

St Dunstons
REVIEW
JUNE



St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

NO. 642

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5p MONTHLY

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Companionship

I hear from some of my St. Dunstan's friends and from members of our Welfare Staff that there are some members who might find life much more interesting if they could get out and about and meet people a little more. Loneliness affects us all from time to time and I think we want to avoid it if possible. With increasing years and the difficulty of finding people who will help in the house or garden, one's wife has rather a full day in running the house and, apart from the routine visit to the local shops, she is often too tired to contemplate a good walk or spend a day out. Consequently, we tend to lack the exercise and male companionship which so often adds to the pleasure of retirement.

I have always advocated that St. Dunstaners should join the local British Legion Branch and whatever other Club may be within reach of their homes and so get to know people who live in the area. Many districts have an active Residents' Association which arranges meetings and discussions on local and national topics—an excellent opportunity for exchanging views. Many local Councils have done, and are doing, a lot more to encourage Senior Citizens to take part in weekly Club meetings. We tend to think that it is only the women who enjoy a good "natter" but I am assured on the best authority of our Welfare Visitors that we men can also do our share of chatting—and it should be so.

If any St. Dunstaner thinks I may be able to help him to break the ice, so to speak, I hope he will write to me. I expect I could write to some one in his neighbourhood and suggest that he or she might join him for a walk, read the daily newspapers, escort him to a sports function and so on. There must be dozens of retired sighted men who are equally at a loss for a companion and would find a St. Dunstaner a splendid chap with whom to discuss gardening or other hobbies and so forth. It is well to remember that, if you make a friend and he takes you to the pub or the club for a drink, you must be as ready as he is to pay for a pint. Indeed, in many cases you may be a good deal better off than he is for ready cash.

St. Dunstaners may also like to be reminded that we have our Hostel in Hampstead and many St. Dunstaners have found that two days in London gives them an opportunity of a short break and of meeting other St. Dunstaners staying there. The London Passenger Transport run a variety of bus and coach trips with a guide to explain the places of interest en route. The initiative for arranging such visits to London must come from the St. Dunstaner himself and, if anyone writes to me, I will try and help.

The Clock

Last year St. Dunstaners gave Lady Fraser and me most generous presents, which included a fine old hand-made clock with a pleasing striking mechanism. This stands in our drawing-room at St. John's Lodge, a room which we do not often use and therefore I hardly ever heard the clock.

COVER PICTURE: *Playing an iron shot to the Green is St. Dunstaner, Gerry Brereton, who took part in the Pro-Am Tournament at Gravesend. 'See It Strikes Me'. (Photo. M. Turner).*

It happens that in my house there is a circuit of loudspeakers in four or five rooms and it was a fairly simple job to put a microphone in the back of the clock and an amplifier in the corner of the room, so that the strike could be relayed to the rest of the house. I thought of this idea and it has been carried out, so that at many hours of the day, excluding sleeping time, I can hear the chimes in our dining-room, my study, bedroom, etc.

This is not only most useful, but it gives me very real pleasure because it frequently reminds me of the source of the gift and this has a highly sentimental and nostalgic sense of the community of interests and the generosity that produced the gift.

Fraser of Lonsdale

Council's Tribute

At a meeting of the Council of St. Dunstan's on the 11th May, 1973, the following resolution was passed:

That on the occasion of the retirement of Mr. A. D. Lloyds, C.B.E., F.C.A., after 35 years service this Council places on record its deep appreciation of his devoted and able work for St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners both at home and overseas; that the Council expresses its thanks for his continuous endeavours to improve the harmonious relationships between St. Dunstan's and other Organisations for the welfare of the blind and acknowledges his valuable contribution, as senior member of the United Kingdom delegation to the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, to matters concerning the blind throughout the world. The Council records the gratitude of British War Blinded men and women and their own gratitude for his personal help; they wish him and Mrs. Lloyds every happiness in the future.

On behalf of the Council, Lord Fraser presented Mr. Lloyds with a transistor radio of his choice and Mrs. Lloyds received a bouquet.

Mr. Dennis Lloyd, a member of the Committee of St. Dunstan's (South Africa), who was visiting the U.K., presented Mr. Lloyds with a silver cigarette box on behalf of St. Dunstan's (South Africa).

Grocers' Summer Outing

Sussex Grocers' Association are organising an outing for St. Dunstaners on the afternoon of Wednesday, 20th June to the Spa Hotel, Tunbridge Wells. Coaches will leave Pearson House, Abbey Road, Brighton, at 2.30 p.m., getting back about 9.30 p.m.

Any St. Dunstaners who may be holidaying in Brighton at that time and who

COMING EVENTS

MALE VOICE CHOIR

MISS P. BAWTRY who is a professional singer and an A.R.C.M., is hoping to form a Male Voice Choir of at least 200 voices, to give a yearly concert in Central London and also to accept, when possible, engagements in France and Germany under their cultural organisations.

The rehearsals will be held in a hall in Central London once a week.

The first meeting of persons interested is likely to be arranged in London in June or July but rehearsals will not start until next September. It does not matter if you do not read music, it is a good voice that counts.

If any St. Dunstaner is interested would he please contact **Miss Rogers at Headquarters.**

10th International Literary Braille Competition

The Jewish Braille Institute of America, Inc. are holding their 10th International Literary Braille Competition and all entries must be received by 30th December, 1973. Several thousand dollars will be awarded in prizes. These prizes will be awarded in fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Any of our Braille writers who are interested please write for further details to: The Jewish Braille Institute of America, Inc, 110, East 30th Street, New York, N.Y.

would like to go on the outing are advised to write or telephone:

**Mrs. M. G. Lillie,
Sussex Grocers' Association,
11 Lancaster Road,
Brighton BN1 5DG.
Tel. Brighton 554 648**

Blind Bowlers in South Africa

My husband, Les Dennis, was fortunate to be one of the three blind bowlers invited by the National Association of Blind Bowlers in South Africa (affectionally known as "N.A.B." by their members), to represent England in their 10th National Tournament in Durban, this year, followed by a Test Match in Johannesburg between South Africa, Rhodesia and England.

On 20th March, our party of the three blind bowlers (the other two being civilian blind—Ernie Hart and Harry Briggs), their sighted manager, and their sighted coaches, left Heathrow Airport on a tour that was so wonderful, that none of us will ever forget it. We departed at 15.10 hours, stopping at Luxembourg, Rome and Libreville (in the Belgian Congo) arriving at Jan Smuts Airport in Johannesburg the next morning at 09.30 hours, where we were welcomed by Dr. Julius Sergay, President of "N.A.B.", Tom Braithwaite, the Secretary and other members of the Executive Committee. Our reception was overwhelming and immediately we were asked to call them by their Christian names, and this type of friendship was extended to us throughout our stay.

Like Royalty

After stretching our legs, and getting acquainted with our new friends, we were given refreshments and at mid-day we caught another plane to Durban. Here again we were greeted "like Royalty". There were members of the Durban Tournament Committee, the press and photographers to welcome us, and cars to take us to our hotel, the Malibu. This is the newest hotel in Durban, 23 stories high and overlooks the sea. While we were all changing into summer clothing, as the temperature was 89°F, the hotel manager sent a bowl of flowers to each of our rooms.

The next day we were driven to Albert Park Bowling Greens. Here was to be our Headquarters for the Tournament which was to start on Sunday, 25th March. A very pleasant surprise awaited our bowlers. They were each presented with a set of new bowls, a gift from Mr. Ray Hensell, whose factory made "Hensellite" bowls, and they were made especially for our bowlers, having a "Dimplex" grip on the non-bias

side only. Each set was in a leather case, a gift from "N.A.B."

So the practice on that day and the next two days was to enable our players to get the feel of their new bowls and the greens. Practice took up only a couple of hours each day, as we had to get used to the glorious sunshine and the humidity. The rest of the time, we were entertained by our new friends.

The opening of the Tournament was a most moving experience. On three sides of the greens, stands had been erected. On the fourth side, sat the Mayor of Durban, Officials and V.I.Ps. The stands opposite the official party were reserved for the 120 blind bowlers and their coaches, each player having his or her own coach. Behind them stood flag poles and the players sat in front of their own flag. The other two sides were filled with supporters and spectators.

The flags were unfurled to the swirl of bagpipes and then our party were asked to come on to the greens. This we did to a great ovation from the crowd, and we sighted coaches, walking beside our blind bowlers, felt very proud of them. They looked very smart all dressed alike, through the courtesy and generosity of Simpsons of Piccadilly, in white flannels, blue blazers complete with their badges comprising the "rose of England" mounted on a gold shield with the initials B.B.B. (British Blind Bowlers) and white trilby hats.

Presentation Ties

Dr. Sergay gave our party a wonderful introduction and then the Mayor presented a "N.A.B." tie and tie pin to our three players and their manager. After the speeches everyone taking part in the Tournament was invited into the Pavilion for tea and a chance to meet each other. Another highlight of the day for Les, was to meet Keith Branson, with whom he trained at Ovingdean, and to hear that there were five more St. Dunstaners from South Africa taking part—Dick Beaumont, Dennis Dilworth, Guy Lawrence, Jimmy Myron and Mac Megenis, all of whom he met during the week.

The next day, bowling started in earnest at 9 a.m., all players staying on the greens



With South African St. Dunstan's bowlers. l. - r. Keith Branson, Denis Dilworth, Les Dennis, Dick Beaumont, "Mac" Megenis, Jimmy Myron.

all day, with lunch and tea provided by the ladies at the various greens used in the Tournament. Due to the large number of bowlers taking part, greens were in use at three other bowling clubs. The Circle, Hoy and Durban Prison, as well as at Albert Park. Each of our bowlers were at different club greens, and this was to be the pattern all week, the players changing club greens each day.

Great interest was shown in our bowling, and the standard of the South African and Rhodesian blind bowlers is generally very high. This could be because they belong to and play in sighted clubs. Their games are very competitive but always very sporting and friendly. Our players enjoyed every game. Ernie and Harry unfortunately were beaten in the early rounds but Les played very well, winning five games to reach the semi-finals, when he was beaten by 2 shots on the 24th end by a Rhodesian player, Stan Sutherland, who went to the finals and became the Singles Champion for 1973. Les had the majority of the crowd behind him during his games, as they appreciated his fine bowling and his free flowing action in delivering his bowls, and there was genuine disappointment when he

lost. This day was the only wet day we had and we were on and off the greens six times. It rained so hard that I had to change my clothing completely, spectators lending me clothes to go back on to the green and Les was lent protective clothing also.

End of Tournament

The closing of the Tournament on the next day—Saturday—was another moving occasion. After the presentation of prizes, during which Les was presented with his cup, all players and coaches went on to the greens singing "Auld Lang Syne" while the flags were lowered. Then all who had taken part, including the umpires and markers, the officials and V.I.Ps. had a farewell party—as the majority of them were returning home the next day. This was, in part, a sad occasion as it was a farewell for us, to many of the bowlers we had met and played.

In the evenings during the Tournament, we were kept very well entertained. One night we were guests of the Mayor at a reception held in the Town Hall and another, we were the guests of honour at the Annual Dinner of the Executives of "N.A.B." A dance was arranged for

another evening, the next was a Barbeque and the final one, a show given by Al Debbo, who is a very well-known comedian in South Africa.

Our last day in Durban was a Sunday, and once again we experienced the kindness and generosity of these people. We were taken in their cars to the Valley of a 1,000 hills, about 40 miles drive and given a running commentary all the way there, and back by a different route. We stopped in the hills, where the Bantu were dancing and singing—one warrior had his several wives and children performing with him. From here we went to the Botanic Gardens, where there is an Orchid House, coco-nuts and dates hanging from the Palm trees and exotic plants and flowers.

Farewell to Durban

The next day we said another sad farewell this time to our hosts in Durban and flew back to Johannesburg to take part in the Test Matches. This time there were only 15 bowlers taking part, three men from South Africa, Rhodesia and England and three ladies from South Africa and Rhodesia.

After an official luncheon at the Rosebank Bowling Club bowling greens, the opening ceremony took place. The players coaches and managers marched round the greens to the swirl of bagpipes, each manager in front of his team carrying the name of his country—Olympic style. Then the managers each raised their country's flag; another moving moment. The Mayor of Johannesburg opened the games and the Test Matches began, each bowler either playing a pairs or singles game. Unfortunately the altitude and the run of the greens were not in our favour, Rhodesia winning the singles and South Africa the pairs. In the ladies games, this result was repeated.

At the closing ceremony on Wednesday, after the Mayoress had presented trophies to the winners, our three bowlers and manager were presented with wonderful mementos of their visit. Each received a piece of quartz from the gold mines, mounted and inscribed, from the South Africans, and a plaque with their badge mounted on it, and also inscribed from the Rhodesians. A flag on a plinth was given to the coaches to also mark our visit. A wonderful gesture which was greatly

appreciated by all concerned. After speeches, the managers lowered the flags and the teams marched off the greens, again in Olympic style to be entertained at a cocktail party.

Again, as it was during the Tournament the people of Johannesburg were very kind and generous. We were invited into their homes for dinner and on our last day, taken on a tour to and around Pretoria before catching our plane home in the evening. When we arrived at the hotel to collect our luggage, another wonderful surprise for Les and I—a telegram from the South African St. Dunstaner sending us their love and best wishes.

A farewell committee saw us safely into the departure lounge at Jan Smuts Airport, and we left South Africa feeling tired but extremely happy. How could we not have been otherwise—after being among such wonderful, friendly and extremely hospitable people?

Our thanks go to everyone who made this an experience never to be forgotten.

JOAN DENNIS

WHAT IS A GRANDMOTHER?

by an eight year old boy

(From *Holy Trinity, Barnes, Church Magazine*)

"A grandmother is a woman who has no children of her own and, therefore, loves the boys and girls of other people. Grandmothers have nothing to do; they only have to be there.

"If they take us for a walk, they go slowly past all the beautiful leaves and caterpillars. They never say 'come along quickly' or 'hurry up for goodness sake'. They are usually fat, but not too fat to tie up our shoe laces. They wear spectacles and sometimes they can take out their teeth.

"They can answer every question for instance—why dogs hate cats and why God is not married.

"When they read to us they do not leave anything out and they do not mind if it is always the same story.

"Everyone should try to have a grandmother, especially those who have no television. Grandmothers are the only grown-ups who always have time".



INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

St. Dunstan's was host at the Third International Congress of European War-Blinded held in London from 4th to 8th May. The first Conference was in West Germany at Blankenheim in 1966 and the second in Paris in 1970. The object of these conferences is to compare pensions and benefits available to the war-blinded in the various European countries and to exchange information on matters of mutual interest. Dr. Franz Sonntag of West Germany, who has presided over the organisation for the past seven years, proposed that Lord Fraser should preside during the next three years and this was agreed to by the delegates.

Dr. Sonntag presented Lord Fraser with the Gold Medal of Honour of the West German Association for War-Blinded and gifts were also presented by other delegates. Lord Fraser was thanked for his leadership of the war-blinded both nationally and internationally and delegates expressed gratitude to St. Dunstan's for its work and example.

Our picture shows from left to right: R. Buckley; M. Palokangas, *Finland*; H. Amblard, *France*; A. Ammannato, *Italy*; F. Sonntag, *Germany*; Lord Fraser; H. Van Dyck, *Belgium*; J. F. Loaysa, *Spain*; O. Schafer, *Germany*; F. Unger, *Austria*.

CLUB NEWS

LONDON

We are happy that the Sir Arthur Pearson Aggregate Competition is again under way, as this gives great pleasure to our members at the London Club. We are pleased, too, that the members who attend are still on the up grade. Also that the Bridge Section which continues after the cessation of Dominoes in the Thursday Club still attracts attention.

Domino Winners during the month of April were as follows:

5th April	1	R. Paccitti
	2	P. Nuyens
12th April	1	J. Padley
	2	R. Armstrong
26th April	1	W. Phillips
	2	J. Padley
		W. Miller

W. MILLER



David Hadon, Banqueting Manager of the Esso Motor Hotel with members of his staff, cuts the St. Dunstan's Reunion cake.

Joseph Harris proposes the vote of thanks.



Bristol Reunion

The second reunion of the 1973 series was held at Bristol in new surroundings, the Esso Motor Hotel. Situated just outside the city and within a few minutes of motorway and rail, it proved to be a convenient centre. The hotel is a new one built on modern, open lines with the banqueting facilities all on ground floor level. A friendly and co-operative staff made St. Dunstaners welcome and at tea a specially baked reunion cake iced to look like an open book, was presented by the hotel.

Among the 130 people who attended were 58 St. Dunstaners with their wives or escorts, 17 from the First World War and 41 from the Second World War or later. Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, St. Dunstan's Vice-Chairman presided over the occasion, accompanied by his wife. Mr. Garnett-Orme in his speech after luncheon,

welcomed St. Dunstaners on behalf of the Council as well as their guest Miss D. Oliphant.

"Mr. Wills is with us", he said, "and there is nothing strange about this as he has the most astonishing record of practically never missing a reunion in all the years he has been with St. Dunstan's. Now today we give him a very special welcome and all our congratulations because he is with us in his new capacity as Secretary of St. Dunstan's".

Reporting to St. Dunstaners the presentations to Mr. Lloyds, Mr. Garnett-Orme suggested that an expression of appreciation and good wishes be sent to Mr. Lloyds and his wife. There was a warm applause for this.

Mr. Garnett-Orme concluded by thanking Miss Meyer, Miss Newbold, the Welfare visitors who organised the reunion and the hotel staff and orchestra.

Mr. Wills

Mr. Wills began his speech by saying, "I think I must tell you that when I was asked to become St. Dunstan's Secretary I was warned that I wouldn't have time to attend the reunions—I nearly turned it down. Then I decided that somehow or other I would make the time, so here I am". He mentioned the names of staff at the reunion, particularly Miss Mosley, attending her first reunion in Bristol as Northern Area Superintendent.

Joseph Harris

Speaking for St. Dunstaners, Joseph Harris of Bere Ferrers promised that his speech would be very short, "It's a grand feeling", he said, "to know that whatever our problems are; whatever our difficulties are, to know that St. Dunstan's are always there in the background with advice and help at any time". He expressed St. Dunstaners' thanks to Lord Fraser and to all his staff.

He particularly thanked Miss Meyer and Miss Newbold and their helpers.

Mrs. Gwen Obern

Another unexpected but welcome speech came from Mrs. Gwen Obern of Aberdare, who spoke for herself and Miss Marian Elias, pointing out that they were the only women St. Dunstaners at the Reunion she said, "I would like to thank you on behalf of Marian and myself for the wonderful way you look after us".



St. Dunstan's Vice-Chairman, Ion Garnett-Orme leads the dancing with St. Dunstaner Gwen Obern.

Southampton Reunion

The Polygon Hotel was the venue for the third of the 1973 regional reunions. A total of 74 people sat down to lunch, including 7 St. Dunstaners from the First and 21 from the Second World War or later admissions. Mrs. Lyall was the welfare visitor responsible for the arrangements and everything went well.

The Rev. F. Darrell Bunt, C.B., O.B.E., M.A. was the Member of St. Dunstan's Council presiding at the luncheon and he was accompanied by his wife. In addition to the loyal toast, Mr. Darrell Bunt called for a silent toast to mark the passing of friends who are no longer with us. "I have now been on the Council for 22 years" said Mr. Darrell Bunt "and I enjoy presiding again at this reunion with my wife accompanying me". He brought the greetings of Lord and Lady Fraser and the other members of the Council. There were two Bournemouth St. Dunstaners at his table said Mr. Darrell Bunt who had never met before, but that had now been put right. He congratulated Mr. Wills on his promotion to Secretary of St. Dunstan's. Pearson House, Mr. Darrell Bunt understood, was now a wonderful

place, whilst Ian Fraser House was undergoing its face-lift.

After Mr. C. D. Wills had read out the names of members of St. Dunstan's staff present and given up to date figures of the number of St. Dunstaners alive in Britain and overseas Harold Bice of Bournemouth gave the vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners. He thanked the Council and staff of St. Dunstan's for everything they did with a special word of praise for Mrs. Lyall. "Where would we be without them" said Mr. Bice "and without our wives we would be like fish out of water". He thanked the management of the hotel and the staff. "Two hundred years ago", said Mr. Bice "we would have been begging on the streets, but now thanks to St. Dunstan's we are independent and as good as the next man".

Mrs. Palfrey, wife of Frank Palfrey of West Moors, presented a bouquet to Mrs. Darrell Bunt. Throughout the afternoon Mr. Brian Gorman, musical director at the hotel, entertained us on the piano. Readers may remember that Mr. Gorman has done so on a number of previous occasions. In much earlier times it was he who was in charge of the St. Dunstaners' dance band which fulfilled many engagements around the country.

Hector Mackenzie Steel

A tribute

by "Scottie" (W. T. Scott)

Thanks for the memory. After three years of war, the A3 boys, born in 1899, were enlisted as reinforcements to carry on the good work. A hurried training and off to France on Active Service. Before very long we were back in Blighty as special eye cases for St. Dunstan's.

It so happened that Mac and I and a few others like us, were sent to the College Annexe in Regent's Park. Slowly it dawned upon us that we would have to readjust ourselves to a new way of life. We were not the only ones. Miss Power, a wonderful matron, Mr. "H" a wonderful adjutant, and a wonderful staff had, by this time, had enough experience to help us on our way. Having served for such a short time in the Service we had hardly any back pay, our pension was then 27/6d a week.

There was great rivalry between the House, The Bungalow, Cornwall Terrace and The College.

Corporal Major Tovell acted as our trainer. There was rowing on the lake in the Park and an early morning stroll singing the old choruses. Yes—Charlie Hornsby, mentioned in the *April Review*, was there. He will remember, and the noisy Aussie Bill Clifton as well, amongst others. There was never a dull moment.

Mac was a fine athlete. He was a member of the Woodford Harriers before he joined up. There was a friendly rivalry between us and between the various annexes.

We took every chance to join in the rowing and the sports we held each week in the Park. Sir Neville, blindfolded, ran against us on one occasion. We had a three mile run round the outer circle frequently and many walking events. Bill Harris was an escort. There was never a cross word or bickering between us all the years.

Mac was rather conscious of his small stature and was very amusing with the giants like Tommy Milligan, Jumbo Toft, Joe Gimber and Tiny Fleming. There seem to be so many incidents to recall.

Tragedy came to Mac when his son, just released from his National Service, was killed in an accident on a voluntary job in a factory. Mac continued to help in his father's business. His great hobby was with the Masons and his visits to the Lodge at "The Bunch of Grapes" in Marylebone Road, gave him great pleasure.

It has been one of my blessings that St. Dunstan's had made it possible for me to meet such a fine gentleman. "Up the College".

PRIZE WINNER

PHILLIP WOOD of Crewe has been very successful with his entries in the competition organised by the Queensland Society of Blind Citizens, South Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. The essay he sent in was "Highly Commended" and the short story won first prize—25 dollars or £14.33.

Phillip tells us that the cheque arrived two days before his wife's birthday so Mrs. Wood was quite pleased with his success too, and Phillip was able to be just that bit more generous!

KEMP TOWN NOTES

Well—was it the wettest Easter in living memory or have we forgotten how wet the previous ones were? They say that April Showers bring forth May flowers. In our case they brought forth a colourful array of bonnets to grace the Easter Monday Dance. In the week before Easter it seemed that inspiration would never come. We went about wailing that we couldn't think of anything! However, on the night, there they were. Decked with flowers, chicks, feathers, hot cross buns and anything else that came to hand. This year the unenviable task of judging went to Padre and Mrs. Popham Hosford. After careful consideration of the entries they awarded prizes to the following:

ST. DUNSTANERS:

Miss Thelma Meredith	..	Country Garden
Mrs. Winnie Edwards	..	Nest Egg
Sid Tarry	..	Flower Bonnet
Danny Daniels	..	Pink Petals
Joe Fowler	..	Easter Chicken
Tiger Martin	..	Mexican Easter
Jim Blakeley	..	Roses all the way

MEMBERS OF THE V.A.D. STAFF:

Mrs. D. Highcock	..	Herbaceous Border
Miss B. Brown	..	Simmel Cake
Mrs. J. Dennis	..	'Appy' At

Among our Easter entertainment was a concert by Miss Jay Thomas and her party from Worthing. Taking into consideration our smaller premises, Miss Thomas reduced the number of performers accordingly. The pleasure they gave was, however, in no way diminished. On Good Friday "The Arena" amused and entertained us with an anthology "So You Think Travel Broadens the Mind?". On the programme for Easter Saturday was the ever popular Whist Drive and Domino Tournament.

Other happenings during April included a most interesting programme of records and information. "The Music of Imperial Russia", Russia as seen through the eyes of her composers, was presented by Mr. Michael Hayes. There was a discussion with the rather long and impressive title "Are Science and Technology becoming a Threat to our Civilisation". We had a play reading, and several gramophone concerts, which, along with Drives, Bingo, Dome and Dominoes, helped to pass the time very well.

WALKING Trophy Winners

The seven mile handicap race held at Ewell on 17th Feb. was somewhat disappointing as only five St. Dunstaners turned out. Fortunately a good number of policemen came along for the walk, so the shortage of St. Dunstaners was not too obvious.

This should have been followed by the seven mile Championship on the 10th March, but we had to postpone the race because of the train troubles. It was held instead at Battersea Park on the 14th April. Eight St. Dunstaners lined up to go off together as is usual in Championship races, and each had to do his best on this occasion for the sealed handicap was to determine the winner of the Archie Brown Cup, which was still a quite open affair. Charlie Stafford tried hard to win the Archie Brown Cup and although he won the handicap he just failed to beat David Purches to the cup.

RESULTS

7 Mile Handicap

Order of finish	Handicap time	Handicap Allowance	Actual time
C. Stafford	67.12	14.10	81.22
D. Purches	68.52	8.00	76.52
S. Tutton	68.54	11.50	80.44
W. Miller	72.24	0.40	73.04
R. Young	73.47	12.30	86.17

7 Mile Championship

Order of finish	Actual time	Handicap Allowance	Handicap time
W. Miller	71.33	0.40	70.53
R. Mendham	73.04	scr.	73.04
D. Purches	75.32	6.30	69.02
J. Simpson	77.04	1.20	75.44
R. Young	82.00	12.00	70.00
C. Stafford	82.01	13.00	69.01
J. Wright	82.34	11.30	71.04
S. Tutton	86.20	11.10	75.10

The final points and placings in the Archie Brown Cup were:

	Points
D. Purches	39
C. Stafford	35
R. Young	32
S. Tutton	31
J. Wright	22
M. Tetley	20
W. Miller	17
R. Mendham	6
J. Simpson	2

W. MILLER

Parliamentary Report

ARMED FORCES' PENSION RATES

In the House of Lords on May 15th, Lord Fraser of Lonsdale asked Her Majesty's Government, "whether they will clarify the statement made on the 2nd May 1973, regarding improvements in the Armed Forces Occupational Pension Scheme and widows benefits, and more particularly indicate whether any of these benefits, including the increased widows allowances, will apply to First and Second War persons, for example, the blinded ex-Servicemen and their widows who are under the care of St. Dunstan's and the Scottish National Institution for the War-Blinded?"

The Minister of State, Department of Health and Social Security, Lord Aberdare: "My Lords, the improvements in the Armed Forces occupational pension scheme announced by my noble friend the Secretary of State for Defence on May 2 apply, as he then stated, only to those who give service on or after March 31, 1973. They do not apply to Servicemen disabled or killed in the World Wars whose disability of widows pensions are the responsibility of my Department".

Lord Fraser of Lonsdale: "My Lords, while thanking Her Majesty's Government and, for that matter, all Governments in the last fifty years of all Parties for the special consideration they have given to these categories in whom I am interested, may I ask whether it is not likely to be thought to be discrimination or invidious to give the young men so much more than the veterans, bearing in mind that both suffer the same disability and both have to meet the same costs of living?"

Lord Aberdare: "My Lords, I think we are all somewhat in the same condition, in that there are two forms of pension: there is the National Insurance pension, which is a flat-rate pension, for which anyone who has contributed to the National Insurance Scheme is eligible, and then there are occupational pensions which are related to the earnings of the man in his career; and in all occupational schemes any benefits normally date from the time when increased benefits are made. I think this case is exactly the same situation: that the Scheme has been amended for the better but only people who are in the Scheme from March 31, 1973, will benefit".

Following Lord Aberdare's reply, Lord Maybray-King, a Cross-Bench peer and ex-speaker of the House of Commons, said Lord Fraser, whose work for blinded ex-Servicemen everyone in the House of Lords admired, had the support of BLESMA, the limbless ex-Servicemen, of FEPOW, the Far Eastern prisoners of war, of AJEX, the Association of Jewish ex-Servicemen, "and the great Royal British Legion itself". He pointed out that the improvement in conditions places the widows of the ex-Servicemen of two world wars in a less favourable position than the widows of Servicemen after March 1973. He asked the Minister to look at the whole problem of the position of the widows of the ex-Servicemen.

Members from all parts of the House received Lord Fraser's Question with sympathy and pressed it on the Government.

The Minister said: "My Lords, I take deep note of what has been said today in supplementary questions on this matter and I will certainly report to my noble friend the Secretary of State for Defence, and particularly what has been said by my noble friend Lord Fraser of Lonsdale".

Frank Reviews

Cat. No. 1203

The Country Child

by Alison Uttley

Read by Colin Keith-Johnston

A year in the life of a small girl living on her parents farm in the late nineteenth century. So beautifully written is this book

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that I could not but liken it in my mind to a country scene painted by Constable. To read this book is like inhaling a lungful of country air before sprays and artificial fertilizers were invented.

It is indeed a very pleasant tonic and the most refreshing reading I've had in many months.

Cat. No. 1208

The King of Athelney

by Alfred Duggan

Read by Anthony Parker

An historical novel reconstructing the life of Alfred, King of the West Saxons, who did much more than burn a few cakes, which is all I could remember of him from the history lessons of my school days.

Succeeding his three elder brothers who each in turn died of tuberculosis, Alfred had to face the challenge of 'The Army', a strong and highly disciplined band of Norsemen, who having pillaged Europe now turned their attention to Britain. In his short reign, Aethelred, Alfred's elder brother determined that the only tactics to deal with these worshippers of Thor was not to pay them to go elsewhere as did many other European kings but to bring them to battle whenever possible. This he did successfully at Reading. The Saxons won a great victory and besieged the enemy hordes in their garrison during the winter, but could not stop reinforcements reaching them from the Thames in the spring. During the campaign Aethelred had died of T.B. leaving Alfred King and Protector of Wessex. Alfred takes his duties seriously. With his Kingdom stretching from Cornwall to Essex he makes it his life's work to rid his territory of these marauding plunderers and on his deathbed knows that he has been successful.

I found this book delightfully interesting and extremely descriptive. The author using dates and places of battle to compile a strong framework on which to hang the narrative.

Cat. No. 1132

Hancock

by Freddie Hancock and David Nathan

Read by Philip Treleaven

For me the great days of Tony Hancock ended with his split from Sid James. A very sad book written in co-operation with the comedian's second wife Freddie shows how the man who made England laugh, slowly but surely broke the hearts of those nearest and dearest to him. Determined that his own genius was such that he needed no supporting cast Hancock broke with Sid James and Hattie Jacques, finally ruining his career by dispensing with his script writers. His moods and his

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From T. P. Hart, Folkestone, Kent

P.O.W.s GERMANY

It was with regret that I learned of the death of Sid Jackson. Sid, who had been ill for the last two or three years, died on 9th April at Southsea.

Mabs and I attended his funeral as I felt that you would all like to be represented. A sheath of flowers was sent from the St. Dunstan's P.O.W.s Germany.

I am sure some of you would like to write to his widow and her address is 15, Hollum Road, Milton, Southsea.

alcoholism affected not only his own health but that of the two women in his life, his first wife and his second, Freddie.

As a work of biography this book reads through from start to finish without continuously harping back and forth. Yet how sad a study of the man it is. Realisation that he had taken himself prematurely past the apex of his career, and that he had been his own worst enemy led him to take his own life, an action which saddened millions of the public and his friends, who still retained a warmth of affection for him.

Part of this recording may be considered unsuitable for family reading.

Cat. No. 1194

The Case of the Daring Divorcee

by Erle Stanley Gardner

Read by Marvin Kane

Here is a case where the great Perry Mason pits his wits against crooks trying to frame his client for the murder of her husband, and the District Attorney Hamilton Burger, who has a bias against any client of Perry Mason. Of course Perry succeeds in laying the guilty by their heels and making the D.A. eat humble pie, but the author left me, as a reader baffled as to what exactly happened, to which gun, and why. Nevertheless the evidence swings to and fro, first pointing towards one character, then another, until at the eleventh hour the real villain is pulled out of the hat. An excellent weekend's reading, but I'm still mystified as to who tampered with the package containing the gun and why.

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IT STRIKES ME

by
Magog

Crazy Cat

You can't keep a good poet down. Having printed Bert Wood's tribute to Mark Kingsnorth I could not resist reproducing the following verse he sent to our Derby Sweepstake Department:—

Sweepstake tickets two or three
Be so good as to send to me,
On second thought, make it four,
The rent man's banging on the door,
To keep this bloodsucking leech at bay,
I need to win on Derby day,
So when you draw from the hat,
Don't forget this crazy cat!

Well, all we can do is put the crazy cat in the hat—trouble is he'll probably draw a crazy horse!



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High Honour

The Gold Badge is the highest honour the Royal British Legion can award. For some months none has actually been presented because when the prefix "Royal" was awarded the British Legion this addition to the design of the badge had to be approved by the Royal College of Heraldry.

One of those waiting for his Gold Badge during this time was St. Dunstan, **Jim Thwaites** of Burnley. Now he is among the first to receive the new Badge. The award honours 25 years work with the Burnley Branch, Royal British Legion, including selling poppies every November. Jim told me proudly that in 1970 he broke all records for an individual collector, raising no less than £55. A former Welfare Officer and later President of the Far East Prisoner of War Association in Burnley, he is now Life Vice-President. As well as these and other ex-service organisations, Jim has been active as a member and Vice-Chairman of the Burnley Horticultural Society. He has won more than thirty horticultural prizes.

Jim Thwaites (second from right) receives his badge from G. H. Fairweather, Chairman, East Lancashire County Committee, Royal British Legion. Also are seen are Mrs. Thwaites and G. Pollard, County Secretary. Photo: Burnley Express



The camera catches the magic moment as Gerry Brereton holes out. Photo: M. Turner

Nationwide

When the TV cameras of the B.B.C. Nationwide programme visited Gravesend for the £2,000 Pro-Am Golf Tournament they did not concentrate on Tony Jacklin or Peter Oosterhuis or on the show business personalities like Jimmy Tarbuck or Charlie Chester. Instead they filmed and interviewed St. Dunstan **Gerry Brereton** of East Molesey, Surrey, who was competing in partnership with Doug Beattie.

Viewers saw Gerry in a practice round and heard how he manages to play golf despite his visual handicap. He has a golf handicap of 22 and went round in the tournament in 77, 8 over par. His score won him the Piccadilly Filter Cigarette Putter and he has been invited to compete again in next year's tournament.

Trophy Race?

Vivienne, daughter of **Fred Barratt**, took part in the Stratford Music Festival recently. She won a medal and a scholar-

ship for a year's singing tuition, another medal for a hymn or carol and was awarded a 'merit' for singing a folk song.

Fred was rightly full of parental pride when he told me about Vivienne's achievements but he said he had a nasty feeling that she is trying to win more trophies than her father. "I can't have that," he said, "When the sports come round I must win something to keep ahead."

Frozen Braille

Those among St. Dunstaners who own a deep freezer might be interested to know that Alpine Everest have introduced a special service for blind customers. A new Department has been set up to which they can telephone their order for frozen food. It will be delivered bearing labels in standard print and Braille. If any of our war-blinded housewives, or come to that, any St. Dunstaner who likes to raid the wife's freezer now and then—would like this service the number to ring is 01-204 2171.

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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.

Andrew Jack Benham of Hove, Sussex, joined St. Dunstan's in February 1973. He served in the Royal Sussex Regiment during the First World War and is married.

Harry Josiah Lamsley of Sidcup, Kent, came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1973. He served with the Grenadier Guards during the First World War and prior to his retirement he was employed in the printing and journalistic world. He is married.

Arthur Morris of Ongar, Essex, became a full St. Dunstaner in April, 1973. He served in the Suffolk Regiment in the Second World War and is now employed in industry. He is married with a grown-up family.

William Henry Waller of London, S.E.3, joined St. Dunstan's in April, 1973. He served in the Royal Artillery in the Second World War having been previously in the Territorial Army and was mobilised at the outbreak of war. Until quite recently Mr. Waller had been employed at one of the London Power Stations but his sight failed and he has now retired. He is married with a grown-up family of two sons and two daughters.

The Talbot Walking Cup

The Talbot Walking Cup has been won by the following St. Dunstaners, but I think there are three names missing—if yours is one of these let me know please. We are having the names inscribed on a stand.

J. Wright. P. Lowry. J. Humphrey.
J. Fulling. W. Shea. W. Allen. D. Bell.
P. Spencer. R. Goding. T. Tatchell.

My address is: **Mrs. Spurway, Mount House, Halse, Taunton, Somerset.** Tel. Bishop's Lydeard 359.

BRIDGE NOTES

The fourth Individual Competition, London Section, was held on Saturday, 5th May. The results were as follows:

W. Lethbridge and J. Padley	84
R. Evans and W. Phillips	80
F. Dickerson and J. Lynch	61
W. Allen and H. King	60
W. Miller and R. Pacitti	55
P. Nuyens and Miss Vera Kemmish	50
A. Caldwell and H. Meleson	47

The fifth Individual Competition, Brighton Section, was held on Saturday, 5th May. The results were as follows:

F. Griffie and C. Walters	81
S. Webster and W. Claydon	64
W. Scott and M. Clements	64
R. Fullard and J. Whitcombe	60
A. Dodgson and R. Goding	57
F. Rhodes and R. Bickley	52

The first Bridge Drive of the current year took place on Saturday, 14th April. Nineteen of our members with their wives and partners took part.

The prizes, chosen by Mrs. Evans, were presented by Mrs. Armstrong to the following winners:

1st	Mr. and Mrs. H. King
2nd	Mr. and Mrs. H. Meleson
3rd	A. Caldwell and Miss Sheila Lyons
Booby	Mr. and Mrs. J. Padley

P. NUYENS,
Secretary

FAMILY NEWS

Silver Weddings

Many congratulations to **MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM BURNETT** of Brighton, Sussex, who celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on 26th April, 1973

Many congratulations to **MR. AND MRS. THOMAS DUXBURY** of Abbots Mead, Barrow-in-Furness, Lancashire, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 16th April, 1973.

Sincere congratulations to **MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM CROMBIE** of Stoneleigh, Nr. Epsom, Surrey, who celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on 10th May, 1973.

Hearty congratulations to **MR. AND MRS. RONALD PHILLIPS** of Steyning, Sussex, who celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on 24th April, 1973.

Many congratulations to **MR. AND MRS. GEORGE SHEPHERD** of Reading, Berks., who celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on 8th May, 1973.

Ruby Wedding

Many congratulations to **MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL WORTHINGTON** of Blackpool, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 13th May, 1973.

Golden Weddings

Congratulations to **MR. AND MRS. JOHN SEDGLEY** of Holywell Bay, Newquay, Cornwall, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 20th May, 1973.

Grandfathers

Many congratulations to:

DONALD BAKER of Rhyl, on the arrival of his third grandchild and first grandson, Andrew Timothy, born on 6th April, to his son and daughter-in-law, Robin and Marjorie.

CYRIL EIGHTEEN of Reading, Berks., on the arrival of a grand-daughter born on 7th April, 1973. This is Mr. Eighteen's fifth grandchild.

JOHN DICKEY of Christchurch, Hants., who is delighted to announce the arrival of his second grandchild, Sarah Josephine Barrow, born on 11th March, 1973. She is a sister for Matthew.

DANIEL R. A. PETHERICK of Keighley, Yorkshire, on the arrival of his 10th grandchild, Gareth Michael, who was born to his second daughter Molly, on 13th April, 1973. He now has five grand-daughters and five grandsons.

Long Life and happiness to:

NICHOLAS CHARLES MITCHELL, only son of Albert Mitchell of Guildford, Surrey, who married Suzanne Smith on 28th April, 1973, at St. Theresa's Church, Princes Risborough, Bucks.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

JOHN EDWARDS of Coventry, Warwickshire, who mourns the death of his only grandson who died suddenly earlier this month at the age of 6 years.

STANLEY FOWLER of Beeston, Nottinghamshire, who mourns the death of his mother on 19th April, 1973.

ABDUL RAHIM (Brian) of Perivale, Middlesex, who mourns the death of his mother who lived in Hong Kong and died in hospital on 13th April, 1973.

HORACE STANFIELD BLAKE of Ross-on-Wye, who mourns the death of his father on 25th March, 1973.

In Memory

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

Henry Botham. Royal Garrison Artillery

Henry Botham of Kilham, Driffield, Yorkshire, died in East Riding Hospital on 7th May 1973. He was 88 years old.

He enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery in 1916 and served with them until his discharge in 1919. His eyesight did not fail until the end of last year and he joined St. Dunstan's in January of this year. He had been wounded in Gaza, Palestine, many years ago. When he joined us he was in rather frail health and unfortunately his condition deteriorated necessitating his admission to hospital in April.

He was a widower but leaves a brother and nephew.

Bertram Bashford. Middlesex Regiment

Bertram Bashford of Morden, Surrey, died on 27th April, 1973, at the age of 83 years.

He enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment in 1916 and served with them until his discharge in 1918 but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1973. Mr. Bashford was an in-patient in hospital on his admission to St. Dunstan's and it was hoped that he would make a sufficient recovery to enjoy the company of his fellow St. Dunstaners but unfortunately his ill-health gave further cause for anxiety. He was transferred to a hospital nearer his family, where he died, just a month after coming to St. Dunstan's.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Florence Bashford, and a married son and family.

Samuel Catlow. 6th East Lancashire Regiment

Samul Catlow of Nelson, Lancs., died on 19th April, 1973 at the age of 84 years.

He enlisted in the 6th East Lancashire Regiment

In Memory

in 1914 and served with them until his discharge in 1916. Mr. Catlow was wounded at the Dardanelles in July 1915 and came to St. Dunstan's in the following October, thus being one of our most senior members.

He trained in poultry keeping and was settled in this occupation, continuing with it until 1946 when he retired. After Mrs. Catlow's death in 1970, Mr. Catlow gave up his own home and moved into the Andrew Smith Home in Nelson, where he lived quite happily and enjoyed good health until unfortunately he caught a chill which developed into broncho-pneumonia and resulted in his death.

He leaves a son.

Albert Alfred Dembenski *17th London Regiment*

Albert Alfred Dembenski of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, died on 3rd April, 1973, in hospital, where he was admitted whilst he was staying at Pearson House. He was 78 years of age.

He enlisted in 1916 in the 17th London Regiment and served with them until his discharge in 1918 when he was wounded six weeks before the Armistice. After his admission to St. Dunstan's he trained in mat making and continued with this work until 1942 when he took up factory employment, in which he worked until 1956, when he retired due to poor health. He kept fairly well at home until last March, when he was admitted to Northgate House, Brighton. Unfortunately his condition deteriorated and he had to go to hospital, where he died.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Irene Elizabeth Dembenski and four grown-up children.

Wallace Gilbert Hodgman. *Royal Field Artillery and Royal Marines*

Wallace Gilbert Hodgman of Wallington, Surrey, died on 10th May 1973 at the age of 78 years.

He enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery during the First World War and also served in the Royal Marines until his discharge in 1920.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1930 and trained in Braille, typewriting, boot repairing and mat making and netting. In 1931 he settled as a boot maker but in later years he gave this up but continued with his mat making. Mr. and Mrs. Hodgman celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1969.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Florence Hodgman, and four daughters and other members of his family.

George Lawlor. *Royal Dublin Fusiliers*

George Lawlor of Leamore, Nr. Walsall, South Staffs., died in hospital on 23rd April, nine days after his 94th birthday.

He enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers during the 1st World War and served with them from August 1914 until his discharge in May 1915 when his eye sight began to fail and he came to St. Dunstan's in July 1915. He trained and settled as a basket maker but he gave up this in 1931 and took up wool rug making. Mr. and Mrs. Lawlor had a large family of ten children and during the last war four of his sons served in the Royal Navy and two were in the army. Over the years Mr. Lawlor kept in quite good health and he and his

wife eventually made their home with a son and daughter-in-law. Mrs. Lawlor died in March 1971. Our St. Dunstaner continued to keep fairly well for his 94 years of age but his condition deteriorated suddenly necessitating his admission to hospital where he died. He was another of more senior members who have died this year.

He leaves his family and grandchildren.

Hector Mackenzie Steel. *1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment*

Hector Mackenzie Steel of Woodford Green, Essex, died on 16th April 1973 at the age of 73 years.

He enlisted in the 1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment in September 1917 and served with them until December 1918. Following his discharge he came immediately to St. Dunstan's and, as part of his general training and rehabilitation, he learnt typewriting, Braille, netting and poultry keeping. Mr. Steel anticipated joining a relative and working on a farm but finally decided to open a dairy business of his own, which he did in 1924. Mr. Steel married in 1927 and he and his wife continued with the dairy business until quite recently. His hobbies were listening to his talking book and playing golf and he enjoyed the occasional holiday, when business permitted, staying at Ovingdean.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Doris Margaret Steel and his married daughter and family.

Frank Thame. *Royal Engineers*

Frank Thame of Luton, Beds., died in hospital on 20th April, 1973, at the age of 63, a few days after his birthday.

He enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1942 and served with them until 1946 coming to St. Dunstan's in that year.

His vision failed while he was serving in Italy and after coming to St. Dunstan's he returned to work as a storeman with the firm by whom he had been employed prior to his war service. He continued in this employment right up until April, 1968 when he retired on health grounds and unfortunately after giving up work he continued to suffer with rather poor health, although he did manage to undertake a little light hobby work. His wife died in 1970.

He leaves a married daughter, Mrs. Eileen Caruana.

Thomas Wood. *King's Royal Rifle Corps*

Thomas Wood of Mossley, Congleton, Cheshire, died in hospital on 21st April, 1973, at the age of 81, a few days after his birthday.

He enlisted in the King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1914 and served with them until his discharge in 1919. He received mustard gas poisoning in 1918 but it was not until some years later that his sight began to fail. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1949. Before his blindness Mr. Wood had worked as a joiner and he resumed this occupation on a hobby basis after coming to St. Dunstan's. He was an excellent craftsman and turned out very good work. Mr. Wood kept in good health until the beginning of this year and he was admitted to hospital on 10th April. His illness unfortunately proved to be serious and it was in hospital that he died.

He leaves a widow and four children.