

**St Dunstons**  
**REVIEW**  
**APRIL**





# St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

NO. 618

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5p MONTHLY



Mrs. Castle watches Bill finish typing the letter. —Photo Wally Talbot

## “I Shall Treasure it Always”

*The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Barbara Castle, M.P. visited the home of Bill and Alice Griffiths in Blackburn on February 19th. Bill sent this account of a friendly and informal visit.*

Mrs. Castle arrived at our house at 4.30 p.m. accompanied by Mr. Tom Taylor, Deputy Leader, Blackburn Management Committee, Alderman Mrs. M. MacNamee, who suffered an amputation of a leg three years ago, past Chairman of Blackburn Health, Welfare, Social Services, Hospital Management, Mentally Handicapped Children and other Committees. She was also a member of the R.N.I.B. National Council. With her was her daughter, Miss Mary MacNamee, Principal Officer of Blackburn Deaf and Dumb Association.

Mrs. Castle immediately made herself at home saying that she had heard so much about me and was delighted to have the opportunity of getting to know Alice and me better.

After a welcoming drink I took her into my office and demonstrated my Talking Book Machine, Tape Recorder, Radio, Typewriter, Telephone, Braille and Repeater Watches, and Shotput Gadget,

telling her that they had all been supplied by St. Dunstan's.

Whilst in the office with Mrs. Castle the telephone rang, presenting a perfect practical demonstration of how I operate it. The call, incidentally, was from London asking for Mrs. Castle, and she promptly used my gadget.

Prior to her arrival I had typed the major part of a letter and I now finished it off

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in her presence. She took it and said, “I shall treasure it always.”

She was tremendously impressed with everything she saw and constantly exclaimed, “How wonderful! How marvelous!” She is now going to apply for a Talking Book Machine for her mother who is almost blind.

Later I explained how the Clos-o-mat functioned, informing her that it had been discovered, purchased, and installed by St. Dunstan's, she fully appreciated the independence it provided. Mrs. Castle asked if there were implements to assist me with eating and if artificial hands were of practical use to blind persons. I told her that this depended to a great extent upon the length of one's remaining forearms in the case of implements and that most of us wore artificial hands for dress purposes.

Mr. Taylor had to leave for another appointment but the rest of us wined and dined at 5.45 p.m. During dinner Mrs. Castle asked, “Did you go to rock bottom when realising the full extent of your injuries?” saying that I didn't give the impression of being disabled now. She also asked if people were patronising towards me and commented that if she were disabled, “It would make me sick to be patronised.”

### Superiority of the Disabled

She laughed when I told her how some sighted people approached us, some gently whispering, other literally bellowing, some far too cheerful, and others talking past us, “Does he want a drink, does he take sugar etc?” Mrs. Castle thought for a moment and said, “Bill, you ought to make a film for television entitled, ‘Superiority Of The Disabled’, it would be good educational stuff for everyone.”

Expressing thanks for an interesting, relaxed two and a quarter hours stay and delicious meal with us, she added that she would have been happy to stay all evening but couldn't because she had a meeting in Blackburn at 7 p.m.

Alice and I had naturally addressed her each time as Mrs. Castle, but after a while she emphasised that unless we called her Barbara she wouldn't come again. Undoubtedly, she is a most charming and genuinely sincere person.



Using Bill's telephone gadget, Mrs. Castle talks to her secretary in London. Photo Wally Talbot



## Welcome to St. Dunstan's

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

**Trevor Angus Charles Tatchell** of Cyncoro, Cardiff, who came to us in January, 1971. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps in the 2nd World War. He is married with two daughters.

### H.M.S. DAEDALUS

St. Dunstaners are invited to Lee-on-Solent, Hants., for the week Friday, 13th August to Saturday, 21st August. Journeys over first £1.50 refunded. Camp fee £2.

Please send your entries by 8th May to: Mrs. Spurway, Mount House, Halse, Taunton, Somerset.

**COVER PICTURE.** An Elizabeth I sixpence, photographed much larger than life, from John Cruse's collection. See *Ways of Life* on centre pages.

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## “Put that Cigarette Out”

by  
Phillip Wood

Sir Walter Raleigh has a lot to answer for if the story that he introduced tobacco to this country is true. For centuries our ancestors smoked the stuff quite happily without coming to any apparent harm. Then some genius hit upon the bright idea of enclosing it in a paper tube and inhaling the smoke—for kicks presumably.

And that was when all our troubles began. For now (almost overnight it seems) the cigarette has been branded a killer. We are, it would appear, quite literally “smoking ourselves to death”. The cigarette kills many times more people than does the motor-car. It makes permanent invalids of countless thousands more. And the next time some superior non-smoker chides me for my folly my usual smart-alec reply of “If it were not for idiots like me you would be paying fifteen bob a pound for your butter!” will ring a little hollow.

### Give it Up

The American humorist's remark “Giving up smoking is easy—I've done it hundreds of times!” has a certain wry truth to it. How many of us have “stopped” only to start again two months, or two weeks or two hours later. I've smoked for forty years and the habit is going to take a great deal of breaking. Apart from the actual drug-dependence there is something ritualistic about smoking, from the inviting whisper of the cellophane wrapper to the satisfying click of the lighter, which reinforces my bondage.

It is not encouraging to reflect upon the global extent of cigarette-smoking. I have been accosted by very small children cadging fags in the streets of Bombay, Singapore and Rangoon. In one remote area of Northern Siam, where the basics of existence were at an irreducible minimum, all the men seemed to be smokers. They rolled cigarettes from home-grown tobacco and dried maize leaves.

On the Siam-Burma railway the only commodity not in desperately short supply was tobacco. Sackloads of it were smuggled in night after night. The British P.o.W.s

engaged in this traffic risked savage beating, even death, to deliver the goods.

The Japanese “paid” us for our labours. A week's “wages” would buy, for instance, a very small, very stale egg. But, in this place where starvation was the greatest single cause of death, we didn't buy eggs. We bought tobacco. It was black, finely-cut and cruelly harsh—and, inevitably nicknamed “Sikh's Beard”.

For paper we used anything that came to hand. We smoked our way through Bible and Prayer-Book and spent hours laboriously splitting the pages of our Soldier's Pay-books. On very rare occasions the Japanese presented us with a welcome bonus in the shape of thin poor quality local paper—issued, I must explain, for a much more down-to-earth function!

### No Matches!

There were never any matches. The Great Unsolved Mystery of the Railway must be where the first light came from. One day I approached a fellow P.o.W. for a light. My sight had already begun to fade and at a distance of a few feet all figures were blurred and shapeless. So it was not until our cigarettes were actually touching that I recognised the other as one of the Chaplains. He was gazing with obvious disapproval at my fag—which was clothed in a bit torn from a Bible. Suddenly he smiled and said, “I don't really mind your smoking the Bible—providing, of course, you have read it first!”

At last liberation, back on “tailor-mades” and the morning cough. Oddly enough the murderous “Sikh's Beard” never seemed to show any bronchitic tendencies.

And I'm still at it. If all the cigarettes I'd ever smoked were laid end to end . . . But that doesn't bear thinking about . . . Still, smoking really *is* a mug's game and I really ought to give it up . . . . . and then I'd put on weight! They all do. And when the doctors are not warning us of the perils of smoking, they are being equally pessimistic on the subject of

obesity—the curse of the affluent overfed society. The knife and fork could be as lethal as the weed! I just can't win.

I imagine that any psychiatrist worth his salt would declare that what I have written so far makes it abundantly clear that I am merely rationalising my inability to give up smoking.

And he'd probably be right. Still, nobody but a lunatic pays out good money week after week just to bring about his own early demise. And I'm quite fond of living, really. So I ought to pack up smoking.

I'll think very seriously about it tomorrow . . .

### CAFE CHANTANTE IN AID OF I.P.B.

International Publications for the Blind, a pioneering Organisation, is holding a Cafe Chantante at **St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, Sloane Square, on Saturday, 17th April, at 2.30 p.m.**

Come and enjoy coffee and refreshments with your friends while listening to light, popular choral and solo music, poetry recitations, etc., from blind and sighted artists, all voluntarily giving their services. Tickets cost 25p each, obtainable on application to: **Miss Patricia Parsons, 31 Carroll House, Craven Terrace, London, W2 3PR.**

This concert is the first fund-raising function organised by I.P.B. to help launch a new Braille, print and tape bi-monthly magazine, to be called *World Contact*, which will be an entirely independent, international and original journal, produced by blind people for blind people. A venture well worth supporting.

### NOTE

St. Dunstaners and wives or escorts will be made most welcome should they attend the Cafe Chantante. They can be assured of a pleasant musical and entertaining afternoon.

### Wife's Gold Watch

WILLIAM WATKINSON of Croston, Lancs. completed twenty-five years' service with Leyland Motors on 4th March, 1971, and by tradition should have received a gold watch. Instead he has elected to receive a gold watch for his wife—a tribute of appreciation to her.

### DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

The Closing date of the Derby Sweepstake is **Wednesday, 19th May.**

Tickets are 15p each, and are limited solely to St. Dunstaners or St. Dunstan's trainees.

Each application must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

The name and full address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, should be sent, with the stamped addressed envelope, to the Editor, D.S.S. Dept., *St. Dunstan's Review*, P.O. Box, 58 191 Old Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5QN

The Draw will take place at the London Club on the evening of Thursday, 27th May, the race being run on 2nd June.

All those drawing a horse will be notified.

### In the Public Eye

ESMOND KNIGHT, the well-known actor recently appeared in the play “Mister” at the Duchess Theatre, London, W.C.2. It was during his service as an R.N.V.R. officer in the 2nd World War that Esmond lost his sight. He was on the bridge of the Battleship H.M.S. *Prince of Wales* when the gun duel took place between his ship and H.M.S. *Hood* with the German Battleship *Bismarck* and with the cruiser *Prince Eugen* in the Atlantic in May 1941. A shell from one of the *Bismarck's* 15 inch guns hit the bridge of the *Prince of Wales* and exploded killing or severely wounding everyone except the Captain.

BILL and ALICE GRIFFITHS can be seen on Independent Television, A.T.V. Midland area, in the “Women To-day” programme on Tuesday, 20th April between 3.30 p.m. and 4 p.m. They occupy 10 minutes of a half hour programme. The programme will also be transmitted the same day but perhaps at a different time on I.T.V., Southern, Anglia and Tyne-Tees areas.

### Bronze Medal

Yvette, daughter of WILLIAM MILLER of Perivale, Middlesex, received her bronze medal for swimming on 30th January, 1971. Yvette is 11 years old.



## POCKET HISTORIAN

### John Cruse

On Decimal Day, when Britain's new pennies officially came into circulation, John Cruse, a St. Dunstaner who owns an old penny for each year since 1860, with the exception of a few years in which pennies are very rare, came into the *Review* Office to talk about his hobby of collecting coins.

"It is a sad day for me", he said, "Because there seemed to be some character about the coins we have known all this time. I think nothing of the new coins. There is no history behind them, that's my point, although, of course, they will have a history in the end."

"I have a set of the new coins that was issued in 1968 and I will continue to collect the new coins as they come out. It will be a long time before they mean anything. I don't know all the designs on them but as far as weight goes they don't feel as bad as some coins from the continent. There is some substance."

John Cruse explains his interest in collecting coins by saying he is, perhaps, a magpie but his main interest is in the history of the items in his collection. "I do like keeping things in the magpie sense. As a boy I kept all kinds of things not simply just for collecting's sake but the interest of them. There is still this collecting instinct; trying to hold on to things, a sort of pleasure in things connected with the past."

The value of his coins is quite secondary to John, "Although it is nice to come across a scarce coin that you know is of



some value. It makes it exciting." Leafing through one of his albums to a sheet of silver threepenny pieces, John Cruse showed a Victorian coin worth five pounds but he was most enthusiastic when he came to a page containing a coin from every reign since Elizabeth I including one from Cromwell's Commonwealth, "This brings back the troubles we are having with Ireland, yes, I associate Cromwell with Ireland—it was his pitfall anyway. And this silver groat from Charles II's reign, in whose pocket might that have been? Nell Gwynne? Samuel Pepys? Christopher Wren? You see it brings all these little things back to you."

John Cruse's oldest coin is a sixpence from the reign of Elizabeth I. His favourite, a sovereign from that of Elizabeth II, "It has St. George and the Dragon and I always liked the picture of St. George on horseback fighting the dragon. On the other side of the coin there is the Queen's head. Of course, I don't know what she looks like now but I remember her as a young girl and she seemed attractive to me. I expect her head on the coin would appear attractive now. That, to me would be a handsome coin."

He has been collecting coins for about five years so he began long after he lost his sight. His description of his favourite sovereign underlines what must surely be a deprivation for any collector—the inability to see the items in his collection, "It is true, of course, that I miss that point of actually looking at it, its appearance, but when something is described to me I can see it in my mind. I know, for instance, that if somebody said there was a Britannia on a florin, it would be Edwardian. You see, you have the various shields and legends, it is not difficult to picture the coin."

John gets his descriptions of coins from catalogues or from fellow collectors, "The longer you collect coins, naturally the more familiar you become with them and you get to know the various terms, like the 'field' of the coin, the 'legend'—the writing round the edge." John explained that "field" referred to the background on the reverse side of the coin. Then there are mint marks: "The 1912 penny and 1918/19 pennies can have letters in front of the date like this 1912 one, some have H and some KN, that's Heaton in Birmingham and King's Norton. These are the only pennies this century that have these marks."

Asked if the 1912 penny bearing the mint mark were valuable, John Cruse explained that value depends on the grade of a coin, "The grade goes from fair up to uncirculated. There is fine, which is reasonably good and very fine which is a bit better; extra fine or extremely fine, is very good with no wear and then there is uncirculated, of course. The super one is fleur de coin which means coins specially made with a polished die but you have to pay more for them originally."

The historic part of John's collection shows how the art of minting has changed over the years, the older coins being larger and heavier in the main than later issues—a George III two penny piece, for example, is about half the diameter again of our old penny and three times as thick. John has a Victorian penny, dating from before 1860 when the familiar size was adopted, which is about the size of our half-crown. John explained why the very old coins seem clumsy by comparison, "You see the difference in the look of the coins. These later ones were milled, that is made by machine and the designs pressed in the metal. Whereas these smaller ones were hammered—the silver was hammered and cut out by hand so you get the irregular shape. Apart from that people would clip the edges to steal the silver and one reason why they started milling the edge was to prevent this."

#### Face value

In his five years as a serious collector John has amassed a set of pennies from 1860-1967 with just a few years missing; halfpennies from 1899-1967; sets of shillings and threepenny pieces and many others. It has not been expensive, "Most of my coins I have got at their face value, if you have a hundred pennies it is only 8s 4d, in the old currency, and a hundred halfpennies is only half again, obviously. In my farthing collection I have had quite a number given to me by people who have them lying around the house. They get to know you are a collector—I have been looking for some threepenny pieces and there is a chap at the office who comes round every day; he keeps all the threepenny bits with the thrift on the back because I have told him that some of the dates I want are in that period up to 1952."



Several of John's sets are virtually complete but, "I am always on the look-out for any special coin or any rare coin which I could simply add to the old coin set but it is more now a question of improving on what I've got. We look through change and if we come across a better coin than we have then we keep that. That is how my sixpences, for instance, are in quite good condition from 1911 up to '66."

This is a way of improving a collection that will soon be impossible with the withdrawal of the old currency, except for certain coins. John Cruse is confident that there will always be coins available with the dealers and people who have kept them as many have done with silver threepenny pieces and farthings after they went out of circulation.

John has found coin collecting a way of making friends among fellow employees with the Department of Health and Social

Security in Newcastle where he works as a telephonist but he is hesitant about recommending numismatics as a hobby for other St. Dunstaners. "It depends how they are made up. Some people may not have my interest in history. To me a coin is part of the past; it is something tangible from the times I like to read about. You see, I like coins for their own sake."

Well, the chances of finding an historic coin in your change have now become pretty remote but even if you cannot hope for a penny Nell Gwynne might have spent, there are some coins around which are at least remarkable; those new pennies which have made the traditional British scratch their heads and start to think in tens and the phrase "damned dots" mean something other than Braille! This might not be a bad time to start your collection of extra fine new pennies from 1971 onwards.

## OVINGDEAN NOTES

### FIRE!

Never a dull moment at Ovingdean! Despite the postal strike which has affected us in the same way as everyone else, we have not become completely cut off and things happen all the time to keep us lively. Only yesterday in the late afternoon all the fire brigades from miles around suddenly descended upon us in a large scale exercise for the benefit of Home Office experts, some of whom were here to approve the proceedings. Fire engines came rushing from all directions, sirens wailing like banshees, blue lights flashing, and eventually no less than ten were stationed around the building and in the drive. Ladders shot up, fire-hoses were unrolled, hydrants spouted water till the paths were running rivers and dozens of firemen dashed around at the double, all wearing large black helmets and yellow leggings. Eventually ambulances arrived and Mr. Poole was carried out on a stretcher as a mock casualty. All this caused consternation in the district and soon the news was spreading into Brighton that St. Dunstan's was going up in flames! We were glad to

be able to offer reassurances and explanations and all ended to the satisfaction of everyone concerned. The only St. Dunstaners who were inconvenienced were those waiting to leave on the 6.30 p.m. bus, which had to be cancelled as it could not get down the drive.

Seeing all this happen, one had to admire the speed and co-ordination with which all these activities were carried out and it was comforting to think that if a fire did occur here, which Heaven forbid, such efficiency might save many lives. It led many of us to meditate on the possible causes of such fires. We have already had several small ones in various parts of the building which, fortunately, have been discovered in time. Many St. Dunstaners, we regret to say, drop cigarette ends on the floor and round about and sometimes these are still burning. This is an appalling habit. It looks very bad and is also highly dangerous. Please, St. Dunstaners, don't do it any more! Put your cigarette ends, and all other rubbish for that matter, safely away in the places provided, where they cannot

cause dismay and damage. It would be a terrible thing if we had to have the Fire Brigade here in earnest.

Well now, after that little homily, on with the gossip. Calling all St. Dunstaners who were at Ovingdean in 1948-1949 when we had a large party of Australians in training! You will be interested to hear that "Mac" Macgregor, of Perth, Western Australia, is over here on holiday and has been spending a little time at Ovingdean. He is much enjoying meeting old friends and acquaintances and sends greetings and best wishes to all those whom it will be impossible for him to visit. He would like to be remembered especially to Tommy Rogers (are you there, Tommy?) who was one of his teachers. Mac returns to Australia in August and before he goes he will be visiting Ovingdean again.

### Discussion

We had a tremendous Discussion this month on a subject suggested and proposed by Wally Thomas. This was "That it is not courage which enables a person to overcome a disablement". Wally, as most St. Dunstaners will know, is deaf-blind, and many will wonder how he can take part in such things as discussions. He very often participates and always his direct, well-balanced exposition of the subject sets us all talking. With the help of an interpreter who translates to him in sign language, he follows all the argument and then closes the discussion at the end, with a sure grasp that fills us with admiration. The subject itself this time was a vital one to St. Dunstaners. Alternatives to the quality of courage were put forward, as, for instance, the instinct to survive at all costs, pride, the refusal to be beaten, and sometimes—sheer cussedness. We were all made to think deeply about it and many others may wish to ponder on it for themselves. Maybe they will want to express an opinion!

Another item on our programme in February which aroused great enthusiasm was a talk by Mr. Joe Kennedy on "A Policeman's Lot". We had a large audience for this and from beginning to end we were utterly absorbed by the relating of Mr. Kennedy's experiences before and during his life as a policeman, especially when he was Detective Chief Superintendent at Scotland Yard. Mr. Kennedy is now retired and is a most valued escort at

Ovingdean, with a large and growing number of friends among St. Dunstaners and staff. We would like him, at some future date, if he can bear the thought, to tell us more about "A Policeman's Lot", and next time it will probably be "Standing Room Only".

Mr. Richard Grierson and his Brunswick Players paid us a welcome return visit recently with a reading of "The Chronicles of Clovis" a series of playlets which Mr. Grierson had adapted from the short stories of Saki. These proved to be most entertaining and were much appreciated by the audience as something a little bit "different".

It only remains to say that with the Bridge and Chess Instructional Weekends also successfully taking place in February, our cycle of events moves on and we are already welcoming the Springtime with a great deal of pleasure. Easter looms ahead, which gives me a cue to say—Don't forget your Easter Bonnets if you are coming to Ovingdean for the holiday.

## Bridge Notes

### LONDON

The Third Individual Competition of the London Section was held on Saturday, 6th March. The results were as follows:

P. Nuyens and M. Tybinski	73
J. Lynch and R. Stanners	67
R. Armstrong and H. Meleson	62
R. Fullard and F. Pusey	61
W. Allen and R. Evans	59
H. King and Miss V. Kemmish	56

### BRIGHTON

The Second Individual Competition of the Brighton Section was held on Saturday, 27th February. The results were as follows:

F. Griffee and M. Clements	77
J. Whitcombe and S. Webster	73
F. Mathewman and J. Huk	72
R. Goding and W. Burnett	65
A. Smith and J. Chell	64
A. Dodgson and W. T. Scott	51
P. Pescott-Jones and R. Bickley	42



## NEVER ENDING BRIDGE

It is noteworthy that Les Douglass and Roy Armstrong have now achieved the rank of St. Dunstan's Club Junior Masters.

Roy Armstrong, our Captain, is now introducing a series of Bridge on tape which will be called "Never Ending Bridge". As each tape becomes available it will be published in our St. Dunstan's Monthly *Review*. The first tape of this series entitled "Never Ending Bridge—Introduction" is now available. A tape is also available for the more advanced player in competitive situations "Tape One".

Further information regarding these tapes may be had from either Roy Armstrong or Norman Smith.

## THE MASTERS

Will Captains of the teams wishing to take part in the Bridge event **St. Dunstan's v L.C.C.B.A. (The Masters) on 12th June, 1971**, please send me the names of the Players in their team, at their earliest convenience.

P. NUYENS,  
*Bridge Secretary.*

## BRIDGE DRIVE

Twenty-one St. Dunstaners partnered by wives and friends spent a happy afternoon at our Bridge Drive in the Club Rooms at 191, Old Marylebone Road, on March 13th.

We were happy to see so many of our friends and there was a specially warm welcome for those who had travelled a distance to be with us on this afternoon. The weather, too, seemed to be on our side.

Mrs. Les Douglass, wife of our St. Dunstaner, whom we all know as our most regular voluntary worker in the Club Canteen, graciously presented the prizes.

The winners were as follows:

1. W. Allen and Mr. P. Woods
  2. M. Tybinski and Mr. A. F. S. Deeley
  3. J. Carney and Mr. R. W. Deeley
- R. ARMSTRONG,  
*Captain.*

## FOUND—ONE DISCIPLE

by  
Alf Field

I think we can all agree that the February Bridge week-end was a great success. With Geoff Connell now in his stride, I am able to give full time to beginners. This leads me to the "Bidding Situations" and the query, are they necessary? I contrived these originally (pre: Geoff) so that I could devote more time to beginners leaving the "Markers" to read out my suggested bidding and detailed explanation on the reverse of the Bidding Chart attached to each Board. I would welcome any suggestions from the seniors, please.

Now let me tell my story of the Disciple. The Theme of one group of Boards was "Contesting the bidding after the enemy have opened". I explained Board by Board what actions South and North should take after East had opened "One Diamond". I explained that South would divide his "Contesting Bids" into Four Groups A, B, C and D to be recognisable by North—thus (A) would be a simple overcall of one in a new suit and little else. (B) would be the same Bid with 12 points and very good suit this time the bidding is jumped, i.e. "Two Hearts" over the "One Diamond", (C) "One No Trump" is 16 Points or more with a certain trick in Diamonds. None of those Bids are forcing. (D) is for "Double" which forces North to bid his longest suit other than Diamonds. The Double is Elastic—it can be weak (10 Points) or strong (20 Points). With only 10 Points it would require a void in Diamonds which gives North three Ruffing tricks if he plays in any other suit. As South's hand improves in Points the void may be replaced by a singleton and then on to a doubleton with say 15 Points. Now over to North who (if West passes) is now compelled to bid his longest suit other than Diamonds "Passively" at the lowest level until he reaches 10 Points which he shows by bidding the same suit with a jump, i.e. "Two spades" or "Two Hearts" an encouraging bid but not forcing. With 13 Points North would bid the enemy's suit, i.e. "Two Diamonds" "Exciting Bid"—Forcing to Game. North will sometimes have a very poor hand, say one Point and a 3-3-4-3 Distribution. He must not wriggle

but—like all good poker players do—carelessly flick the ash off his cigar and bid "One Heart" and look smug. (Should we have classes for that?) However, on many occasions North will have his 10 Points or more.

Now on to Board 9 which was:

♠	Q J 3	
♥	Q 9 7 3 2	8 Points—
♦	8 7 6	9 Losers
♣	K 8	
	N	
W	□	E
	S	
♠	A K 7 6	
♥	A J 10 4	16 Points—
♦	4	5 Losers.
♣	A 7 6 3	

East Dealt, and Bid "One Diamond" which South Doubles.

West passes and North Bids his "Passive" "One Heart". South who is unaware of North's hand—it could be the poker player's one! now bids "Two Hearts". A single raise of a "Passive" shows the strong double and allows for the possibility of North holding 7-8 or 9 Points which would be a game prospect on a total of 23-24 or 25 Points.

Now over to North—the Poker Player with his "bust" would smile and "No Bid". Our man with 9 beautiful Points and a five card suit would also smile and bid "Three" or "Four Hearts" "Three" would be 90% force. The whole Point of the "Situation" is South's "Raise" of a "Passive" or indeed any further Bid from South would show North a strong hand 16 or more. The second Point is South having compelled his partner to Bid a suit should not go berserk and raise to game—Partner could have a "bust".

There were 12 couples who bid the Board—(No Beginners). 8 Souths correctly doubled East's "One Diamond"—3 bid "One Spade" and 1 bid "Two Spades", all these were corrected to "Double". Now only 10 Norths correctly bid "One" (Passive) Heart". Then came shock No. 1—only one South Bid "Two Hearts". (A thought occurs to me—some time ago I wrote—"I was the only one in step"—Now there are two of us—I gotta disciple!) Seven Souths bid four hearts! and shock

No. 2—two "Markers" even endorsed the sheet "Why only two hearts?" Of course, you must bid "Four" if you see both hands—but the hand was contrived to illustrate Souths action after a "Passive" from North on possibly a Yarborough (no Points at all). South cannot see North's hand.

## FRANK REVIEWS

Cat. No. 1001

"The Ghosts" by Antonia Barber, read by Colin Keith Johnston. If you like ghost stories—and I can take them or leave them—this is one I can pretty well guarantee not to chill the marrow in the bones.

It is a nice little story concerning two children living in poverty in London. When an old man knocks at the door and offers their widowed mother the caretakership of an old country mansion. In the grounds of the mansion they meet two children of a century before and go back into the past with them to help change the course of History. Interesting thought, that. There's a few things I wouldn't mind rearranging in the past.

Anyway, all turns out all right in the end, and I think readers, young and old, will enjoy this little book of light fiction.

Cat. No. 1004

"The Dead Needle" by Alec Hamilton, read by Michael De Morgan. This is the kind of book which gives me the dead needle! It reminds me of wartime funny stories of Ozlem aircraft, which flew in ever-decreasing circles until they disappeared up their own exhaust pipes.

We start with a beautiful portrait of a park keeper and his dog, enjoying the magic of a lovely summer's morning. The finding of a body shatters the beauty; the dog feels guilty and the park keeper runs for help.

The body—that of a student—now gets up and walks, goes back to his old digs and plays havoc there after his apparent



long absence. Then having made love a few times, and proved himself to be very much alive, he proceeds to drop dead again in what we must presume to be the same deck chair in the same park, being found by the same keeper and the same dog.

Perhaps I was a little jaundiced by the New Year celebrations when I read this book. I must confess I envy the style of writing, but I gave up riding on roundabouts years ago.

Cat. No. 1099

**"Our Kate"**, by Catherine Cookson, read by Colin Keith-Johnson. Catherine Cookson tells of her life and struggle to get away from her childhood background on Tyneside and to build a future for herself in the south of England.

Born out of wedlock Kate feels the shame of this continually, for it is little consolation for a child living in a slum to know that her father was a gentleman. Her mother, whom she loves, turns to drink, and Kate in her humiliation eventually declares that she will never go on another visit to the Jug and Bottle department of a pub to fetch her mother's beer.

On leaving school, she finds employment in the workhouse laundry, and in her early twenties applies for and obtains the post of Laundry Manageress in Hastings. Here she works hard and establishes herself in the local community.

She also starts writing and soon becomes an accepted author but she cannot break with her mother, who eventually comes south to live with her. Despite the great help she gets from her husband Kate lives her life on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

Certainly the author has much courage and in its way this very human story of love and duty versus respectability is worthy of note. But I'm afraid I found it pretty depressing reading.

Cat. No. 626

**"The Garrick Year"**, by Margaret Drabble, read by John Curle. Young attractive wife. Married to an actor. Loves him and their children but craves to make her own career. Husband puts his own job first. Carts wife off to Hereford. Wife is

bored. Wife takes lover. Husband takes mistress. Situation soon resolved. Husband, wife and children live happy ever after. A nice piece of easy reading, easy to put down and pick up again, to use the phrase of our sighted friends. Advice to husbands—let the wife listen to this whilst you tune in to a football or cricket match in the other room.

## Club News

### LONDON

The Football Pontoon Sweepstake which ended on the 27th February was won by Mrs. Roy Armstrong after a run of four weeks. Mrs. George Stanley won the "booby" prize. Their teams were Middlesborough and Sunderland respectively.

Our Domino winners during February were as follows:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 4th February  | 1. R. Armstrong<br>2. J. Padley             |
| 11th February | 1. J. Padley<br>2. W. Miller                |
| 18th February | 1. W. Harding<br>2. W. Miller<br>G. Stanley |
| 25th February | 1. C. Hancock<br>2. R. Armstrong            |

It was very nice to be able to welcome Mr. and Mrs. W. Harding back to the Club after Mrs. Harding's short stay in hospital following an operation on her hand. Mrs. Harding will be returning to hospital in a short time to have a further operation. I know all Club members will join me in wishing her well.

A big welcome to Mr. and Mrs. D. Watkins of Wanstead on joining the London Club. It was with pleasure that we noted them join the others who stay after our Domino Session on a Thursday evening to take Bridge instruction from our Captain, Roy Armstrong. We hope we shall see them frequently.

Several new club members now take the welcome opportunity of joining the instructional session on Bridge on a Thursday evening. Roy is doing a great job of work as apart from learning bridge this helps to increase our numbers at Dominoes. We would be pleased to see any St.

Dunstaners who reside in the London area availing themselves of this opportunity.

With the passing of the Winter months we hope to see more and more new members at the Club. Anyone who comes will immediately enjoy the friendly atmosphere that prevails in our Club rooms.

Please note that an error was made in the March *Review* regarding our forthcoming Derby outing. The price should have read £1.15 and not £1.50 as quoted. Please do let Norman Smith have your names as soon as possible if you wish to join us this year.

W. MILLER,  
Chairman.

## Family News

### Marriage

HEDGES - HALL. Kenneth Hedges of Bexley, Kent, was married to Miss Joan Hall on 6th February, 1971.

### Silver Weddings

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. RONALD TOWNER of Maidstone, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 2nd February, 1971.

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. ROBERT SHARP, D.S.M. of Thornton Heath, Surrey, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 14th March, 1971.

### Grandfathers

#### Congratulations to:

ERIC ASHBY of Coventry who is proud to announce the birth of his first grandchild, Simon John, born on 31st January, 1971, to his daughter Jane.

EDWARD BOWER of Accrington, who announces the arrival of a grand-daughter, born in February 1971 and tells us that he now has seven grand-daughters and three grandsons.

WILLIAM JONES of Southampton who announces the arrival of his first grand-daughter, Christine Suzanne Jones, born on 28th August, 1970.

JOHN MCDERMOTT of Davyhulme, Nr. Manchester, is pleased to announce the arrival of a grandson Jo, born to his son David and his wife.

CHARLES REDFORD of East Molesey, Surrey, on the arrival of his second grandchild, Emma Dawn Inge, born on 8th October, 1970.

HAROLD WESTBY of Morecambe, announces the arrival of a grand-daughter Kathryn Susan, on 9th March, 1971 born to his son Trevor and his wife, Patricia.

Frances, daughter of our St. Dunstaner, the late RONALD GRAY, married John Wright on 13th March, 1971.

Elizabeth, daughter of STANLEY EDGAR of Bermondsey, S.W.15, married George Evans on 12th February, 1971.

Gillian, elder daughter of JAMES MINTER of Ruislip, Middlesex, married Michael John Thorn, on 13th February, 1971.

Ian, son of JOHN MOONEY of Chadderton, Lanes., married Susan Kelly on 20th February, 1971.

Rosaleen, daughter of EDWARD QUINN of Peacehaven, Sussex, married Larry Buckmaster on 20th February, 1971.

### Death

#### We offer our sincere sympathy to:

WILLIAM CARR of High Wycombe, Bucks., who mourns the death of his brother who died on 24th February, 1971, at the age of 77 years.

## In Memory

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

Henry Charles Roberts. *Royal Garrison Artillery.*

Henry Charles Roberts of Shrivenham, Nr. Swindon, Wilts., died on 27th February, 1971. He was 77 years of age.

He served in the Royal Garrison Artillery during the First World War. He farmed most of his life but had retired when he came to St. Dunstan's, only recently. Unfortunately Mr. Robert's wife died in May 1970 and his own health has gradually deteriorated since then. He leaves relatives and friends.



## In Memory

### **William Norman Careless.** *Royal Army Catering Corps.*

William Norman Careless of South Littleton, Evesham, Worcestershire, died on 14th February, 1971, at the age of 64 years.

He served in the Royal Army Catering Corps from 1942 to 1946. His vision did not fail until later and he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1962.

When Mr. Careless became a St. Dunstaner he had a shop but he was in poor health and he gave this up a short time after his admission. He then derived pleasure from his garden and greenhouse, and also from holidays at Brighton. Although Mr. Careless's health was not good his death was sudden and unexpected. He leaves a widow and grown-up family.

### **John George Howes.** *Royal Engineers.*

John George Howes of Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees, Teesside, died on 10th February, 1971. He was 87 years of age.

He served in the Royal Engineers from 1915 to 1916 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1950. He was keen on walking and was an ardent supporter of the local British Legion Club and enjoyed outings organised locally by the R.N.I.B., until ill health prevented him from partaking in these activities. He was a keen attender at North Country Reunions and will be much missed. Mr. and Mrs. Howes celebrated their Golden Wedding in June 1961.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family.

### **William Norman Stephenson.** *Royal Navy.*

William Norman Stephenson of Earley, Reading, Berks., died on 19th February, 1971. He was 72 years of age.

He was a regular service man and served in the Royal Navy in the First World War. He left the Navy in 1938 to work in the Naval Dockyard and worked on the very ship on which he was to serve in the Second World War and on which he was sunk for the second time. Mr. Stephenson was recalled to the Navy in 1939 and was wounded at Narvick, being finally discharged in 1941. As a Petty Officer he was already trained and able to take up employment in an Aircraft Factory to continue helping the war effort. In 1945, however, Mr. Stephenson was given a special course of training at St. Dunstan's, Church Stretton and returned to the same factory and became a Router Operator. He continued with this and other work in industry until 1948 when he went to work for a well known company of biscuit makers where he was employed in rope and canvas bag making.

His first marriage ended in 1951 and he re-married the following year and moved to Reading where he has since enjoyed a very happy retirement. His retirement hobbies were gardening, listening to the radio and talking book but in recent years his health had given cause for concern and he was taken seriously ill just before Christmas, 1970, and died in his home on 19th February.

He leaves a widow and a son and a daughter by his previous marriage.

### **Wilfred John Stanley Pearce.** *Labour Corps.*

Wilfred John Stanley Pearce of Hendon, N.W.4, died on 8th March, 1971, at the age of 80.

He enlisted in the Labour Corps in March 1916 and served with them until his discharge in December 1917 when he came to St. Dunstan's. He trained in braille, typing and joinery. He and his wife settled in a Confectionery business but he decided to sell the business in 1925 and was re-trained as a telephonist. A few months later Mr. Pearce began work as a telephonist and although he changed his job in 1926 when he commenced work with the Hendon Electrical Company, he remained in their employ until his retirement in January, 1956. Since his retirement Mr. Pearce has taken a keen interest in gardening and greenhouse work and he and his wife have enjoyed a very happy retirement. Unfortunately in recent years Mr. Pearce's health has caused concern, particularly his increasing deafness and he died in hospital where he had been taken approximately a month before his death.

He leaves a widow and a son and daughters and their families.

### **Willy Ward.** *72nd Trench Mortar Battalion.*

Willy Ward of Portchester, Hants, died on 8th March, 1971 at the age of 78 years.

He was a regular service man and joined the 72nd Trench Mortar Battalion in 1910 and served with them until he was wounded in France in 1917. He came to St. Dunstan's in that year and was trained in carpentry, netting, wool rugs, typing and braille.

He returned home to live with his mother and settled as a netter and tray maker carrying on with this work for many years. Some of his trays were sent to America and Canada and he worked up quite a steady home trade for his products. In 1935 Mr. Ward became ill and his work slowed down. He then went to live with a friend who nursed him until his health improved. Unfortunately his friend died in 1949 and Mr. Ward became a permanent resident at St. Dunstan's, Brighton. He was very well known locally and did some voluntary work in a Children's Home. He spent several holidays on the Continent and frequently visited friends in Switzerland. Willy Ward's famous walking stick was easily noticed as he affixed to it name plates of the countries he had visited. Whilst at Pearson House, Mr. Ward met the lady whom he married in August 1964. Mrs. Hilda Ward has nursed him devotedly throughout his last illness.

### **John Henry Wilkin.** *King's Own Light Infantry.*

John Henry Wilkin of Cottenham, Cambridge, died on 27th February 1971. He was 82 years of age.

He served with the King's Own Light Infantry from 1915 to 1919 but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1969. Mr. and Mrs. Wilkin celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in November 1969.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family.