



St Dunstons
REVIEW
FEBRUARY

St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

NO. 638

FEBRUARY 1973

5p MONTHLY

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Changes at Headquarters

Looking ahead to the spring, I would like to remind readers of the *Review* that Mr. A. D. Lloyds, C.B.E., retires as Secretary of St. Dunstan's on the 31st March, 1973, and Mr. C. D. Wills takes his place as from the 1st April.

Mr. E. V. Stevens, our Accountant, will then take on wider responsibilities for our Finance and General Purposes Committee and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking him and all his staff for the services they render us. The people who work in the Accounts Department, dealing with money and figures in so many ways, do not have much direct contact with many St. Dunstaners, but their work for the administration is extremely important and we all greatly appreciate the care and skill with which it is done.

At the time these notes appear in print, Mr. D. J. G. Jones, who has been our Legal Officer for a short while, will be leaving us. Mr. Jones is returning to Southern Africa where he spent the greater part of his life and, while I regret his leaving us to take up a post as Parliamentary Legal Draftsman to the Government of Botswana, I understand the call of Southern Africa better than most people. We all wish him luck.

Would St. Dunstaners please note that they should now refer any legal matters, etc., to Mr. Wills for the time being.

Long Cane

I learn that a number of St. Dunstaners are finding the long cane useful. For example, I have just had a letter from Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, M.C., a Second War St. Dunstaner who is employed by Imperial Metal Industries (Kynochs) Ltd. and takes an active part in public affairs. He tells me that he asked his Manager for an hour off each day before his lunch break to receive the training. This worked very well and Colin says, "I found myself venturing into areas that I had never gone to before". He feels now that other St. Dunstaners of his age (50) could soon be enjoying the increased independence that he has found.

Any St. Dunstaner who is interested in learning the long cane technique should write to the Welfare Department, who would do their best to put him in touch with the nearest Local Authority with a long cane instructor.

Editor's Note:

Since Lord Fraser wrote this before leaving for South Africa, a letter has been received from Frank Cross on this subject and we print it under the heading "From the Chairman's Postbag" on page 7.

Christmas Cards

Lady Fraser and I have received hundreds of charming Christmas cards from all over the world and they remind us of old friends and of many places we have visited. We thank all the senders very much indeed and warmly reciprocate their good wishes for the New Year.

Fraser of Lonsdale

COVER PICTURE: Jane Finnis, author of 'The Other Side of the Mike', this month's feature on the centre pages, seen outside Broadcasting House.

Coming Events

REUNIONS 1973

All Reunions to be held at 12.15 p.m. for lunch at 12.45 p.m.

Date	Reunion	Hotel
Saturday, 31st March	London (Central). (Miss Davis)	Grosvenor House (Ballroom) ✓ Esso Motor Hotel ✓
Saturday, 14th April	Bristol (Miss Meyer and Miss Newbold)	Polygon Hotel
Saturday, 28th April	Southampton. (Mrs. Lyall)	Metropole Hotel
Saturday, 16th June	Brighton (Miss Blebta and Mrs. Lyall)	Royal Station Hotel
Thursday, 21st June	Newcastle (Mrs. King and Mrs. Plaxton)	Hallam Tower Hotel ✓
Saturday, 23rd June	Sheffield (Miss Broughton and Mrs. Plaxton)	Copdock House Hotel
Thursday, 5th July	Ipswich (Mrs. Adkins and Miss Davis)	Magnum Hotel
Saturday, 7th July	Birmingham (Miss Newbold and Miss Broughton)	Adelphi Hotel
Thursday, 19th July	Liverpool (Miss Everett and Miss Broughton)	Midland Hotel
Saturday, 21st July	Manchester (Miss Everett and Miss Broughton)	Russell Hotel
Saturday, 28th July	London (South and West) (Mrs. Lyall and Miss Blebta)	

HARROGATE BRIDGE WEEK

The Harrogate Bridge Week will be from **September 15th to 23rd, 1973**. Provisional terms for the week (Full Board) have been received from the Dirlton Hotel. £22 per person—single room.

£19 per person—twin or double room.

To these prices should be added 10% service charge plus Value Added Tax on the total bill. We are promised exact figures later this year.

Will those interested please let me know as soon as possible in order to make a firm booking.

PAUL NUYENS

GARDENING NEWS

Another St. Dunstaner has reported winning prizes for his garden produce. HENRY HASKEY of Harrow, Middlesex, won six prizes last year in a local show for flowers and vegetables.

CO ALL ST. DUNSTANER RADIO HAMS

A regular St. Dunstan's Net will start on Sunday, 11th February, at 11.30 G.M.T. on the 80 Metre Band, 3720 Kcs. (Plus or minus the QRM).

It is hoped to make this a regular weekly Net and that as many St. Dunstaners as possible will use it.

73's
BILL SHEA

DIARY NOTE

H.M.S. *Daedalus* Camp 1973. Friday 17th August to Saturday 25th August. Further details later.

Brother JOSEPH C. CARNEY, R.O.H., of Bournemouth, was installed as Provincial Grand Primo of Bournemouth and district province, on 15th December, 1972, for the year 1973.

Frank Reviews

Cat. No. 1079

Morning Noon and Night
by James Gould Cozzens

Read by Marvin Kane

Although this is a work of fiction it took little investigation to discover that this book is largely based on the author's own life. Therefore to some extent it can be regarded as a work of autobiography, in which case it is surely unique, for the writer tells the story from the point of his existence when his father's sperm unites with his mother's ovum.

Henry Worthington whose life story we pursue is, as he tells us, a heel. He is to his own good fortune regarded as one hell of a nice guy by his friends and associates.

Coming from a family of professors and lecturers it is accepted that he will follow the family tradition and teach. Henry though is diverted from this path when he meets and marries a childhood friend who wants nothing more than to break away from the closed circle and in-fighting and rivalry that exists within a college fraternity. Henry goes into business and with a lot of bluff and good fortune becomes the head of Henry Worthington Associates (Business Consultants).

All in all quite a good yarn until we come towards the end of cassette one when in a couple of paragraphs the hair on the back of my neck bristled.

With the coming of the war Henry has got himself a "chaireborn" job as a Major with USAAF in the Pentagon. Here he briefly mentions that certain information had to be kept from the American people. One was that the war in Italy was held up because British troops under General Alexander wouldn't fight. Secondly that the strategy of the fighting in France had to be altered to cut off and secure the German V1 and V2 sites, as the morale of the British people was breaking under the bombardment, and the High Command was afraid that the population would be pressing for peace.

Either Cozzens is Anti-British and taking a snide swipe at us or perhaps American intelligence tuned into Lord Haw-Haw by mistake imagining him to be the voice of

the B.B.C. I think the record of the British Army can speak for itself. As for bombing of civilian targets breaking the morale of any people, past and present examples show only too clearly that the American High Command are living in proud Cuckoo land. Bombing only makes civilians bloody minded and determines them to put their backs into a war effort they would otherwise have little interest in. Americans, never having been bombed themselves, may find some credulity in the author's words.

My advice to him however is not to mix vinegar with his wine.

Cat. No. 1165

The Big Sleep
by Raymond Chandler
Read by Marvin Kane

Here we are back in the best traditions of the American styled private-eye. Marlow is hired to find out who is trying to blackmail the multi-millionaire General Sterwood. Marlow doesn't like what he sees of the General's two young daughters and takes it from there but many people have to die before he is satisfied that he has nailed the mystery.

Cat. No. 1127

The Rebel Princess
by Doris Leslie
Read by John Richmond

Forced into a political marriage at the age of sixteen, Sophia is disgusted with the drunken podgy George Louis and protests openly about his promiscuity, not only with his paramour but with any maid in waiting. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander is her belief, but when her childhood sweetheart comes to Hamburg she soon finds out that, that which may be winked at in the conduct of the future King of England is a crime amounting to treason when applied to his wife. She has powerful enemies at court and when in desperation she plans to flee with her lover Count Konigsmark of Sweden, he is murdered, and she is incarcerated for life.

This is a work of fiction based on fact. Although all through the novel the reader's sympathies lie with the princess my interest in the work was much weakened

KEMP TOWN NOTES

DECEMBER

"Happy Christmas, Pearson House" has been the keynote throughout December, with much plotting and scheming to get all our arrangements completed in time. Christmas seemed to be upon us almost before the move was over, so there was no time to waste. Nor was it easy to decide on our programme this year, remembering all our gay times at Ovingdean and knowing we should have to plan on a much smaller scale than we used to. In the first place there was the difficulty of not being able to keep open house, and we regretfully had to exclude any general invitations to local St. Dunstaners. Each St. Dunstaner in the House was asked to invite a guest and by this means we were able to have with us several friends for each of our special occasions. This pleased us very much as we did not wish to miss all our usual guests and visitors who always joined in the merrymaking so readily.

Christmas Eve

Our initial difficulties over, the show did go on and we began on Christmas Eve with the singing of carols and songs in the Winter Garden. There is no ye olde log fire here, of course, but we had a warmth of feeling which compensated for that, plus a tot of sherry with which to wash down the mincepies in the interval. Members of the staff turned up trumps as usual with some amusing cabaret items and both they and the audience were in very good voice for the "all together" numbers. Surely this was the most unrehearsed show ever and we can remember some fairly impromptu performances in past years! We had just one rehearsal! After all, we have only one piano in Pearson House and that is in the Winter

Frank Reviews—continued

by the fact that I knew from history of the unhappy fate that was to befall her. Nevertheless a beautifully written book but not one I feel that will generally appeal to male readers.

Garden, the room which is in most use, so we cannot be continually banishing the population to the nether regions while we rehearse in there! So with fingers crossed and breathing a prayer, we got off to a good start and, with some familiar carols and excellent songs, everyone enjoyed the evening enormously. Members of the staff who took part were: V.A.D.s Jean Dennis, Dorothy Williams, Nancy Feaver, Ruth Marshall, Jean Allison, Dorothy Highcock, Zia Houlton; John Bingham from the lift, John Beech and Paul Chamberlain, Orderlies, and Philip Barton, assistant to the training staff. Philip gave us some rhythm on the drums and Mildred Dagnall played the piano accompaniments. Joyce Briant, who was until recently on the V.A.D. staff, came back to join us for this concert and it was a pleasure to hear her sing again.

Carol Service

After a Service of Carols and Readings in St. George's Church on Christmas morning, we gathered in the Winter Garden for the giving of St. Dunstaners' Christmas presents. Some people are going to have cosy toes this Winter! While still gloating over these, our friends from the Grocers' Association led by Mrs. Lillie and Mr. Ken Phillips joined us for sherry, and how nice it was for us to have with us again Mr. Leslie Lutwyche, recovering from his recent illness, who touched our hearts with his little speech of greeting. Christmas Dinner took place in the Dining Room where the lack of space was made up for by the family feeling enhanced by the presence of Lord and Lady Fraser. Before lunch Lord Fraser paid some very nice compliments to our St. Dunstaners and staff for the way our move had been completed and the "family" settled in. Truly the party seemed complete in a way in which it couldn't have been without them. We were all delighted to see Lady Fraser better again.

The day was rounded off for us by the performance of a "Christmas Anthology" by "The Arena". Very different in style from our own anthologies, this makes for

interesting comparisons and we spent an absorbing evening with this talented group of young people. We much appreciated the fact that, at their own suggestion, they came, of all days in the year, on Christmas Day.

The Winter Garden is the room where most of our group activities take place and we hold our dances there. Very pleasant they are too, with a more intimate atmosphere than is possible in a big room. So this was where our Boxing Day Dance was held when St. Dunstaners and Staff let their imaginations run riot, devising many original and amusing ideas for Fancy Dress. It takes courage, and a great sense of fun, and the following won well deserved prizes.

Blodwyn Simon	} Three little maids from school
Thelma Meredith	
Miss Roffey, V.A.D.	
Avon Williams	} Bill & Ben, Removal men
Pat Cryan	
Mrs. Exley, V.A.D.	} Georgie Best and his girl friend (Bob was the girl!)
Bob Cameron	
Mrs. Dennis, V.A.D.	Mary Poppins
Mrs. Highcock, V.A.D.	Hit the Deck
Mrs. Marshall, V.A.D.	Annie Get your Gun
Ted Kirman	Kiss me under the mistletoe
Miss Zia Houlton, V.A.D.	Monk

The Judges this year were our own Miss Heap, who was on the staff for such a long time and her friend, Miss Robinson, and a very good job they made of it too. We hope they enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed having them with us.

For the next two days we all put up our feet and recuperated to get ready for the next bout. We must be joking, of course! Actually some of us did, but it would be more accurate to say that life proceeded more at its usual pace for just two days. Some St. Dunstaners did go to see "Aladdin" at the Dome, so they at least could not have been snoozing all the time. And some went out to sniff the ozone, which probably did them a lot of good.

One very pleasant social gathering was the Whist Drive and Domino Tournament and for these we were able to open our doors a little wider to admit several of the local St. Dunstaners, their wives and friends. It was quite a mini-reunion, and it gave us lots of pleasure to see them.

Came New Year's Eve and, as we all know, this happened on a Sunday this year which always queers our pitch somewhat. To suit the occasion, we held our St. Dunstaners Party, when quite a number entertained the rest of us mightily. We have some good voices and excellent memories amongst us and various items were given by Stan Duncan, Danny Daniels, Ted Garthwaite, Ted Kirman, Tommy McCann, Tiger Martin, Paddy Murphy, Ted Myles, Harold Pollitt and Harry Boorman. With a Tombola, a Guessing the Weight Competition, a Quiz, a Knobbly Knees Contest, and a bounteous buffet, we were all well away and towards midnight a general sing-song brought in everybody. Cyril and Dorothy, two excellent professional pianists, kept up the musical background throughout the evening, joined later by Henry Kerr on the drums, and many were the songs we sang. Not all old ones, either! There are several good songs high in the pop charts at the present time which are very singable and some of these became very popular with us from the Staff Concert onwards, the highest in the popularity stakes being "Amazing Grace". It is a good song, isn't it, and tho' we says it as shouldn't, we sing it as well as anybody. Well—almost anybody! Midnight came and with it 1973 and though some of our frailer members had toddled off to bed by then, we still had a good crowd present to sing Auld Lang Syne and wish "Many Happy New Years".

New Year Dance

Our New Year Dance took place on New Year's Day and for this the Winter Garden was very nicely full, with numerous welcome guests to help the party go. And so it did—one of those evenings that goes with a swing without any pushing. Looking back on Christmas it now seems to us that our celebrations, which were necessarily partly experimental, were much enjoyed and could be considered successful. We feel that we have had our House-warming and that we can now settle in and really make ourselves at home.

So another year has come and gone, all too rapidly, and to crown it we have had a very Happy Christmas. We would like to mention all those who worked so hard behind the scenes, in particular Mr. James,

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.

Stanley Austin Bakewell of King's Norton, Birmingham, joined St. Dunstan's in December 1972. He served in the Dorset Regiment during the Second World War and is married with a family.

Mrs. Doris May Cohoon of North Ferriby, East Yorkshire, joined St. Dunstan's at the beginning of January, 1973. Mrs. Cohoon served in the A.T.S. during the Second World War.

John Rhead Nolan, M. M. of Crewe, Cheshire, who came to us in January, 1973. Mr. Nolan served in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the Second World War. He is married.

"Not Forgotten" Party

On Wednesday, 20th December, the "Not Forgotten" Association held its annual Christmas Party for disabled ex-servicemen and women in the Royal Riding School, Buckingham Palace. Among the guests were 12 St. Dunstaners with wives or escorts and Miss P. J. Rogers, Southern Area Superintendent. H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent, the Association's Patron, attended the party and two St. Dunstaners, William Brown, Ilford, and George Eustace, Chessington, were presented to her.

The programme consisted of a selection of music played by the band of the Irish Guards, followed by tea and the cutting of the Christmas cake presented by the Duchess, the speeches, and entertainment by a number of well known artistes. A most enjoyable afternoon.

KEMP TOWN NOTES—continued

Mr. Feldwick and their staff for a wonderful Christmas Dinner and lots of delicious refreshments.

We think of all our friends and wish you well in 1973.

From the Chairman's Postbag

From Frank N. Cross of Birmingham

I was interested to read in last December's *Review* your remarks on the use of the long cane. I remember the storm of controversy which arose after the introduction of this method of mobility many years ago, and I am very pleased to see your endorsement of its usefulness.

As one who could not travel more than five yards with a short cane, I have been very grateful for the long cane training I received at the National Mobility Centre, and have found it invaluable.

I hope more St. Dunstaners will take advantage of this form of mobility training, which I understand is now available in the home district of a number of blind people since there are now many more long cane instructors in the country.

From Frank Morris of Sydney, Australia

I am happy to say I enjoy fairly good health and I am now leading a rather quiet life.

This year on my 75th birthday I became the Great Grandfather of twins—a boy and a girl—which naturally made me very proud and caused a lot of excitement in the family—they are both doing well.

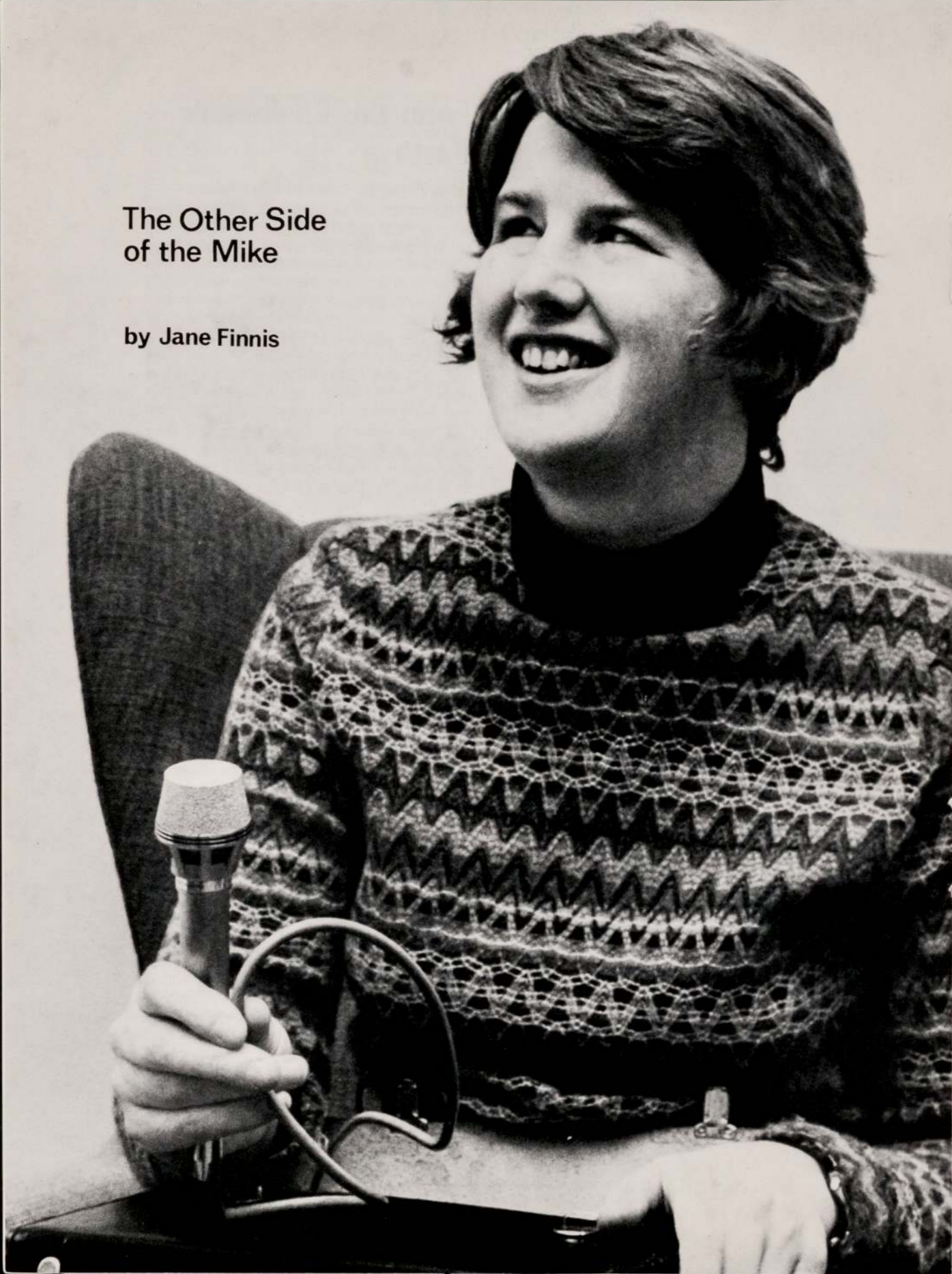
I am very glad to receive the St. Dunstan's *Review* each month; it does enable us to keep up with what is going on over there. The new Pearson House must be really something. I stayed there for a short time in 1918. Sir Arthur's sister was in charge at the time; they were really the "good old days".

NEW YEAR HONOUR'S LIST

The *Review* offers its congratulations to MR. W. J. HARRIS on his appointment as a Member in the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the New Year Honour's list. The award was made in connection with Bill Harris's service to race walking and sports for the disabled. Our readers may remember the article in last July's *Review* covering the presentation of a silver tankard to Bill Harris in recognition of his 50 years service to St. Dunstan's sportsmen.

The Other Side of the Mike

by Jane Finnis



At this time of year we often publish an article from somebody in the blind world outside St. Dunstan's. Jane Finnis has a small amount of residual vision but she is registered blind and was educated at Chorleywood College. She went on to London University and obtained a degree in history. Subsequently she has carved out for herself a career as a freelance broadcaster. Miss Finnis lives alone in a London flat and looks after herself in every way, cooking, etc., just as many fully sighted girls do. We feel sure that St. Dunstaners will join us in applauding the success obtained so far by this capable, courageous and self-reliant girl and in wishing her an ever widening circle of friends and admirers of her work.

The first person I ever interviewed was a bishop. I went along to his palace to talk about his forthcoming trip to the U.S.A., with a portable tape-recorder over my shoulder and a variety of butterflies inside; but I needn't have worried. Besides being an excellent talker, as you'd expect after all those sermons, he was a most charming man who, if he realised my inexperience, was far too kind to show it.

That was five or six years ago and long before I had any idea of making my living as a freelance interviewer. I was a radio producer then with the Central Office of Information, C.O.I. for short, producing Government-sponsored broadcasts for radio stations overseas on everything from the Common Market to the latest in British fashions. Mainly it was a backroom job, though I did a little interviewing after my visit to the bishop. I was researching stories, editing tapes and sending them to radio stations all over the world either as tapes or as transmissions over those high-quality broadcasting circuits that are used for sending voices from one radio station to another.

Freelance Interviewing

Much of the actual interviewing was done by freelances, so my job included commissioning them and sending them chasing off all over the place to catch the first words of returning explorers, or the happy enthusiasm of scientists showing off their latest inventions, or just a few breathless comments from triumphant sportsmen. Now I'm freelance myself and I'm the one that chases off to catch the voices. I see radio programmes from the other side of the producer's desk.

I find it surprises people sometimes to learn just how many of the familiar voices they hear interviewing or reporting on the B.B.C.'s numerous radio magazine programmes belong to freelances. In fact many magazine programmes depend heavily on them, partly for their skills as

interviewers and scriptwriters and partly as a useful source of ideas. When I started freelancing, most of the jobs I got resulted from ideas of mine, suggested to producers over the 'phone or in the office. But gradually, as you become better known and established, producers increasingly suggest stories to you. At the moment I find about two-thirds of my work is commissioned by producers; the other third I generate myself. It varies from month to month, and, of course, from freelance to freelance. The really well-known, household-name interviewer is usually so much in demand that he can rely entirely on commissioned jobs if he wants to.

Varied Work

I've mentioned that the C.O.I. use freelances, as well as the producers of Radios 1 to 4, and there are other sources of work too. The local radio stations, for example, the B.B.C.'s External Services, which broadcast from London all over the world, and the British Forces radio service. Like most freelances, I work for several organisations. It makes the job more varied, and there's always that good old rule about the eggs and the baskets.

At present I find I'm working mainly for Radio 4 and for C.O.I., with occasional items for British Forces. But things are always changing and another few months might find me in quite different markets. You never know. That's one of the aspects of freelancing that appeals to me. Some people call it "insecurity" and find it alarming; but to me it's part of the excitement.

I was lucky to get into C.O.I. Radio. I'd applied to the B.B.C. at the end of my three years at University, and had been turned down flat: "No-one as nearly blind as you could ever, ever become a radio producer." I was told with depressing finality. So I spent a year trying to make my fortune as a song-writer and failing spectacularly, though I enjoyed it and



Editing a tape recording.

learnt a lot. Then I joined C.O.I. as a writer of reference pamphlets and when a job came up in the Radio Division, I applied. There was quite a lot of head-shaking and, well, shall we call it caution, to be charitable? But the division's Director was blind himself, and he overrode the opposition by pointing out that if they gave me a try and I turned out to be useless, they could always throw me out.

It was up to me to prove myself. You can't ask fairer than that, so I joined as a very junior producer, making coffee and answering 'phones and doing paperwork, and gradually learning the art and craft of radio. Here again I was lucky in my immediate boss and my colleagues, who treated me just as any trainee would have been treated. Where I had problems, they were keen to help me to solve them but if I made a mess of something, there was no question of, "Poor you, you can't be expected to do that," or "Never mind, let me do it". It was, "Go back and do that again, and get it *right* this time". I say again, you can't ask fairer than that. I only wish more employers of visually handicapped people were as enlightened.

Much of what I learnt as a producer has stood me in good stead now that I'm

freelancing. I learnt to find stories and research them, and to choose people to interview. If you're doing a five-minute report on, say, the International Boat Show, picking out three or four of the most interesting exhibits, you'd better do your homework properly beforehand if you don't want to come home with three hours of tape and an editor's nightmare. I learnt to edit tapes; not just the physical process of cutting out a sentence or a syllable or the "s" off the end of a word, but how to pick out the most important and lively parts of an interview or speech, without losing or distorting the sense of what's being said. By watching other freelancers I picked up techniques of interviewing, and writing scripts that could make the most of interesting material or jazz up a dull subject or voice so that they became interesting too; and a whole lot more. I also learnt to work plenty of overtime, evening and week-ends; to keep going under pressure without flapping; and the importance of strong coffee in keeping a group of tired producers, writers, translators and engineers working together on some major bit of overtime till midnight.

Self-Employed

Life as a self-employed interviewer demands many of these qualities, not least the ability to make good coffee late at night. People often ask me what a typical day in an interviewer's life is like. I have to answer that there isn't a "typical" day, because no two days are ever quite the same. One day you might work entirely at home, editing tapes, writing a script, or looking for stories and 'phoning producers. The next, you'll be out with your recorder, doing several interviews, perhaps also going into Broadcasting House to record a report or hand in an edited interview. Most of the reports and interviews that go to make up a magazine are pre-recorded but the show is linked together live by the presenter in the studio. Most days are a mixture of the interviewing and the "before-and-after" parts of the job. Of course, there are the occasional days, when there's nothing in the diary and the summer sun or the Christmas shopping call, and you simply decide that, being your own boss, you'll award yourself a day off and do no work at all! Which is one of the pleasanter things about being self-employed

and makes up for the times when you find yourself working till 1 a.m. on a piece which has to be recorded in the studio at 9.30 the same morning.

Another question I'm often asked is whether there aren't some problems for someone as short-sighted as me. This may or may not be followed by that old chestnut about radio being "such a suitable medium for visually handicapped people". It's a better one than television, I suppose, but the assumption that all visually handicapped people must automatically be good at radio, or even like it, seems to me as daft as those other popular folk myths about our always being musical, or loving dogs. However, the question about the problems is more valid. Yes, there are some; but by luck, and help, and above all by being stubborn enough to keep on till I'd found a way round, I've solved most of them to my satisfaction.

Read Print

Let me make it clear at this point that I'm lucky in having enough residual vision to read print, though I do have to stick the page more or less on the end of my nose. This means that the morning papers and such things as press handouts are accessible at first hand but I can't read a script in the studio from a typescript, because there wouldn't be room to get the microphone between it and my nose. I narrate my scripts from Braille, putting the sheets on my knee under the studio table, which shields out any possible finger-noise. It's a bore having to Braille a script when you've also had to type fair copies for the producer and studio staff but it works. Another thing I can't read is the level meter on my recorder; even on the end of my nose, it's too small. This used to give me some worries at first, because, although you can easily set a suitable level for one speaker, it's harder to get a good balanced recording between two or three if you can't tell at a glance whether the levels are compatible; but you soon develop an instinct about where to hold the mike, which carries you through ninety-five per cent of the time. I'm experimenting at present with an audible level monitor that bleeps in your ear when you reach a pre-set level; but even though this may turn out to be very useful, I suspect when it comes to the crunch I'll prefer my instinct most of the time.



Jane keeps up her guitar playing and song writing as a sideline. She has broadcast some songs and recently composed two for a documentary film.

The only other difficulties are those which any short-sighted individual has: not being able to drive a car, and not being able to identify people visually. This last rules out some kinds of jobs, especially the hard-news ones, but in any case the daily treadmill of news and current affairs really is not my scene, so there is no conflict. I like a story you can cover in a bit more depth, where research and skill as a gatherer and presenter of information are crucial; and in this field a visually handicapped person need be at no disadvantage at all.

If I had to pick out one reason above the rest why I enjoy freelancing so much, it would be the independence of it. I like being my own boss, organising my time and carrying the can for my work, good or bad. I work hard but then I work for myself. I still haven't got over the childish thrill of getting my pay in the form of cheques through the post, instead of as a regular lump of salary coming into my bank account at the end of the month; and the size and number of those cheques depends on my own efforts. Of course there are depressing times, when an interview

WALKING—W. MILLER

Due to my being indisposed in the latter part of last year, walking notes have got somewhat behind. I will therefore congratulate the members themselves for turning out and keeping things going.

Here are the results of the three races held so far this season at Ewell.

Order of finish	Handicap time	Actual time	Allowance
1½ MILE. 14TH OCTOBER 1972			
D. Purches	14.10	16.50	2.40
M. Tetley	14.13	15.38	1.25
J. Wright	14.24	16.49	2.25
C. Stafford	14.49	17.04	2.15
S. Tutton	14.51	17.06	2.15
B. Young	14.57	17.02	2.05
W. Miller	15.06	15.06	scr
3 MILE. 18TH NOVEMBER 1972			
D. Purches	27.20	33.05	5.45
S. Tutton	28.19	34.39	6.20
B. Young	28.39	34.49	6.10
J. Wright	28.41	34.26	5.45
M. Tetley	28.43	32.03	3.20
C. Stafford	29.11	35.26	6.15
R. Mendham	30.37	30.37	scr
4½ MILE. 16TH DECEMBER 1972			
S. Tutton	43.05	51.35	8.30
B. Young	43.35	52.20	8.45
C. Stafford	43.42	53.22	9.40
M. Tetley	44.53	49.28	4.35
W. Miller	46.07	46.27FL	0.20
J. Wright	46.30	54.40	8.10
D. Purches	47.38	53.38	6.00

CORRECTION

In one of the Chairman's Notes in the January *Review* it was said that a total of four St. Dunstaners had been the subject of "This Is Your Life", the Television programme. In fact, a fifth, Captain K. C. Revis, M.B.E., should be added to the list. He was the subject of "This Is Your Life" on 9th October 1962. We apologise to Ken and to our readers.

The Other Side of the Mike—contd.

goes badly or a producer doesn't like the way you handle a story; but not too many, touch wood.

I've been freelance for a little over a year now. What the next year or two will bring, I don't know; but if I get as much fun and interest out of the job as I've had so far, I shan't be complaining.

Braille Competition

National Library for the Blind, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3BU announces that the forty-fourth E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition will be held on Saturday, 7th April 1973.

Unseen passages will be read, and prizes awarded for fluency, ease of diction and general expression. (Should the entries in any class be very limited, prizes will be awarded only if merited).

ADULT

Sturmev-Wyman Challenge and Medal Competition

This class is in competition for the Sturmev-Wyman cup and is open only to previous winners of the Open and Medal classes. The winner will also receive a silver medal. *Readers entering for this class may not enter other classes.*

Class A. Advanced readers in competition for the Blanesburgh Cup.

Class B. Other readers in competition for the Stuart Memorial Cup.

Class C. Readers who have lost their sight since 1939 and who have learnt to read Braille since the age of 16 (and who do not feel competent to enter the more advanced classes), in competition for the Lady Buckmaster Cup. (Entrants for this class will not read in the afternoon, but winners will receive prizes in the afternoon).

Open Competition

A special competition open to all readers eligible to enter Classes A and B and to all previous winners of Classes A, B and C for reading from the poems of John Betjeman. **Class D. Moon.** Open to readers of Moon type—Grade 1 and Grade 2. (Entrants for this will not read in the afternoon but winners will receive prizes in the afternoon).

The eliminating rounds will be held in the morning in the Library and will commence at 10 a.m. The finals will be held in the afternoon at Church House (which is also in Great Smith Street).

Intending competitors should send their names to the **Secretary, National Library for the Blind, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BU**, not later than Friday, 16th March 1973 stating whether they will be bringing a friend and whether or not they will be staying to lunch (at a cost of 25p per head).

CLUB NEWS

MIDLAND



Last month in Midland Club Notes we reported the presentation ceremony to Miss M. A. Midgley and we published her letter of thanks. This photograph shows Miss Midgley receiving her gift from Doug. Cashmore.

LONDON

Glitter, holly berries and colourful paper-chains slung airily from corner to corner—the tinkle of teaspoon and sound of laughter. This was the sight and sound that met most of us who attended the Christmas Domino evening on Thursday, 14th of December. All this matched the mood of our members as they came in from the grey evening light of Marylebone Road into the festival atmosphere of the gaily decorated Club Rooms to spend what proved to be a highly successful and happy evening.

The first prize went to Roy Armstrong with Ralph Pacitti and Joseph Majchrowicz tying for a very close second.

Our Football Pontoon ended on the 30th of December after a run of five weeks. Mrs. Douglass and Jack Simmons tied for the Pontoon, their teams being Cardiff and Bolton respectively. Charlie Hancock won the "booby" with Oxford.

Members of the London Club will be very pleased to learn that our former member Bob Bickley who went to live in Peacehaven some years ago, returned home a few days before Christmas after having spent several weeks in Bevendean Hospital and latterly at Northgate House. We all wish you well Bob, and still miss your presence at the London Club. We send our best wishes to your wife, Nancy, and your daughter Alison.

We have also missed our old friend Bill Harding at the Club of late, and hope by the time this is published that he will be feeling much better and will be back with us once again.

I hope all our members' New Year's resolution was to make 1973 a bumper one, and to work for the further success of the London Club throughout the coming year.

W. MILLER

BRIDGE NOTES

Christmas Bridge Drive

Lord Fraser, in his address of welcome to a record crowd of St. Dunstan's bridge players, wives and friends, assembled at the London club rooms, on 9th December, paid a warm tribute to all those who had rendered valuable service to the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club during the year. The occasion was the Christmas Bridge Drive, the final club engagement of 1972 which again featured a truly representative gathering of St. Dunstaners and their wives and many old friends with long associations with our club in London and in Brighton.

During the presentation of prizes later on by Lord Fraser the scene that presented itself at headquarters was more typical of a Christmas party, anyone surveying the tables now covered with evidence of the Christmas feast that had gone before, and brightly coloured wrappings discarded from hastily opened Christmas parcels, would find it difficult to believe that a serious game of bridge had not long been concluded.

Concentration!

Nevertheless, it was in an atmosphere of keen concentration at the card tables that Lord Fraser had entered St. Dunstan's Headquarters earlier on, finding time before tea to visit every table and chat freely with the St. Dunstan's players and their partners.

After the presentation of prizes and gifts from the raffle, which once again had been well chosen by Mrs. Armstrong, the retiring Captain, Mr. Roy Armstrong replied to Lord Fraser on behalf of the assembly. He spoke for all when he expressed his regret that Lady Fraser had not been well enough to accompany the Chairman and he conveyed good wishes to them both for Christmas and the New Year from everyone present.

Many St. Dunstaners and their wives and friends, influenced still by the spirit of Christmas, stayed on after the Drive had ended and continued to enjoy themselves with an informal party in the club

rooms which included singing Christmas carols and dancing to taped music.

At the end of a happy afternoon and an equally enjoyable evening, the thoughts and wishes of all of us still present went, once more, to that unique pair, Norman and Flora Smith. May we, also, express our appreciation and good wishes for 1973 to them with words which will be familiar to at least one half of this grand pair, "Lang may their lum reek".

"R.W.E."

Prizes: 1. W. Lethbridge and Mr. A Field.
2. R. Armstrong and Miss Sheila Lyons
3. W. Phillips and Mr. S. Lightning
4. L. Douglass and Mr. S. Horstead
5. R. Pacitti and Mrs. Pacitti
Parity: J. Padley and Mrs. Padley
Booby: S. Webster and Miss Molly Byrne

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

London

W. Lethbridge and W. Miller	78
P. Nuyens and R. W. Evans	69
H. King and W. Phillips	60
A. Caldwell and J. Padley	59
W. Allen and H. Meleson	59
F. Dickerson and R. Pacitti	53

Brighton

R. Goding and W. T. Scott	77
R. Fullard and W. Burnett	68
F. Griffiee and Partner	65
F. Rhodes and A. Dodgson	62
S. Webster and C. Walters	57
J. Whitcombe and W. Claydon	57
J. Chell and A. Smith	48

P. NUYENS, *Secretary*.

Bridge Correction

In the January *Review* the Teams of Four Sir Arthur Pearson Cups should have read T. Wood not F. Wood and we apologise for this.

New Curb on Doorstep Selling

We think that the undermentioned notice, sent to us by the Department of Employment at the end of December, will be of interest to our readers.

From January 1, 1973, it will generally become illegal to try to trade on public sympathy for disabled people in selling goods across the doorstep.

From then on, no organisation or person trading for private profit will be allowed to claim that goods they are offering for sale or to exchange across the doorstep will benefit disabled people in any way. Making such claims by telephone or by post is also illegal.

This is because the Trading Representations (Disabled Persons) Amendment Act comes into force on New Year's Day. It was put forward as a Private Member's Bill by Mr. David Reed, MP for Sedgfield, and received Government support during its passage through Parliament earlier this year.

The only organisations or bodies which are permitted to make such claims are local authorities; sheltered workshops for disabled people approved by the Department of Employment under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Acts; and charities registered with local authorities.

Most of the organisations in the authorised categories under the new Act, such as the Royal London Society for the Blind and Remploi Ltd., for example, do not sell door-to-door. They go out of their way to ensure that their goods are sold on the open market on their merits.

The only people trading for personal gain who are allowed under the Act to claim that the sale or exchange of their goods will benefit disabled people are those disabled people who are themselves running their own business and have themselves actually made the goods.

Under the new Act, complaints about people claiming to be selling or exchanging goods on behalf of disabled people should be made direct to the nearest police station or town or county hall. In Scotland complaints should be made only to the police.

Those convicted of breaking the new law can be fined up to £400, or imprisoned for up to two years, or both.

FAMILY NEWS

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to MR. and MRS. HERBERT DOWNWARD of Gloucester, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 23rd December, 1972.

Many congratulations to MR. and MRS. GEORGE POOLE of Lowton, St. Luke's, nr. Warrington, Lancs., who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary in May 1972.

Sincere congratulations to MR. and MRS. JOHN TAYLOR of Hounslow, Middlesex, who celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on 10th January, 1973. Mr. Taylor was awarded the American Silver Star for bravery during the Second World War.

Grandfathers

Congratulations to:

GEORGE JAKINS of Guildford, Surrey, who is pleased to announce the birth of his first grandchild, Suzanne Margaret Morris, born to his only daughter, Hilda, on 16th August, 1972.

NORMAN NOLDE of Cheltenham, Victoria, Australia, who is proud to announce the birth of a grand-daughter, born to his daughter and her husband, Beryl and Graham Cooke, on 21st October, 1972. She is their first grandchild.

JOHN LEE of Saltdean, Sussex, is pleased to report that his daughter, Francesca, aged 14 years, has passed her Latin American ballroom dancing examination and received a gold medal.

ALEXANDER STERNO of Cheltenham is very proud of his grand-daughter, Ursula, who has passed a number of dancing examinations. She has received the following awards for her dancing from the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, Grade IV modern dancing—highly commended. Grade III National Dance—highly commended. Silver Medal Senior National Dance—highly commended.

Deaths

We offer our very sincere sympathy to:

RONALD GADSBY of Leeds who mourns the death of his father on 20th December, 1972.

JOHN LORD of Todmorden, Yorks., who mourns the death of his mother, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Kershaw, who passed away on 25th December, 1972.

WILLIAM MAHONEY of Bartley Green, Birmingham, who mourns the death of his wife, Mrs. Lilian May Mahoney, who passed away on 31st December, 1972.

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.

Dennis Dunn. *4th Welsh Regiment*

Dennis Dunn of Portslade, Nr. Brighton, Sussex, died on 13th December, 1972, at the age of 46 years.

Mr. Dunn enlisted with the 4th Welsh Regiment in 1944 and served with them until his discharge in 1945. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1960. He lived with his family in South Wales but on the deterioration of the health of his mother, Mr. Dunn was invited to reside at Pearson House, which he did with occasional visits home, until his marriage in 1970.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Dunn set up home in Portslade, Sussex. Prior to her marriage, Mrs. Dunn was a V.A.D. at Pearson House, and during Mr. Dunn's recent illness she nursed him devotedly.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Jill Dunn.

Percy Edward Johns. *Grenadier Guards*

Percy Edward Johns of Torquay, Devon, died in hospital, on 14th December, 1972, at the age of 80 years.

He enlisted in the Grenadier Guards in 1912 and served with them until his discharge in 1916, when he came to St. Dunstan's.

After training he set up as a poultry keeper and continued with this work for some years. He gave this up in 1927 and made mats for a while before retraining as a telephonist. In 1928 he accepted his first position as a telephonist and moved to Chesterfield. He stayed in Chesterfield at his work until 1945 when he obtained another telephony post in Sheffield, where he continued to work until 1948, when his health showed signs of strain, he retired in 1949 and moved to Torquay.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Johns, two married daughters and an invalid son.

James Ingram. *8th Seaforth Highlanders*

James Ingram of Maidenhead, Berks, died on 18th December, 1972, at the age of 78 years.

He enlisted in the 8th Seaforth Highlanders in 1915 and served with them until his discharge in 1917, when he came to St. Dunstan's.

Mr. Ingram trained as a physiotherapist, and continued with this profession until 1931 when he was awarded a scholarship which was the first such scholarship given to a St. Dunstaner by the British School of Osteopathy.

On qualifying he secured an appointment in Maidenhead, where he settled and remained until his death. Mr. Ingram is survived by his son who lives in New Zealand with his family, and his daughter, Miss J. Ingram, who lives in the West Country. His wife predeceased him in 1969.

Mr. Ingram took a great interest in his early life in sporting affairs and in 1926 won the London to Brighton Walk for the third time and was presented with a silver cup (*August Review* 1972).

Albert Oldfield. *Royal Engineers*

Albert Oldfield of Sheffield, Yorkshire, died on 31st December, 1972, at his home. He was 81 years of age.

He enlisted in the Royal Engineers and served with them until October 1917, when he was wounded at Ypres, and came to St. Dunstan's in that year.

He trained in poultry keeping and boot repairing and later became a shopkeeper, and continued with this occupation until 1971. His other interests were his greenhouse and he also kept poultry. In recent months his health was only fair but nevertheless his death was unexpected.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Marjory Oldfield.

Miss Marguerite Tickner. *Women's Royal Army Corps*

Miss Marguerite Tickner (also known as Margaret) of Hove, Sussex, died on 4th January, 1973, at the early age of 52 years.

Miss Tickner joined the A.T.S. (as it was then) in 1943 and served with them until her discharge in 1946. She came to St. Dunstan's in 1966. At this time she was already seriously disabled and confined to a wheelchair. Since her discharge from the W.R.A.C. she has been nursed devotedly by her widowed mother, Mrs. E. Tickner. Miss Tickner also had a sister and a brother, both of whom are married, and all the family have helped her throughout her illness.

Miss Tickner spent many holidays at Ovingdean and latterly at Pearson House and took a keen interest in social activities.

She leaves her mother, a brother and a sister.

Frank Stevens. *Leicester Regiment*

Frank Stevens of Derby, died in hospital on 31st December, 1972, at the age of 74.

He served in the Leicester Regiment from 1915 to 1919 and was the victim of a mustard gas attack. Although Mr. Stevens served in the First World War he did not come to St. Dunstan's until August last year when he was, of course, retired. He did not enjoy good health but nevertheless his death was most unexpected.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Constance Stevens.