

1974

St Dunstans
REVIEW
MAY



St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

NO. 652

MAY 1974

5p MONTHLY

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Improvements in War Pensions

Since the last *St. Dunstan's Review* went to press, considerable improvements in war pensions and allowances have been announced to come into effect on the 22nd July. Following our custom on previous occasions the Editor has arranged for a brief note to be included in this issue and for a comprehensive insert to be published with the June *Review* setting out the details.

The pensions to be paid are very complicated but, roughly speaking, the advance will be 29% across the board so far as St. Dunstaners are concerned. Broadly, widows from the two Great Wars and other military operations will receive the same basic increased amount and the accompanying allowances which are made for elderly widows will be doubled.

On Tuesday, 2nd April, I made a speech in the House of Lords and asked a number of questions. Briefly, the questions and answers were as follows:—

I noted that in future war pensions were to be related to "average national earnings" and asked what this meant. The answer given by the Minister was that they are gearing pensions to the average wages of the working population, by which I understood him to mean those commercial and industrial earnings which are published in the Department of Employment Gazette each month. I made the comment that spokesmen have in the past claimed that the cost of living had risen more quickly than average wages and, if this was really so, it would be a disadvantage to war pensioners to have their awards based upon wages instead of the cost of living as hitherto. However, it is my own opinion that wages have increased at a more rapid rate than the cost of living and, if this continues, then it is an advantage to the pensioner that his award should be based upon wages.

Time alone will show which view is right and my readers may be sure that I will watch this matter carefully and will not hesitate to chase the Ministers in Parliament as I have done for the past 50 years, if the awards do not turn out to be generous enough to take account of rises in the cost of living.

Another question I asked was when will they make their annual review in the future. The answer was that the Minister expects it to be during March and April with a view to payments occurring in July.

I then pointed out that, whether war pensions are reviewed every year as the present Government intends or every six months as the previous Government promised, the figure would have to be "loaded" because obviously it would be based upon a basic figure which was already six months or a year out of date. The Minister recognised this point and said that the Civil Service had a great deal of information which enabled them to assess "trends" so that they could take account not only of the cost of living and the average wage, but also of expected increases in these figures.

COVER PICTURE: Jerry Lynch, drums, and Robert Pringle, sousaphone, the St. Dunstaner members of the London Club jazz band

I thanked the present Government for having raised the amounts so considerably and for having advanced the date of payment from October to July. I also thanked all Governments since the First War, including all Ministers of Pensions and the Civil Servants concerned, for their consideration and generosity towards us.

Perhaps the most important aspect of war pensions generally is that all Governments of all Parties have maintained an exceptionally friendly attitude towards severely disabled ex-Servicemen and women and that the present Government has confirmed this intention. This undoubtedly is due partly to the sentiment of successive Parliaments and to the pressure which my friends and I have continually exercised in this field. St. Dunstaners—and war pensioners generally—can rely upon me and other friends in both Houses of Parliament to watch this matter carefully and continue to raise questions and exercise Parliamentary pressure whenever it is required.

Fraser of Lonsdale

Pensions and Allowances

Note by Legal Officer

St. Dunstaners will have heard of the statement to the House of Commons on the 27th March, 1974, by Mrs. Barbara Castle, the Secretary of State for Social Services, that there are to be a number of increases in War Pensions and Allowances.

The basic 100% Disability Pension will go up from £12.80 to £16.40 a week, and there are to be corresponding increases in most of the allowances.

The War Widow's Pension will go up from £10.10 to £13.

All changes are due to take effect from the week commencing the 22nd July, 1974.

More detailed information will be contained in the insert to accompany the June *Review*. Pending that issue, should St. Dunstaners have any enquiries will they kindly write to Mr. L. A. Slade, our Pensions Officer at Headquarters.

In the meantime two examples of the proposed revised payments are set out below.

EXAMPLES OF PENSIONS

Employable	Totally Blind	
	Present	New
	£	£
Basic Pension	12.80	16.40
Attendance Allowance	5.15	6.60
Comforts Allowance	2.20	2.80
Wife's Allowance	.50	.50
Child's Allowance	.38	.38
	£21.03	£26.68

Unemployable	Totally Blind	
	Present	New
	£	£
Basic Pension	12.80	16.40
Attendance Allowance	5.15	6.60
Comforts Allowance	2.20	2.80
Unemployability Supplement	8.40	10.75
Wife's Allowance	4.75	6.50
Allowance for First Child	3.80	5.28
Invalidity Allowance	1.00	1.30
	£38.10	£49.63



At the Bristol Reunion: Miss Muriel Meyer, Frederick Dickerson, Mrs. Dickerson, Jimmy Legge, Mrs. Legge and Mr. Nigel Pearson.

Photo: Photo Prints (Bristol)

Bristol Reunion

Off to a Good Start

The first of the 1974 regional Reunions got off to a good start on Saturday, 30th March. The racing metaphor is appropriate since that splendid new hotel, the Dragonara, which was the venue for this happy occasion, is owned by the well-known bookmakers, Ladbroke's, and it was Grand National day. A fine warm day as well with only a trace of mist on the approaches to Bristol.

Altogether 128 people sat down to lunch. There were 15 St. Dunstaners from the first, 39 from the second and 2 who had served in both world wars. These numbers included 4 girl St. Dunstaners, Muriel Bryant, Marion Elias, Eileen Maynard and Gwenny Obern. Miss Meyer was responsible for the arrangements, assisted by

Miss Newbold, and among the guests were Miss Meyer's sister, Mrs. Spurway, Miss Oliphant and Mr. Ferguson, formerly Country Life Superintendent.

Mr. Nigel Pearson, the member of the Council presiding, was in very good form. In his speech after lunch Mr. Pearson sent good wishes from his father, Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., who had recently returned from America with Lady Pearson, and good wishes also from Lord and Lady Fraser, just back from South Africa, both wearing a splendid sun tan. Commenting on the excellence of the meal and the company Mr. Pearson gave a special welcome to Miss Oliphant and Mrs. Spurway, reminding St. Dunstaners that the 1974 sports would be held in conjunction with

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the Naval Camp at H.M.S. Daedalus in August. He ran through the list of St. Dunstan's staff present and then gave a specially warm welcome to four new St. Dunstaners, Muriel Bryant, Radstock, John Davies, Swansea, Arthur Herbert, Weston-super-Mare and Douglas Howard, Cwmbran.

Mr. Pearson had done his homework well and he proceeded to run through the various types of employment or occupation followed by St. Dunstaners present, cracking jokes as he took his fences one by one. It was rash, he said, to hold the Reunion on Grand National day. "Anyone", said Mr. Pearson, "who loses his shirt will be excused, but if he loses his pants he will have to go home." Unfortunately Lady Frances Pearson, who breeds Welsh Ponies in Sussex, was unable to get away, but she sent her best wishes.

On a more serious theme, but unable to break loose completely from the subject of horses, Mr. Pearson then referred to Sir Michael Ansell's book, "Soldier On", published in September, 1973. "It's not what you do it's the way that you do it", said Mr. Pearson, adding that Sir Michael had had more than his share of bad luck. He referred to Sir Michael's tenacity and

meticulous determination. In life the most logical case did not always win, but it was important to reach a decision and get something done. "It's not what you do but the fact that you get it done." Far better to know a couple of ways and do one of them than to spend time thinking. "Stop the cackle and get on with something." St. Dunstan's, said Mr. Pearson, was influential, able to get things done and to help others to do so. St. Dunstaners had shown that they could act objectively and demonstrate that useful things could be done. It was valuable to be able to show this to others. "It's the determination to do what you do that counts." Mr. Pearson concluded with a few words of praise and thanks to the hotel staff.

After Mr. Wills, St. Dunstan's Secretary, had spoken briefly, Joseph Harris, Yelverton, gave the vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners. He said it was grand to have Mr. Nigel Pearson there in such good form. If there were no funds, he said, there would not be so many happy faces present on that day. He expressed thanks to Lord Fraser, the Council and staff for help and guidance given. He concluded by thanking Miss Meyer and Miss Newbold for a wonderful "do".

Sports and Social Club for the Visually Handicapped

In January, 1973 a group of young visually handicapped people formed this Club to see what it could do to fill the gaps which appeared to exist in the provision of sporting and social activities for the visually handicapped in the Greater London area. A Constitution was drawn up and it was agreed that the further aim of trying to do whatever possible (through sporting and social contact) to improve the integration of the V.H. into the Community.

Since January, 1973 the Club's membership, fields of activity and interest have expanded significantly and amongst the sporting and social events the Club now offers are:

Sport

Cricket, Football, Athletics, Swimming, Ski-ing, Ice-skating, Sailing, Rowing, Fishing, Ten-pin Bowling, Bowls, Fencing and Indoor Games.

Social

Theatre Evenings, Visits to Places of Interest, Coach Trips, Dances, Disco's, Talks and Debates and Indoor Games.

The Annual Subscription is £1.00 for male and 50p for female members. An additional 50p is payable annually if members use the Social Centre at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square.

Would interested St. Dunstaners please write to the *Review*.

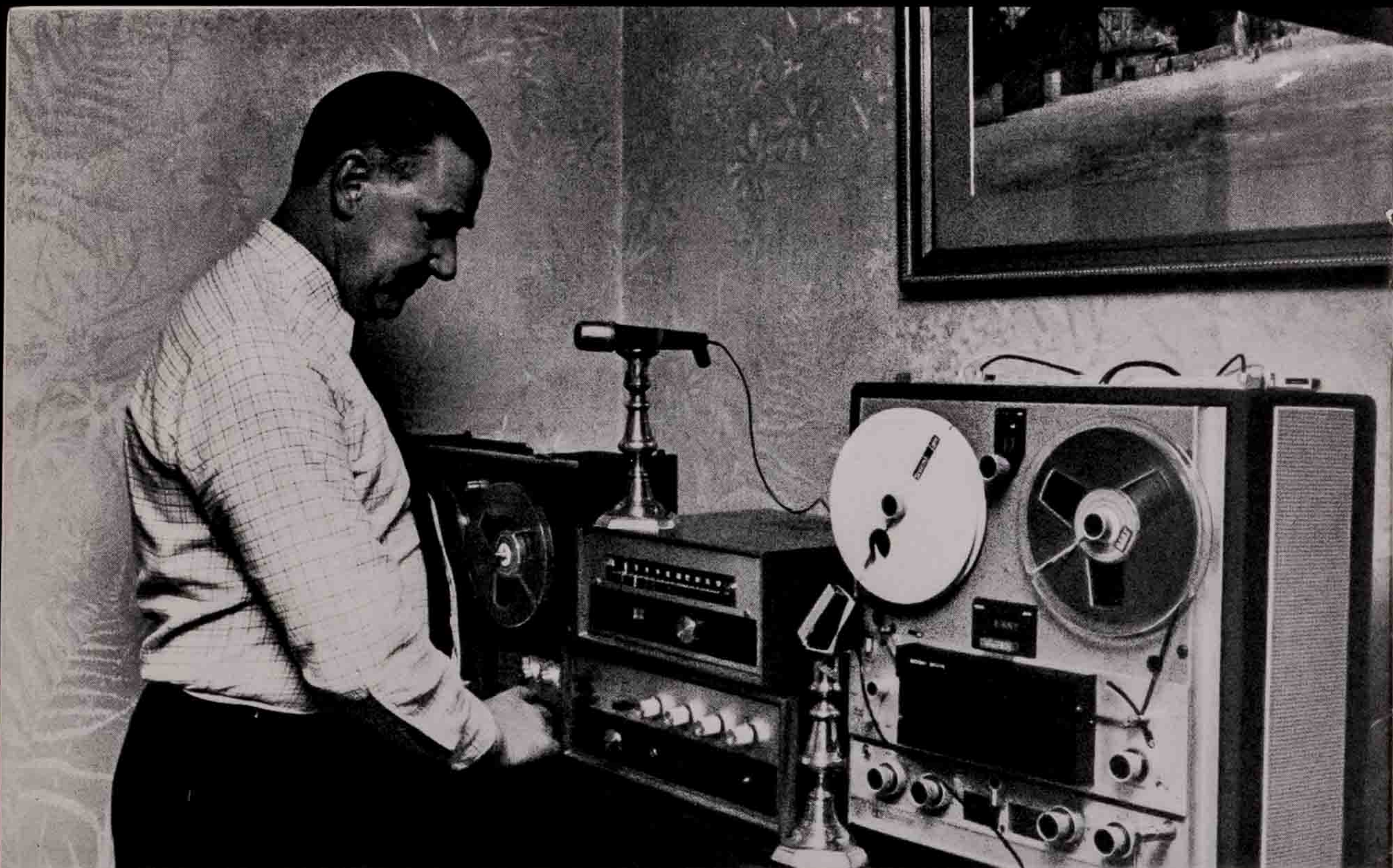
ANY ONE THE WINNER!

Derby Sweepstake closing date: **22nd May**. Tickets: **15p** each.

Address: **The Editor, D.S.S. Dept., 191 Old Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5QN.**

Draw: London Club, **Thursday, 30th May**. All those drawing a horse will be notified.

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Reg. Page at the controls of 'Radio Heathfield'.

PAGE RECORDING

by David Castleton

The quaintly named village of Cross-in-Hand is in Sussex, south of Tunbridge Wells and well on the way to Eastbourne. Visit our St. Dunstaner, Reg. Page, who lives there and you may find him busy in his extensive garden or making garden ornaments in concrete for which he is locally well-known.

When I called in he was busy trimming, cutting up and shifting a number of trees which had to be cleared because of a down draught they caused in a chimney. The bigger trees had been felled by a local man but the smaller ones, up to around twenty feet high, Reg. tackles himself, "Although not if I am worried about the position of the tree", he told me.

If you have formed the impression of a busy, open-air type of fellow, the sort of character who can always find something to do, you will share my feeling of mild surprise that one of Reg's most absorbing interests, despite the lure of his garden, is tape recording.

In one corner of his lounge is 'Radio Heathfield', as he calls it. A highly efficient hi-fi and stereo recording system. "The professional machine is a Ferrograph, series seven. It's four-track, it's stereo and there is no end to the trickery you can get up to with it! To do this trickery you really need a second recorder. The other one is also a four-track stereo, a Philips 4407", Reg. said.

He has an amplifier, radio tuner and two large Ferrograph speakers, weighing 63½ lbs. each, which flood his lounge with sound. He also has a record playing deck and all is linked so that he can record tape to tape, disc to tape, radio to tape or voice to tape simply by switching in the appropriate component. "Your hi-fi equipment is only as good as the weakest link in it. If you've got good equipment and one poor item, say your amplifier, well, your equipment is only as good as the amplifier produces".

Reg. has brought his installation up to its present standard over a period of eight years,

"When I first started, my equipment was just ordinary but the fun and the pleasure I got from it was endless. Then, of course, it's just building up ambitions, the more one does of it the more one wants to do".

One very rewarding side of Reg.'s tape recording activities is the exchange of tapes with other enthusiasts. "Most of my tapes go around the world", he said, "We have about five contacts in Australia and others in New Zealand, Tasmania, South Africa and Canada". The youngest is just seven years old and the oldest, a man living in Tasmania, is 78. Reg. sends them his own recorded chat show backed with music, "I just say what is in my mind".

Recently he has been reporting on the situation and conditions in this country: "I suppose, in a sense, their papers have been possibly exaggerating the position over here. I have been trying to give them a true picture—politically and the way we live". His tape recorders are four-track with three speeds: 1⅞, 3¾, and 7½ inches per second. He is always looking for new tape correspondents and would welcome contacts with any *Review* readers, blind or sighted, who share his interest in tape recording. The *Review* will forward any tapes or correspondence in the first instance.

It's that man again

"I had a request three weeks ago from a man who wanted to know if I had any material of Tommy Handley, the comedian. As a matter of fact I've got reels of it. I sent him some ITMA radio programmes and a concert given during the war in a naval barracks. He was delighted". Reg. has a library of some 120 seven-inch tapes including Tony Hancock, Archie Andrews and others. He often plays them back for his own amusement using his equipment much as a sighted person might run his favourite 8mm cine films.

Tape is not all talk for Reg. He is very interested in music, particularly the wartime dance bands. "I had a piece of music I was very, very keen on. This was on an old disc and in one place it jumped track. This spoilt it so I decided to play up to just before that and then stop the recorder. I let the damage pass and then restarted it. I spun the record back to the beginning and put the beginning on the end of my



Open-air type Reg. clears some trees.

tape. I was two hours doing that one job. It was only putting two bars on but I had to bring it in to the right beat of the music—it was a waltz—and I was going one, two, three; one, two, three until I'd just got it spot-on".

Trickery

Reg. also records sounds of nature, like bird-songs, he has recordings of barrel organs and fairground organs, "Anything that makes a noise and I like the noise it makes, I'll go for it". He also gets up to trickery as he puts it. A tape message may be enlivened by realistic sound effects as he tells his correspondent he is breaking a mirror on his wife's head. He has dubbed his own voice on to a pre-recorded tape to give the effect of singing a duet with a famous country and western girl singer. "This is all done on a second recorder which is dubbed on to the first one", he explained.

In a small community like Cross-in-Hand it doesn't take long for the word to get around that there is a tape recording enthusiast available. "First the Vicar asked me to go to the Harvest Supper and play

CLUB NEWS

Midland

Since my last notes we have held two club meetings, one on Sunday, 10th March and the other on Sunday, 7th April. Both meetings were well attended and we have been concentrating on getting the Sir Arthur Pearson domino competition played off and I am pleased to be able to report that we have now arrived at the final, which will be played off at our next meeting on 12th May.

The semi-final results played off in April were as follows:—

Bruno Tomperowski v Joe Kibbler.

Louis Androlia v Doug Cashmore.

Bruno and **Louis** were the winners and will play each other in the final.

We look forward to getting on with the mixed doubles competitions at our May meeting.

Ansells Breweries Ltd., have kindly given us a dart board, so now we shall be able to hold a dart competition.

On the evening of 21st March we held our very delayed evening meal at the King's Highway Hotel. Everyone enjoyed it and had a good tuck in!

All the plans for a day out to Southport on Sunday, 2nd June have been finalised and we now pray for a fine day!

The teas for our March and April meetings were arranged for us by Mrs. Elizabeth Tomperowski and Mrs. Olwyn Rea respectively. This was the first attempt for both these ladies in giving us tea and we would like to thank them for the fine spread.

PAGE RECORDING—continued

back recorded music. Then it was the Garden Association having a dance or the Young Wives, 'could you bring your tape recorder for community singing?' I think we've done about five weddings as well as parties."

Reg. has to have a licence from the Post Office to record from the radio but it is worth the trouble. "Speaking for ourselves, we've had endless fun from tape recording—lots and lots of pleasure. For a blind person there is nothing better. You've always got company. You've always got something to do".

We offer our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Doug. Faulkner whose daughter, Peggy, gave birth to a daughter on 13th March, 1974.

The Midland club is still going strong and we would like to welcome other St. Dunstaners living in the Birmingham area. Why not come along to one of our meetings held every second Sunday of the month at the **Royal British Legion H.Q., Thorp Street**, at the side of the Birmingham Hippodrome. The meetings start at 3 p.m.

DOUG CASHMORE,
Secretary.

LONDON

The Football pontoon ending on 16th of March was won by Mrs. Padley with Sheffield Wednesday. The booby prize was shared by Mrs. King, Mrs. Lethbridge and Mrs. Pacitti, their teams being Sunderland, Preston and Bristol City, respectively.

The Domino winners during March were as follows:—

7th March 1. J. Lynch
2. J. Majchrowicz
3. C. Hancock

14th March 1. J. Padley
2. J. Majchrowicz

21st March 1. J. Padley
2. J. Majchrowicz
3. W. Phillips

28th March 1. W. Miller
2. C. Hancock

A very happy evening was spent in the Men's London Club on Thursday the 4th of April, the occasion being the Wedding Anniversary of member George Stanley and Mrs. Stanley. Additional delicacies enjoyed were by the way of sausage rolls, accompanied by sherry and a beautiful cake, baked by Mrs. Stanley.

Another highlight of the evening was a visit made to the Club by Mr. David Castleton of the H.Q. Staff. When our Domino Games were over, some members played Bridge while others retired to their usual haunts. Then we wended our way home beyond the ceaseless traffic of the Marylebone Road, happy and content after the evening's entertainment.

W. MILLER.

Praised by his Peers

In the debate on war pensions, to which Lord Fraser refers in his 'Chairman's Notes', Lord Aberdare, the Conservative Minister responsible for war pensions in the last Government, and Lord Wells-Pestell, who speaks for the present Government on these subjects in the Upper House, paid tributes to Lord Fraser's Parliamentary work for ex-servicemen.

LORD ABERDARE said: "I would beg your lordships' indulgence . . . so that I may pay my tribute to him for his harrying of successive Governments, and for the effective way in which he has always represented the views of the ex-servicemen . . . I am sorry to intervene in this debate without having my name down, but I felt that after his 50 years of service in Parliament I should like to pay my tribute to my noble friend from these Benches."

LORD WELLS-PESTELL said: "I think that everybody, both in this House and in the other place, would wish to take an opportunity like this to say how very much we admire what he has done for ex-servicemen over a great many years. If he will not think it impertinent of me, I should like to say how many of us have a tremendous affection for him and for the way he has overcome his own personal difficulties. Perhaps there is no man alive to-day who has overcome them and done more for the community, and particularly the ex-servicemen, than the noble Lord, Lord Fraser."

Political Philosophies

LORD WELLS-PESTELL also referred to an amusing incident, which he recalled when he said: "He will forgive me if I remind him of the fact that it was about 40 years ago that he and I debated in Regent's Park one Sunday morning our respective political philosophies when he was Member of Parliament for St. Pancras, North, and I was doing my best to unseat him."

Readers are familiar with "Speakers' Corner", which is a bit of ground in Hyde Park where the freest possible speech is allowed and all kinds of people gather together to blow their heads off about their pet subjects. What is probably not known to many is that between the Wars there

was a similar area in Regent's Park where every Sunday morning half a dozen platforms were erected on which similar speeches on every subject—political, religious, sociological, etc.—were freely made. Living in Regent's Park, Lord and Lady Fraser used to go down the Broad Walk and often stopped at this place. On one occasion, the young Captain Fraser, M.P., joined a crowd listening to an even younger Labour speaker, who happened to be the then Mr. R. A. Pestell, and asked him a question. Mr. Pestell then said, "If the questioner wishes to have an argument with me about his political philosophy or anything else, would he like to come on my platform?" No doubt this was a rhetorical question and it was a great surprise to him when Ian Fraser accepted the invitation and spoke for ten minutes from his platform—and this was the debate to which Lord Wells-Pestell referred in the House of Lords. Lord and Lady Fraser well remember the incident although it was 40 years ago.

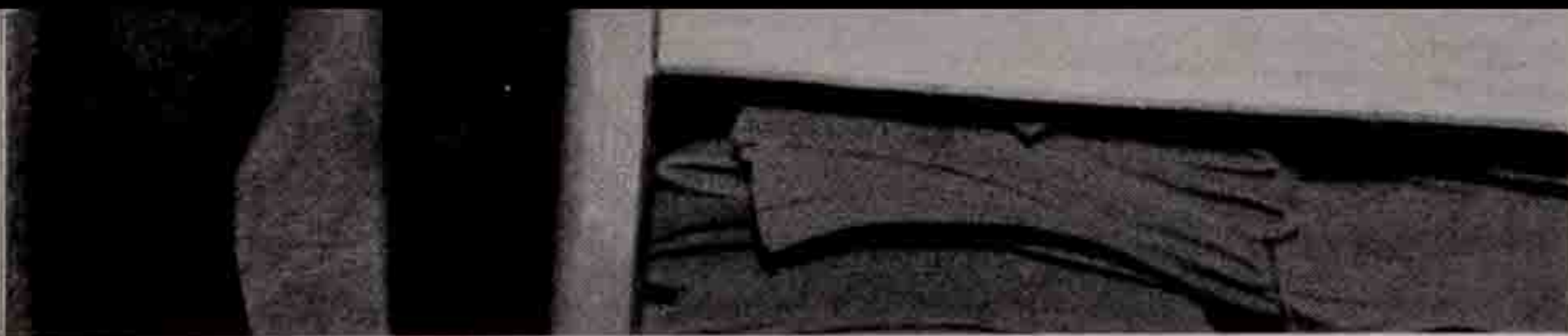
War Pensions Non-political

It is to be noted that, although they had a political argument at that time, Lord Fraser said in the Lords that the subject of war pensions had always been regarded by him and his friends as a non-political question and this sentiment was generally echoed in the House.

OBITUARY

Miss Muriel McDonald

St. Dunstaners who have stayed at 152 Broadhurst Gardens in recent years will be very sorry to hear that Miss Muriel McDonald died in January of this year. "Mac" was very popular and quite happy to do anything that was required of her. This is the more remarkable in view of the fact that she was well over 90 years of age when she died. St. Dunstan's was represented at the funeral by Mrs. Lawrence from Broadhurst Gardens, and accompanied by Mrs. Preston.



'Mine Host' — Club Manager, Norman Smith.

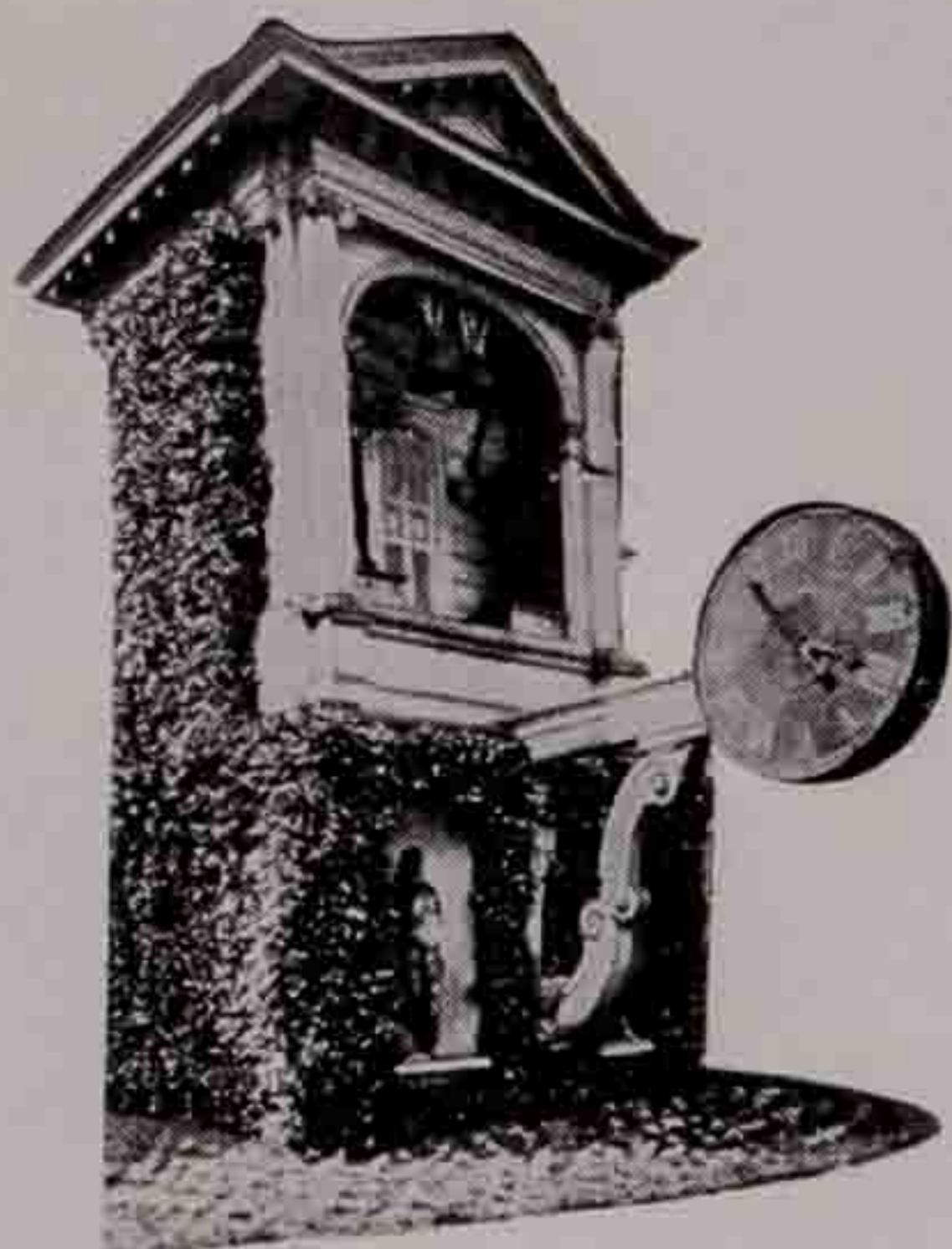
Bill Phillips, Roy Armstrong, Bill Miller and Jim Padley at the Bridge table.

THE LONDON CLUB IN PICTURES

Chairman **Bill Miller's** Annual Report, published in last month's *Review*, prompted us to send our photographer along to the London Club.

There is plenty going on there these days as our pictures show—Bridge, dominoes, jazz and additional activities. While the *Review* photographer was there, the celebration of Mr. and Mrs. George Stanley's Silver Wedding was held. There was a cake baked by Mrs. Stanley and sherry for all members.





IT STRIKES ME

by Magog

Tynesiders on Humberside

Joseph Nicol and his wife live in Hull where he works as a telephonist but they are both Tynesiders. Ten years ago they joined the Hull branch of the Northumberland and Durham Society. "The idea was to meet other Tynesiders who have moved into Yorkshire", he told me. In those ten years Joseph has served as a Committee Member, Chairman and is now President. "The Society is a non-profit making one", he said, "Although we manage to send a

little money to charity each Christmas". He is also a member of an ex-servicemen's organisation known as the Fellowship of the Services.

Our photograph, from the Hull *Daily Mail*, shows Joseph (left) and Mrs. Nicol (extreme right) with the Rev. Peter Ferguson and his wife. The occasion was a farewell presentation to Rev. Ferguson, padre to the Hull Branch of the Northumberland and Durham Society.



Sponsored Swimmer

Harry Cope, better known as 'Johnnie' among our sportsmen, is a regular competitor in St. Dunstan's sports, usually shining in the swimming events. On 7th April he took part in a different kind of swim—a sponsored event organised by the Stoke-on-Trent and District Round Table. The charitable object of the swim was to provide a swimming pool for deaf and handicapped children.

The sponsored competitors had to swim twenty lengths in 20 minutes. Harry completed his target in 15 minutes, raising in that time £26 towards a total of £600 raised by the event, "So we all swam well," was Harry's comment. They certainly did.

Fleet Air Arm 'Guide Dog' Training

St. Dunstaners who attend the annual Summer camp at H.M.S. Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent, might be interested in some information our Sports Officer, **Jock Carnochan**, has sent me concerning their naval hosts, the Fleet Air Arm Field Gun Crew. From their Newsletter I learn that a long and complicated selection programme is carried out before the two crews are recruited. Before Christmas a recruiting drive toured the various stations and ships. In January came the elimination tests for volunteers at, among others, places as far apart as Yeovil and Leuchars and in Ark Royal and Hermes. 35 out of 59 were accepted for final eliminations.

Other items of interest were a farewell presentation to Captain D. G. Titford, who is leaving for Yeovil, a mounted model of a gun and limber, and the news that Jock Scott B.E.M. is now a qualified Heavy Goods Vehicle driver and is starting off in his own business.

The Newsletter makes a reference to our St. Dunstan's campers:

"Some readers may not realise that the FAA crew have a close association with organisations like, the Metropolitan Police (Findley Division) and St. Dunstan's. Situated in Brighton, St. Dunstan's is a home for the rehabilitation of blind ex-servicemen. Every year after the completion of the Royal Tournament, the Gun crew delay their summer leave, in order to act as helpers/guides to St. Dunstaners,



Harry Cope at the start of St. Dunstan's swimming event.

at their summer camp in H.M.S. Daedalus. During this time the St. Dunstaners, although blind, and some disabled, take part in a sports day, swimming gala, car rally and of course many late drinking contests. As would be expected many close friendships exist between ourselves and St. Dunstan's, where the progress of the crew is followed with great interest each year. It was with great delight that the staff entertained David Bell when he visited us on the 19th March, it may be noted that the second trainer is still hung over from this occasion".

St. Peter's and St. Dunstan's

Lieut.-Commander Tony Ellis who is at present residing at Northgate House has a brother Joe, a schoolmaster at St. Peter's, Adelaide, South Australia. Joe Ellis asked Tony to write a story on St. Dunstan's which might be published in an Adelaide newspaper. Miss Meldrum, formerly Matron's secretary, who now lives at Haywards Heath, heard about this when calling at Northgate House one day and she expressed pleasure and surprise because her father had been educated at St. Peter's.

BRIDGE NOTES

BRIDGE DRIVE

Fortunately the weather on Saturday, 16th March turned out to be dry and sunny for more than forty St. Dunstaners, wives and friends who came to the Club Rooms in Marylebone Road for a pleasant afternoon at our first Bridge Drive of the year. There were eleven and a half tables for Bridge.

We were happy to see so many old friends and to greet new friends, with a special welcome for those who had travelled some distance to be with us for the afternoon.

It gave us all a great deal of pleasure to receive a visit from Miss Ramshaw our former Matron at Ovingdean. To our delight she spent the afternoon mingling with the boys of the Bridge Club, their wives and their guests. At the close of play, Miss Ramshaw graciously presented the prizes to the winners of the Bridge Drive, who were as follows:—

1. Roy Armstrong and Jack Armstrong
2. Harry Meleson and Mrs. Meleson
3. Alf Dodgson and Mrs. Dodgson
4. Joseph Majchrowicz and Cyril Evans.

LONDON

The 3rd Individual Competition of the London Section was held on Saturday, 6th April. The results are as follows:—

W. Phillips and Partner	79
H. Meleson and J. Lynch	74
W. Allen and A. Caldwell	72
Miss V. Kemmish and J. Huk	67
F. Dickerson and P. Nuyens	56
J. Padley and R. Evans	56
J. Majchrowicz and W. Miller	49

BRIGHTON

The 3rd Individual Competition of the Brighton Section was held on Saturday, 6th April. The results are as follows:—

M. Clements and Partner	83
R. Goding and A. Dodgson	67
F. Rhodes and Partner	66
A. Smith and S. Webster	64
W. Scott and F. Griffie	63
C. Walters and W. Lethbridge	54
J. Whitcombe and W. Burnett	44

ON A SLOW COACH TO STEVENAGE

Both the London and Brighton sections of the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club have continued to show initiative and enterprise in maintaining a full programme in spite of difficulties that have arisen during the temporary closing of the Ovingdean Home. Examples of this keen spirit can be seen in the success that has attended Bridge Congresses and Beginners and Instruction weekends which have taken place at the Ocean Hotel, Saltdean during the last two years.

On Sunday, March 17th, there was a new and welcome addition to our standard fixtures. A combined party of players, together with their wives, made the journey from St. Dunstan's Headquarters to Stevenage by special coach. The venue for this match was the British Aircraft Corporation Sports and Social Club, Bragbury End, Stevenage. We were on our way to fulfill an invitation from Mr. John Hancock of the Stevenage Bridge Club. John is the son of St. Dunstaner Charles Hancock and his wife Gladys, who are popular and regular members of the London Club.

The St. Dunstan's players, carefully supervised by Mr. Norman Smith, set off soon after lunch. Our destination was Stevenage, but as time went on it appeared that the driver had other ideas, and had it not been for the vigilance of the wives, our journey could well have ended in the Midlands. The intransigence of the driver delayed our arrival, but with our arrival came relief to John and his club members from earlier anxiety on our behalf.

Our game with Stevenage commenced immediately, and as a result of skilful organisation a very enjoyable match took place in spite of the loss of time. The match was played in teams of four and in the keenness of competitive play our initial mishap was soon forgotten. With the end of the match, in which Stevenage were easy winners, the opposing teams of four united into tables of eight, to enjoy a buffet tea, the excellence of which was matched only by the artistry of its presentation. This novel arrangement for refreshments gave us the relaxation and opportunity to

establish friendly relations with the Stevenage Club. With the club bar opening soon after tea, ties were further strengthened over a friendly drink or two during the hours that remained until our departure. It was good to see, as we said goodbye, that animation and high spirits had completely effaced our early anxiety and frustration. We trust that John and his Stevenage friends, like us, were able to say "Better late than never" . . . R. W. EVANS.

COMING EVENTS

CLIMBING CADER IDRIS

Mr. R. O. L. Thomas, a Member of St. Dunstan's and a supporter for many years, has very kindly offered to organise a climb of the mountain Cader Idris (2927 ft.) by a party of four or five St. Dunstaners during a weekend in June, 1974. Overnight accommodation from Friday to Sunday nights would be arranged at either Dolgellau or Dinas Mawddwy, both in the District of Merioneth. We understand that the climb to the summit, though not particularly arduous, would take up to two and a half hours, that strong boots or shoes fitted with studs or cleats are advisable. Escorts could be provided locally for the climb.

Would interested St. Dunstaners please write to the *Review* as soon as possible mentioning the dates in June when they would be available for the expedition? Expenses would be covered.

H.M.S. DAEDALUS CAMP

The Commander of H.M.S. Daedalus has written inviting you to the camp from Friday, 16th August to Saturday, 24th August.

As last year, fares will be refunded in full. There will be a camp fee of £5. Please send me your names as soon as possible. Closing date for entries—4th May. Please write to **Mrs. Spurway, Mount House, Halse, Taunton, Somerset. Tel. 0823-43-359.**

DIARY NOTE

Deaf/Blind Reunion 1974

The Deaf/Blind Reunion will be held from 12th to 16th August inclusive.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Echoes from April's Here

From Frank A. Rhodes of Ovingdean, Brighton.

A few observations concerning the article "April's Here!" in last month's *Review*.

Losses of Basic skills.

These would, of course, be governed to some degree by the trade or profession prior to blindness. Nowadays, both at St. Dunstan's and other organisations for the training of the blind there are so many skills available that this could be minimal. *Losses in communication.*

When it comes to "communication" blind people are under a tremendous handicap. Very many St. Dunstaners have not seen their wives or children. They must, therefore, have been drawn to each other by other attractions than looks. In my own case there were two main motives: she was always most considerate to her parents, and I fell in love with her voice. Many St. Dunstaners and members of the staff knew my wife very well and I am sure all will agree that I picked a winner.

Losses in appreciation.

As to "appreciation" of any thing, we are entirely dependent on our escorts. Having been totally blind for fifty-six years it astonishes me to realise how few people have the gift of "seeing" for the blind.

Losses concerning occupation and financial status.

If some-one has had the good fortune to have been trained in a remunerative trade or profession and he loses his sight in his thirties or forties, some new technique may be adopted for him to continue. The financial status of a blind person does, of course, depend on his skill or training and also, most important, plus the "know how" of his partner.

From Ray Sheriff of Gloucester.

In my blindness, nostalgic thoughts seem to stem, seemingly as a continuity of childhood environment. I was born and bred "Beside the Seaside." Up until the war years, all my leisure and pleasant memories revolved around the sea and its

Letters—continued

afforded amenities. I loved the sight of the sea, through all seasons of the year. I marvelled its varying moods—cruel and raging, calm and smooth, grey, green or blue and the ebb and flow of the tides; the sea with its white horses . . . the sea reflecting a sunrise or sunset . . . the sea at night covered by a full moon and perhaps, most marvellous of all, the sea so peaceful and blue on a mid-summer's day.

From Alf. Bradley of Northwood Hills, Middlesex.

I thought that I might reply to "April's Here", like this . . .

'What do you miss?' you ask of me
Since when my eyes could scarcely see.
Of Beauty, or Ability,
What yardstick could the measure be?

I might have had a begging bowl,
Or even had to draw the dole.
But after training at St. D's,
I was missed out of both of these.

But things of Personality,
Frustrations or serenity.
I need an inner eye to see,
And penetrate this scene for me.

But everyman, both blind and sighted,
By ways of old has been benighted,
Through darkened glass all men do see,
(And that was not thought up by me).

Let's humbly lift the situation,
To inner vision's revelation.
The truth of this has meant for me.
'Whereas I was blind', NOW I see.

From Margaret Stanway, Macclesfield, Cheshire

Until I went into the Forces in my late teens my life had been spent in a country area of Staffordshire where I was able to indulge in my favourite hobby of collecting and pressing wild flowers which grew in great profusion in the woods and fields around my home. This I carried out in a very amateurish kind of way—sticking the flowers in sketching books and then pressing with weights. The fact that they would soon lose their colour and become mouldy didn't matter all that much as there

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.

Henry Bachell of London, E.14, came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1974. He served in the Royal Artillery in the 1st World War and has been living in retirement. He is a bachelor. Mr. Bachell is now staying at Northgate House for a period of convalescence.

Mark Britton of Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts., joined us in March 1974. He served in the 3rd Battalion Lincolns between 1914 and 1915. He is married and has two married daughters.

Frank Chelin of Southend-on-Sea, Essex, joined St. Dunstan's in February 1974. Mr. Chelin was a rifleman in the Post Office Rifles and served in the 1st World War. Following his war service, he spent more than 40 years working in the G.P.O. and his sight failed only recently. He is a widower.

Lawrence Rupert Firman of Lowestoft, Suffolk, came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1974. He served with the 9th Suffolks Regiment during the 1st World War. He is a widower.

were plenty more to be picked as the seasons progressed.

The Spring flowers made the biggest impact on me—coltsfoot, wood sorrell, celandine, wood anemone, for were they not the harbingers of the better weather to come and the long balmy days of early Summer? I know I can never see these flowers again but my mind's eye is filled with nostalgia at the pleasure and peace I derived from this simple but absorbing hobby and the memory of a wood, carpeted with heavenly scented bluebells, will remain with me all my life.

Walter Grant, M.M. of Brentwood, Essex, joined St. Dunstan's in February, 1974. He served in the Northumberland Fusiliers during the 1st World War and was wounded in the Battle of the Dardanelles in 1915 but was able to return to his work as a miner. In recent years both his sight and health have deteriorated, and unfortunately he is at the moment in hospital and we wish him a speedy recovery. Mr. Grant is a widower and lives with his son.

Thomas Gray, Ph.D., of Burmarsh, Romney Marsh, Kent, came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1974. He was commissioned in the Rifle Brigade and later seconded to the Royal Flying Corps in the First War and also served with the R.A.F. at the beginning of the Second War. He is a retired widower with a grown up family living abroad.

Arthur Ernest Green of Dane End, Nr. Ware, Herts., came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1974. He served in the Suffolk Regiment in the 1st World War but continued his military service until 1922. He now lives in retirement but his previous occupation was that of a Nurseryman. He is unmarried.

Arthur Herbert of Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, joined St. Dunstan's in February 1974. He served in the Royal Fusiliers during the 1st World War. After his discharge from the Army he was able to return to his office job with the same firm where he continued to work until 1943. He has now retired.

Islwyn Hughes of Bryngwran, Anglesey, joined St. Dunstan's in March, 1974, and will be taking up occupational training shortly. He is married with three children. He served in the Royal Welch Fusiliers between 1961 and 1962.

John Caradog Hughes of Anglesey, joined St. Dunstan's in March, 1974. Mr. Hughes served as a Corporal in the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment during the 2nd World War. He is unmarried.

Charles Jackman of Brentford, Middlesex, came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1974. He served in the Royal Fusiliers during the 1st World War. After his

discharge from the Army he worked for some time in the Docks but now lives in retirement. He is married.

Alexander McLeod of Luton, Bedfordshire, joined St. Dunstan's in March, 1974 and will be taking up occupational training shortly. He is married and served in the Royal Air Force between 1950 and 1953.

Stanley C. Moseley of Blackpool, came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1974. Mr. Moseley served in the Royal Artillery during the 2nd World War. He is married with three grown-up sons.

Richard Stinson of Wolverhampton, Staffs., joined St. Dunstan's in March, 1974. He served in the Northamptonshire Regiment from 1940 to 1946. He will be taking up occupational training shortly.

Eric Todd of Liverpool, Lancs, joined St. Dunstan's in March, 1974. He served as a driver in the R.A.S.C. between 1951 and 1953, in Egypt. Mr. Todd is unmarried.

Joseph Wake of Barrow-in-Furness, Lancashire, became a full St. Dunstaner in March, 1974. He served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the 2nd World War, and was taken Prisoner-of-War by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore.

Alfred Walker of Billingham New Town, Co. Durham, came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1974. He served in the Pioneer Corps, the 12th Yorkshire Regiment, the 19th Lancashire Regiment and the 14th Yorkshire Regiment. He is married with eight children.

Ralph Walsh of Whitefield, Manchester, joined St. Dunstan's in April 1974. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps during the 1st World War and suffered a gas attack in 1917. He is married and has a grown up family.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS WITH THE FIRM

On 14th March ERNEST MARR of Blackburn completed twenty-five years with his employers, Mullards Ltd., of Blackburn. In a presentation ceremony he was given a gold Braille watch by the Plant Director Mr. E. J. Koning.

Frank Reviews

Cat. No. 1816

A Pot of Basil
by Jane Gillespie

Read by Lionel Gamlin

Rather nice series of character studies concerning the emotions of three sisters. Helen aged seventeen suspects that her eldest sister's fiancé Aubrey is a sadist. Worrying about this she is unaware that she is getting herself too emotionally involved with her school friend's crippled brother. Meanwhile the youngest girl has an adolescent crush on her chemistry mistress at school. Though Helen comes through as the brains of the family she is indeed a very likeable person.

A nice story with no mush.

Cat. No. 1840

A Grave Affair
by Shelley Smith

Read by Stanley Pritchard

A thriller in which we know early on who did it and which retains our interest in how it is going to work out. Burke is best described as Britain's Dr. Kissinger, the one man who can bring peace to the Middle East. A Marxist group of the P.L.A. set out to compromise him or kill him.

A good yarn with many side issues, very well written and very enjoyable.

Cat. No. 1814 (2 cassettes)

This Right Soft Lot
by Edward Blishen

Read by John Richmond

A teacher writes of his seven years at an East End secondary modern school before it is knocked down and replaced by a modern comprehensive teaching establishment. Although he doesn't say so, "Abandon hope all ye who enter here" should have been the school motto. His description of the boys and his fellow teachers are to say the least graphic. The boys are the product of their environment and the teachers have to react accordingly. Spiced with much of the boys' cockney humour and not a little of his own this is a compelling book to read once you have started.

Greatly helped by the reader who sounds very much like some of the school teachers of my boyhood.

FAMILY NEWS

Marriage

DUNLOP-NORTHALL. On 20th March, 1974, WILLIAM DUNLOP of Heath, Cardiff, South Wales, married Miss I. NORTHALL at St. James Church, Cardiff. We wish them every happiness in their married life together. They will be living in Balcombe, Sussex.

Silver Weddings

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. D. GRIMES of Eastbourne, Sussex, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 26th March, 1974.

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. STANLEY WEEKS of Letchworth, Herts., who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 16th April, 1974.

Ruby Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. EDGAR ROWLAND ETTRIDGE, of Croydon, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 7th March, 1974.

Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to the Rev. and Mrs. DENNIS S. J. PETTIT of New Duston, Northampton, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 19th April, 1974.

Grandparents

Congratulations to:—

PERCY BLACKMORE of Cardiff, Glam., who is pleased to announce the safe arrival of his first grandson, Christopher John, born on 10th January 1974, to his daughter Nesta.

TALKING BOOK REPAIRS

Talking book readers in the Brighton area might find it helpful to know that there is a local representative of the Talking Book Library who should be contacted in the event of a repair becoming necessary for any machine in the area. His name is **Mr. Brown of 44 Hillcrest, Westdene, Brighton** and his telephone numbers are: (Daytime) Brighton 509566 and (Home) 552707.

Grandparents

Continued

WILLIAM CARR of High Wycombe, Bucks., who has pleasure in announcing the safe arrival of another grandchild, born to his daughter Marlene on 15th March, 1974. The baby is to be called Danielle Lisa.

WILLIAM CHARITY of London, N.W.10, on the safe arrival of a second grandson, Christian, born to his youngest daughter, Shirley and her husband, on 4th March, 1974. Christian was born three days after William's 80th birthday.

Mrs. V. M. Chell of Eastbourne, Sussex, widow of the late JAMES CHELL, who has become a grandmother on the safe arrival of Lee, born to her daughter Judith and her son-in-law, on 4th March, 1974.

DOUGLAS FAULKNER of Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, whose daughter, Peggy, gave birth to a daughter on 13th March.

HENRY JAMES of Harrow, Middlesex, who has pleasure in announcing the arrival of a grand-daughter, Sara Joanne Haskey, born on 20th February, 1974.

RICHARD C. A. JONES of Port Talbot, Glamorgan, is happy to announce the birth of another grandchild—Sarah Victoria, born on 8th March, to his daughter Carol and her husband David.

JOHN MARTIN of Boreham Wood, Herts., on the safe arrival of a grandchild, Desmond, born on 28th February, 1974, to his daughter, Sheila and her husband.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER PECKETT of Manchester, who announces the safe arrival of his second grandson, born to his son David and daughter-in-law on 3rd April, 1974.

GILBERT ARNOLD STANLEY of Gloucester, is pleased to announce the birth of another grandchild, Nancy Emma, on 14th November, 1973, who is the second child of his daughter Julie and her husband.

Great Grandfathers

Many congratulations to:—

JOSEPH ELLIS BATTY of Sheffield who is proud to announce the safe arrival of another great grandson—he now has two great grandsons and one great grand-daughter.

WILLIAM BRAMSON of Woodingdean, Nr. Brighton, Sussex, has pleasure in announcing the birth of his 11th great grandchild who was born on 28th February, 1974. She is to be called Maria Joyce.

BOB FINCH of Solihull, Warwickshire, is delighted to announce the arrival of a great grand-daughter, born to his grand-daughter, Anne, on 5th March, 1974.

ARTHUR ROWE of Newcastle, Staffs., who is pleased to announce the safe arrival of another great grandchild, Richard Mark Walters, born on 6th July, 1973.

Long Life and happiness to:

Philip, son of LESLIE THOMPSON, of Gateshead, Co. Durham, who married Katrina Halliday of Port Patrick, in her home town, on 9th March, 1974.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:—

JIM DELANEY of Bridgewater, Somerset, on the death of his mother on 7th March, 1974, at the age of 98.

JERRY LYNCH of London, S.W.20, on the death of his father, Patrick Lynch, on 9th February, 1974, at the age of 75 years.

STEWART NIXON, of Milford-on-Sea, Hants., who mourns the death of his wife, Hilda Mary, on 29th March, 1974. Mrs. Nixon had been unwell for some time.

RAYMOND SANDIFORD of Bolton, Lancs., who mourns the death of his wife May, who passed away on 5th April, 1974.

STANLEY SOUTHALL of Smethwick, Worcs., mourns the death of his brother who passed away on 17th February, 1974.

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.

David Matheson. *Merchant Navy*

David Matheson late of East London, died at Northgate House on 9th February, 1974. He was 77 years of age.

He served in the Army during the 1st World War and joined the Merchant Navy in 1924. He served in the Merchant Navy right up until 1940 when he was taken prisoner of war.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1964 when he was living in East London and a few years later he went to reside at Northgate House where he was well liked by his St. Dunstaner friends and enjoyed his years of retirement. He was a bachelor and had no known relatives.

Arthur Harry Middleton. *Lancashire Fusiliers*

Arthur Harry Middleton of Blackburn, Lancs., died on 19th March, 1974, at the age of 78.

He enlisted in the Lancashire Fusiliers in December, 1915, was wounded in 1916 and gassed in 1918. Mr. Middleton was admitted to St. Dunstan's on 8th March, 1974 and passed away on 19th March, 1974, so unfortunately was unable to enjoy any help which could have been provided by St. Dunstan's. He was a widower and lived with his daughter Margaret.

Albert Prettejohns. *8th City of London Post Office Brigade*

Albert Prettejohns died on 2nd April, 1974 at the age of 78.

He enlisted in the 8th City of London Post Office Brigade in 1914 and was discharged in 1917, but due to his injuries he was, in fact, admitted to St. Dunstan's in March, 1916.

Mr. Prettejohns was trained as a mat maker and specialised in making fancy baskets. He and his wife and son lived in London for some time, then moved to Hampshire, but in 1930 they returned to London. Mr. Prettejohns' health broke down a few years later and he was admitted to hospital on frequent occasions, and he finally died in Mayday Hospital, Croydon.

He leaves a son, Mr. Graham Prettejohns.

William Richard Slade. *Royal West Kent Regiment*

William Richard Slade of Ramsgate, Kent, died on 27th March, 1974, at the age of 75.

He enlisted in the Royal West Kent Regiment in March, 1917, and served with them until his discharge in May, 1918.

Mr. Slade had already reached retirement age when his sight finally failed and he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in November, 1971. Both he and Mrs. Slade were able to fulfill their hobby interest of working in the garden and greenhouse with the benefit of advice and help from our Country Life Department.

Mr. Slade was taken ill at the beginning of the year but made a steady recovery and his death in March was a shock to his wife and son, who lives at home with his parents.

He leaves a wife, Mrs. Beatrice Anne Slade, and son.

Frank Whitehouse. *57th Labour Corps.*

Frank Whitehouse of Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs., died on 7th March, 1974. He was 85 years old.

He enlisted in the 57th Labour Corps and served with them from 1916 until his discharge in 1918, but it was not until later in life that his sight failed and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1967. Mr. Whitehouse was already happily settled in residential accommodation in Stoke-on-Trent and he remained there until his death. He was able to enjoy some holidays in Brighton when his health permitted.

He leaves a niece, Mrs. J. Wilkinson.

Christopher Charles Wilkinson. *14th Bomb Disposal Unit*

Christopher Charles Wilkinson of Hull, Yorkshire, died on 14th March, 1974. He was 59 years of age.

He enlisted in the 14th Bomb Disposal Unit in September 1939 and served with them until his discharge in December 1941. He was injured in June 1941 when a bomb exploded during disposal but it was not until 1946 that he came to St. Dunstan's. After completing industrial training he commenced employment with Messrs. Armstrong Patents Ltd., in Beverley, Yorks. He completed twenty-five years service with the firm in 1971 and remained in their employment right up to the time of his death.

Although he had developed heart trouble some ten years ago, Mr. Wilkinson kept pretty well in health apart from a period on the sick list about a year ago. The news of his death came to us very suddenly as we had not heard that he had suffered any further illness recently.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Hilda Wilkinson and one son, Charles, who is married.