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REVIEW
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St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

by David Castleton

This is the story of the Three Blind Mice. No, not the nursery rhyme characters—these three are St. Dunstaners: Bob Osborne, of Saltdean; Ron Smith, of Seaford, and Winston Holmes, who lives in Hove. There is no farmer's wife but there is Joan, wife of one of the 'mice', Bob Osborne.

'Joan and the Three Blind Mice' is the billing for a fine singing group. Their signature tune, 'Gee, But it's Great to be Here' has introduced them to audiences all over Sussex. They fulfill some thirty to forty engagements a year—mostly in the winter months—at places like Worthing, Seaford, Crowborough, Brighton, Forest Row, Tunbridge Wells and Lewes. They have even been to Wales where they gave concerts in a Rugby club and in a United Services Club. "It was packed and we got paid quite a compliment there", said Bob Osborne. "They said it was the first time it had been full right to the end. Instead of leaving to catch their buses they stayed and walked home that night".

Free Shows

The Three Blind Mice give many performances free to clubs for pensioners, blind people and the physically handicapped. "We have a particular charity called The Bluebird, disseminated sclerosis people, and we have gone there several Christmases now", Bob told me. "We get booked up from one twelve months to the other and they are a marvellous audience and we love doing it for them, they are so appreciative".

The fees they receive from Masonic Lodges or from British Legion Clubs who can afford them, help to subsidise their charitable efforts. When I visited the Osborne's home in Saltdean to interview

them the Three Blind Mice were rehearsing for a big British Legion concert at the Royal Pavilion Theatre in Brighton. It was the South East Area Conference of the Royal British Legion Women's Section and the group had been invited by the President, Mrs. E. F. Dacre to sing at the concert which opened the three day event.

Their professional attitude to their singing impressed me and even in rehearsal in an ordinary room their attack lifted their songs and their harmonies made a beautifully full sound. Small parts of the act received painstaking attention and the discipline of their singing would not have disgraced a top-flight choir. I was quite sure it would be all right on the night—and it was.

Tremendous reception

Some three hundred people, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton gave the St. Dunstan's group and Bill and Alice Griffiths, who shared the bill, a tremendous reception. The Three Blind Mice's finale was 'Let the Whole World Know'. Ron Smith heard it on 'Sunday Half Hour' sung by the Emmanuel Singers, "I was so impressed by this that I wrote care of the B.B.C. and told them how much I enjoyed this song and would they mind very much if our little group learnt it and sang it. They sent me a wonderful letter back giving me all particulars where to get the book and saying that we could use any song in the book with their permission". Bob Osborne's verdict is, "Well, we like it. A terrific song, swing in it, the lot". The British Legion audience seemed to agree judging by their applause.

The Three Blind Mice was formed in 1967 but the origins of the group go back much farther than that. To Church Stretton



Joan and the Three Blind Mice. (l.-r.) Ron Smith, Bob Osborne and Winston Holmes.

days, in fact, when Joan was a music instructor and Win Holmes was learning to sing. "It was devilish because while I was singing in one room there was a very narrow corridor and then over in the other room there was Joan with Tommy Gaygan and David Bell on trombones!" Win recalls. "We did a show once and Joan, Gwenny Obern and Beryl Sleigh were all in grass skirts. There were Ron Smith, Tiny Hill Brown and myself chasing after them with cigarette lighters". Joan is the daughter of our St. Dunstaner, the late Joe Walch and she sang duets with him. At Church Stretton and through her music she met Bob Osborne, they were married and, later, sang as a trio with Joe Walch.

As Win mentioned, Ron Smith was also a member of those concert parties at

Church Stretton. His interest in the stage began when he was seventeen and belonged to a dramatic society in Duffield in Derbyshire. "Also we used to run a concert party. Of course we had a marvellous lot of fun. I went from there through hospital work, I was doing books and accounts. I used to run concerts in the hospital and, hang me, even when I got in the Army I went into it again. Along with an accountant I used to run the whole of the entertainment for the battery, 400 people".

It was many years later that the present group came together as Ron described to me, "Joan and Bob used to do quite a lot of duets. You know, getting around and doing stuff like that. They were giving a concert somewhere and they asked me if



Joan Osborne: 'We really enjoy ourselves'.

I would give a hand. I did one or two monologues and took part in a bit of a trio. Win Holmes was up at St. Dunstan's then for a little while and he joined in and this is how we got started".

The name came later. It was the idea of Joan and Bob's son Keith, "You ought to call yourselves Joan and the Three Blind Mice", he said one evening. Bob takes up the story, "We were singing at one of the reunions a few years ago. Ken Lyon's band was playing and he asked what should he announce so, on the spur of the moment, I said Joan and the Three Blind Mice, just casual, not thinking, but it stuck".

Joan did not like it, "I thought it was a gimmick when everybody was getting names. Win is a carpenter, you know, and he made a lovely carving knife. I used to put this on the piano and pretend waving it. I could see everybody laughing and relaxing so I thought, 'Oh, perhaps it's not such a bad idea after all', and we've been that ever since".

This question of the audience's reaction to a blind act is an important one as Bob explained, "At the beginning they are a bit apprehensive of us. We look like a chain

gang going on—bringing one another on to the stage and someone might say, 'Oh, poor chaps', but honestly we've had some wonderful receptions".

Ron agrees that audiences can be apprehensive, "I think this does apply, you know. We've got to be very careful because I think blind people really, if you are going to make a good job of anything you have got to really make it better than anybody else. So we don't get any of this sympathy. We don't want any of this, 'Oh, they're blind, they're not bad for a blind group'. It has got to be a group, a good group".

I asked him if the Three Blind Mice name, with its joking approach, summed up the character of their act. "Yes, I think it is a happy affair altogether. We were once told, 'You know why the audience enjoy your show so much; simply because you enjoy it so much'. This was a very nice compliment".

Young people

It is not only the old and middle aged audiences that enjoy the 'Mice'. Joan told me of a concert at Lewes Town Hall where they discovered, on arriving, that their audience was to be some 200 young people, "It was a group of young people who work for charity—the Lewes Guy Fawkes celebrations and they go round collecting money for charity. They were having their annual dinner. It is a great big hall and we were outside getting ready after the dinner. We were a bit sceptical about the audience because they were rather young.

"I said, 'Well, that's it. Come on let's get cracking and in we went'. They were absolutely fantastic. We did 'The Whole World in His Hand' and they clapped with it—anything with a rhythm they were clapping. We were amazed how many of the young people came up to us afterwards to say how much they had enjoyed it".

Of course it is not always like that. They have a blacklist of two or three places they will not go to again. Like the concert where they had to wait two hours while the organisers drew the raffle. "There were about 160 guests and instead of giving them all a present they had a raffle and everybody got a prize", said Joan. "... And we were like three penguins, I'll tell you, up on the stage waiting in our dicky bows and suits!" chimed in Bob. There have been

occasions when Ron has stopped speaking because of the noise, "We've had some terrible ones where there has been a bar in the place. We said we'd never go again and there have been occasions when I've stopped talking on the stage". They all chuckled when Joan remembered the village Vicar who thanked them saying, "It is a long time since I have heard such robust singing".

This is probably the secret of their success: That they can all laugh against themselves. If the audience is bad or the compliments double-edged or the weather is foul on a winter night it helps if you can laugh. As most of their engagements are in the winter months, Joan often sets out with sacks and spades in the car boot. Once they were due at Uckfield and Ron rang the local police: "He said, 'Oh, No—three blind men?' I said, 'Yes, and there's just the lady driving'. He said, 'No, not under any circumstances. The snow is piled up here and it's getting very slushy, very dangerous'. But we went".

Knee-deep in cement

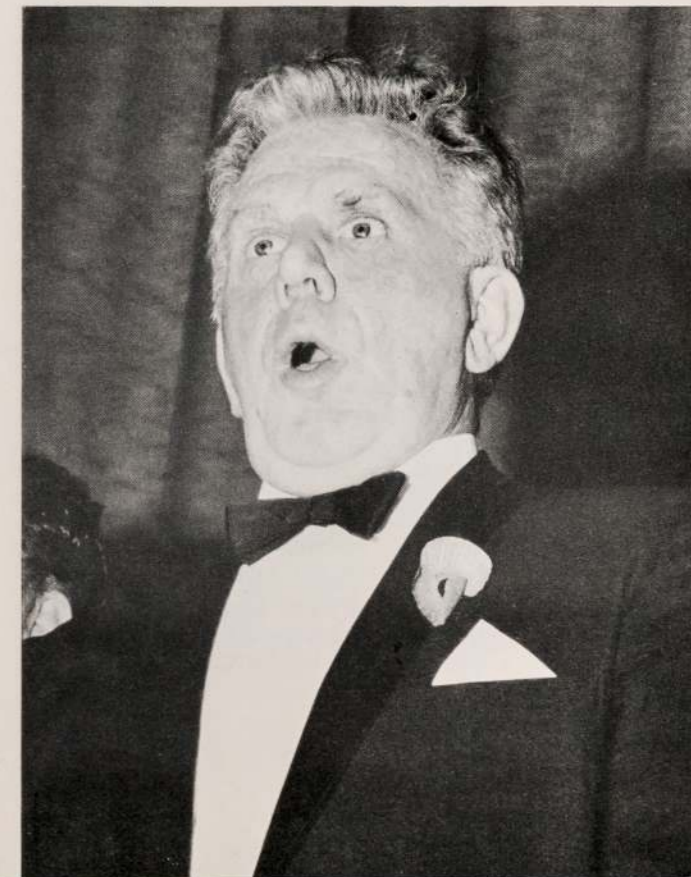
It is not only the snow that can be deep. Winston Holmes remembered a story involving Ron Smith. "I had arranged to meet them outside this cinema. It was a wild night, snowing, raining, terrible. Bob and Joan went to pick Ron up at the bottom of the hill at Saltdean. They couldn't find him". When they did Ron was up to his knees in concrete. In evening dress for the show, Ron had been dropped off at the wrong stop and walked into the new concrete. "Straight off the bus", recalled Ron, "I felt this soft and then, taking another step, I thought good gracious this is all cement. I was frozen stiff". A drop of whisky and some cleaning up by Joan soon put Ron right, "They were the best creases he ever had in his trousers", Bob commented.

Joan keeps a record of every programme they sing so that when they re-visit a particular organisation they vary their songs unless there are favourites that are requested again. She told me they sing most things from spirituals to modern ballads, "Win does the old favourites like 'Just a-Wearyin' and 'Roses of Picardy', all these sort. Bob tries to keep up with more of the modern ones. We do lots from the shows—selections by the whole group.



Ron and Bob enjoying a rehearsal.

Winston Holmes: 'Well, for me its companionship'.





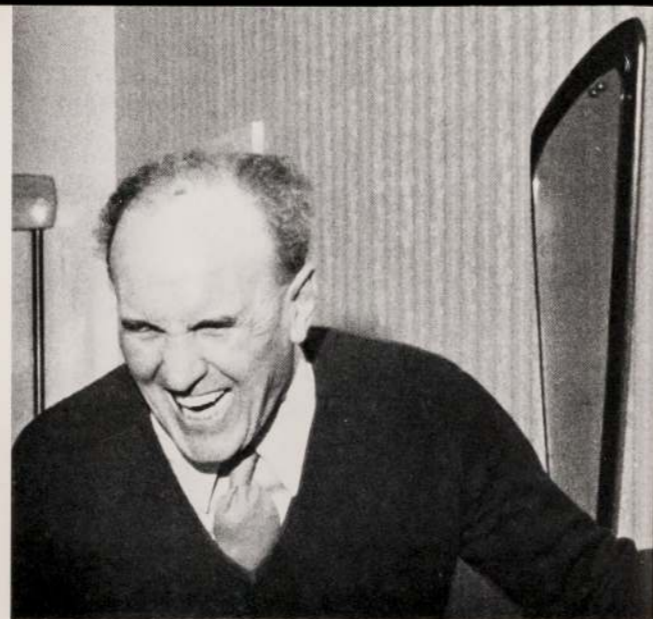
Bob Osborne: 'I like to meet people'.

We do modern stuff we arrange ourselves. not pop but modern ballads so we've got quite a good repertoire".

Every song that is added to that repertoire has to be played over and learned by the boys and living in quite widely separated places means a lot of travelling just for rehearsals. Once a programme is arranged and rehearsed they stick to it as Ron explained, "Because we've rehearsed it and, by jove, it's important to run through these things all the time because you forget words". The time they give to these rehearsals is well worthwhile for they achieve what I can only describe as a professional gloss.

It is particularly hard work for Joan: singer, pianist, secretary, driver and road manager. Often she has driven over 100 miles for an evening engagement. Then there are the pianos. One had six notes which did not play! There was the time the music stand fell on to the floor, "Yes, and we were doing 'Dry Bones' in which every line you have to go up half a tone and I am not very good playing without music. I was trying to look at it on the floor and this old man was being very helpful. He picked the music up and held it upside down so I did a quick change around the right way up but no he wouldn't have it like that. He had to turn it back again but we all finished up all right—together!"

As compere and humorist of the group Ron relies a lot on Joan. He throws in a lot of jokes as he introduces the numbers,



Ron Smith: 'I love entertainment'.

"... If I find that Joan gives me the wire, because I always stand next to her at the piano. If she says try a monologue or something I'll probably slip a small one in. That does depend on the audience I think and the jokes depend on an audience. You have to be careful, you can offend people. I don't like using filthy jokes—it's got to be a joke with probably more than two meanings to it. I don't like anything so pointed, you see I think this, if you've got an audience and you are going to offend two people, then you have offended two people too many".

Ron describes himself as a "baritone, more or less", and he and Joan, soprano, provide the harmony while Bob, a tenor, sings the melody with Win singing bass baritone in unison. Finally I asked each of the group what it was that made all the time and trouble they give in preparing and putting on their shows worthwhile:

Bob: "Well for me, I like to get out and meet people and I love singing".

Joan: "Probably the companionship of the boys. We really enjoy ourselves. It's just... good".

Winston: "Well, for me it's the same, companionship and I like getting insulted occasionally by Ron and Bob".

Ron: "I just love entertainment of any kind and I do think we get great enjoyment from giving these concerts".

As the song says, "That's entertainment"—and that is the story of the Three Blind Mice.

WAR PENSIONS INCREASES

St. Dunstaners will be interested to learn that, in a statement to the House of Commons on the 7th March, 1973, Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Social Services, proposed a number of increases in War Pensions and Allowances.

The Basic Disability Pension will go up from £11.20 to £12.80 (an increase of just over 14%) and there are corresponding increases in most of the allowances.

The War Widow's Pension will go up from £8.80 to £10.10.

All the changes are due to take effect from the week commencing 1st October, 1973.

There will be more detailed information and comment in the *Review* in due course but in the meantime two examples of the revised payments are set out below.

If St. Dunstaners have any enquiries will they kindly write to Mr. L. A. Slade, our Pensions Officer at Headquarters.

EXAMPLES OF PENSIONS

Employable	Totally Blind	
	Present	New
	£	£
Basic Pension	11.20	12.80
Attendance Allowance	4.50	5.15
Comforts Allowance	1.70	2.20
Wife's Allowance	0.50	0.50
Child's Allowance	0.38	0.38
	<u>£18.28</u>	<u>£21.03</u>

Unemployable	Totally Blind	
	Present	New
	£	£
Basic Pension	11.20	12.80
Attendance Allowance	4.50	5.15
Comforts Allowance	1.70	2.20
Unemployability Supplement	7.35	8.40
Wife's Allowance	4.15	4.75
Allowance for First Child	3.30	3.80
Invalidity Allowance	0.70	1.00
	<u>£32.90</u>	<u>£38.10</u>

W. C. WEISBLATT,
Legal Officer.

Derby Sweepstake

The Closing Date of the Derby Sweepstake is Wednesday, 23rd May.

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

Each application must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

The name and full address of the sender, together with the number of tickets

required, should be sent, with the stamped addressed envelope, to the Editor, D.S.S. Dept., *St. Dunstan's Review*, P.O. Box 58, 191 Old Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5QN.

The Draw will take place at the London Club on the evening of Thursday, 31st May. All those drawing a horse will be notified.



IT STRIKES ME

by
Magog

Canadian Welcome

Home again after a wonderful Christmas with their family, friends and new friends in Canada, are **Mr. and Mrs. William Brocklehurst**, of Doncaster.

Their way was prepared through St. Dunstan's by Mr. W. M. Mayne of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and as a result of his letters, Harvey Lynes of North Vancouver and Ivan White of Victoria, Vancouver Island, got in touch with the Brocklehursts' daughter and promised a Canadian Welcome . . .

Following their arrival the Brocklehursts were invited to afternoon tea at Harvey Lynes' home. "Subsequently he arranged a lunch at the Grosvenor Hotel in Vancouver to meet all the available St. Dunstaners," Mr. Brocklehurst told me. "During this lunch we had the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest and when the time came to break up, farewells were made with the expression: 'It won't be long before you're one of us.'"

"The trip to see the Vancouver Island group was arranged with our request for a hotel to be booked for our overnight stay. This was met with a firm 'No! You are going to stay with us . . .'" Mr. and Mrs. White of Victoria were our hosts. Ivan White took two days off from his shop to be with us. He and his wife met us at the Bus Station in Victoria, picked up Miss Isabelle Beveridge, District Administrator, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Victoria, and took us out to a wonderful lunch followed by a visit to the Victoria headquarters of the C.N.I.B.

"That evening we were entertained at a social which the group had arranged at one

of the member's homes, St. Dunstan's had been prepared to make up to a 120 mile journey through snow and ice to meet us and Canadian hospitality was at its best.

"The star of this evening was Charles Hornsby, one of the original St. Dunstaners who came from Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire. His charm, wit and general vitality had to be seen and heard to be believed. At the end of the evening my wife and I were given, as a token of our visit, a model of one of the lamp standards which are such a feature of Victoria.

"My wife and I enjoyed meeting these wonderful people who went out of their way to make us welcome. We left feeling we had made new friends who would be pleased to see us again as we would be pleased to see them."

Memorable Evening

I have just heard from **Tommy McKay** of Brighton that, with his wife, Phyllis, he was a guest at a reception given at 10 Downing Street by the Prime Minister on 8th March for war pensioners and ex-service organisations. This was the first time this annual event has taken place at No. 10 with the Prime Minister as host, and as luck would have it, fell on one of the days the railwaymen were on strike. The day was further disfigured by the bomb outrages in central London.

Tommy and Phyllis travelled up by road, "Our journey as far as Kennington was uneventful but from there it was hardly even a crawl taking us two and a quarter hours to do the last five miles—because of the bomb explosions many roads were closed. However, we did reach Downing Street eventually at a few minutes to seven, and after showing passes we were rushed into the lift and upstairs.

"Mr. Heath made a short speech thanking the company for the work they were doing on behalf of disabled ex-servicemen and apologised for having to leave as he considered it his duty to visit those unfortunate people who had been injured in the explosions," said Tommy.

Tommy told me he had met Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Social Services and Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Vallance. Mr. Vallance is Superintendent of Linburn

House, the Scottish National Institution's centre, in Midlothian.

"Another pleasure was to meet Mr. A. D. Lloyds and his wife."

Tommy, who was one of only three blind people present, did not have the honour of meeting the Prime Minister but nevertheless felt his four hour journey was well worth while. "We left just after eight and reached home a few minutes before ten after a most memorable evening," he said.

Lost and Found

Bertie Barnes, whose article on rug-making appears elsewhere in this issue is also a physicist. In 1914 he was the first recipient of the Neil Arnott medal for Physics—a handsome bronze medal inscribed with his name and bearing a profile of the founder of the award in high relief on the obverse and the Arms of the University of London on the reverse. Bertie earned the medal in open competition with the whole of London University.

You can imagine his dismay when this first issue medal was missing after his house was burgled around Christmas time in 1971. "I described the medal in a letter to the Police, who caught the two men involved. They searched through things in their possession and found the medal. So I sent them a small subscription to the Police benevolent fund and congratulated them on bringing the men to book."

Les Dennis



MARK and the Magnificent Six

This is the story of Mark the Dot,
He touches the six quite a lot,
His fingers they glide over signs standing alone,
Cor, what a lark, I think I'll go home.
His signs, upper and lower, are nice and small,
I think he's quite fond of the old 'Staringble,'
And when he spoke of Contractions one day,
I thought, this poor chap's in the family way.

With the six we fiddle and fumble, knowing not
what we do,
When up pipes Mark with a whistling clue,
The lesson's coming to an end, fingers feeling sore,
I hope the next trainee will soon knock at the door,
The seconds drag, at last I hear a sound outside the
room,
A knock, a twist, the door swings in, a figure starts
to loom,
It's Avon from the jungle, a white coloured coon,
He slumps down into a chair, he knows he's in a fix,
For now the time has come for him to do battle
with,
Mark and the Magnificent Six.

Yours,

from one dotty man,
to another,

Bert Wood.

Editors Note:

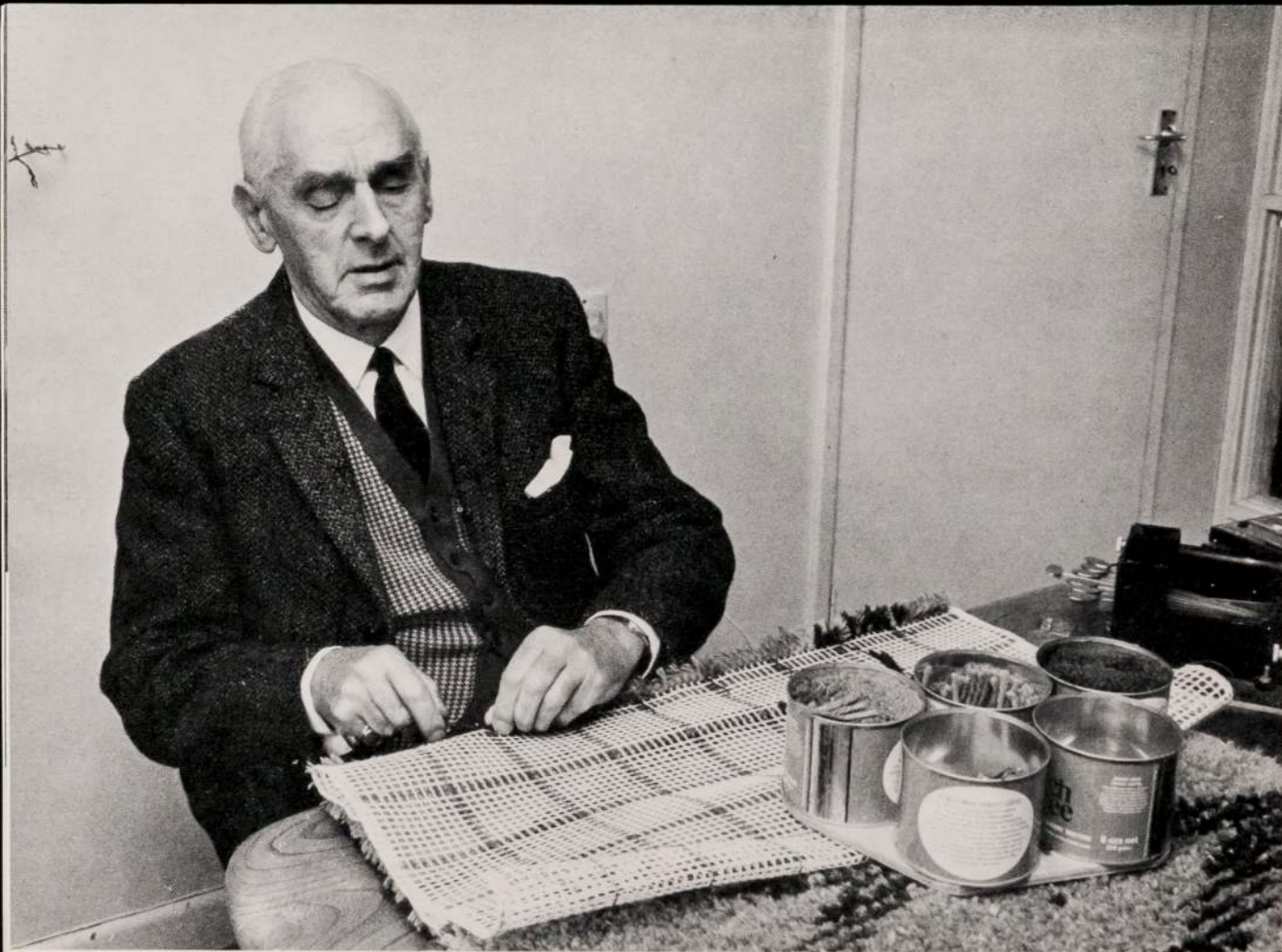
Bert Wood's poem was written as a typing exercise for Mrs. Carol Locke and another typing trainee, Norman Maries sent it to the *Review*.

Bowling for England

Les Dennis, better known as a long distance race walker, has been turning to bowling in recent years. At Hastings he has been successful in tournaments for blind competitors. His wife, Joan, has also become a good bowler and, together, they often play against sighted opponents.

Now Les has been picked to travel to South Africa, he left on 20th March, with two other English blind bowlers to play in the South African National Tournament in Durban and in a Test Match against South Africa and Rhodesia in Pretoria on 3rd and 4th April. Joan will be one of the sighted helpers on the greens.

"I think they are more advanced in bowling," Les told me "The tournament sounds wonderfully organised. They have their own greens, pavilions and uniforms. I asked him what he thought of the England team's chances. "We don't know what the opposition will be like", he said, "You can only take it as it comes".



Bertie Barnes at work on a diamond pattern rug.

Lieutenant Bertie Barnes, O.B.E., B.Sc., lost his sight as a result of mustard gas during the First World War in which he served in the Royal Engineers. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1951 and is now totally blind. He took up rug-making as a hobby specialising in complicated patterns with several colours. He is now starting his twentieth Turkoman rug and he has made many others. His most ambitious project was to carpet his hall, an area of more than 90 square feet involving, he calculates, some 148,000 individual tufts.

Rug-making is a hobby that has given me the greatest satisfaction especially in recent years. At first I was satisfied with plain rugs and with rugs in simple patterns in two colours, for instance, white bars on a blue background for the bathroom, say, or white dice on a mastic background. In fact the hall of my home was covered with white dice on a mastic ground and it was admired. Let me say at once that I always do every row in the canvas and this is, I think, essential in patterned rugs.

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In more recent years, I have developed a technique which permits me to make rugs in sophisticated patterns in five, six, seven and eight colours. One particular Turkoman rug I have made many times. In the original pattern for this there was a deep rose for the background, with cream, black, beige and cardinal red for the pattern. I have used other combinations of colours such as dark green for the background and with cream, black, gold and light green. This combination of colours was chosen

Rug Making

by Bertie Barnes



'Miaow', who is a connoisseur, likes the Turkoman rug.

by a friend to whom I gave this rug, and it was to lie on a gold carpet with a green suite. I do not sell my rugs, but give them to the Church and other Charities for raffles, or for use, and to relatives and friends.

I will now try to describe the technique I have developed. Firstly I never try to make a rug on my knees because it is impossible to keep the row straight. I always work on a hard surface, the dining-room table or a garden table when out of doors.

I always buy the stiffest canvas; this is one produced by Paton and Baldwin with the loose thread running down the side of the canvas of a red colour. It will hurt your fingers at first, but persevere and you will get used to the canvas very quickly. As the rug proceeds keep it face downwards on

the table with the canvas turned back over the back of the rug, and this will bring the next row to be done under the fingers. Also you must learn to count the tufts in a row, and I have found that it is best to do so with the thumb and fore-finger of the left hand moving along the row and counting the actual knots. I buy the very stiff canvas locally and will not allow it to be folded keeping it rolled always. The wool I get through St. Dunstan's.

My patterns are worked out by a sighted person row by row from a graph or stencil, and written down on foolscap. Then the rows are dictated to me, usually 10 rows at a time, and I take them down in Braille shorthand on my shorthand writer. I tear off the ribbon and rewind the ribbon backwards on the spool and thread it into the machine and with the spacing key I

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Hazel Barnes helps Bertie display the dice pattern with border.

bring forward each piece of instruction on to the embossing plate which is read with the left hand, such as 2 deep rose, 3 beige, 5 cream and so on.

The wool I keep in separate containers, easily identifiable, and for these I use coffee tins screwed to a piece of wood. In the front there are three tins and two in the row behind, and when I am working eight colours I have another three coffee tins screwed to another smaller piece of wood. I get a sighted person to sort out the colours and place one 2 ounce unit of each colour in the right container. The wool can be obtained from St. Dunstan's in 2 ounce units of cut wool in the various colours.

There is one point I will insert here. The pattern of the Turkoman rug was written down on foolscap paper with the original colours viz:—deep rose for the background and cream, black, beige and cardinal red for the pattern. When I wanted the same pattern in a different combination of colours I asked the sighted person to put the new colours into the containers of the original colours thus: as dark green was to replace the deep rose then it followed that the dark green was placed in the deep rose container. When the instruction is for say, 5 deep rose, I shall in fact put in 5 dark green and so on, with gold replacing the

beige and light green replacing cardinal, the cream and black being as before.

Having now obtained the stiffest canvas and the coloured wool being in the containers let us commence row 1. I always leave about five rows of canvas which will later on be turned back under the rug and fastened down with adhesive binding. Now starting with row 1, the wool is inserted according to the instructions and at tuft number 10 count the actual knots to agree the number 10 only has been inserted according to the instructions. After the tuft has been put into the canvas a hairpin is put in the canvas between numbers 10 and 11. I always use a Kirby Grip as it holds tighter in the canvas. Proceeding along the row putting in the tufts, another hairpin is placed between 20 and 21 and so on for 30 and 31, 40 and 41, and so on to 80 and 81.

If the tufts are put into the canvas in row 1 exactly, then row 1 is correct and it might be wise for a sighted person to check this and it can then be used as a guide for row 2 as follows. For instance, when doing row 2 confirm that tuft 10 of row 2 comes exactly opposite the 10 in row 1 and after putting number 11 in row 2 insert the hairpin between numbers 10 and 11 of row 2. Proceeding along row 2 the same checks are made at 30 and one of the hairpins inserted between 30 and 31 and so on. This will ensure that row 2 has been correctly made and so the same procedure must be followed, and must be applied along each row to the end of the rug.

Great care must be taken in taking coloured wool from the containers as the pieces of wool are inclined to stick to the fingers and may drop off either on to the canvas or even into other containers. It is wise to ask a sighted person to look at the containers now and again to make sure that the wrong colours are not in the containers. Also you should from time to time feel over the canvas to find any stray pieces of wool that have accidentally fallen out of place; these should be put aside for a sighted person to identify later.

I think that I have said enough to show that a great deal of patience is required in making the patterned rugs, and it is essential that you have to keep your concentration. I would not advise anyone to start on the patterns until he has had a deal of practice in rug-making.



Conferring with Hazel, his daughter-in-law, who tape records some of his patterns.

An easy but very effective pattern in 2 colours is the Dice pattern and this pattern can be carried in the head. I will give the pattern below for a rug 54 inches long and 27 inches wide, i.e. there should be 90 tufts in a row and 180 rows, so buy a piece of canvas a few inches more than 54 inches.

Here is the Dice pattern, assuming the ground colour is blue with white dice.

Rows 1 to 10 are all blue.

Rows 11, 12 and 13:

7 Blue, 3 White, 2 Blue, 3 White, 2 Blue, 3 White, 8 Blue and this should be 28 tufts. Then 3 White, 2 Blue, 3 White, 2 Blue, 3 White and 8 Blue, and this should be 49 tufts, continue along this row in the same way finishing the row with all Blue.

The next rows are 14 and 15 and these are all Blue.

Rows 16, 17 and 18 are like rows 11, 12 and 13.

Rows 19 and 20 are all Blue, and

Rows 21, 22 and 23 are like rows 11, 12 and 13.

Then do 8 rows of all Blue and this will make 31 rows done. For the next rows start the Dice pattern again with 2 rows like rows 11, 12 and 13, and so on to the end finishing with 10 rows of Blue. These are rows 171 to 180.



Using the Braille shorthand machine as a tactual reminder of the pattern.

Bertie Barnes displays the Lily pattern. In making this particular rug he uses seven colours.



KEMP TOWN NOTES

Writing once more during the not-so-happy season of strikes, fuel-cuts and go-slows, which seem to be a feature of our Winter lives these days, some of us, following the news, want to cry "Stop the world, I want to get off!" Others endure it grimly and some of us just fold our petals, so to speak, shut it all out and hope it will soon all blow over. We at Pearson House have folded our petals to good effect during the upsets and have not been greatly inconvenienced. This does not prevent us from feeling sympathy towards those who are, and indeed we are thankful to be able to jog along in our usual comfortable way.

February had its share of noteworthy events in the entertainment line. The first was a concert organised by Bill Jack, which took place in a crowded Winter Garden. The "Maestro" had gathered together an accomplished band and singers Betty Brown, Arthur Carter and Harry Boorman gave of their best with solos and duets. Harold Pollitt recited a John Betjeman poem and Freddie Barratt showed more than one facet of his personality in his varied monologues. There were the "Singalongs"—Tony Parkinson, Avon Williams, Bert Wood, Bill Cronk and Eric Bradshaw, who, with straw hats and walking canes reminded us of the "good old days" in more senses than one. The songs they sang were old favourites that called for us all to join in and those of us with long memories of St. Dunstan's were very much reminded of early concert-party days at Church Stretton and in Ovingdean's old music hut. Henry Kerr played a piano solo and shared the accompaniments with Mrs. Wright who had also helped considerably with all the rehearsals. It is a pity that, of the Singalongs, four had completed their training programmes and were departing for home pastures soon after the concert, otherwise we would have used their talents on future occasions. We hope they flourish with their newly acquired skills and would mention especially Avon Williams who is now on his way back to his home in Johannesburg, taking with him, we hope, happy memories of St. Dunstan's in England.

Mr. Tom Eales, now happily recovered from his recent illness, gave us an evening of unalloyed pleasure, with music chosen from his extensive library of records. With his super-stereo sound it was a delight to sit back and just listen—and listen—and listen. More please, soon, Tom!

As a change from being entertained by other people's efforts, we used our own brains to good effect when the Wednesday Group met for a Discussion on "Recipes for Happiness". Our Chairman on this occasion was Mr. T. H. Jelliss of the Brighton and Hove Debating Society, a most accomplished speaker in his own right and he, in introducing the subject, invited us to consider many suitable "recipes for happiness" and to submit some of our own. An amazingly large number of different views were aired by most of those present and a most satisfying hour was spent in this way. At the close, Mr. J. Stokes, our resident Chairman, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Jelliss, in which everyone readily joined. We have several local friends who come in to join our Discussions among whom Mr. Jelliss can often be counted, and it is a stimulant and a pleasure to us to have them with us.

To close, we would just hark back to last month's remarks about the roses in our Pearson House garden and tell our readers, among whom we know many gardeners, that Percy (no—not Thrower . . . our own gardener!) tells us he has planted 220 rose trees in the garden already, including many varieties. Thanks, Percy—we cannot wait to see them bloom.

Annual Sports 1973

You are reminded that St. Dunstan's Annual Sports are to be held this year in conjunction with the Lee-on-Solent camp sports on Saturday and Sunday, 18th and 19th August. Entry Forms and details are obtainable from:

**J. Carnochan,
St. Dunstan's, Pearson House,
Abbey Road, Brighton, BN2 1ES**

Frank Reviews

Cat. No. 1167

The Endless Steppe

by Esther Hautzig

Read by Carol Marsh

Esther, the daughter of a Jewish manufacturer is reading in bed on a June morning in 1941 when her mother rushes into her room and bids her dress hurriedly and take a matchbox to her maternal grandmother. She returns home to find the house full of Russian soldiers. Soon they are packed into cattle trucks and are off as slave labour in Siberia. There they endure starvation, freezing cold and burning heat. Her grandfather is killed felling timber and her father is drafted to a Labour Battalion at the front. Then the cattle trucks start to arrive again, only this time full of German soldiers. A letter from Esther's father says he is to return to Poland after demobilisation and soon they hear they are to be allowed to join him. Esther is afraid to return and leave the Steppe to which she has become adjusted.

The irony of this book lies in the fact that although the Soviet government acted brutally in sending them into exile yet they did save her and her parents lives, for with the Nazi advance against the Russians all her other relatives were rounded up and liquidated in concentration camps.

A beautifully written story about survival in a totalitarian state.

Cat. No. 1124

Cop Out

by Ellery Queen

Read by Marvin Kane

Here is a good "edge of the seat" piece of reading with all the best ingredients of light fiction.

Wes Malone is a small town cop and by nature and upbringing a loner. Happily married with a nine year old daughter, Malone goes conscientiously about his duties. Then drama strikes in the little town. Murder and a wages snatch. Wes Malone comes home to find three gangsters installed in his home holding his wife and daughter as hostages. Malone has to

consider his duty as a cop and his duty to his wife and daughter. He and his family are in for a rough time and Malone has to step outside the law, but he has reckoned without the help of his chief John Secco who plays his ace card at the last instant saving Malone's life and scooping both gunmen and loot.

Cat. No. 1093

The Double Image

by Helen MacInnes

Read by Stanley Pritchard

John Craig, veteran of the Korean war is in Paris to meet his sister and brother-in-law who have just returned from Moscow with the diplomatic corps. In a street he chances to meet one of his old college professors who is looking very bewildered. Over a drink he tells Craig that he has just come face to face with a Nazi war criminal. John who has planned to visit the Greek Islands preparatory to writing a history of ancient trade routes soon finds himself recruited to help N.A.T.O. Intelligence round up a vicious Soviet spy ring. Of course there is a beautiful girl caught up innocently in the affair which gives John added inducement to help Partridge, the C.I.A. man, bring Heinrich Berg, alias Insarov, to his death.

This book holds the listener's interest from start to finish, spoilt only for me by the Scots accent of the reader which seemed incongruous to the personalities and the setting of the book.

Wedding Acknowledgements

MR. AND MRS. ALEXANDER BALLANTYNE are deeply appreciative of all the letters, cards and telegrams sent to them on the occasion of their wedding. Owing to the number involved they cannot acknowledge them individually as they would wish but express their sincere gratitude for all the good wishes received.

Editor's Note:

We recorded the marriage of Miss Peggy Everett to Mr. Alexander Ballantyne in last month's Review.

CLUB NEWS

MIDLAND

There was quite a good attendance once again, for our meeting held on 11th of February.

We are getting on very well with our domino competitions and a number of first round matches have now been played off.

Different ideas for outings for this year were discussed once again and I am now looking into the cost of these as the new V.A.T. is going to make quite a difference—especially with catering prices.

The tea for this meeting was arranged by Mrs. Joan Cashmore and everyone thanked her for the delicious spread.

DOUG CASHMORE,
Secretary.

LONDON

We are happy to see most of our friends still join us on Thursday evenings despite strikes and inclement weather. Now the Spring weather is upon us we hope for an even larger group on our Thursday evenings.

Domino winners for the month of February were as follows:—

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1st February | 1. C. Hancock
2. R. Cameron |
| 8th February | 1. J. Padley
2. R. Pacitti
W. Miller |
| 15th February | 1. C. Hancock
2. R. Pacitti |
| 22nd February | 1. C. Hancock
2. W. Miller |

Our Football Pontoon ending on 3rd March was won by Miss Vera Kemmish with Crystal Palace, and booby prizes were won by Mrs. Fullard, R. Fullard, Mrs. Allen, W. Phillips and F. Pusey.

W. MILLER.

BRIDGE NOTES

The third Individual Competition of both London and Brighton was held on Saturday, 3rd March. The results are as follows:—

London	
P. Nuyens and H. King ..	76
R. Evans and R. Pacitti ..	70
W. Miller and J. Padley ..	68
A. Caldwell and W. Allen ..	64
W. Lethbridge and J. Lynch ..	58
W. Phillips and H. Meleson ..	54
R. Stanners and F. Dickerson ..	48
Brighton	
R. Fullard and M. Clements ..	75
J. Whitcombe and Partner ..	66
W. Scott and A. Dodgson ..	66
F. Rhodes and S. Webster ..	57
C. Walters and W. Burnett ..	52
J. Chell and W. Claydon ..	51
A. Smith and F. Griffie ..	50

HARROGATE

Contrary to what the manageress had written we now find that the accommodation charges for double rooms are £20 per person, plus 10% service charge—plus 10% V.A.T. on the total bill. For single rooms the charge remains the same as before i.e. £22.00 plus 10% service charge, plus 10% V.A.T. on the total bill.

Mrs. Slater also states that it is essential to have a firm booking, anyone not having written in should do so at the earliest possible moment as it will be impossible to secure accommodation for late comers.

P. NUYENS, *Secretary.*

H.M.S. DAEDALUS CAMP

H.M.S. Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent, Hants., will take place from Friday 17th August, to Saturday, 25th August. Please let me have your entries as soon as a possible. Closing date for entries—Friday, 4th May. Fares will be repaid in camp in full. Camp fee £5. Please write to: Mrs. Spurway, Mount House, Halse, Taunton, Somerset. Tel. Bishops Lydeard 359.

Welcome to St. Dunstan's

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

Joseph Spence of Heywood, Lancs., who came to us at the end of February, 1973. Mr. Spence served in the Pioneer Corps during the 2nd World War and lives with his sister.

STAFF RETIREMENTS

MISS MARGERY WOLFF retired from St. Dunstan's after 35 years of service. She came to us in 1938 on our Domestic Staff and has been personal maid to three Matrons of St. Dunstan's during her service. Miss Wolff has been presented with a watch, suitably inscribed, for her long service.

MR. JAMES LEWIN retired after 12 years' service as maintenance and handyman at our Ovingdean Home until its closure for alterations last October.

MR. HERBERT CLARK retires from the Joinery Department at Easter having worked in this Department at Headquarters for 12 years. He is an excellent craftsman and his main job has been finishing and polishing joinery work sent in by St. Dunstaners.

FAMILY NEWS

Marriage

COOK: TAYLOR. On 2nd March, 1973, ALEC COOK of Ferndown, Dorset, married MRS. AMY TAYLOR. Mrs. Taylor was for some years a V.A.D. at Ovingdean and St. Dunstaners will join the *Review* in wishing them every happiness in their married life together.

Silver Weddings

Sincere congratulations to MR. AND MRS. EDWARD ANDERSON of Woodthorpe, Yorks., who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary in August, 1972.

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. REGINALD CRADDOCK of Warrington, Lancs., who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 7th February, 1973.

Ruby Wedding

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL JACOBS of Wallasey, Cheshire, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 22nd March, 1973. They were married by the Rev. Davies at St. Paul's Church, Wallasey. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs' children and grandchildren send love and congratulations.

Golden Weddings

Very many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. MATTHEW EASTWOOD of Sidcup, Kent, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Christmas Day, 1972.

Very many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. HERBERT LEA of Whythall, Birmingham, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 10th March, 1973.

Grandfathers

Congratulations to:—

ALEXANDER SCOTT of Belfast, who is pleased to announce the safe arrival of his fifth grandchild, Fiona Helen, born on 18th September, 1972.

Great Grandfathers

Many congratulations to:—

ALBERT BRIGGS of Norwich, who is pleased to announce the arrival of his sixth great grandchild on 1st January, 1973.

Long Life and happiness to:

Brian, elder son of WILLIAM MORRIS of Bournemouth, who married Anne Elizabeth Andrews, on 30th December, 1972, at Holywood Methodist Church, Holywood, Belfast, Co. Down.

Christopher, son of HERBERT WARD of Leeds, married Janie O'Neill on 28th December, 1972.

EDWARD ANDERSON of Woodthorpe, Yorks., is very proud of his elder son, Edward, who has been promoted to Captain Quartermaster in the R.E.M.E. and is stationed in Germany. His younger son, Anthony is also in the Army and has been promoted to Sergeant.

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.

Oscar Davidson. *King's Liverpool Regiment. (1st World War) Pioneer Corps, and Royal Air Force (2nd World War)*

Oscar Davidson of Southport, Lancs., died in hospital on 12th February, 1973. He was 85 years of age.

He enlisted in the King's Liverpool Regiment in 1915 and in the Pioneer Corps and Royal Air Force in the 2nd World War. Mr. Davidson did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1967 and had retired. Formerly he had been a music-hall artiste and light comedian. There are no next of kin.

John Henry Dalton. *7th Battalion Green Howards*

John Henry Dalton, late of Middlesborough, Teesside, died on 10th March, 1973, at Northgate House, Brighton, where he had been living for some time. He was 64 years of age.

He enlisted in the 7th Battalion Green Howards in 1941 and served with them until the end of 1943. He came to St. Dunstan's in the same year. He was wounded in North Africa.

He trained and settled in factory employment. Following the death of his wife in 1967 Mr. Dalton made his home for a while with members of his

Deaths

We offer our very sincere sympathy to:—

WALTER LE ROY BIRD of St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, on the death of his wife, Mrs. Eva Lilian Bird, who passed away peacefully on 23rd February, 1973.

CHARLES BROWN of Burton-on-Trent, Staffs., who mourns the death of his wife, Mrs. Gladys Brown, on 27th February, 1973. Mrs. Brown had not been in very good health for the past few months.

PATRICK VINCENT LOWRY of Saltdean, Sussex, who mourns the death of his mother in a Nursing Home in Ireland in January, 1973.

JAMES MCGUIRE of Hove, Sussex, who mourns the death of his wife, Mrs. Winifred McGuire, who passed away in hospital on 6th March, 1973.

family but finally came to Northgate House, Brighton, in 1972. Unfortunately since then his health deteriorated and he passed away at Northgate House.

He leaves sons and daughters and two step-daughters.

Harold Heugh Gibson. *Royal Field Artillery.*

Harold Heugh Gibson, of Beaminster, Dorset, died on the 25th February, 1973, at the age of 84 years.

He was Commissioned and served in the First World War in the Royal Field Artillery until he was wounded and totally blinded in 1917. He was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre. He subsequently came to St. Dunstan's and took up farming for some years. He then trained as a physiotherapist and went into practice in London in 1938, but moved to Dorset after the Second War and continued in private practice and hospital work and with his farming interests. He went on treating some private patients, even after a major illness a couple of years ago, until he became very seriously ill at the beginning of this year. At his Memorial Service in Beaminster the Church was crowded with patients and friends.

He leaves a widow and son.

Albert Conway Evans. *4th South Wales Borderers*

Albert Conway Evans of Newport, Monmouthshire, died in hospital on 1st March, 1973. He was 76 years of age.

He enlisted in the 4th South Wales Borderers and served with them from August 1914 until January 1916. He came to St. Dunstan's in October 1915, and was therefore one of our senior St. Dunstaners having come to us in the early days.

He was wounded in August 1915 at Suvla Bay when he was 19 years of age. He trained at St. Dunstan's in basket-making and netting and was a very good craftsman. In 1941 Mr. Evans went into munitions work to assist the war effort and at the end of the war, he continued in industrial employment until he retired in July, 1961.

During his lifetime he served on the local Committee of the British Legion and other Committees for the help of ex-servicemen. He was also an active member of the St. Dunstan's Cardiff Club while it functioned and was at various times its Secretary and Chairman. He kept in good health until he sadly suffered a stroke on 19th February from which he did not recover.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Olive Evans, and a married daughter, Mrs. Jane Smith.

Frank Green. *The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surreys)*

Frank Green of Banbury, Oxon, died at his home on 18th February, 1973, at the age of 79 years.

He enlisted in the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surreys) in 1914 and served with them until his discharge in 1919. Although Mr. Green was wounded on the Somme in 1916 he did not come to St. Dunstan's until September 1972 by which time he was in very frail health. Earlier in his life Mr. Green held an appointment as Hospital Secretary at Woking General Hospital but he retired from this post in 1948.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Green, and two sons, one of these, Mr. Vernon Green, had made a home for his mother and father.

Hilary Francis Walter Foster May. *Royal Navy.*

Hilary Francis Walter Foster May of Cleeve, Somerset, died in hospital on 15th February, 1973. He was 58 years of age.

Mr. May served in the Royal Navy and after his discharge worked as a milk roundsman until ill health forced him to retire. He came to St. Dunstan's in June 1972 and had been nursed devotedly by his wife who had moved into a specially equipped bungalow to enable her to continue to nurse him at home but unfortunately Mr. May died in hospital a few days before he was due to return to his new home.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Phyllis May, and other members of his family.

Harry Roxford Prior. *10th London Regiment.*

Harry Roxford Prior of Portchester, Hants., died in hospital on 8th March, 1973, at the age of 79 years.

He enlisted in the 10th London Regiment and served with them from 1914 until 1916. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1922. He trained as a boot maker and mat maker and he carried on with this work for many years. Mr. Prior had a very good knowledge of the boot trade and during the thirties he was able to change his business premises for a new shop in Hampshire. In addition to boot repairing Mr. Prior continued with his mat making and in his spare time took a keen interest in gardening. During the 2nd World War Mr. Prior worked very hard both on boot repairing and mat making. The mats he sent to our Stores for sale. Soon after the end of the war he decided to retire and he and

his wife continued to live in Hampshire. Unfortunately both Mr. and Mrs. Prior have suffered ill-health in recent years.

He leaves a widow, a married son and a married daughter and their families.

Harris Turner. *Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.*

Harris Turner of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, died in the Veterans Hospital, Victoria, British Columbia, on 12th August, 1972, at the age of 84 years.

Mr. Turner served with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry from 1915 until 1917. He was wounded at Ypres in June, 1916, after which he was admitted to St. Dunstan's. He returned home to Canada in 1917 and in that year was elected as soldiers' representative to the Saskatchewan Legislature where he served until 1921, being known as "the honourable member for France." In 1924 Mr. Turner was elected House Leader of the Opposition in the Saskatchewan Assembly.

Before his war service, Mr. Turner had been a journalist and he was later founder and editor of the *Western Producer*, a weekly published in Saskatoon. He retired to Vancouver in 1931 but moved to Toronto in 1935 where he served as a Liaison Officer for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. In Saskatoon he also served as a city alderman, was President of the Rotary Club and Vice-President of the Canadian Club.

Mr. Turner was in England with his wife in 1937 and was present at the laying of the Foundation Stone at Ovingdean in September that year. Mr. and Mrs. Turner visited England again in 1959 and 1967. In 1968 Mr. Turner suffered a stroke, after which his health gradually deteriorated.

He leaves a widow and two sons.

Alfred Walker. *4th Seaforth Highlanders.*

Alfred Walker of South Harrow, Middlesex, died on 25th February, 1973, at the age of 82.

He enlisted in the 4th Seaforth Highlanders in 1914 and served with them until his discharge in 1916 but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1961. He did not take up any occupational training as he was over retirement age but had many hobbies including gardening, radio and bowls. Mr. and Mrs. Walker celebrated their Golden Wedding in June, 1972.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Walker and all members of her family.

Arthur Henry Whitthorn. *Royal Marines.*

Arthur Henry Whitthorn of Exeter, died at Northgate House, Brighton, on 28th February, 1973. He was 83 years of age.

He served in the Royal Marines from 1907 until 1923 and again from 1939 to 1945. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1949 and trained in rug making and netting.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitthorn spent many years in Exeter and they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 17th June, 1966. Unfortunately the following year Mrs. Whitthorn died and Mr. Whitthorn went to live with his son, Arthur Whitthorn who also lived in Exeter.

Mr. Whitthorn suffered from poor health for some time and was admitted to Northgate House on 18th January, 1973, where he since died.

He leaves sons, a daughter and grandchildren.

