hospitality and for having so freely entertained St. Dunstan's Bridge Club for all the past twenty-eight years, and hoped that St. Dunstaners would still visit Harrogate for many more years to come. He also noted that an increased number of Second World War men were here for the Harrogate Bridge Week for the first time, and he hoped that this might help to instil new life into the Club. Paul reminded the "boys" that this Bridge Week would not be possible without the good auspices of the Harrogate people. He knew well, he said, the great amount of preparation and organisation required for this occasion.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

The eighth Individual Competition of the London Section was held on Saturday, 5th October and the results are as follows:

P. Nuyens and R. Bickley	74
R. Stanners and G. Brown	70
Miss V. Kemmish and G. Lynch	70
R. Armstrong and R. Evans	67
R. Fullard and J. Huk	66
H. King and H. Meleson	55
M. Tybinski and F. Jackson	41

Bridge Notes

The best five results out of eight are:

R. Armstrong	381
G. Brown	377
R. Fullard	361
P. Nuyens	355
R. Stanners	355
M. Tybinski	348
R. Bickley	331
Miss V. Kemmish	327
R. Evans	322
H. Meleson	317
H. King	300
J. Huk	286

After four matches:

P. Pescott Jones	268
F. Jackson	203

After two matches:

G. Lynch	125
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PAUL NUYENS

KIPLIN HALL

A party of five St. Dunstaners, who were attending the Harrogate Bridge Week, visited Miss B. Talbot at her home at Kiplin Hall near Scorton. This indeed was an outing with a difference. Miss Talbot is well known to many St. Dunstaners and a first cousin of Mrs. Spurway. The "boys" who visited the camp at Little Gaddesden may well remember her.

On our arrival at Kiplin Hall we were welcomed by Mr. Kirkbright, a member of Miss Talbot's staff, on her behalf. As we entered the hall, from which permeated the pleasing aroma of burning logs, Miss Talbot came in from her garden where she had been so kindly picking a rose for each of our party. Needless to say, this charming gesture delighted us all.

The Hall had been reconstructed for use as a Dining Room, which featured family portraits let into the panelled wall. Also noteworthy was a fine mahogany hall bench and chairs which bear the crest of the Earls of Shrewsbury—a talbot. This being a breed of running dog which is now

extinct, but was the ancestor of all the later English hounds.

We were joined by Colonel Forbes and enjoyed a marvellous lunch, watched by Charles the Second, (painted by Sir Peter Lely) in his frame of Boscobel oak. You may remember this is the oak in which Charles hid from his pursuers.

Colonel Forbes then took us all to the Great Library, where he gave us a most interesting talk on the Green Howard Regiment and their trophies. This pleased the Army "lads", especially Freddy Matthewman, who was originally of that regiment.

Mr. Kirkbright took us on a guided tour of Kiplin Hall, ending, in the Naval Room.

I, myself, was intrigued to discover that the Naval Room housed, among many other historical relics, Oliver Cromwell's three pint leather tankard. This "Black Jack" had not been my idea of a puritan's treasured possession!

Taking our leave, we thanked Miss Talbot for her generous hospitality. We returned to Harrogate with yet another happy event to store away with our memories of Harrogate Bridge Week. 1968.

GARDENING PRIZES

Now that our Summer (British Type) is over, the results of the Flower Shows are starting to come in. Our St. Dunstaners, blessed with green fingers, have been doing as well as ever.

G. Watts of Wymondham, Norfolk, was most successful in his local show and obtained a First for dahlias and for a flowering pot plant, a Second for a savoy and a Second in the Scented Flowers section. He also obtained two Third prizes with a large pumpkin and small dahlias.

H. Goodley of Pulham Market, Norfolk, obtained two firsts and three seconds with his flowers at the Norwich Blind Flower Show.



ST. DUNSTAN'S CLOCK



Paddy Lowry

Photo: Evening Argus, Brighton

It Strikes Me

Sorry You've Been Trrroubled

When raiders armed with ammonia, a sawn-off shot gun and a pistol, entered the North Street, Brighton Branch of the National Provincial Bank early in October, St. Dunstaner, Paddy Lowry, the telephonist, managed to get an emergency call through to the police which brought them to the bank within seconds of the robbery, Paddy slid off his chair on to his knees in his glass-partitioned telephone room and, half hidden in this way, cleared all the lines and dialled 999 while the shots were going on. "It was like the untouchables on T.V." he told me. The Manager and two members of the staff were injured by the shot gun pellets or ammonia and the raiders got away.

What impressed me in this story almost as much as Paddy Lowry's coolness and presence of mind "under fire" was the fact that, after a restorative cup of coffee, he methodically got down to ringing back all the callers he had cleared off the line when the action began to resume their interrupted conversations and apologised saying, "Sorry about that, but we were raided!"

200 and Still Going Strong

I was looking through Sir Arthur Pearson's book 'Victory Over Blindness' recently when I came upon a passage on mobility—Sir Arthur did not use a stick but for those who did he advised: "As a rule blind people carry heavy sticks. This is wrong. The stick should be regarded as an elongation of the arm and the lighter it is the more useful it will prove . . . the stick . . . should be carried with the point in advance lightly touching the ground or just above it and perhaps moving from side to side."

In St. Dunstan's Annual Report the newly imported long cane technique from America was described thus: "The cane is held steady in one hand about the centre of the chest and is swept with rhythmic motion from side to side ahead of the user." The Report is dated 1965/66. Sir Arthur's book was published in 1919.

There is an even earlier example of a kind of Long Cane Technique, John Metcalf, better known as 'Blind Jack' of Knaresborough who lived between 1717 and 1810. A recent book about this totally blind road builder and long-distance walker says this: "Jack Metcalf's favourite companion was a stout staff looking more like a shepherd's crook than a walking stick. It was six feet long, with a covered handle at its thinner end and a knot at its lower end . . . His staff told him in advance of his feet when he was straying off the beaten track on to softer ground".

MAGOG

The Cut Price Three Card Trick



On September 24th the newspaper headlines blared:

CIGARETTE PRICE WAR BEGINS—BLOW FOR SMALL SHOPS—
3d, 4d, 6d OFF 20 AS PRICE WAR STARTS—**THE CIGARETTE**
WAR LIGHTS UP—SMOKES: LITTLE MEN SAY WE'LL FIGHT.

The news was the decision of the big tobacco companies to abandon their legal battle to maintain control over the retail prices of cigarettes. Reactions ranged from gleeful statements by the supermarkets that, with millions of cigarettes in stock and posters ready printed, they anticipated increasing their cigarette sales six-fold to the gloomy forecast of the National Union of Small Shopkeepers that hundreds of small shopkeepers would have to give up their businesses.

It was with all this in mind that the *Review* decided to talk to some of our own shopkeepers to see how St. Dunstaners were faring in the battle of the High Street. This is not a statistical sample; our five shopkeepers were interviewed simply because they were near enough for us to visit in the limited time available before this issue went to press. Their news is encouraging, for all report that they are holding their own, some suggesting that the whole thing will blow over leaving things much as they were before the tumult and the shouting of those headlines. Maybe in a little while we will be saying it was a phoney war in the High Street after all.

TOM DABORN has been trading at his shop in Bexleyheath, away from the shopping centre but near the station for 22 years. He had this to say about price wars:

"All cut-price is a three card trick, what you lose one way you've got to make up somewhere else. I think it will kill itself because to all these big supermarkets, their profit margin is the key point of their whole trading system. I don't think, especially at Christmas time, they will be able to afford to give up the space for such a small percentage of profit. If you work it out they are making about 1/3d. on £1 6s. 4d., well, that's nothing—no profit at all. It hasn't affected us much—we have no big multiples along here. We've just gone on in the normal way and nobody has even queried the price of cigarettes. If you went to any Supermarket you would only get the popular brands. I could list half-a-dozen brands of cigarettes and tobaccos that are rather rare and I keep them purely for the customer who wants them. I think it will affect us where the wife will be good enough—or dumb enough—to buy her husband's cigarettes with her weekly shopping. If he says 'buy me a couple of hundred cigarettes' and she'll take it out of the weekly allowance for food—but I can't see many women falling for that!"

GEORGE FONE, whose shop is in Enfield in a residential area with no other shops around, said business had dropped a little but not all that much. "I think it will affect the Christmas trade. People buy their cigarettes in larger quantities then, and in the supermarkets you can get 6s. 8d. off 200. You see we ordered our Christmas stocks long before this came up. The orders are already in, even boxes of chocolates and sweets. If people go into the town to get their cigarettes cheap they will buy their Christmas sweets there too. We are feeling it among customers who buy in 100s for the week-ends. They are not buying because they go to supermarkets anyway at the week-end. If the Chancellor doesn't put up the tax on cigarettes in the Budget I think it will all settle down again but if he puts them up in the Budget people will go to the supermarkets. It's early yet, we'll just have to wait and see. It's no good knocking our prices down if it's all going to settle down. Anyway I couldn't afford to knock all my cigarettes down."

In East London **MICK SHEEHAN** of Leyton said he was missing some regular customers. "I can't cut cigarette prices, I'd be working for nothing—the margin is bad enough as it is. You've got to sell such a hell of an amount of cigarettes to make any profit at all that you have to have other lines to fall back on. There are your sweets and ice creams and minerals and so on. There will always be a small shopkeeper. If you give the customer the right sort of treatment they will always come back to you. I have customers come every week to me just the same. I think it will all die out like the sweets, just before last Christmas. The sweets price-cuts didn't affect me at all. We have such a lot of kiddies trade and they bring their parents in."

Another East London shopkeeper **PERCY ALVEY** has been in his Leytonstone business 35 years and seen other trading crises come and go: "On the tobacco we were a £1 up on the first week! This week it has been down very slightly but nothing to get alarmed about. You see it's not the men who go into cut-price shops, it's the women. The first customer who came in on the day they were down was a woman who had come in for five Manikins. She said 'What's the price of them?' and Bill, my brother, said, 'Give us a chance'. She didn't buy them. We can't cut prices with our overheads and expenses and there's one or two customers like that, but not that many. We had the wind-up at first because this was plastered up on posters staring people in the face but, although there are a lot of new people, in thirty-five years we've come to know our customers."

Continued on page 12



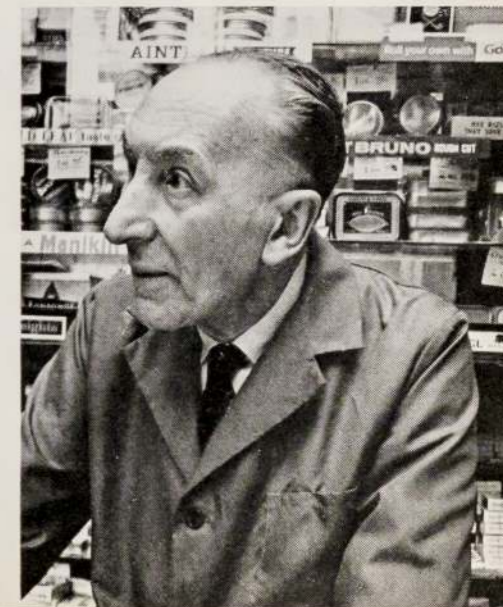
Tom Daborn (above)

George Fone (below)



Mick Sheehan and his wife, Rene (above)

Percy Alvey (below)





Len Curnow

The Cut Price Three Card Trick

Someone else who agrees that knowing your customers counts is **LEN CURNOW** who runs the Crook Log Post Office in Bexleyheath's main shopping street and who, asked how he was riding the storm, replied: "There is no storm to ride. It will not make any difference at all in the long run to the tobacconist that has got a personal trade. There is always room for the small man who gives good personal service. A person doesn't always come into the shop for a packet of fags. He comes in for a chat with you; it's part of their day, especially the retired people, to come into the shop and get some local news of what's going on. There are supermarket customers who go from shop to shop to buy the cheapest. In the supermarket where wives can buy 200 cigarettes or more at 3d a packet cheaper they will go and spend on other goods far in excess of what they save on cigarettes. Eventually they will find that it's cheaper to come back to their own shops. There is no difference at all in the sale of cigarettes here. Nobody has asked me about cuts and they have paid the normal price quite happily."

Walking

Highgate

Out came the walking shoes and shorts again at Highgate on Saturday, September 28th, for the traditional one mile race that sets a new season of walks under way.

A heavy downpour a short time before our race turned the well churned-up track into a mud-bath, but we were all too tensed up to even notice.

Handicapper Bill Harris was really on form with his predictions, for all of us finished, first to last in just about a minute, including George Jakins walking his first race with us. The first 3 places were very keenly fought for, and the very close finish most exciting to watch.

Result	Order of finish	Handicap Allowance	Actual Time
W. Miller	9.08	scr	9.08
R. Mendham	9.09	scr	9.09
F. Barratt	9.09	.30	9.39
J. Simpson	9.39	.30	10.09
R. Young	9.43	1.20	11.03
C. Stafford	9.45	1.40	11.25
S. Tutton	9.47	1.10	10.57
E. Cookson	9.49	3.00	12.49
G. Jakins	10.11	2.30	12.41

Ewell Walks

The first walk of the season at Ewell took place over 1½ miles on October 5th and with the change of venue from the previous week, and adjustment of handicap allowances, a completely different result ensued. Scoring points for the Archie Brown Cup may have encouraged the slower members, or perhaps they were keen to catch newcomer Ted Bunting, but in either case, the faster men never got a look in. Ted was given a beginner's handicap mark, which gave him a well earned first time first prize, a very useful holdall. O.K. for carrying of future prizes.

Result	Order of finish	Handicap Allowance	Actual Time
E. Bunting	12.07	3.30	15.37
M. Burns	12.36	4.10	16.46
C. Stafford	13.03	3.30	16.33
J. Simpson	13.13	1.30	14.43
R. Young	13.23	3.00	16.23
F. Barratt	13.29	.50	14.19
S. Tutton	13.47	2.50	16.37
W. Miller	13.55	scr	13.55FL
M. Tetley	14.01	1.35	15.36
R. Mendham	14.16	scr	14.16

Forthcoming Events at Ewell

Nov. 16th 3 miles
Dec. 7th 4½ miles

Mr. W. J. Harris

The walking section offer their congratulations and best wishes for a very happy and safe journey to their handicapper and timekeeper Mr. W. J. (Bill) Harris, who has been selected to judge the walking events at the Olympic Games in Mexico.

W. MILLER

DECIMAL CURRENCY

Those of our readers who were interested in the article under the above heading which we printed in the October *Review* may be glad to hear that booklets with headings as follows are published in Braille by the Royal National Institute for the Blind and are available on application to Mr. Christopher of Mens' Supplies Dept. at St. Dunstan's Headquarters.

Decimal Currency: Expressions of amounts in printing, writing and in speech.

Decimal Currency: Three years to go—facts and forecasts.

The third booklet, **Decimal Currency: Britain's New Coins**, is in the course of preparation by the R.N.I.B.

FREE BRAILLE KNITTING PATTERN

Hand-knitted pullovers are always an acceptable present and we have obtained permission from "Sirdar" to print a knitting pattern in Braille of a gentleman's V-neck, sleeveless pullover in stocking stitch, with a simple but attractive rib at the waist and garter stitch round the V-neck and armholes.

This pattern can be knitted in size 38" to 44" chest, in a variety of wools, including 4 ply, acrilan, double knitting, double crepe wool and super nylon. For the 4 ply you need a pair of No. 10 and No. 12 knitting needles and for the other wools you need a pair of No. 8 and No. 10 knitting needles. The pullover could be made in time for Christmas by the average knitter.

Patterns can be obtained, free of charge, from Miss M. Leslie, St. Dunstan's Review, P.O. Box 58, 191, Old Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.



Times of Change

Oliver Twist said, "Please can I have some more?"

As a boy I eagerly awaited my penny pocket money and wished (under my breath) for just one half-penny more.

To-day my daughter tells me quite firmly, "Dad, do you know that my pocket money is not keeping up with the National Average?"



Welcome to St. Dunstan's

On behalf of St. Dunstan's we welcome a new St. Dunstaner, recently admitted to membership. The *Review* hopes he will settle down happily as a member of our family.

Alexander Pickering of Manchester became a St. Dunstaner on 20th September, 1968. Mr. Pickering served in the 1st World War in the Manchester Regiment. He is a widower.

Letters to the Editor

From A. G. Bradley, Northwood Hills, Middlesex.

"A load of rot?"

I was very interested to read "Chips with everything" in last month's *Review*, which was written by a member of St. Dunstan's staff and signed "Weight Watcher".

The light hearted note through the article made it a joy to read and the result must have been most rewarding.

But on reflection, I began to wonder if priorities were in the right order.

Slimming, reducing, weight watching, call it what you will, is a very much advertised national need these days, even with due regard for that minority who can "eat anything" and never put on an ounce.

I wonder if there is an earlier stage than the declared overweight, which should receive first attention? I refer to the production of food.

In the past, I seem to recall fairly frequent criticism on the taste, or lack of taste, of certain foods. Broiler fowls come first to my mind, as I have heard radio comments on the lack of flavour of these factory bred birds. Certain vegetables have often been described as tasteless if not watery. More recently I have come across some two or three examples of the more natural treatment of foods and it crossed my mind that, if by the indiscriminate use of artificial foodstuffs, chemical fertilisers etc., we are producing foods which are not so nutritious, or satisfying, we may have to OVER EAT to take the amount which will give us a healthy satisfaction, may THIS not be the major reason for those undesired inches?

Listening to the Farming News one morning earlier this year, I was rather amused to hear an award being made to a fruit grower, who was obviously the odd man out in the studio. He hadn't sprayed his fruit trees for five years. One of the farmers on the programme admitted to carrying out that ritual 16 times a season.

BUT the recipient of the award DID grow two acres of "compost" to feed his ten acre orchards, so his trees and fruit were inwardly, of themselves, resistant to much or most disease, instead of squirting nicotine on to the back of the little Red Spider. Not only that, it appears that they had much more to offer by way of flavour.

Even more recently, I attended a lecture by a Horticulturist, Colonel Shewell Cooper and his theme was, "What you take out, you MUST put back in". He expounded the cycle of human life in such a manner as to sound child like. In fact I was so impressed by this emphatic teaching, that my wife and I took a trip to Barnet to have a look at his seven acre small holding. There it was, only organic matter being used, and besides the obvious results, I was aware of an air of inactivity. It took care of itself. This man's line was, "Sick soil means a sick nation".

If couplets are to be the order of the day—I wonder if Weight Watchers might reasonably live with say—Gastronomic Guardians, or Searchlights on Soil?

By whatever name you call it, there could well be more than a modicum of truth, for the sake of many things, including shape and health, in a "Load of rot!"

From G. Fallowfield, Welling, Kent.

I have a collection of Braille *Reviews* and when I want to look something up I rarely find it because I start reading them, in particular the letters again. Here's one from the late R. Cole and a poem in the same number by Billy Bell. When you start reading your *Review* again it's surprising how quickly the time flies.

I have a copy of the *Review* No. 1 July 1915 and the next is July 1916 and after that September 1916. Then I have one for every month these are printed. There's a photograph in the April 1918 number and my wife sees another photograph taken at the regatta on 18th May, 1920!

British Talking Book Service for the Blind

Cat. No.

Fiction

- 325 HIGHAM, DAVID
(2) *A SIMPLE STORY* (1966)
Read by Michael de Morgan. A young man falls in love with an Italian singer; the book tells of their marriage, parting, and the events which finally re-unite them.
P.T. 12 hours.
- 326 VIDAL, GORE
(2) *WASHINGTON D.C.* (1967)
Read by Robert Gladwell. The ruthless climb to success of a young American in the political scene of 1937 to 1952.
P.T. 15½ hours.
- 334 WALTER, ELIZABETH
SNOWFALL AND OTHER CHILLING EVENTS (1965)
Read by Duncan Carse. Five frightening stories centred on supernatural occurrences.
P.T. 6½ hours.
- 336 LAWRENCE, D. H.
(2) *SONS AND LOVERS* (1913)
Read by Gabriel Woolf. The author's own boyhood is reflected in this drama of human relationships in a Nottinghamshire mining village at the turn of the century.
P.T. 17½ hours.
- 337 MOWAT, FARLEY
PEOPLE OF THE DEER (1962)
Read by Duncan Carse. Legendary and real drama in the Canadian Barrenlands, embodying a passionate protest against exploitation.
P.T. 11¼ hours.
- 344 DICKENS, CHARLES
(3) *THE PICKWICK PAPERS* (1836/37)
Read by Gabriel Woolf. The journeys and adventures of Samuel Pickwick and three members of the Pickwick Club.
P.T. 33¼ hours.
- ### Non-Fiction
- 329 ANDREWS, ALLEN
THE MAD MOTORISTS (1964)
Read by Peter Reynolds. An exciting story of the motoring trial which ended as a race from Peking to Paris in 1907.
P.T. 11¼ hours.
- 330 DELDERFIELD, R. F.
UNDER AN ENGLISH SKY (1964)
Read by George Hagan. Comments on modern English Life and the national character, as observed during travels from Northumberland to Cornwall.
P.T. 9½ hours.

Cat. No.

- 333 BROAD, LEWIS
THE PATH TO POWER (1965)
Read by David Geary. Analyses the motives and circumstances which led 14 Prime Ministers, from Rosebery to Wilson, to attain the seat of supreme power.
P.T. 7½ hours.
- 342 JACKSON, SIR RICHARD
OCCUPIED WITH CRIME (1967)
Read by David Broomfield. Sir Richard, formerly Assistant Commissioner at Scotland Yard, and President of Interpol, recalls his work and some interesting cases.
P.T. 10½ hours.
- 339 LUSSERMAN, JACQUES
AND THERE WAS LIGHT (1963)
Trans. by E. R. Cameron. Read by Alvar Lidell. A former French Resistance leader relates his experiences from the time he was blinded at the age of eight, to his internment in a Nazi concentration camp.
P.T. 11 hours.
- 340 MIGOT, ANDRÉ
TIBETAN MARCHES (1955)
Trans. by Peter Fleming. Read by Eric Gillett. A journey from Hanoi through Tibet to Peking, giving an intimate picture of Tibet and its people.
P.T. 10¼ hours.
- 327 MOOREHEAD, ALAN
THE BLUE NILE (1962)
Read by Duncan Carse. Events in the Nile region of Egypt, the Sudan, and Ethiopia since the mid-eighteenth century; early exploration, Napoleon's Invasion, and Napier's campaign of 1868.
P.T. 11¼ hours.
- 332 SLATER, LEONARD
ALY (1966)
Read by David Broomfield. Candid description of the life and loves of Aly Khan, the millionaire prince revered by Moslems, reputed to be the Casanova of this century.
P.T. 11¼ hours.
- 338 BROWN, IVOR
SHAW IN HIS TIME (1965)
Read by John Richmond. The dynamic personality of G.B.S., dramatist and critic, is encountered in the various backgrounds of his life.
P.T. 8¼ hours.

WANTED —FOR CHRISTMAS

Articles, poems, jokes, etc. are wanted by the Editor of the *Review* for Christmas. All copy should reach the Review office by 12th November — so get those typewriters working!

"THE WAR BE OVER"—ARMISTICE 1918

by
Rev. Andrew Nugee

My fiancée and I had both been having the 'flu, she a V.A.D. at St. Thomas's and I back at Magdalen College, Oxford. So we spent our convalescence together at her home, Boothby Hall, out in the Lincolnshire Marsh, not far from Skegness. Our only chance of getting a paper was if the guard remembered to throw it out at the near-by gate house from the train that went through at about 9 a.m. to Grimsby.

11th November that year was on a Monday. We got the paper on Saturday all right and it was obvious that the war was reaching a climax. Sunday went by with no further news but someone came up to the farm with a rumour that an armistice was to be signed the next day.

Monday was a lovely day, clear and still with a touch of frost in the air and hardly a cloud in the sky, a perfect English

Autumn day, but no paper. In the afternoon my fiancée's mother suggested a drive round the countryside in the pony trap, and so we harnessed up and set out. Still no news. But as we drove along, we heard the church bells begin to ring in all the towers of the countryside. Then we came to a couple of old men thatching a rick. We stopped and asked them why the bells were ringing. One of them hardly turning his head from his work said, "They do say the war be over", and having said that went on with the job.

In London the crowds were out singing and dancing. In Lincolnshire the bells were ringing and old men were getting on with their job. It was good to be there. Better to hear the news in the peal of the bells and from the mouth of an old man getting on with his work.

Family News

Silver Wedding

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. D. BAKER of Rhyl, North Wales, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 9th October, 1968.

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. W. COWING, of Basingstoke, Hants, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 18th September, 1968.

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. C. SEDMAN of Bury, Lancashire, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 16th October, 1968.

Golden Weddings

Very many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. E. E. CARTER of Earls Colne, Nr. Colchester, Essex, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 19th May, 1968.

Warmest congratulations to MR. AND MRS. P. JOHN of Torquay, Devon, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 22nd September, 1968.

Diamond Wedding

Warm and sincere congratulations to MR. AND MRS. P. SHERIDAN, of Wishaw, Lanarkshire, Scotland, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 25th September, 1968.

Grandfathers

Congratulations to:

A. SPENCER of Gillingham, Kent, who became a grandfather for the first time when his daughter, Joyce, presented him with a grandson, Peter James Edward Jarvis, who was born on 3rd July, 1968.

E. HIGGS, of Herne, Kent, on the arrival of his seventh grandchild, a girl, born to his son's wife. They already have three boys.

Grandfathers—continued

J. H. GARDNER of Heswall, Cheshire, announces the arrival of his first grandchild. His daughter-in-law, Jennifer, gave birth to Nicola on 21st September, 1968.

A. BRAMSON of South Woodingdean, Sussex, on the birth of their first great grand-daughter, Karen Ann, born on 15th September, 1968.

J. R. KING of Holloway, London, N.7, on the arrival of a grand-daughter, Jacqueline Ann, who was born on 12th August, 1968, to our St. Dunstaner's daughter.

L. THOMPSON of Gateshead, Co. Durham, on the birth of their first grandchild, Stephen Jason Martindale, in September of this year.

A. SCOTT of Belfast, announces the birth of a grandson, Alistair Clark, born on 10th August, 1968. He has three grand-daughters already.

Great Grandfathers

Many congratulations to:

F. ASHCROFT of Kirkby, Lancs., became a great grandfather for the second time when his grand-daughter Margaret gave birth recently to a son, Duncan Guy, a brother for Emma Jane.



Our St. Dunstaner, Thomas Wilson of Grimethorpe, receives the British Legion Certificate of Merit from the vice-president of the Grimethorpe branch. Photo: Barnsley Chronicle

Family News

Great Grandfathers—*continued*

J. W. CLARE of Brockenhurst, Hants., has become a great grandfather for the second time. Mark Adrian Clare was born on 9th September, 1968, to his first grandchild of the same name.

W. DUDLEY of Horley, Surrey, has become a great grandfather for the third time on the arrival of Karen Jane Styles on 30th April, 1968.

G. HADFIELD of Ottery St. Mary, Devon, has had news of the birth of his first great grandchild, born to his grand-daughter in Plymouth last July.

Rosemary, eldest daughter of our St. Dunstaner, A. SERDET of Staines, Middlesex, was married to John Freegard at Kingdom Hall, Kingston Road, Staines, on 17th August, 1968.

B. MARTIN of Bray, is very proud of his grandson, Peter Martin, who recently obtained six honours in his Intermediate School Examination.

W. LETHBRIDGE of Oldham is pleased to announce that his son Brian, has obtained his B.Sc. at the London University and is now a trainee Manager in industry.

WANTED. Crown sized coins for collection. Festival of Britain and Coronation 5/- pieces. B. Priest, 14 Moat Road, Tip-ton, Staffs.



Trophy for Julie Vowles.

Prize Giving Day

Fourteen year old Julie Vowles, youngest daughter of R. J. Vowles of Portsmouth has amassed quite a collection of trophies and medals since she won her first prize—for tap dancing and nursery rhymes when she was aged two.

Her latest success was recently in Pwllheli, Wales, when she won the British Junior Tap Dancing Championship trophy. For this she received a very large cup which she can hold until next August.

Julie's aim is to gain a place at a drama school where she can develop not only her tap dancing technique but her singing and speech training as well.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

P. APPLEBY of Luton, who mourns the death of his brother on 6th July, 1968, in the U.S.A.

W. ARIES of Crawley, Sussex, whose wife died suddenly on 16th September, 1968, after a very short illness.

W. SAXBY of Halstead, Essex, who mourns the death of his father on 7th July, 1968.

F. PUSEY of High Wycombe, Bucks., whose wife, Bertha, died on 21st September, 1968, after a long illness.

K. WARD of Exeter, Devon, whose mother died on 16th September, 1968.

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.

Cornelius Mills. *Westmorland and Cumberland Regiment.*

C. Mills, of Reading, Berks., died on the 3rd October, 1968, at the age of 88 years.

Corrie Mills was a regular soldier from 1897 until 1920 and was later a cinema manager. His sight ultimately failed and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1963. He enjoyed several holidays at Brighton, but his health had been failing for some time. He was a widower and leaves three daughters, with one of whom he had made his home for many years.

William Howse. *3rd Welch Regiment.*

William Howse of Haywards Heath, Sussex, died in hospital on 11th September, 1968, at the age of 71 years.

He enlisted in the 3rd Welch Regiment in September, 1915, and served with them until his discharge in July, 1916, when he came to St. Dunstan's. Mr. Howse became a pig and poultry keeper with the help of the people with whom he lodged and continued with this work together with some mat making. He married in 1925. His wife died in 1942. After her death his health began to deteriorate and he was admitted to hospital where he remained a patient until his death on 11th September this year. He had no relatives.

Geoffrey Arthur Preston. *5th Btn. Burma Regiment.*

G. A. Preston, of Woking, Surrey, died in hospital on the 28th September, at the age of 51 years.

Geoff Preston came to St. Dunstan's early in 1944, after being very severely injured by a grenade when he was serving in India. After training in Church Stretton and London, he married Miss Isobel Pepall and soon settled in Surrey. He became a crossword puzzle compiler and reviewer of talking books and always maintained a keen interest in sport. In recent years he stayed a number of times at Ovingdean and added to the many friends he had made in his early training days. He leaves a widow and daughter and son, both in their late teens.

Victor D. Robins. *Royal Army Service Corps.*

Victor D. Robins of Ilford, Essex, died on 7th October, 1968, at the age of 45.

He enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps in 1942 and served with them until his discharge in 1947. He became a St. Dunstaner in 1953 but due to an improvement in his sight he left us in 1957.

He was, at one time, a shopkeeper but re-trained and went into industry. He was working in a factory up to the time of his death.

To his mother and sister we offer our sincere sympathy in their sad loss.

Physio '68



The 1968 Physiotherapy Conference took place at Ovingdean over the weekend of October 11th-13th. A full report of the Conference will appear in our next issue. Above—The Conference appreciates a remark made by Mickey Burns during a debate.

How's that for size? Vic. Reeves tries on a new overall assisted by Mrs. Reeves and Eugene Proffett.



Miss Barbara Bell appraising a new type of massager at the exhibition of new equipment.

