



St Dunstons
REVIEW
JANUARY



St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

NO. 626

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5p MONTHLY

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

New Braille Playing Cards

On Saturday, 11th December, Lady Fraser and I went to St. Dunstan's Annual Christmas Bridge Drive at Headquarters. It was a jolly party of twenty-five St. Dunstaners with a similar number of wives or friends.

I play bridge but not as well as some of my friends among St. Dunstaners, and some months ago I asked our Director of Research, Richard Dufton, to see if he could get one of the manufacturers to make some sort of plastic cards which would not wear out so quickly and maintain stronger dots.

Plastic cards proved too expensive and solid plastic dots stuck to the cards tended to come off. The answer, after much experimentation with plastic film processors and card manufacturers, is a plastic film bonded over the complete face of the card.

Some say that the new cards, which have been used in Brighton and London by our club members, are too thick but the transparent film is only half a thousandth of an inch thick and the additional layer of plastic on each card adds only the equivalent thickness of two extra cards in a full pack.

The trials have shown the Braille dots embossed in the plastic laminate to be excellent and long wearing and the cards themselves remain clean and last longer.

It is interesting to note that the Royal National Institute for the Blind are taking up the St. Dunstan's Laminated Playing Card, as it is being called, so that our experiments will be of benefit to all blind card players.

I am very glad to know that the older St. Dunstaners, with the help of Mr. Field and Mr. Connell, have taken a great deal of trouble to teach bridge to the younger generation. They have thereby done a very good turn to our second war colleagues and I urge any younger St. Dunstaner who has so far been too busy or not sufficiently interested to take up bridge to think again because he will find it a splendid resource and pastime.

Centigrade in the Weather Reports

No doubt we are all getting used to the decimal system for our money. At first we were converting the new decimal money into the old shillings and pence in order to see what price we were paying in the shop relative to our previous recollections. As time goes on we will no doubt forget all about the old shillings and pence and make our comparisons entirely in decimal money.

The same thing is happening as between Centigrade and Fahrenheit. Readers who listen to the weather forecasts on the B.B.C. will have noticed that a couple of years ago they began to express temperatures in Centigrade as well as in Fahrenheit, instead of in Fahrenheit only. For example, an announcer would say "the temperature is expected to be 10°C

COVER PICTURE: *A few of Matthew Watson Brown's collection of books. A "Ways of Life" feature appears on the centre pages.*

50°F. That happens to be exactly correct, but it does not follow that the Fahrenheit figure is always five times the Centigrade one. Indeed, it is a complicated calculation to make the conversion.

Now I begin to notice that the announcers are giving many of the temperatures in Centigrade only and not in both and before very long we shall have forgotten about Fahrenheit. Let me therefore tell readers of a very simple way to convert. It is as follows: take a Centigrade figure—for example, 10—double it, making 20 and add 30 and the result is 50°F. This formula also works for 7, 8 and 9 and for 11, 12 and 13. However, when you get to 14 and above, the formula gives you a result that is a little bit too high and you must take off a point. For example, 15°C—double it, equals 30 and add 30, equals 60, but the proper figure is really 59°F.

When you go down to 6, 5 and 4°C, instead of taking off a point or two at the end, you add it on. For example, 5°C, double it equals 10, add 30 equals 40, but the proper Fahrenheit figure is really 41.

Greetings

Early in the New Year, Lady Fraser and I will be attending a grand Reunion of all South African St. Dunstaners in Cape Town; we will give them the best wishes of their British comrades.

On Christmas Day we were at sea on the way to our usual business visit to South Africa and we drank a Toast, wishing a happy Christmas and good luck to St. Dunstaners and their families the world over.

Fraser of Lonsdale

COMING EVENTS

HOLIDAY BOOKINGS, OVINGDEAN

It is anticipated that Ovingdean will be available for holidays until August this year.

All St. Dunstaners in full employment wishing to book a holiday at Ovingdean between June and August should therefore please apply as soon as possible and not later than 1st March.

Other St. Dunstaners not in employment may also apply for holiday bookings between June and August but although these will be dealt with in date order of application, they will not be confirmed until after 1st March.

CHESS AND BRIDGE INSTRUCTION WEEKENDS

It will be possible to hold Chess and Bridge Instruction Weekends at Ovingdean early in 1972 and the following dates have been arranged for these:

Chess Instruction Weekend—Friday, 11th to Sunday, 13th February inclusive.

Bridge Instruction Weekend—Friday, 18th to Sunday, 20th February inclusive.

If there is a heavy demand for beds during the Bridge Instruction Weekend, those St. Dunstaners living near enough to Ovingdean to attend daily will only be considered for accommodation in the Home if there is sufficient room available.

St. Dunstaners' wives who wish to receive Bridge Instruction may claim the cost of their fares to Ovingdean and reasonable accommodation during the weekend.

A.G.M. London Club, February 5th (p. 19).

OUR THANKS

To all St. Dunstaners and their wives, at home and overseas the staff, including V.A.D.s, at Ovingdean, Northgate House, and Headquarters, would like to join together in thanking you all for the many Christmas cards and calendars received. The displays of these seem to get better each year.

We wish you all good health and happiness throughout 1972.

Dr. J. A. Leonard, M.A., Ph.D.

We are very sorry to have to report the death on 9th December 1971 of Dr. J. Alfred Leonard, a member of St. Dunstan's Scientific Committee, at the early age of 48. Although known to a mere handful of St. Dunstaners, Dr. Leonard's work in the field of Mobility over the past ten years may prove of lasting benefit to all the blind world. Our Director of Research, Mr. Richard Dufton, has given us the following appreciation.

In 1962, through the auspices of Dr. D. E. Broadbent, F.R.S., Director of the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Research Unit at Cambridge, Dr. Leonard, and a colleague Dr. A. Carpenter, undertook the first field evaluation of the Sonic Aid at Worcester College for the Blind and at Ovingdean, on behalf of St. Dunstan's Scientific Committee.

Their report later that year on the evaluation made it abundantly clear that there were difficulties ahead, at least until a viable training system could be worked out. Dr. Leonard was convinced that the answer to many of the basic problems of mobility lay in other directions, at least for some years ahead, and he undertook a study tour of the United States where, in 1964, he visited all the important mobility training centres.

On returning, his report to the R.N.I.B. and St. Dunstan's strongly recommended the immediate introduction of the American "long cane technique" into this country, and the response was positive and immediate with professional instructors coming here within a few months to set up Training Courses, and eventually the National Mobility Centre came into being in Birmingham, especially to train instructors on a professional basis.

In the mid-60s Dr. Leonard initiated the work for which he will always be remembered—the setting up at Nottingham University of the Blind Mobility Research Unit with support from the Medical Research Council and also St. Dunstan's to study the mobility problems of the blind in its wider aspects. He built up a young and energetic team around him.

It was mainly at his instigation that the Government supported a Social Survey



Evaluating signals from the original ultrasonic torch, Dr. Leonard is seen with his assistant Dr. Armstrong in the Blind Mobility Unit at Nottingham University.

into "The Mobility and Reading Habits of the Registered Blind in England and Wales"—the results were presented in summary at St. Dunstan's International Conference on Sensory Devices for the Blind in 1966. It is statistical data which is still the envy of many countries.

Dr. Leonard's researches on behalf of St. Dunstan's Scientific Committee, of which he was a member, concerned alternative methods of mounting the sonic hand-held mobility aid more effectively and a head-mounted version of this device has caused considerable interest in the last few years.

Recent investigations by the Research Unit have included improved matching of auditory outputs from mobility aids to give increased efficiency in every-day use—work that is still proceeding.

Dr. Leonard will be remembered for his numerous contributions to international conferences concerning sensory researches, both in America and the U.K. and, as recently as October 1971, his paper on mobility, which he read himself, was the only one on this subject to be presented at the American Foundation for the Blind's 50th Anniversary Conference.

In addition to his outstanding contribution in the area of mobility he maintained a keen interest in the general field of the behavioural sciences.

WORKERS' PARADISE A Holiday in Yugoslavia

by Bob Young

It was the words "excursion to Montenegro" that caught my attention. Ever since childhood its mention has caused my pulse to beat a little faster. My wife sensibly argued that, after all, it was only scenery and what was scenery to me? There she is wrong, of course, for there is more to scenery than just seeing it.

So we booked for the holiday to Split and Dubrovnik and found that we had also booked for the Workers' Paradise, though from the wrong end of the scale so to speak. If you thumb through the brochures looking for something really cheap because you can't afford this year the trip to Scotland, you come in time to the glossy Yugotour ones. You don't believe it all but what do you care if there are a few fleas and the food is awful? It can be awful in Scotland. So you book. From the moment of arrival the special treatment begins with the best rooms in the hotel. At least that is how it seemed to us travellers with the usual capitalist Tour Operators, paying half as much again and consigned in most cases to a damp little cupboard of a room somewhere under the stairs. That should learn us!

Worm in the Rose

The local workers did not seem quite so pampered. There was a strong impression of nail biting. And why so many chain smokers? The tell-tale pile of cigarette butts wherever man sits and relaxes, in that quiet spot by the steps leading down to the sea, for instance, where they must be ankle deep. The conclusion is that man is not made for happiness, there is a worm in the heart of the rose. It soon came out. Too many rules and regulations, too much control, too little scope for the individual. You can start that business or enterprise but as soon as it demands more than eight employees it is taken over by the State. How many hearts and futures broken on that little rule?

The scenery is dramatic and breathtaking. A backdrop of white marble mountains, a jagged coastline and the sea

full of islands, large and small, only a quarter of them inhabited. The lower slopes are covered in pines and shrubs. My mind was full of partisans and we tried walking up through the scrub as if the enemy were waiting, rifle poised. How many of them died not from a bullet but heart broken from stumbling through these rock strewn slopes torn by thorn bushes and lured into crevasses by soft sweet herbs? Which works both ways and explains how Tito could survive four years in the heart of Montenegro.

To Dubrovnik

And to Montenegro we went. It was a stunning excursion from 7.30 in the morning to 7.30 at night. Through magnificent scenery from the moment of leaving the old walled city of Dubrovnik till we reached Cetinje, former capital of Montenegro. A sad place, lying like a cast-off glove on the rugged stony plateau. Our coach guide was splendid. On his tongue the stark mountains, the tiny isolated villages of stone houses topped with rough thatch, came into a life of their own. He showed us the sparse cultivation scratched out among the surrounding boulders in small circles. We felt the limitless time and space. He steeped us in the ancient customs, the blood feuds that only more blood and the ruthless threat of it had been able to wipe out. We heard the sound of horses' hooves striking sparks through the night. He was as striking in appearance as his gift for language. A mop of hair that said more for his recent stay in the suburbs of London than the fashion of his native land, startling blue eyes and the figure of a dancer.

The day was damp, with low cloud. Cetinje had the feel of a deserted village. Through the crumbling stucco portico of the royal palace, last lived in in 1914, poured coachload after coachload of tourists. The uneven parquet flooring could hardly stand up to the tramp of their feet along the hall and up the stairs. Through the reception room and the

sitting rooms, through the dining room for guests and the dining room for the royal family. Through the king's bedroom with its narrow brass bed to remind him of his duties as soldier, and the queen's bedroom with large bed of brass curlicues, to the princesses' rooms to realise that they had to double up as it was a large family and only a small palace. The family portraits, the king with heavy face and hooked nose and beside him, surprisingly, not his queen but the portrait of a beautiful English woman. Downstairs, groupings of weapons hanging from the walls, tempting rifles with decorated butts delicious to the touch when the curator's back was turned, and curved Turkish swords. Usually I will dig in my heels like a mule rather than be dragged round a sight, but there was something about that palace, or maybe it was the guide, or even because it was the Montenegro I had sneaked through in imagination as a boy. To me it was not dingy and faded, the romance had not vanished with time. And even if they were only puppets on a string, as old fashioned as the brass knobs and whorls on their bedsteads that felt so odd to the touch, what did it matter?

Yugoslavia Today

Even the pep talk, disguised as answers to questions on the long drive back from Cetinje, went down like honey tempered with slivovitz. Unable to feast my eyes on the magnificent scenery or count the twenty-seven hairpin bends down the Lovcen mountain to the fjord below my mind was empty and receptive to the voice of the guide and his burden of statistics. He was good, that young man. Yugoslavia today? We were told of half a dozen separate states held together as one, four separate languages, three religions. Slavs and Croats eternally ready at the drop of a word to fly at each others throats. The ageing Tito naming six heads of the six States to sit with him as co-rulers. What may happen when he dies is a conundrum no one can answer.

There is no unemployment in Yugoslavia. The working day lasts from 6.30 in the morning to 1.30 in the afternoon. Wages paid according to the kind of work. Labourers at the bottom of the scale at so many dinars a month, skilled workers proportionally more, intellectuals and

managerial staff at the third level and at the top politicians, film stars and the like. Miners, because of the nature of their work, are paid at the level of intellectuals and whereas other workers must continue working for forty-five years the miner retires after only twenty-five. Women, lately demanding equality with men, were granted the favour of working the same forty-five years as the men instead of the shorter term allotted originally by a chivalrous State. A whole year off for child-bearing in future instead of the earlier three months before and three months after. Because we believe in the family, he said, our children do not go to school till they are seven. Primary school from seven to fifteen, secondary school from fifteen to eighteen. For the brightest, chosen purely on merit, the university from eighteen to twenty-one plus the usual training for specialist professions.

Goodbye to the Guide

At the end of the day we all shook the young man warmly by the hand, congratulating him on his splendid and arduous day's work and pressing into his palm a larger or smaller offering. There is no law, apparently, as to how much or whether to tip the guide. We felt he should go far in his country, perhaps reaching even the highest prize as politician.

There are good sandy beaches but you have to find them. Eventually we preferred to swim from the rocks. The beaches are ideal playgrounds for small children as they shelve gently into the sea. Yugoslavs love children and they love noise. A morning on the beach can be memorable for both. The noise rises to a crescendo at the uninterrupted tantrums of one or other of the little darlings, shrieking, rushing up and down, pounding the feet in an ecstasy of passionate fury ceasing only from sheer exhaustion. No loving arms, no soothing words, no slap to break the tension. Could they be forbidden by law in the interests of raising a spartan generation fit for the rigours of a workers' paradise?

My strongest memory is of the lonely stones along the highway commemorating violent death. Those of the partisans decorated with a star. There were so many of them.

GROCERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

by Mrs. M. G. Lillie

The party held on Wednesday, 1st December at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, was once again its usual happy affair, being greatly enjoyed by local St. Dunstaners and those staying at Ovingdean and Northgate House.

It commenced with a meal of prawn cocktail, turkey, etc., followed by Christmas pudding, mince pies and coffee.

Ken Phillips, the Chairman of Sussex Grocers' Association Entertainment Fund opened the speeches by making witty references to "escorts" (see George Fallowfield's letter in the December *Review*—Ed.) and he was followed by General Sir Richard Goodbody, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O. who had kindly made the long journey from Dorset to represent St. Dunstan's Council. He warmly thanked the National Grocers' Federation for their past help for over half a century, including the Outing and Party which took place yearly. Eric Davies, the Grocers' National President from Reading, mentioned how happy he was to be present at such a jolly occasion and hoped to speak to as many St. Dunstaners as possible, which he did during the dancing which then took place in the crowded ballroom.

The festivities came to a close just after 11 p.m. and it was not until after Auld Lang Syne that it became known that Percy Warden of Saltdean and his orchestra had supplied the music for these occasions for 21 years. He said it was always a joy to play for St. Dunstaners as they were such happy people who seemed to get the most out of life!

EDITOR'S NOTE

On behalf of all the guests the Review expresses warm thanks to Mrs. Lillie, the Committee of the Sussex Grocers' Association and Grocers everywhere for another wonderful party.

Ovingdean Notes

November—the calm, quiet month when we marshal our forces and prepare to enjoy Christmas to the full. Calm! Quiet! that's what you think! First came the "Chess Weekend", true this event did not cause more than a slight ripple on our "sea of tranquillity" but then there were only six of them. Their battle for "t'cup" was bloodless and almost soundless. However, no sooner had we locked away the chess boards when distant cries of "two no trumps" and "no bid" were heard. Yes, you guessed correctly. Over forty Bridge-playing St. Dunstaners were gathering at Ovingdean for their annual congress. Both the Bridge and the Chess Weekends are reported elsewhere. All joking aside, it was grand to have the Chess and Bridge enthusiasts in our midst, and we send congratulations and best wishes to you all.

In and around these indoor sports we managed to fit all our usual activities plus one or two special events.

In the early part of the month our Wednesday Group were happy to welcome Mr. W. F. Mandle of Brighton Public Health Department, who gave a most interesting and informative talk on the work of Public Health Inspectors.

At a later meeting we were given an opportunity to use our "little grey cells" at an open discussion entitled "Judge for Yourselves". Each member of the group was invited by Chairman Mr. J. Stokes, to state how they would deal with a specified case of juvenile delinquency. Shouts of "Bring back the cat!" No, not really. St. Dunstaners are a humane lot on the whole, but there were some excellent suggestions put forward for dealing with this case in particular, and young offenders in general. To round off our group activities we had two most enjoyable programmes of "Music for Music Lovers" presented by music lover in chief, Mr. John Hatfield.

Assisted by guest readers Mrs. Gloyn, Miss Eve King and Mr. Les Harris, members of the V.A.D. staff entertained with an evening of play reading. They read three one-act plays, two of which were humorous and the third ever-so-slightly-sinister.

To see November out in a blaze of glorious sound, Mr. Victor Henry and

friends played some music on records. What's that, you say "Nothing special in that". Ah! but have you heard records played on really superb hi-fidelity equipment? No! we have not gone into the advertising business, but are merely trying to express appreciation to Mr. Henry and his helpers for a delightful evening's entertainment.

By the time you read these notes, we shall have enjoyed Christmas and be looking forward to the New Year. In the words of a certain Dickens' character:

"God Bless us, every one".

Badges for Motor Vehicles

Recent legislation enacted under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act provides for the issue of special badges to be displayed on motor vehicles driven by or used for the carriage of disabled persons.

These badges are issued by local authorities on application being made to them and a fee of up to £1 may be charged.

St. Dunstaners will not normally be concerned with the issue of badges to disabled drivers so in this note I will deal only with the issue of badges in respect of disabled passengers.

A St. Dunstaner will be eligible to apply for a badge for his motor vehicle if he is a person who

(a) Is so incapacitated as to have considerable difficulty in walking and who is in need of constant attention or

(b) Is dependent upon the use of a wheel chair outside his home.

The local authority may require an application for a badge to be supported by a medical practitioner's certificate as to disablement.

A disabled person's badge will be valid for a period of 3 years from the date of issue and a duplicate may be issued by the local authority if the original is lost or stolen or ceases by reason of wear etc., to be legible. A duplicate will be valid only for the unexpired period of the original.

A disabled person's badge shall be returned to the issuing authority

(a) If it ceases to be required for the motor vehicle in respect of which it was issued

(b) On expiry of the period for which it was issued

(c) On the death of the holder

(d) If the disabled passenger ceases to be eligible to obtain a badge

(e) If the badge has been obtained by false misrepresentation

(f) If it is displayed on a vehicle at times when the vehicle is not being used by a disabled passenger

(g) Where a duplicate badge has been issued if the original is found.

"Yellow badges" issued under the National Assistance Act 1948 or any similar scheme will continue to be valid until 1st December 1973 and will be regarded as conferring the same benefits as a disabled person's badge.

The badge will only be valid when displayed on the windscreen of the vehicle and should only be displayed when the vehicle is actually being used for carrying a disabled person. The vehicle should be moved if a Police Officer in uniform or a Traffic Warden so requests.

The proper display of a badge exempts the driver from payment of parking meter charges and from time limits both at meters and at places where waiting is limited to a specific period, e.g. one hour in every two hours. It does not exempt a driver from restrictions such as all day restrictions, resident parking places or continuous yellow lines. Some local authorities may grant wider concessions and may also issue an explanatory leaflet. Enquiries about these wider concessions and the leaflet should be made at the offices of your local authority.

D. J. G. JONES,
Legal Officer

Congratulations

Many congratulations to WALTER THORNTON of Birmingham, on his appointment to the Council of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, and election as Chairman of the Birmingham Federation of Boys' Clubs.

Miss Dawn Crombie, whose photograph appeared on the front cover of our November issue, has now passed her Physiotherapy examinations and is taking up her first post at the St. Helier's Hospital, Carshalton, Surrey, early in January.

ST. DUNSTAN'S FOUNDER DIED FIFTY YEARS AGO

The Founder's Day Service, which was broadcast in full by Radio Brighton, was held in the Chapel at Ovingdean on the morning of Sunday, 5th December. The Service was conducted by the Rev. W. Popham Hosford; Lord Fraser gave the address and Mr. Nigel Pearson, Sir Arthur's grandson, read the lesson. The Chapel was full with St. Dunstaners from Ovingdean, Northgate House and elsewhere, with wives or friends, and members of the staff. Lady Fraser and Lady Frances Pearson, Mr. Nigel Pearson's wife, were present as well as Mr. A. D. Lloyds, Secretary of St. Dunstan's.

The organist was Mr. Terence Casey and the choir was composed of V.A.D. staff with Mrs. Joan Osborne and our St. Dunstaner, Arthur Carter.

The Chapel was decorated with sprays of chrysanthemums in bronze, yellow and white, against a background of green foliage, beautifully arranged by Miss Jean Allison, an Ovingdean V.A.D.

On Thursday, 9th December, the actual anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, Mr. Lloyds accompanied by John Douglass of Barking, Essex, and Reginald Field, Potters Bar, Herts., 1st World War St. Dunstaners and John Stuart of Barking, Essex, 2nd World War, laid a wreath on Sir Arthur's grave at the Hampstead Cemetery.

Mr. W. T. BERRY RETIRES

Another long service member of the staff retired on 30th November last. He was Mr. W. T. Berry who joined the Accounts Department staff in 1925 under the late Mr. S. W. Fobbs. After six years' service in the Royal Air Force, Mr. Berry returned to the Accounts Department as Assistant Accountant, a position which he has admirably filled. Although one of the "back-room" staff of St. Dunstan's, during his many years with us he had given loyal and outstanding service to the Organisation.

We wish Mr. Berry a long and happy retirement, soon to be shared with his wife (formerly Miss G. F. Sills, also a member of the Accounts Department) who will herself be retiring in about a year's time.

From the Chairman's Postbag

The Chairman, having asked Howard Simcocks to report on the result of the General Election in the Isle of Man, has received a reply from which we publish the following extract:

I am now happy to report that I was successful in topping the Poll and in fact I obtained the highest number of votes of any candidate in this General Election. It seems only a little time since you advised me to take up politics, yet I am now commencing a five year term which will complete twenty years in Manx National Politics and makes me the longest serving member of the House of Keys with the single exception of the Speaker, himself.

Australian St. Dunstaner would like to contact old friends

HARRY GOSNEY who now lives at 14, Biplax Street, Mansfield, Mount Gravatt, Queensland, Australia, would be very pleased to correspond with any St. Dunstaner who knew him during his service career. We have obtained the following information from the Welfare Dept.

Staff Sgt. Gosney joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1920 and served in various depots in England before being posted to Egypt in 1932, serving there until 1936. In 1940 he was serving with the 11th Army Field Workshops, 51st Highland Division in France when he was injured at Le Mans as a result of 5th Column activity. After discharge from hospital he was appointed Chief Clerk in 21 Command Workshops, Burscough, Lancashire and in 1949 transferred as a civilian to R.E.O.I.E. In 1949 he moved to 1 Base O.D., Gozthorne, Brisbane, Australia, where he remained until 1951. He was appointed Catering Manager, Department of Civil Aviation, Port Moresby, New Guinea, in 1951, but on losing his sight in 1956, returned to Australia and retired.

MENU

Sign in a Pimlico restaurant: "Plat du jour, changed each day."



IT STRIKES ME

Room at the Top

George Eustace, who retired at the end of 1971 after 24 years as telephonist with the South Eastern Electricity Board, has always been on top of his job. "I have worked at Surbiton, Esher and Twickenham and on every occasion I have been at the top of the building—always on the top", he told me.

As telephonist for the Mains Department dealing with the mains in the road, sub-stations and services into houses, he has considerable experience of dealing



with the public on occasions when supplies have broken down. "You get a few awkward consumers", he said, "but I know where to put enquiries to and you always find one of the engineers helpful. There is one thing I always do if I can. That is, if I say I will get someone to ring a consumer back, I pester them until they do".

In the years since the war George has experienced an enormous increase in telephone traffic—"In Surbiton a new exchange has been built to cope with it"—and advances in telephone techniques. He has operated cordless boards but, "I prefer a cord board every time because you have got to concentrate more. It keeps you more alert".

Looking back over his years as a telephonist he said, "I have had some very happy times and I made some wonderful friends—especially the girls in the G.P.O. exchanges. They knew me by name and were always very helpful and friendly".

The Gods' Man

Syd Scroggie was a climber in the days before the second world war and he still climbs and walks in the Scottish hills, particularly his favourite area, the Braes of Angus, despite having lost his sight and his left leg serving with the Lovat Scouts. His achievements attracted the attention of the 'Nationwide' programme on B.B.C. Television and, as a result, in November Michael Barratt introduced a filmed interview made in the hills which ran for almost a quarter of an hour. Subsequently Syd was invited to Dublin to appear in a live interview show on Irish television.

These are one or two of the more memorable quotes from the 'Nationwide' film. The interviewer asked Syd why he climbed, "It's not what you see, and it's not what you hear, and it's not what you smell. In the old days when I could see, I knew what it was to see a sunset over a snowy hill and to see a ptarmigan or a golden eagle against the sky, and the shape of the hills, and the boulders and the track, and the faces of the people I was with, and yet that can't be the thing. It's something inside you, something invisible, or something psychological I suppose. So that I can still get 95% of the fun and the sense of adventure and the thrill—and the idea of challenge out of a wee expedition in the hills that I used to get before the war when



Syd Scroggie on the topmost peak of Ben Macdui.

I could see". Asked how he managed the boulders with a tin leg he replied, "One at a time".

The film concluded with Syd reciting a poem he wrote on his first climb in the hills after his blindness. Part of it ran:

'Small wonder that the lightning flashed that day,
And thunder loud on crag and cornice rolled
And boomed and snarled and, grumbling, died away.
The Gods thus spoke, the Gods of hill and glen:
This is our man. We know his face of old.
He has but slept. Behold he comes again'.

MAGOG

DR. J. A. L. MAGEE, of Diss, Norfolk, a new St. Dunstaner, has devoted much of his life as a doctor to the study of biochemistry. He published a book "Spark of Life" and a good deal of cancer research is now going in the direction of the theories he put forward so enthusiastically some years ago.

Frank Reviews

Cat. No. 633

Parson Austen's Daughter

by Helen Ashton

Read by Garard Green

A portrait of the life and times of the author Jane Austen, daughter of a Berkshire parson. Jane, in her late teens, at the beginning of the Napoleonic Wars, was given to scribbling from an early age. A hobby unsuitable for young ladies said her aunt, and one which would ruin her eyesight. Evidently her eyes withstood her succession of novels, for although her last work was left unfinished, it was her constitution which faded when, after nursing her brother Henry, she returned to her family to die at Winchester.

I think this is one of the most interesting works of biography which I have read. True the author took advantage of earlier studies of Jane's life, nevertheless this is told as an always progressing story, not as is so often the case shuffling backward and forward in time to the irritation and bemusement of the reader. It is also interesting in its chronicle of the rise and fall of Napoleon Bonaparte and the twenty years of war during which two of Jane's brothers rose from Midshipmen to Post Captaincy in the Royal Navy.

Cat. No. 1080

The Curtained Sleep by Archie Roy

Read by David Strong

Here is a nicely balanced little mystery thriller, with, of course, romance thrown in.

Alan Ramsey has returned from the United States where he has been working for NASA, and was on his way to serve a period of duty at a satellite tracking station in his native Scotland when he wakes up to find himself in a hospital bed. He has been in a car crash, but how or why he cannot remember. He is attracted to the very feminine doctor who attends to his injuries. All goes well with Alan and his romance until his memory of the crash begins to return. Then for a short terrifying period he becomes somebody else.

A very entertaining piece of light reading.



THE MULTIFARIOUS MAN Matthew Watson Brown

Turn off the main London to Hastings Road just North of Battle and you will find yourself in a network of country lanes. One such Sussex lane twists its narrow way between hedges and woods. Not far away they burn charcoal. As the lane climbs an incline there is a charming, hundred years old mellowed brick building set end on to the road and facing a small country garden. Two cottages turned into one house so that, inside, it boasts two staircases, one at each end. This is Littlehurst.

Matthew Watson Brown will greet you, usher you through the central porch and out of the twentieth century. For Littlehurst is a treasure house of antiques. Sitting in his dining room, with the profound tick of a centenarian grandfather clock as a background, a conversation with Matthew about his total absorption in collecting is carried on in a setting which breathes the quiet sense of history which old and beautiful things convey.

A keen collector of books, paintings and furniture—some would describe him as a connoisseur—Matthew lives in the heart of antique-land where most villages have their dealers, some several, but he came to Sussex to farm. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1918, having served with the 11th Lincs. despite being a Durham man who still has the pleasant accent of that county in his voice.

"I come from a farming family on my Mother's side. This was called Hurst Farm when I came here in 1927. I had twenty acres with pigs and poultry. Actually I came down from the North to avoid the depression. I was paying thirty shillings in the pound rates up there. The railway was closed down; the mines were closed down, there were only the householders to find the money. Even here they were hard times until the war came. It seems a pity we have to have a war to put things right financially. That was about the only time I made money, I am sorry to say. You have to work hard on the land to get a living."

Nursing his first wife up until her death caused Matthew to give up his farm and the house became Littlehurst. Now, with his second wife Rosemary as helpmate, he has found a way of life just as demanding, "If I estimated the time I put into it I might not do it. I'm either reading about it or doing about it."

The Watson Browns virtually plan a campaign each week, "On Mondays the *Daily Telegraph* has the auction sales in for the week. The first thing we do, we have coffee at ten o'clock in the morning, we scan that lot and see if there is anything for the next week or fortnight."

Attending a sale does not mean just bidding, "Beforehand at the view we mark the catalogue with one, two or three marks against an item. Three marks—we must have a bid at; two marks—well, we'll have a go; one mark—maybe." Obviously when buying a painting, apart from the details in the catalogue, Matthew must rely on Rosemary, "I take her reaction to it as my guiding line. She describes it but I want her reaction to it also. If she doesn't like it neither do I. It's off; but if she does like it then it is half bought." He has a mental picture of all his paintings and can point out each one on the walls as he conducts you around his house. "I have a photographic mind, although the picture in my mind is probably untrue like when you hear people on the radio and are disappointed when you see them."

Examining furniture with sensitive fingers, Matthew comes into his own. This is the best part of collecting says Matthew. "I think it is in looking for them. Which poet said something that had the same effect? It is the journey that counts and not the goal." It is the experience gained on journeys through Kent, Surrey and Sussex which has given Matthew the expertise which has often astonished sighted experts. Hear him discussing Chippendale, "There are a few things that help. An ordinary English Chippendale chair: If you've got beading down the outside edge like that chair, you can start



Cleaning a painting by Romney.

thinking that's probably Chip, but he didn't invent the idea. If you look more closely into that chair you'll find it's pegged. Well, he never pegged any so that chair was about before he was. It is roughly in that style."

What is special about Chippendale? "Workmanship. There weren't any cabinet makers until round about his time. They were merely joiners before that. It is difficult to say how I positively identify Chippendale. The balance, the patina, or the sheen, and, of course, the depth of his carving is another feature."

He recalls an occasion at Saltram House, a National Trust property near Plymouth, "Wherever we go we look around these places, anywhere that has furniture to show us. Some guides are very good about touching, others won't let you within five miles! At Saltram they did and, anyway, we sort of hang behind the guide and have a quiet look. The head guide spotted me feeling about these things then he came up and said to my wife, 'Let him have a look at that chair and see what he says about it.' I did and, of course, it was quite



Matthew Watson Brown at work on a candelabra.

obvious what it was. It stands out a mile, Chinese style. It is all pierced stuff, heavy stuff. Chippendale had a phase of it so all I had to say was, 'That's Chinese Chippendale,' and he says, 'He's right, you know!'

Matthew had not finished with them at Saltram that day, "I was looking at an architect's table there but they couldn't see how the flap was adjusted to various angles. I put my hand underneath and dug out the little levers from their niches flush with the underside of the leaf. They were stuck in by polish and they had clean overlooked them. I knew they would be there. The guides just looked at me from what I could feel of it, they'd been telling people all this time that there wasn't any means of adjusting the table these days."

After the view comes the sale itself, "That's a fair amount of excitement as to whether you are going to get what you want. You get a tension in the air. I can't describe it exactly, I'm a bit Celtic in that respect I suppose but I do sense atmosphere. You sense what other people are doing round about you especially if you happen to know the dealers. We are on

speaking terms with quite a lot of them. Day after day, week after week we meet at the same sales and we become quite friendly. We know the kind of thing they specialise in and if it is really an item we know they are going bald headed for we let them go. We think, 'It will be round again and we may have better luck next time.'" This is a philosophy that might be useful to the 'amateurs' who attend sales, "They are increasing in number and they tend to spoil the market. Overdo it and then grumble about it afterwards."

Although it is only in the years since his retirement from farming that he has been able to concentrate on collecting, Matthew has been interested virtually all his life "I have a 1740 set of Pope on the shelves in there that I bought when I was still at school." He began with books, and today, partly for reasons of space, he is tending to return to books as his primary interest. Books for a blind man? "You had better consult a psychiatrist. I can't help except to say that I take a craftsman's interest in the bindings. I have read most of my 10,000 books—at least specimens of every author at one time or another. After all I have been reading Braille for more than fifty years. I am subconsciously after first editions if I can get them."

Oldest book

His oldest book is Sir Philip Sidney's *Arcadia* dated 1605. He had a first edition, 1783, of Gibbon's *Decline and Fall*. Two famous mis-printed Bibles are in his collection, the "breeches" Bible printed in 1607 and the "murderers" Bible of 1811. He has a lot of Sir Walter Scott. "There's no special reason except that we both like Scotland. If we both go far enough back we are Scottish in origin. He is a more romantic Scottish author, gives us the period of history that is romantic. We have his first major edition, the Edinburgh Edition 1829-33, the one he favoured himself. Then I'm very fond of the Border Edition which was edited by Andrew Lang about the turn of the century. I have the Melrose Edition and the Library Edition."

Matthew rebinds books where necessary—using leather or substitutes depending on the original binding. "Anything I collect I find out how to repair." The method he uses to clean pictures is a trade



Rosemary marks the catalogue as Matthew examines a bookcase in the sale room.

secret, "I'll tell you the orthodox method: a teaspoonful of ammonia in a cup of water. Rub gently with a piece of wadding and when you begin to get discoloration on the wadding renew and gradually thin the varnish by so doing. I do it entirely by feel, that's practice. It is very easy to go through the paint but I haven't done it so far."

He frames pictures, "I buy the gold leaf frames. They never fit so I have to cut them down. Mitre block and nail and glue them together again." He is at present working on a candelabra mounting it on a carved Roman soldier, "He was originally, by the look of it, in some lordly banister rail of some sort. The candelabra I bought at a sale at Sheffield Park which has just been sold up. Now the soldier will end up with a dozen candles on his head."

"If I come across any old pieces of wood I keep them then if I have to do any renewing they go in; pieces of wood of the same age. You can find it when houses are being pulled to pieces—bits of panelling or oak flooring." It is an added interest to Matthew if some piece of furniture needs attention. "Not things that you would notice. It is usually putting in strengthening

pieces or corners that have gone or anything of that sort. Sometimes a little bit of carving restored with plastic wood. I pick out the design by touch, then work the plastic wood into the shape I want." In making repairs he feels it is important to have the right age of wood, "I would hate to let people see I didn't know what I was doing. You can't see whether it has been restored or not if you have done it well enough with the same age wood or approximately the same."

He is not afraid to buy a piece infested with woodworm if it is sufficiently good. "You can be orthodox and use Rentokil if you like but, personally, I use petrol. Soak it in petrol—out of doors, of course—no smoking. I got that from a dealer, actually."

Collecting often means becoming something of a detective, and a genealogist. Matthew has the Dictionary of National Biography 1812-17 and copies of Who's Who, Debrett and back to a Burke of 1829. One of a number of paintings by Sir Thomas Lawrence, a President of the Royal Academy (1769-1830) in Matthew's collection is one of a Bishop. "It says Chichester on the back but actually the



A prized possession—the "breeches" Bible of 1607.

catalogue says Winchester, which confuses the issue somewhat. There is no difficulty in establishing what Bishops were about in Thomas Lawrence's working life. We can get those out of Debrett or Burke. Then we plan to photograph the picture and put it round to a descendant of the one we think it might be and see whether he has any facsimile." St. Dunstan's Legal Department helped in another Thomas Lawrence enquiry, a family picture. Unfortunately a check on wills in Somerset House proved fruitless. "They weren't helpful as the family just passed the pictures *en masse* and did not give any details. It will be accidental if we do find out anything now, I think."

Having seen something of the many facets of collecting it is easy to understand how it can grow from a hobby into a consuming interest. It has certainly been a lifelong one for Matthew Watson Brown but is not the combination of farmer-collector a strange one? "Well, farmers are traditionalists and I suppose collectors are, basically. I was brought up with the stuff. I slept in a four-poster bed in my youth."

How about advice for St. Dunstaner beginners? "Oh, scrounge around the sale room on the view days. Nobody bothers about you feeling around there.

If I were starting afresh that's how I'd start. Back it up with reading—*Going for a Song*, Arthur Negus on English Furniture, a B.B.C. publication; and *The Collecting Man* by John Bedford. If you are rich its easy, I don't think I should really like to start now. I've picked up quite a few pictures, books and furniture things. If you wanted to buy the same things now it would cost you three times as much—and there's not the same selection either."

"I would tell him to fix his price beforehand in his mind and don't go past it. He has all his life after all to pick these things up. They'll come round again. It may not be tomorrow but it might be next year. Finally, it is much better to collect one thing."

It is best to specialise says Matthew—with his collection of pictures, furniture and books, not to mention items of porcelain, as well as spurs and horns for powder and shot belonging to his great grandfather of the Durham Militia. "Ah, but I am a multifarious man anyhow—first cousin to a Jackdaw."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From Peter Spencer of Weston-super-Mare.

Heartiest congratulations to David Bell and Stewart Spence on their recent swimming achievements.

This is particularly notable, being doubly handicapped, and I am sure it will encourage others to "Have a Go" at these A.S.A. Personal Survival awards.

I do not think it is possible for totally blind persons to take the A.S.A. "Life Saving" awards for obvious reasons, apart from the Resuscitation Section which, following on Stewart's excellent effort, I must try myself sometime.

There is another A.S.A. Badge for which one can enter—1,500 metres "Free Style", about an hour's leisurely swim.

By the way, just for the record—it was the A.S.A. Gold award for Personal Survival that I gained last May and I also have the Badge for the 1,500 metres.



As reported in our November *Review*, John Gilbert, who recently completed his training at Ovingdean as an audio typist, was married to Miss Daphne Saunders, at Beulah Baptist Chapel, Newbridge, Mon., on the 9th October this year.

They now live in Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, where Daphne has joined John in his work on the staff of The Torch Trust for the Blind. This is an evangelical Christian movement, producing free literature in Braille, Moon type, large print and on tapes (including talking-book cassettes). There is also a lending library in each of these media.

Literature produced ranges from portions of scripture to tracts and magazines. John produces the zinc master plates for duplicating these and also the children's books, chosen for Braille by Daphne, who is also responsible for illustrating where appropriate in raised material pictures.

John and Daphne would be delighted to hear from anyone wishing to know more about the work. They can be contacted at: **4, Hassocks Road, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.**

The Review congratulates John and Daphne Gilbert on the valuable work they are doing and wishes them every happiness in their married life together.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON

The Annual General Meeting took place on 9th December, 1971 and the Chairman called the meeting open and invited the President, Mrs. Dacre to take over.

Mr. Jarrold read out the attendance, there being 21 St. Dunstaners present.

The gathering stood in silent tribute and respect to Sir Arthur Pearson this being the fiftieth memorial of his death, also to Mr. H. Edwicker, Mr. J. McFarlane, M.B.E. and Mr. T. Toomey. The President reciting the Exaltation "They shall not grow old".

Mr. Jarrold read the minutes of the 1970 Annual General Meeting, which were approved unanimously.

Mr. Jarrold then read the statement of accounts for 1971, which were beautifully prepared by Miss Ford. This document was also unanimously adopted and approved.

The Secretary/Chairman then rose to say a few words of appreciation, thanking all those who had helped so much towards making the club run so smoothly and stressed it was their, the Members', club and that it was up to everyone to cooperate to ensure the harmony of the club.

A special welcome was accorded to Mr. Joe Kennedy this being his first visit, with Mrs. Kennedy, to a Club meeting, although for some considerable time he has rendered great and valuable service to St. Dunstaners as an escort, and in the bridge and fishing activities.

Mr. Jarrold then took names for the Sir Arthur Pearson tournament games.

There were seven nominations for the committee, Messrs. T. Kirk, J. Walker, S. Pike, A. Martin, E. Frearson, E. Quinn and H. Kerr. Mr. Ling and Mr. Bacon kindly acted as scrutineers, and those elected were **Mr. T. Kirk**, Vice-Chairman, **Mr. J. Walker**, **Mr. E. Frearson** and **Mr. E. Quinn**.

Owing to a family bereavement Miss Ramshaw, Vice-President, was unable to be with us, and Matron Blackford was taking advantage of a well-earned rest.

It therefore fell to our President to present the prizes as follows:

DARTS "A" Section: 1st **E. Quinn**, 2nd R. Bickley.

DARTS "B" Section: 1st **J. Walker**, 2nd S. Pike.

CRIB: 1st **F. Griffee**, 2nd F. James.

DOMINOES, 5s. & 3s: 1st **S. Pike**, 2nd J. Griffiths.

DOMINOES-aggregate: 1st **E. Quinn**, T. Kirk and S. Pike.

DOMINOES-Ladies: 1st **Mrs. James**, 2nd Mrs. Mudge, 3rd Mrs. Pike.

WHIST: 1st **R. Bickley**, 2nd F. Rhodes, 3rd W. Megson.

WHIST-Ladies: 1st **Mrs. Smith**, 2nd Mrs. Holmes, 3rd Mrs. Dodgson.

Mrs. Quinn most graciously presented Mrs. Dacre with a plant.

Tokens of appreciation were presented by the Chairman to Mr. Jarrold, Mr. Ling, Mr. Bacon and to the catering staff.

A very special THANK YOU was extended to Our President, Mrs. Dacre.

Every good wish for the New Year.

FRANK A. RHODES,
Chairman/Secretary.

MIDLAND

Turkey, pork, mince pies, Christmas cake and crackers, all these items and more had been laid out on the tea tables ready for our Christmas meeting by our wives; this lovely spread was put on for us on Sunday, 5th December.

It looked good, it tasted good and by golly it must have done us good for it did not take long to polish off and everyone was full of Christmas spirit after it.

When all the tables had been cleared we all adjourned into the lounge whilst we waited for Father Christmas to arrive. This he eventually did to the great pleasure of the children present. They all received a present from him and then it was the turn of the lucky winners of our dominoes competitions for this year to receive their prizes from Father Christmas. Everyone received something before he left us.

We were all getting rather thirsty by this time so the real Christmas spirit was brought out. Whilst these liquid refreshments were being partaken we had a film show of different slide films which had been taken on our outings over the past years and they brought back some old memories and some good laughs.

Thanks to Robert Bilcliff for being Father Christmas for us and to John Cashmore for putting on our film show, it all helped to make a very enjoyable afternoon and evening.

Thanks also to all our wives for putting on the lovely spread—marvellous ladies!

All members of the Midland Club join together in wishing all St. Dunstaners, wherever they may be and all members of St. Dunstan's staff a very happy and healthy New Year.

Our next meeting is on **Sunday, January 9th, 1972.**

DOUG CASHMORE,
Secretary

LONDON

The Sir Arthur Pearson Fives and Threes Domino Knock-Out Competition came to its final conclusion on Thursday evening, 2nd December, when **W. Miller** by a 'tour de force' gained victory over R. Armstrong after a most exciting final. They had earlier accounted for W. Harding and D. Watkins in the semi-finals.

The following Club members were named as winners in the Domino Games during the month of November.

4th November 1971	1	D. Watkins
	2	{ W. Harding W. Miller
11th November 1971	1	M. Sheehan
	2	G. Hancock
18th November 1971	1	W. Harding
	2	M. Sheehan
25th November 1971	1	C. Hancock
	2	W. Harding

The Football Pontoon ended on 13th November, after a run of five weeks, jointly shared by D. Watkins and W. Phillips, their teams being Aston Villa and Charlton respectively. Booby prizes were won by J. Padley and G. Hancock with Swindon and West Bromwich. The Pontoon on the following week was surprisingly won in its first week's run by Mrs. Carney, wife of our St. Dunstaner J. Carney of Bournemouth with a score of eleven goals in the one game. Unfortunately there were too many Booby prize winners so that the part of the stake money usually allocated to the Booby winners was then carried over to our current pontoon.

We were sorry to hear that Jim Padley had to return to the Central Middlesex Hospital for a second operation but the latest news is good. Jim has made splendid progress and went down to Ovingdean on 7th December for a convalescence period of two weeks. He will be returning to be amongst his family for Christmas.

All our Club members wish Jim and Pat well, and they will be joining us once again in the New Year.

Our Christmas Domino Competition was played in the Club Rooms on 9th December and winning St. Dunstaners were as follows:

- 1 **W. Harding**
- 2 C. Hancock
- 3 W. Miller

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will all members please note that the Annual General Meeting of the London Club will be held on **Saturday, 5th February, 1972**, at the **Club Rooms of 191, Old Marylebone Road, N.W.1**. It is hoped that all present members will make a very special effort to attend, and if possible, encourage new members to come along. We can assure you all of a very warm welcome.

W. MILLER,
Chairman

SUTTON

The Sutton Club continues to meet at the Sutton Adult School, Benhill Avenue, Sutton. The next three meetings will take place there on the following dates:

Saturday, 15th January

Saturday, 12th February

Saturday, 11th March

We cancel the meeting if the weather seems exceptionally bad or is very foggy or the roads are icy. We have to decide on the Thursday morning before the meeting, in the light of the weather that day and the forecast. It is as well to telephone John Taylor at 01-984 9741 or myself at 01-858 3003 before setting out.

DIANA HOARE,
Secretary

Chess Championship

by **T. O. Lukes**

The annual Chess Championship was held at Ovingdean from Friday, 11th to Sunday, 12th November. The attendance this year was disappointingly low partly due to sickness and other unavoidable causes.

Only six players took part and of these, one, Jim Chell, had to retire owing to illness. The players were divided into two groups, the beginners were Bob Evans, Ralph Preece and Jim Chell. The improvers were John Cruse, Roman Donald and Tom Lukes. We were fortunate, once again, to have Mr. R. Bonham, who is this year's British Chess Champion for the Blind, to organise the play and adjudicate games that were not completed inside the time limit. As the numbers were so small Mr. Bonham decided that we would all play in one group in an all-play-all series of five rounds.

The competition was very keen and the final placings were in doubt until the last game on Sunday afternoon. In the end two players tied for first place—John Cruse and Tom Lukes. The prize money was shared between them but as Tom Lukes had a slight advantage in a special tie break calculation he was awarded the Championship Trophy for the coming year.

In the beginners' section first prize went to Bob Evans, who will play next year in the improvers section. Ralph Preece gained second prize.

Proceedings ended with afternoon tea after which Mrs. Kelk, widow of the former St. Dunstan's chess player, Charles Kelk, presented the prizes and Mr. Bonham gave a little address of encouragement to those who took part. Tom Lukes then expressed the thanks of everyone to Mr. Bonham, Mrs. Kelk and the Matron and staff at Ovingdean for what had been a very enjoyable week-end.

Mr. Bonham has also agreed to hold another Chess Instructional week-end from Friday, 11th February to Sunday, 13th February next. We would ask anyone and particularly the newer St. Dunstaners who may be looking for a challenging hobby to take note of this date as the Chess Club is anxious to find as many new players as possible.

RESULTS OF PLAY

Improvers

1st Tom Lukes } 4 pts.
John Cruse }

Beginners

1st Bob Evans, 3½ pts.
2nd Ralph Preece, 1 pt.

OVINGDEAN BRIDGE CONGRESS

On Friday, 19th November, 47 St. Dunstaners assembled at Ovingdean for the annual Bridge Congress. We were pleased to welcome four St. Dunstaners who have just started to play bridge.

At the Annual General Meeting on Friday, after electing the various officers of our club and settling various matters connected with the London and Brighton individual competition, we began in earnest on Saturday morning in a spirit of keen competition to play off the eliminating round for the pairs event. Before one realised it, Monday afternoon had arrived and another enjoyable congress was over for this year.

Despite accommodation difficulties, Matron Blackford, Commandant Fawcett and the Ovingdean staff contrived to make our stay at Ovingdean as enjoyable as ever. Once again, we are grateful to Alf and Norah Field and Geoff Connell for their smooth direction of the different bridge competitions and also to our many friends who assisted by acting as scorers. The reputation of some "professors" at bridge was somewhat shaken by the results, but perhaps it was encouraging to see among the names of the prize winners some who have not been able to get a regular game locally. Still, it's not the prizes to be won—it's renewing contacts both in Ovingdean and Northgate House with fellow St. Dunstaners that counts for a lot with me.

Weather-wise, it was one of the roughest week-ends of the autumn, but that is the advantage of bridge, you needn't venture out unless you are rather thirsty and you can be sure that other bridge players who are just as thirsty, will always be there to hear how you and your partner were the only pair to call and make a small slam. Yes, it's a wonderful game, bridge.

R.A.F.

Sir Arthur Pearson Cups

Teams of Four

First	R. Freer	W. Allen
	R. Stanners	F. Pusey
Second	R. Fullard	M. Tybinski
	J. Chell	J. Whitcombe

Pairs

First	M. Delaney	Mrs. V. Delaney
Second	P. Nuyens	A. Caldwell
Third	S. Webster	F. Matthewman

Drummer Downs Cup

F. Dickerson W. Burnett

Lord Fraser Cup

Individuals

First	Mrs. V. Delaney
Second	A. Caldwell
Third	F. Matthewman
Fourth	P. Nuyens
Fifth	M. Tybinski
Sixth	S. Webster

Gover Cups

Brighton	F. Griffec
London	M. Tybinski

St. Dunstan's Fishing Club



May I, on behalf of the Committee wish you, through the medium of the *Review*, a very happy New Year.

I hope that your nearest and dearest ensured that your Christmas stockings were full of useful gifts and that your tackle boxes are now bulging with hooks, buckles, weights, traces, lures, etc. and you are poised ready for 1972 and the "Big One" that maybe has so far eluded you.

Your Secretary via the news-letter has notified you of the Club bookings for the coming year, and I hope that many of you will contact Jock Carnochan and make positive arrangements for these trips and competitions that will be taking place in the future.

The majority of our members are keen fishermen and this can only mean that the Club must flourish and go from strength to strength. Plenty of lead, lads, and keep your tackle on the bottom.

A. DODGSON,
Chairman

Bridget Elizabeth Talbot, O.B.E.

All St. Dunstaners who knew her will be deeply sorry to learn that Miss Talbot died on 29th November last. She was active in good causes during the 1st World War and subsequently, working in Western Europe and Turkey. She was awarded the O.B.E. in 1920 in addition to foreign decorations. In 1925 she opened her first camp for St. Dunstaners at her Hertfordshire home, Little Gaddesden House and continued to run these camps annually until 1938. After the war she assisted Mrs. Spurway with arrangements at the Naval Camp, Lee-on-Solent, between 1945-1969. Michael Burns, one of our regular Second World War Campers, has sent us the following tribute.

The death of Miss Bridget Talbot is not only a great loss to her many friends, particularly St. Dunstan's Campers, but also to a society which can ill afford to lose a personality such as hers.

Stories about Miss Talbot are legion. At times her actions were unorthodox to say the least, but they were always directed to one end—towards the benefit of others.

She fought very hard to improve the pay and working conditions of Nurses and Merchant Seamen. She was always interested in the sea and in those connected with it and she was responsible for the introduction of the "winking light" which was attached to life-jackets and must have been responsible for saving many lives during the Second World War.

Miss Talbot entered Party Politics in 1950 when she fought for Bermondsey as a Liberal and again in 1951 when she was one of the very few, if not the only Liberal to increase her poll. In recent years she became disillusioned with Party Politics and considered starting her own Party. I remember her telling me about it and I pointed out the obvious difficulties which would face her, particularly the need for help, and said I thought it was impossible to fight an election with any hope of success without many helpers.

Her reply was "Well, Christianity was started by one man." This was typical of Miss Talbot. While we saw only the obstacles and were overawed by them, she was never daunted—the bigger the obstacle the harder she fought. Her successful attempt to retain the train

service near her home in Yorkshire inspired a local paper to nick-name her "Battling Bridget".

Those of us who were fortunate enough to have known her will always be grateful to her; not only for the many happy hours we spent in her company, not only for the many kindnesses she performed for us, but above all for her friendship.

She was a very great lady.

MICKY BURNS

Welcome to St. Dunstan's



On behalf of St. Dunstan's we welcome St. Dunstaners recently admitted to membership. The *Review* hopes they will settle down happily as members of our family.

Stephen Blake of Chertsey, Surrey, became a St. Dunstaner in October 1971, and is undertaking a training course at Ovingdean. He is married and served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers during the Second World War.

Daniel Driscoll, Garryowen, Cloyne, Co. Cork, joined St. Dunstan's in November 1971. Mr. Driscoll served in the 1st World War in the Royal Garrison Artillery. He has a grown-up family. Unfortunately he is in hospital at the moment.

Alfred Earwaker of Soberton, Southampton, Hants., joined St. Dunstan's in October 1971. He served as a Sergeant in the Royal Army Service Corps in the Second World War and was a prisoner of war in Java. He is married with a grown-up family.

Martin Franklin who is staying temporarily with his daughter in Boreham Wood, Herts., came to St. Dunstan's in May, 1971. He served in the Pioneer Corps in the Second World War.

John Ewart Jones of Tipton, Staffs., came to St. Dunstan's in November, 1971. He served in the Royal Garrison Artillery during the 1st World War. He is a widower with a grown-up family.

Matthew Eastwood of Sidcup, Kent, came to St. Dunstan's in December, 1971. He served during the 1st World War in the 5th and 7th Norfolk Regiment and was injured during the Battle of the Somme. Since his discharge from the Army in 1918 Mr. Eastwood has worked in the Building Trade. He is married.

Dr. J. A. L. Magee, of Diss, Norfolk. He served with the R.A.M.C. in the First War and practised as a doctor for many years; he is married and is now retired and living in the country.

Harold Moss of London, S.W.1 became a member of St. Dunstan's in November, 1971. He served in the Royal Horse Guards during the 2nd World War and since his discharge from the Army he has worked for the North Thames Gas Board. He is married.

Thomas Henry Lewis Nash of Grange-town, Cardiff, joined St. Dunstan's in November 1971. Mr. Nash was a St. Dunstaner from 1946 to 1947 but as there was an improvement in his eyesight, he ceased to be a St. Dunstaner until his re-admission last November. He served as a Sergeant in the Royal Air Force in the 2nd World War and is married with a grown-up daughter.

John Quinn of London, S.W.9. came to St. Dunstan's in November 1971. He served in the 2nd World War in the Royal Artillery. He is married with a young family. Prior to his service Mr. Quinn was a miner.

Maurice Rockshire of London, E.4 came to St. Dunstan's in October 1971. He served in the 1st World War in the Royal Army Service Corps. Mr. Rockshire is married.

William Richard Slade of Ramsgate, Kent, joined St. Dunstan's in November, 1971. He served in the Royal West Kent Regiment during the 1st World War. He is married with a grown-up son and Mr. and Mrs. Slade are now enjoying a quiet and happy retirement.

FAMILY NEWS

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. DENNIS FLEISIG of Orpington, Kent, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 30th November, 1971.

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. JOHN LEWIS of Ewell, Surrey, who celebrated the Silver Wedding Anniversary on 23rd November, 1971.

Warm congratulations to MR. AND MRS. STANISLAW MILEWSKI of Swindon, Wilts., who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 30th November, 1971.

Grandparents

Congratulations to:

LEONARD COOK of Folkestone who announces the birth of a grandson, Brian Patrick, born on 6th November, 1971, to his daughter and son-in-law.

MRS. MAY FLYNN of Horley, Surrey, widow of the late Ernest Flynn, who announces with pleasure the birth of her 8th grandchild, born to her second son Michael and his wife, on 20th November, 1971. The baby is to be called Nicholas, another brother for Graham and Benjamin.

Charles William Titcombe of Swindon, Wilts., came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1971. He served in the 1st World War in the Royal Artillery. He is a widower, his wife having died in 1968. He has two grown-up sons and two daughters. One daughter, Miss Joan Titcombe, lives at home with her father and the rest of the family live nearby.

Charles Weal of London, W.7 became a St. Dunstaner in October 1971 and is a widower. He served in the 1st World War with the King's Royal Rifle Corps. Mr. Weal has a son and daughter, both of whom are married, and prior to his retirement he was a postman.

Grandparents continued

CHARLES HALE of Bristol is pleased to announce the birth of another grandson, born on 30th July, 1971, to his son and daughter-in-law, and the baby is to be called Grahame Geoffrey. He is their third son.

PETER LOGAN of Worthing, Sussex, on the birth of a grand-daughter born on 24th October, 1971.

FREDERICK MORGANS of Bristol announces the birth of his 9th grandchild born to his third daughter Brenda and her husband, in July 1971. The baby is a second daughter for the young couple.

CHARLIE PILGRIM of Saltdean, Sussex, who has become a grandfather for the fifth time. A daughter was born to his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pilgrim in November, 1971.

JOSEPH WEEKS of St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, announces the arrival of a grand-daughter born to his son and daughter-in-law, on 9th November, 1971. She is to be called Angela Jayne.

PHILIP TODD of Shrewsbury, is pleased to announce the marriage of his son Robert Edward to Margaret Davies on 6th November, 1971.

ROBERT CHRITCHLOW of Leicester, who announces the marriage of his daughter Karen to Tony Butler on 4th December, 1971.

SAMUEL SENIOR of Hornsea, Yorkshire, announces the marriage of his grand-daughter, Anne Shirley to Frank Nicholson on 27th November, 1971.

DENNIS FREEMAN of Coventry announces that his daughter, Ann, won the championship title for lady Scouters on 13th November, 1971, and on the same day his son Raymond came second in his event. These achievements were at the Coventry Swimming Gala.

Raymond, who is 18 years of age, went to Buckingham Palace on 16th December to receive his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

James and Duncan, sons of JOHN HARRIS of Reading, Berks., have made an elaborate Puppet Theatre during their holidays from school. They are both very musical and play in a band.

Deaths

We offer our very sincere sympathy to:

LEWIS ANDROLIA of Birmingham, who mourns the death of his mother who lived in the U.S.A., which occurred in August, 1971.

MRS. DICKERSON, wife of Frederick Dickerson of Bristol, recently lost her mother, Mrs. McConnell, at the age of 92 following a fall in the house. She lived in Ireland.

BOLESKOW GUTOWSKI of Formby, Lancs., on the death of his wife on 5th December, 1971.

STEPHEN KELLY, late of Anlaby, nr. Hull, now at Ovingdean, Brighton, who mourns the death of his wife on 13th November, 1971.

DANIEL PARKER of Padiham, Lancs., on the death of his mother on 8th November, 1971.

FREDERICK PEACOCK of Stokesley, Middlesbrough, Yorks, who mourns the death of his wife on 8th November, 1971.

FREDERICK WESTAWAY of Yeovil, Somerset, on the sudden death of his only son, Cyril on 3rd November, 1971. He leaves a widow and son.

In Memory

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

Daniel Batchelor. 10th Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Daniel Batchelor of Ratley, Nr. Banbury, Oxon, died whilst staying at Ovingdean. He was 86 years of age.

He served in the 10th Royal Warwickshire Regiment from 1915 to 1918, and he was wounded

in Belgium in January, 1918. He came to St. Dunstan's in August of the same year.

He trained in boot making and repairing, mats and netting and carried on these occupations for some little time. However, farming was his chief interest (he had been a farmer before his enlistment), and he gave up his indoor activities in order to make farming once again his chief occupation. He had considerable success throughout the years with his poultry, especially his bantams.

He was a keen student of history, his home housed many relics of the First World War and his land abutted on to the site of the Battle of Edgemoor. He was very fond of staying at Brighton where he will be missed by his many friends. His wife pre-deceased him in 1964. He leaves a grown-up family.

Arthur Francis Bell, M.B.E. *King's Royal Rifle Corps, First War. Royal Air Force, Second War.*

A. F. ("Dingle") Bell, of Newbury, Berks., died at Ovingdean on the 23rd November, 1971, at the age of 72 years.

He served in the Army in the First War and was badly gassed. Between the Wars he practised as a solicitor and then saw active service and was commissioned in the Royal Air Force in the Second War. His sight ultimately deteriorated and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1948, by which time he and his wife were established as mink breeders and he continued in this very special form of farming, becoming a leading expert and winning many top prizes. He had been ill for some time and had to take things very quietly at Ovingdean, but he quickly made many friends amongst the St. Dunstaners and staff.

He leaves a widow, married daughter and three small grandchildren, who were particularly devoted to him.

Leonard Johns. *Royal Field Artillery and Royal Air Force.*

Leonard Johns of Paignton, Devon, died on 9th December, 1971, in a Nursing Home at the age of 75.

He served in the Royal Field Artillery and was transferred to the Royal Air Force during the 1st World War and came to St. Dunstan's in 1920. He trained as a Boot Repairer and had his own shop. He also learned to make mats. In 1929 he gave up his shop and re-trained as a telephonist and started his new work in London in January 1931.

At the outbreak of the 2nd World War, Mr. Johns and his family were evacuated to Devon, where he was found employment as a telephonist and continued with this work until 1944 when he was offered a telephonist job at Dartington Hall, a local school. He remained there until his retirement in 1961.

Mr. Johns took a keen interest in local affairs and his hobby was playing the organ. Mr. and Mrs. Johns and their family remained in Devon and our St. Dunstaner enjoyed a happy retirement until his health began to fail in 1967. For the past few months he has been seriously ill in a Nursing Home. He leaves a widow and a son and a daughter both married with families.

Patrick Haw. *Royal Irish Regiment.*

Patrick Hawe of Ballyhale, Co. Kilkenny, Eire, died on 5th December 1971. He was 81 years of age.

He served with the Royal Irish Regiment from 1909 to 1918. His eyesight did not deteriorate until later in life and he came to St. Dunstan's in October 1969. On account of his age Mr. Hawe did not undertake any vocational training but he enjoyed a visit to Ovingdean and attending the London Reunions.

He leaves a daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dunne, with whom he lived.

Stanley Matthews. *Royal Field Artillery.*

Stanley Matthews of Brighton, Sussex, died on 4th December, 1971, at the age of 78 years.

He served with the Royal Field Artillery in the First World War from 1914 to 1919 but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1935. He trained in Braille, typewriting and basket making. He made seagrass stools for St. Dunstan's Sales Department and also for private orders. He continued with this occupation until 1964 when he decided to retire.

Unfortunately Mrs. Matthews has been in hospital for many years and he had been visiting her regularly until recently when his own health made him housebound.

He leaves a widow, and his daughter, Mrs. R. P. Jones and a grand-daughter Miss Patricia Jones, with whom our St. Dunstaner lived.

William Shurrock. *6th Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.*

William Shurrock, late of Aylesbury, Bucks., and who has, since 1968, been staying at Northgate House, Rottingdean, died in the Brighton General Hospital on 6th December 1971. He was 84 years of age.

He served in the 6th Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry from 1906 to 1916, coming to St. Dunstan's in the same year.

Mr. Shurrock trained as a boot and mat maker. At that time he and his family lived in the North of England and he opened a shop and also made mats. In 1924 Mr. Shurrock moved house and gave up his business. Towards the 1930's he and his family moved South. Following the death of his wife in 1957 he stayed with members of his family, for some time living with his daughter, Mrs. Bateman in Aylesbury. From 1968 Mr. Shurrock was a resident at Northgate House, Rottingdean, where he was visited by his family.

Andrew Martin Wilson. *Grenadier Guards.*

Andrew Martin Wilson of Distington, Cumberland died in hospital on 8th November 1971 at the age of 78 years.

He served in the Grenadier Guards from 1916 to 1919 and was the victim of a gas attack. However his eyesight did not deteriorate until later in life so he did not become a St. Dunstaner until 1967. On account of his age and very poor health Mr. Wilson was not able to take advantage of holidays in Brighton nor was he able to undertake any hobby training. His wife pre-deceased him in 1967 and he leaves a grown-up family.