

St Dunstans
REVIEW
JULY



St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

NO 654

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5p MONTHLY

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Small Matters Often Count

We often speak of the 'St. Dunstan's spirit' in far-reaching matters of influence and importance, but I have just heard of an incident which shows it at work in another way.

A member of St. Dunstan's staff, whose official appointment is as one of our technical visitors away from Headquarters, met a fairly new First War St. Dunstaner at a Reunion. First of all, he took charge of his Braille watch and arranged for it to be brought back to London for repair. Then in the course of conversation he heard that the St. Dunstaner was anxious to visit his brother's war grave in France and also to trace a photograph of himself which had appeared in the local press many years ago. Now the member of staff is taking up these queries personally to see what information is available which may be of interest or help to the St. Dunstaner.

I am sure the two gentlemen concerned will not mind my quoting this little story, without giving their names, as it is a happy example of what occurs so often. Many St. Dunstaners will call to mind their own experiences of kindness and action from the staff in little things which are really quite apart from their official duties. I speak for all my fellow St. Dunstaners when I say how much we appreciate this wide interest and the friendship which is extended to us.

The Family

While everybody knows that all families do not get on well together, perhaps because of the "generation gap", I think the family is still a very strong link and especially is this the case amongst St. Dunstaners.

An overwhelming majority of St. Dunstaners praise their wives and rightly so. I once described my wife as "my eyes" and I once used the expression "an help meet for him". It is undoubtedly true that most of us rely for our happiness and what little success may have come our way upon the ready, skilful and patient help of our wives. Then there is the very real pride in the exploits or careers or activities of our children and grandchildren. I receive many letters and read news in the *Review* which make this clear.

The Greater Family

It is well recognised that a great many people enjoy loyalty to a group of persons with whom they have a common interest or a common experience. The Regiment, the Royal British Legion Branch or Club and, more especially, St. Dunstan's itself are examples of a wider family feeling, which helps to sustain us.

COVER PICTURE: On his "Green Acres" Charles Cummings with his cattle.—See "Ways of Life" on centre pages.

How many old soldiers, I wonder, have enjoyed listening to "Dad's Army", an amusing—almost ridiculous—BBC programme, recalling the improbably experiences of a platoon of the Home Guard? I find myself listening to this programme and I sometimes wonder why I like it: perhaps because it is essentially funny, but much more because it is nostalgic, awakening long-forgotten incidents or recreating characters whom I recognise as having been my comrades in the War.

I think this magazine, the St. Dunstan's *Review*, reflects the feeling of our worldwide brotherhood and I congratulate the Editor and his assistants.

Fraser of Lonsdale

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.

Percy William Acton of Ovenden, Halifax, became a full St. Dunstaner in May 1974. He served from 1934–1946 in the Royal Artillery Field Regiment, and is married with four grown-up daughters.

Montague William Peace of Basingstoke, Hants., joined St. Dunstan's in April, 1974. He served in the Queen's West Surrey Regiment in the 1st World War. He is a widower and has two daughters, one of whom lives with him. Since his discharge from the Army he has worked as a gardener and on a farm until his retirement in 1966. It is only recently his sight has deteriorated and as a result, he has come to St. Dunstan's.

Mr. Harry Pye, of Bamber Bridge, Preston, became a full St. Dunstaner in June, 1974. Mr. Pye served from 1938 to 1954 in the 2nd Loyal Regiment and is married.

Albert Harold Saunders of Brockham, Nr. Dorking, Surrey, joined St. Dunstan's in April, 1974. He served with the Royal Garrison Artillery in the 1st World War. He enlisted in 1908 and was discharged in 1917. He is married.

Walter Snowden of Doncaster joined St. Dunstan's in May, 1974. He served with the Labour Corps during the 1st World War and is married.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

On the Queen's official birthday Lord Fraser sent her the following telegram:—

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.
BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

ON BEHALF OF BLINDED EX-SERVICEMEN THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH I WISH YOUR MAJESTY MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY.

FRASER OF LONSDALE.
CHAIRMAN OF ST. DUNSTAN'S.

Lord Fraser received the following telegram from the Queen:—

I SEND YOU AND ALL BLINDED EX-SERVICEMEN THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH MY SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR KIND MESSAGE ON THE CELEBRATION OF MY BIRTHDAY.

ELIZABETH R.

Derby Sweepstake

The Derby Sweepstake seemed to be as popular as ever this year and we sold 137 more tickets than last year. Eighteen horses came under starter's orders and the pay-out was as follows:—

1st Prize—W. Muir, Newcastle. SNOW KNIGHT. Ticket No. 2775, £209.86

2nd Prize—N. M. Street, Chichester. IMPERIAL PRINCE. Ticket No. 561, £83.94

3rd Prize—L. J. Shorter, Hove, GIAGOMETTI. Ticket No. 2317, £41.97.

All those holding a ticket for a horse that ran in the race received £5.59.

REUNIONS

MANCHESTER

Weather not too good for either this Reunion or the one at Liverpool two days later but what did that matter once one was inside the hotel in good company? At the Midland hotel on Thursday, 6th June, a total of 100 people sat down to lunch, including 15 St. Dunstaners from the first and 25 from the second World War or later. The arrangements were in the capable hands of Mrs. Ballantyne, assisted by Miss Broughton, and friends and helpers with members of the retired staff were:— Mrs. Spurway, Miss Coop, Mrs. Eaton, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Brady and Mr. Owen. Another guest was Mr. Howard Langley, of Radio Manchester, who prepared a 30 minute broadcast to be transmitted on Sunday, 30th June, so if you did not hear it then a miss will have to be as good as a mile!

Air Marshal Sir Douglas Morris, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., who was accompanied by Lady Morris, was the member of St. Dunstan's Council presiding. In his speech after lunch Sir Douglas brought greetings from the Council of St. Dunstan's and the Frasers, an "indefatigable pair" and he hoped that all present would enjoy a happy day. He particularly thanked Mrs. Ballantyne and Miss Broughton for organising the Reunion, and the hotel staff.

All Occupied

Among the 100 people present, Sir Douglas said this being a working day most of the St. Dunstaners were retired but many were occupied with hobbies or gardening and some were still gainfully employed. He particularly welcomed Thomas Bradley, Wilmslow, Thomas Duxbury, Barrow-in-Furness, James Henderson, Heywood, Norman Kershaw, Blackburn, and Stanley Moseley, Blackpool, all comparatively new St. Dunstaners, and William Hargreaves, Whitchurch, and Alfred Olerenshaw, Altrincham, St. Dunstan's officers attending their first Manchester Reunion.

Sir Douglas told the newcomers that he would like to say two things. The Reunions were for St. Dunstaners to get together, and make new friends as well as chatting with those they already knew, and they had the opportunity to meet members of the

staff present in perhaps less formal circumstances than at Headquarters. To put problems to them and make life a little happier if these could be resolved.

Referring to St. Dunstan's Secretary, Mr. C. D. Wills, Sir Douglas said he felt impelled to attend all Reunions. Mr. Wills had a vast background of experience in Welfare and everyone was delighted to see him there and hoped he would continue to come.

The day was the 30th anniversary of the landings in Normandy which, as Sir Douglas pointed out, held great poignancy for some and to all of us it was a great day in history. Some present could look back on the start of the 1st World War, the anniversary of which would fall in two months time. To those of the first World War it might not seem so very long ago.

Founder

St. Dunstan's, Sir Douglas said, was founded by an able man, himself blind, who was succeeded by Lord Fraser (then Captain Ian Fraser) known for many years in the popular press and generally as "the blind M.P.". Whatever the staff could and did do the end result finally depended on the individual St. Dunstaner. "What ever action you take," said Sir Douglas, "not only glamorises but sets standards for other people." In associated countries overseas the local St. Dunstan's was run on similar lines, and had the same tradition and standards. It was a great thing to have a common background.

Fred Bullough, of Bolton, gave the vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners. Although he had served in the Lancashire Fusiliers during the first World War, it was only in 1970 that he had come into St. Dunstan's. He found it a wonderful organisation and he was most grateful for help given. He expressed his thanks to Welfare and all departments especially to Mrs. Ballantyne, his Welfare Visitor, "So on your behalf," he said "I extend thanks for all good deeds to me and my comrades."

Mr. Wills said that it was a pleasure to attend the Reunions and this also gave him an opportunity to check up on all St.

Dunstaners! Every year some faces were missing but then every year there were some new faces and we were very glad to welcome them.

Margaret Stanway, Macclesfield, then presented a bouquet to Lady Morris.

LIVERPOOL

The total number of 79 persons at the Adelphi Hotel on Saturday, 8th June, was 21 fewer than at Manchester, but the relative number of St. Dunstaners still in employment was higher since it was not a working day. There were 9 from the 1st and 22 from the Second World War or later. Mrs. Ballantyne was again in charge of the arrangements, assisted by Miss Broughton, and among our guests we were happy to see Dr. and Mrs. D. L. Charters as well as Mrs. Spurway with her younger daughter, Mrs. Paton, and Mrs. Harris.

Greetings

The Rev. F. Darrell Bunt, C.B., O.B.E., M.A., accompanied by Mrs. Darrell Bunt, presided at this Reunion. He explained that Lord and Lady Fraser's many engagements did not permit them to attend all Reunions, so other members of the Council presided at some. He brought greetings from the Council and expressed the hope that everyone would enjoy the occasion. He then ran through the list of guests and members of staff present, adding that unfortunately Miss Midgley could not attend owing to illness, but a "get well" message would be sent to her.

The Council of St. Dunstan's, said Mr. Darrell Bunt, were concerned that Mr. Wills should not overwork himself through his attendance at all Reunions; they were anxious that his zeal should not impair his administrative efficiency. He welcomed John Hughes, Aberffraw, and Joseph Wake, Barrow-in-Furness, attending their first Reunion and announced that Mr. and Mrs. Lot Clarke, St. Helen's, would celebrate their 55th Wedding Anniversary on 14th June, and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Roberts, Buckley, their Golden Wedding on 24th June. He added that Herbert Frost, Manchester, had retired after 27 years with the Hawker Siddeley Corporation Ltd.

Mr. Darrell Bunt wondered whether his listeners remembered the article "April's Here", published in St. Dunstan's *Review*

three months ago. The last paragraph in this article began "It has been said that the eyes are set in our heads to look forward and not backward and in the metaphorical, though not the literal sense, this is exactly what blind people must do if they are to achieve contentment and success in life." Mr. Darrell Bunt said that it was generally undesirable to look back in regret, anger, sorrow, or grief, but he agreed with the *Review* that "there can, however, be no harm in looking back from time to time on happy scenes or pursuits of earlier days". He recalled that when serving as Chaplain in a Royal Navy cruiser on the China Station in 1931, a Captain of the Northumberland Fusiliers, who had started life as a Drummer boy, was a guest on board the ship at Wei-hai-wei for a week or so. This Army officer would spend his day in a small boat or otherwise and when asked, "Well, soldier, what sort of a day have you had?" he would reply, "Another good day to put in the Bank".

Another Good Day

"I am sorry", said Mr. Darrell Bunt, "for those born blind who have never seen a sunset or a rose". Such people could, of course, learn by touch and hearing but could never appreciate the wonders of sunset or dawn. Those of us, when with sight, had happy memories which we would never forget. There was so much to store up. "Another good day to put in the Bank".

Vote of Thanks

The vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners was spoken by Tom Taylor, Leyland. He said it was a great pleasure to be at the Reunion with his wife, and he included several amusing stories in a witty speech. Then he turned to a more serious aspect of the message he wanted to deliver. He referred to a small girl in Church, when the congregation bowed their heads in prayer, asking her mother, "What are we looking for, Mummy?" People who lost their sight lost their self-respect, self-confidence and a sense of security. This is what they were looking for and what St. Dunstan's rehabilitation gave them back. He thanked all who contributed to the self-confidence and well being of St. Dunstaners. He also thanked the hotel staff for their services on this occasion.

OBITUARY

Miss Lilian B. Woolrych

We are very sorry to report the death on 1st June of Miss L. B. Woolrych at the age of 82. Miss Woolrych first joined the staff of St. Dunstan's in September, 1917, and she served in several capacities, as Braille teacher, sports sister and after care visitor. She always maintained her interest in St. Dunstan's and even after her final retirement she still from time to time conducted Braille tests. Her funeral took place at Riverhead, Kent, on 7th June, and St. Dunstan's was represented by Tommy Milligan, one of her earliest and constant friends, now residing at Pearson House, who has sent us the following tribute:—

"In the early days at St. Dunstan's when our numbers were very small, lessons in Braille were given by a group of ladies who had been voluntary transcribers before the war. One of these ladies was Miss Lilian B. Woolrych. Those of her original pupils who, like me, have survived the long interval of years, will remember her lessons with pleasure. She made the strain of "dot-chasing" an exciting pastime.

About three years after World War I ended, Miss Woolrych joined our Welfare Service. She was always a welcome visitor in the homes of St. Dunstaners in her area.

In the late 1920s the Secretary asked Miss Woolrych to undertake the teaching of Braille, typing and Braille shorthand at St. John's Lodge. Assisted by Corporal-Major Bill Tovell she organised our various sporting activities; field events in Regent's Park and rowing on the lake in training for the annual regattas on the Thames at Putney.

When World War II ended Lilian Woolrych resumed her teaching at our Avenue Road, London, annexe.

All those who were privileged to know her will remember her happy combination of tireless energy and charm."

LIVERPOOL—continued

Elsie Aldred, Warrington, then presented a bouquet to Mrs. Darrell Bunt and the whole company spent a very pleasant afternoon talking to friends old and new and dancing.

Mr. I. M. Bankes-Williams, M.A.

St. Dunstaners, particularly those who underwent training at Church Stretton during the 2nd World War, will learn with regret of the death on 2nd May of Mr. I. M. Bankes-Williams at the age of 77. Mr. Bankes-Williams served in the Royal Field Artillery during the 1st World War and retired in 1919 with the rank of Captain Adjutant. He then joined Harrow School as an Assistant Master and remained there until June, 1941, when he took up the post of Director of Training at St. Dunstan's. Mr. Bankes-Williams left our organisation at the end of 1944 to become Headmaster of Wellington School, Somerset. A St. Dunstaner, trained at Church Stretton, who is now one of our successful physiotherapists and has always maintained a close friendship with Mr. and Mrs. Bankes-Williams, is Ron Ettridge, of Croydon, who sends us the following tribute:—

"Mr. I. Bankes-Williams will be remembered with affection and respect both by the staff and trainees who were with him at Church Stretton during the war where he was first Commandant and later Director of Training. Many of us will never forget his help and understanding when we were taking our first steps in blindness. I am sure all will wish to join me in offering Mrs. Bankes-Williams our deepest sympathy."

National Insurance Contributions

With effect from 7th August, St. Dunstan's will continue to pay 60p of the weekly contribution of the self-employed St. Dunstaner and the employed St. Dunstaner whether he is contracted in or out of the graduated scheme, and will pay the whole of the contribution for those non-employed St. Dunstaners who are liable.

L. SLADE
Pensions Officer.

To All Campers

Last year the draw in Camp made over £60 which was a great help. Prizes for this year gratefully received in Camp. Looking forward to August 16th.

AVIS SPURWAY.

To Transcend

by Sidney Jones



To transcend is to go beyond . . . beyond the pain, mistrust, greed, violence, frustration, anxiety, stress, depression and hatred of our time lies the peace, happiness, achievement and fulfilment which is the birthright of man. . . .

One morning, about the middle of May, 1973, I heard an interview on the local radio station. It was about a technique for the relief of stress and the development of mental potential. I could sure use some of that just about that time, so I made a note of the 'phone number and a couple of days later I went to a lecture. I was cynical and sceptical, and anyone who did not know me round about that time last year will have no idea of the meaning of those two words, so I will tell you. I just did not believe in anything any more.

I was, however, impressed by the demeanour of the lecturer and decided to follow the programme of instruction outlined. What the hell—I had just made plans for the next fifteen years and now it looked as though I would be a total cripple within a couple of years, so it was worth a gamble. The lecturer was a teacher of the Science of Creative Intelligence and Transcendental Meditation.

Within a couple of weeks I knew what peace of mind meant for the first time in my life. I began to know the meaning of tranquility, utter serenity, at least for part of each day. I began to make decisions easily and things began to move my way.

Of course, the problems were still there, but somehow it was different. I could cope more easily, I could get things into perspective.

In August I went on a one month teacher training course for teachers of the Science of Creative Intelligence. This is a preliminary course, and is a prerequisite for anyone wanting to take a full course of training to become a teacher of the practice of Transcendental Meditation. In January I went to Belgium as a student of Maharishi International University, and on April 1st qualified as the first totally blind teacher of Transcendental Meditation and the Science of Creative Intelligence.

As you will have gathered from all this, I am convinced of the validity of the claims made for this technique of Transcendental Meditation at the introductory lecture which I attended in Manchester, and now intend to publicise and teach the technique myself. What, then, is this Science of Creative Intelligence and its practical aspect, Transcendental Meditation?

A science is taken to be a systematic investigation by means of repeatable experiment to gain useful and testable knowledge. Creativity is the cause of

change and is always present everywhere. Intelligence is a basic quality of existence exemplified in the purpose and order of change. The single and branching flow of energy (creativity) and directedness (intelligence) is called creative intelligence. Therefore, the Science of Creative Intelligence is the knowledge of the nature, origin, range, growth and application of creative intelligence. This Science arose from the major discovery that there exists in every human being the constant source of intelligence, energy and happiness. This source can be easily and systematically drawn upon by everyone for spontaneous use in everyday life, bringing personal integration and a harmoniously productive relationship with others and the world. The technique for contacting this source of intelligence, energy and happiness is the practical aspect of the Science of Creative Intelligence—Transcendental Meditation.

The Truth

About a hundred and fifty years ago, one single idea, the idea of experiment, was adopted in the west; experiment to establish the truth. This was the basis of modern scientific progress and has altered the face of the earth. Conditions of life have changed in an explosive way. Things that were previously quite unimaginable are now commonplace. There has been a momentous material advance. Humanity has made more progress in this century than in the whole of its previous history. All this has been the result of one simple practice, experiment to establish the truth. Truth is not just something you believe in, have opinions about, or accept from authority. It is something to be tested and proved by experience. It was this idea, and the practice which resulted from it, which brought about the technological revolution which has produced modern civilisation. But something is still missing in our civilisation. Despite all the improvements, human dissatisfaction still abounds.

Aspects of Life

Now, all the changes in civilisation in the last hundred years have been in the external aspects of life. The subjective situation has hardly changed at all. Man himself is still what he was before this technological age began. If humanity is to advance, this tremendous material pro-

gress in the modern world must now be balanced by an exactly parallel advance in man's subjective capacity, his consciousness. Transcendental Meditation is the one simple idea necessary to provide the opportunity for the development of our subjective nature in order to maintain this equal and parallel progress. It is a simple, natural technique which progressively refines the nervous system through the regular alternation of rest and activity. We all know that sound sleep makes us fresher next day whilst lack of sleep leaves us tired and unable to think clearly. The rest gained during Transcendental Meditation is more profound than the rest gained during deep sleep. In this way it makes the mind clearer and thoughts and action become more effective. Transcendental Meditation leads to the fulfilment of all one's potentialities as a human being through this alternation of deep rest and activity.

Eliminating Stresses

Transcendental Meditation improves both the mind and the body by developing the full potential of the mind and eliminating stresses from the nervous system. It improves body-mind co-ordination. No physical exercises are necessary, though teachers of TM are able to teach some simple exercises which the founder of this technique, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, recommends to improve the physical condition, but these are by no means essential. Transcendental Meditation is complete in itself.

A Simple Technique

Many people, as I was myself, are sceptical of a technique which claims to be so simple and yet purports to offer so much, and scepticism in itself is not a bad thing, since it avoids too eager a watching for results. Nor should anyone feel that they have not the time for a practice which requires only fifteen to twenty minutes twice a day and which gives in return two hundred per cent value of life—one hundred per cent enjoyment of active life at work and play, and one hundred per cent enjoyment of inner serenity, tranquillity and rest to revitalise and rejuvenate the nervous system, removing tension, stress and anxiety and eliminating the causes of so many of the psychosomatic diseases which are the blight of our present society.

Reading Time

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 783

The First Circle

by Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Read by Anthony Parker

This is a work of truly monumental proportions. It runs to three cassettes, eighty-nine chapters and a Reading Time of 32½ hours. Set in the period of the Stalin Terror it deals with the lives and hopes and fears of a group of political prisoners, each one a highly-qualified specialist in his own field, working at Mavrino, a top-secret electronics establishment.

Written in a matter-of-fact, sometimes gently-ironic style (far more devastating than any high-flown prose) it is a telling indictment of a monstrous bureaucracy where everyone is an informer by conviction or compulsion. It depicts a system which destroys without compunction countless thousands for daring to do that which we cheerfully accept as our inalienable right—the right to question and criticise that system. Nor are the prisoners' innocent wives left unpunished (. . . "they are persecuted, harrassed, never left alone. . .")

This is not "entertainment", an easy book to read. I found the tongue-twisting Russian names and patronymics so alien as to make character-identification—especially in the early stages of the book—virtually impossible. Some of the long philosophical discussions between prisoners were tedious, often incomprehensible. Some may consider the book far too long, it contains a plethora of minute detail, (this is true, of course, of many Russian classical authors).

But I would unhesitatingly recommend the book to the serious reader prepared to give the necessary concentration, time and trouble. For "The First Circle" is a great novel and makes an important contribution to the literature of our time.

KEMP TOWN NOTES

The important dates for the month of May in the town were the two weeks of the Brighton Festival. The theme was the sea so the opening concert was very appropriate with the Band of the Royal Marines presenting a nautical programme, much enjoyed by a party from Pearson House. Small numbers attended the numerous concerts including Chamber Music, Opera, Symphony Orchestras, Variety with Bruce Forsyth and a new play by John Hopkins.

Our annual date at the Metropole for the Brighton Reunion came during this time and will have been fully reported. Several of our residents were lucky in the raffle and showed us handsome prizes.

Concerts

Tom Eales presented another enjoyable stereo evening with a Mantovani Concert. We had a most welcome return visit of the Weybridge Male Voice Choir. Mr. Browning brought his two grand-daughters, making their first public appearances; one played the oboe and Julie, the younger, the French horn. As you can imagine the St. Dunstaners gave them a warm reception but it was all too much for Julie and she left us tearful!

Very small numbers attended Brighton Races on two days and we had drives to The Forge, Partridge Green, and St. Peter's Cottage, Cowfold.

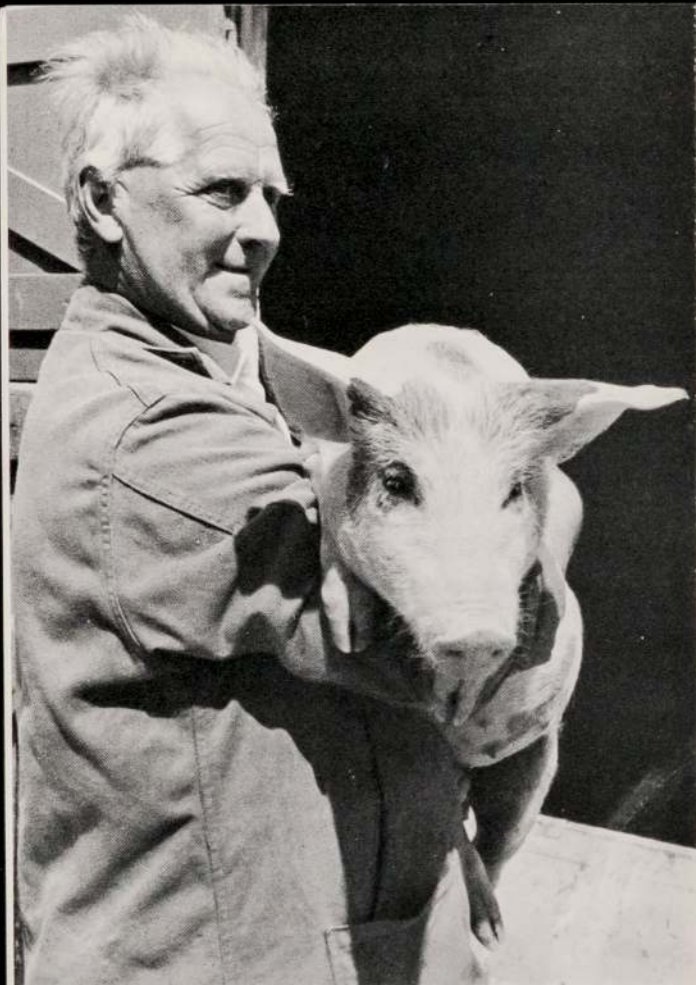
Musical Evening

John Berlin an ex-orderly, played classical piano music one evening as he did at Christmas, he has a light touch and obviously enjoys entertaining the appreciative audience.

It was a fine warm night for the Spring Bank Holiday Dance, and as the tempo and temperature increased we were able to have the doors open and of course refreshment from the bar.

DON'T SHUT ME IN—Charles Cummings

Talking to David Castleton



Not many St. Dunstaners nowadays work on the land. The idyllic way of living on your own small plot in the countryside which would appeal to many of us tied to the cities by our work has been pushed out of reach by harsh realities of economics. One St. Dunstaner who is still managing to live out the idyll is Charles Cummings. But Charles, a countryman born and bred, is too much a realist to think in such romantic terms. He has been working in agriculture since he was twelve, since 1923 in fact—more than fifty years.

Nevertheless he can remember the first time he milked a cow at his grandfather's smallholding near Kingsclere in Hampshire not far from Basingstoke. "It was in the summertime and he was haymaking. He said to me, 'Boy, you go and milk Dolly—that was the name of the cow. Well, I didn't know no better, I went and sat down by the cow on the wrong side. You must sit on the right hand side of a cow to milk 'em. He came round and he carried on, he

said, 'tis a wonder that cow hasn't kicked your head in'. But she never did, she never moved.

"That was my first experience of milking and knowing the right and wrong side of a cow to milk them. When you're sitting on the right side, if anything happens you've got more control over that cow. I don't know if you've noticed, even in a field they nearly always stand with their left back leg forward and the right leg back, so you've got more control over the udder and the bag".

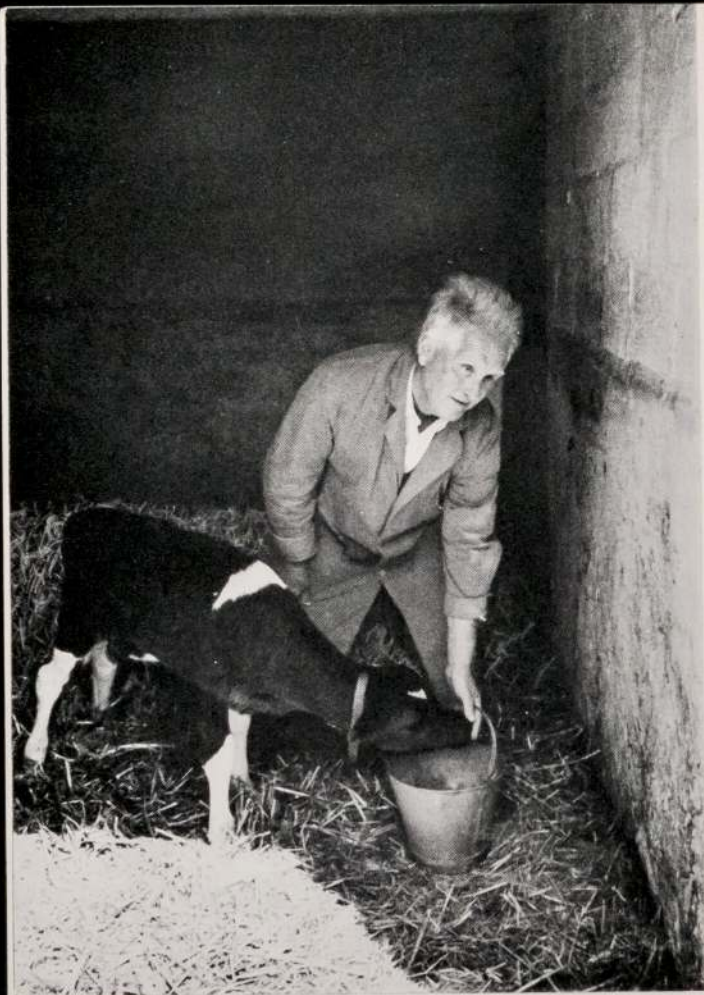
Born at Ashford Hill, near Burghclere, in Hampshire, Charles spent his childhood among farm animals. "I used to work weekends, holiday times when I was home from school, then when I left school I still went farming—milking and odd jobs. One farm, we had a TT jersey herd and when the head cowman was on holiday I used to do the milking then. You had to do twenty cows night and morning and get the milk to Newbury Station by nine o'clock in the morning. All hand milking. In them days, I could milk eight or nine cows, take them as they come, in an hour. Mind you I could milk better than I can now. The old bones don't go so well now".

Timber Cutting

Then came the realities of economics again and Charles turned to timber cutting like his father where there was better money to be earned, "But for years even when we had our own cottage I would always have one or two pigs a-roaming in the sty". When the war came and he was called up he was working on construction of army camps. His service in the second war with the 10th Gloucesters in Burma cost him his sight although he has some residual vision which helps him get about his land.

There is a tradition of farming in his family, "On my mother's side my grandfather and my uncle and all. They had farms. Yes, and my father done it years ago. He turned from farming to woodwork, you know, in the timber cutting and all that, but he done farming".

With this tradition behind him he had no difficulty in making up his mind what to do when he came to St. Dunstan's. "It was the thing I knew and it was something I loved doing. I could go straight into it more or less. Which I couldn't go to the factory to work—it's good money, I know, but I



couldn't—that would kill me. I want the open air. I couldn't be shut in".

There was a smallholding on the market at Wheat Hold Green near his birthplace. "I thought I'd like to get there, so I called St. Dunstan's and bought it that way. It was 2½ to 3 acres, it was small but I had pigs—at one time I had over 30 pigs there and cows. At that time we had our own horse and cart. . . used to take all our stuff to market they did—our own horse and cart—to Newbury Market".

Charles' true interest is in livestock, "I'm not a very good gardener really. I like seeing the stuff and all—I grow a few potatoes or anything like that but I'm not what you call a good gardener. I rather want something bigger, like a plough".

He has always raised animals, "Pigs mainly. To me a pig's a very fascinating animal. When I was back at The Grove, we used to breed our own there. We had our own sow and boar and all there, but we lost them and then we turned over to

fattening, buying in and fattening. You make more money that way because you've got to keep a sow six months, four months before they're farrowed down and two months before the pigs are ready to sell—so there's six months you're feeding that sow. When they farrow—you get a bad litter or she kills the lot—you've done that six months work for nothing. Well, if so be you buy them in you've already got the animal. You've got to risk what you've got to pay for them 'tis true.

"I've made money on pigs and I've lost money on pigs but I like 'em. Actually I prefer pigs to cows. I like 'em both but, as I say, to me there's something very fascinating about pigs. Just the way they grow I suppose—you come here in about another six weeks, them pigs will be more than twice the size they are now".

Chilthorne Domer

The land Charles is working now is still new to him—he has been at Chilthorne Domer, near Yeovil, just over a year. It is the largest he has had, 12½ acres. He doesn't find much difficulty moving about, "Once I get used to a place I don't care really how dark it is. I can go. I can't see nothing in the dark but as long as nothing has been moved from where I put it I've always got that feeling when I'm close to it and I could tell you near enough where it is. The only thing that do do me is when someone moves something. Then I am beat".

One of the advantages he now enjoys is to be able to grow his own hay, "When you've got to start paying out for everything, well then 'tis a dear go. That's how it was at Verwood I used to have to buy everything. Here last year we cut our own hay ourselves. I've got my own cutter. I haven't got turners, nor balers. I have to get another farmer to do that. But the son, he came down and cut it and we borrowed a turner—that tosses the hay about and helps to dry it. Then I got another farmer in to finish it. He came and turned it twice, baled it and carted it and stacked it. I couldn't do it on me own. I haven't got the machinery not for that".

Nevertheless Charles finds it well worth while to grow his own hay. "Hay this winter was up £20 a ton. Look, the last year I was down at Verwood I bought 6 ton of hay that was £18 a ton now it's

about £38 a ton and it will be dearer still next year".

One of the problems of farming in a new locality is getting to know the land you are working. "Back in Verwood it was all on sandy soil. Here it's clay. Back in Verwood if it rained all night I could still go out and dig next morning. Here you've got a week before you can touch it".

Another problem is getting to know the farming community. It is important to keep your ear to the ground says Charles, "I used to go to Ringwood market, well, after the market we always used to go down to the local pub. That's where the dealers and the farmers go. You could learn more in there than actually stood in the cattle market—in buying and selling and what price things are. Here I don't. I go down to the market here and then I go straight back home because we don't know the people nor nothing about here. But I expect I shall get to know somebody".

Farm Sales

When it comes to buying cattle he prefers to go to a farm sale. "You go to a farm sale you know that cattle's been looked after and you know how many cows have got to be sold. Which you take cows through the market you don't know whether there is anything wrong with that animal. There's always farm sales all the year round. Some people retire, some people give up. I have a good browse round. If so be you're after cattle, if you can get in with somebody who've been looking after the animals, that's the sort of people to get to talk to".

At farm or at market Charles examines and judges the animals he is interested in. "In the market, now with pigs, I get in the pen with them pigs before I buy them and feel them myself. If you are looking for a pig you are looking for a good sleek coat and a clean pig and if you are looking for calves you look for a good glossy coat, dry navel string. But with cows, well, 'tis a job to know with cows. You've got to be able to feel the bag, but, you see, a cow with a big bag doesn't mean to say that cow have got milk there, it could have a fleshy bag. You want something with a silky bag."

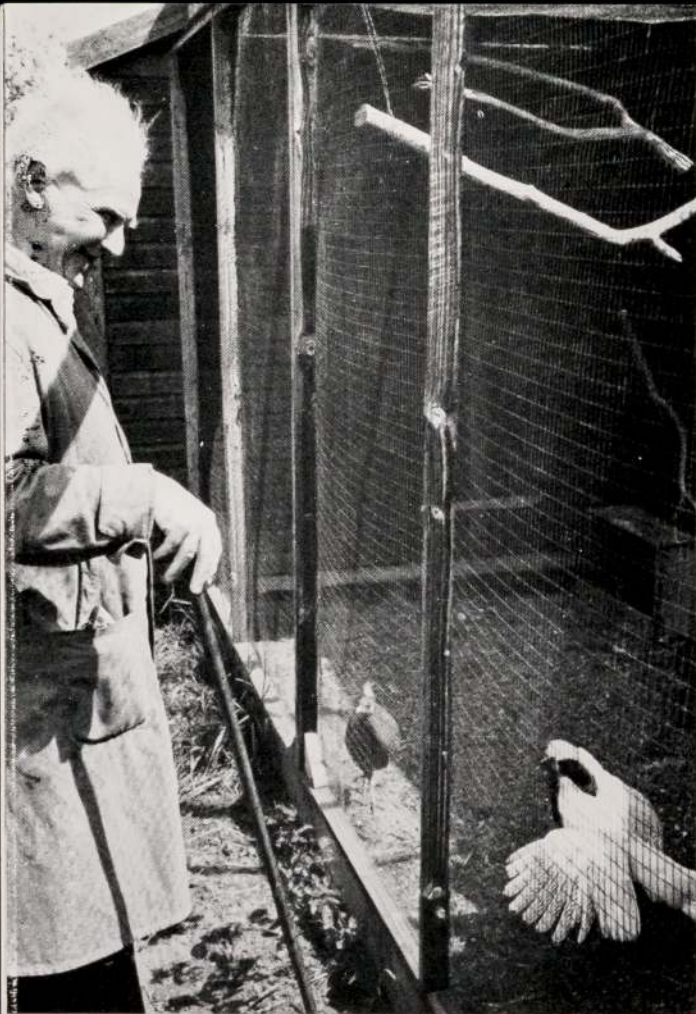
Charles breeds his own calves from his cows. "It's always by artificial insemination—I've never had any bulls. But to me a calf born from insemination he don't



seem to have the sense that they do straight from the bull. I've found that in several ways—in feeding and in sensibility. They don't seem the same as they do with a bull—and yet as soon as they are born, in two or three minutes they are up on their feet".

Charles and his wife, Olive, cope with their animals at such times. "I always got out to my cows myself. My wife can see from the scullery window across the field. You can always tell within an hour or two when they're going to calve. If they're out in the field you'll see when they're getting towards calving that cow will always go away on her own".

Sometimes Charles finds his lack of vision can be a real handicap, "There is times when you get in a bit of a fix now. Then if it weren't for the wife I couldn't do it. You get sick animals and anything like that. You get a bit of trouble with them outside or anything. As long as they go well and they do as you want, things are all right but as soon as anything happen to



Charles Cummings at his aviary. He keeps and breeds budgerigars and finches but shown in this picture is a pair of silver pheasants.

turn then, as you might say, then I've got to have some help. Because any animal, it don't matter how quiet they are like that Jersey cow. There is times when they are just awkward in every way.

"Just say I go out into the field to get them in. If that was a bit dusk and them animals wouldn't come, well that's when I want someone else 'cos I don't know where to find them. Just the same like in foggy weather or anything like that. There's times when I can't move fast enough myself".

Mrs. Cummings does not come from a farming background and says she could do without the animals but for Charles, "Goodness gracious, no, he wouldn't know what to do. He'd drive me mad! We've had some hard times with them. We've sat up all night with the sows. If a cow's calving at night, she might be right down at the

end of the field and we get up and go down to her. You see this is the sort of thing I never did like—I've got to like it a bit more now".

Up until now Charles has always bred calves for veal. "Like that jersey cow—she calved here last month. If that were a good calf I should run that calf on the cow for eight weeks. Then that would have went out as a veal calf. I should have bought another calf and put to that cow. That's the way I keep on all the year without them drying off, you see. Well, usually I do perhaps ten or twelve calves through the season—veal calves. But the trouble is now the price has gone. You can't do nothing with it". Now with more land at his disposal his plan is to run steers, "With that land up at the top you could run about eight. Those three black and white ones in the field they're steers and the same with them two bull calves down there in the yard, they're going for steers. You keep them about two years".

Raising animals in these precarious times is a gamble as Charles recognises. "If so be that the pig trade look up then I'd have more pigs no doubt. But everybody seems to have the idea that cows you buy this year will benefit next. Farming's always a gamble and always will be. It's a thing I like and I've always done it and I still like it".

He doesn't force a time when he will ever not want to bother with his animals, "Well people keep on to me now, why don't I retire. There's only one place for me when I retire and that's up the gravel path and that's where I should soon be. I've always been used to animals and the country life".

Wheat Hold Green, Hampshire; Verwood, Dorset; Chilthorne Domer, Somerset. At each of these places Charles Cummings has worked hard, won and lost in the gamble that is farming. At Chilthorne Domer his property, Green Acres, is, under his hands, beginning to live up to its name. His yard is immaculate—no mud, no straw or hay lying around. His tools—all in their orderly places in his sheds and workshop. The garden blossoming. As he stumps across his fields, gum booted, with a patriarchal staff in his hand, he is part of the land. With his countryman's tan he looks well on the farming life but he says, "Well, I can't help my looks".

DERBY DAY 1974

As the 'Bee Line' forty-one seater bumbled on its way to Epsom Downs on 5th June this year, I thought sadly of absent friends. In missing Bill and Phyll Harding, I remembered that to-day, too, Lord Rosebery was travelling on his final journey. But we were on our way to enjoy ourselves, so:

Derby Day
The rising morn with joy we greet,
Our hearts within us burn;
Hail, happy day, when blackguards meet,
And Parliaments adjourn!"

At one time, I am told, no business was transacted by Parliament on Derby Day. When the House met on that day in 1892 it was the first time for 36 years. But in 1974 the sky was blue above as we happily anticipated a glorious, and we hoped, a lucrative day.

We had each been given a packed luncheon for which we were most grateful to Miss Walshe and the staff of the Headquarters Canteen for arranging this. The sweepstake planned on the outward journey was won by Harry Meleson.

As we arrived at the meeting we joined up with our other St. Dunstan's friends and were happy to be able to enjoy the refreshing teas and ice-cream provided by their Brighton coach.

When 'this short day is cast away the care that waits on crowns,' I was informed that Her Majesty, the Queen, looked as beautiful as ever in a pale blue outfit with matching hat. The gipsies had predicted a prosperous day, and I think it was—for the gipsies!

A reluctant party, once more, boarded the coach for the homeward journey and on arriving at Marylebone Road tired but happy we were once again regaled with that welcome cup of tea which is such a feature of the London Club.

GREEN SHIELD STAMPS

St. Dunstan's sportsmen and their friends have made the target of £900 for the British Sports Association with Green Shield Stamps. A large proportion of this collection is due entirely to Charlie Stafford and his friends—a great achievement.

AVIS SPURWAY.

VICTORIA BLINDED SOLDIERS WELFARE TRUST

The Chairman of the Trust, Colonel (R.) J. Rex Hall, O.B.E., E.D., on a visit to the United Kingdom, had an interview with Lord Fraser. Asked about the work of the Trust, Colonel Rex Hall said, that he would first like to thank Lord Fraser for his continuing interest over the years.

Colonel Rex Hall explained that the several States of Australia have their own Association of war blinded, who form its membership. He is the sole remaining Foundation trustee of the Association in Victoria, he is also their treasurer. It was formed in 1932 and he has been its honorary secretary and chairman for 42 years. He spoke of the influence of St. Dunstan's not only on all those who were trained there, but the other men, not so fortunate, who have been encouraged by their example.

He referred to the late Dudley Tregent, blinded in France in 1918 at the age of about eighteen, trained at St. Dunstan's, married, and qualified as a solicitor at Melbourne University in 1923 and built up the largest individually owned private legal practice in Melbourne of which he was the active principal until his sudden death in August 1971.

Encouraged by St. Dunstan's

Others encouraged and helped by St. Dunstan's achieved distinctions as physiotherapists, telephone switchboard operators, business consultants and tradesmen; one even having built up a substantial woodwork trade with sawbenches and other machinery.

On reading our Annual Report Colonel Rex Hall made reference to the various occupations of our members and their sporting activities; and in the *Review*, to the Chairman's constant and successful efforts to improve the living standards of all war incapacitated.

He hoped all war blinded would find added inspiration in Sir Michael Ansell's "Soldier On" which is the only book he has had time to read since coming to London in April.

Colonel Rex Hall is a veteran of Gallipoli and the two world wars, Director of Rehabilitation of the Australian and Military Forces for four years, he has

CLUB NEWS

LONDON

The domino winners during the month of May were as follows:—

- 2nd May **1. J. Padley**
2. J. Majchrowicz
- 9th May **1. J. Majchrowicz**
2. R. Armstrong
- 16th May **1. C. Hancock**
2. W. Miller
- 23rd May **1. R. Armstrong**
2. J. Padley
3. W. Miller
- 30th May **1. R. Armstrong**
2. C. Hancock

W. MILLER.

MIDLAND

Two meetings and an outing comprise the activities of this Club since my last notes.

During the meetings held on Sunday, 12th May, we completed the Sir Arthur Pearson domino competition. This was won by Bruno Tomporowski with Louis Androlia as runner-up.

The tea for this meeting was provided for us by Mrs. Joan Cashmore and we all thanked her for a grand home-made tea.

On Sunday, 9th June, we held our second meeting and at this particular one the domino doubles competition was finished and once again Bruno was the successful player, this time playing with his wife, Elizabeth. Bill Green and Maisie Streets were the runners-up.

We spent quite a lot of time at this meeting practising our skills on the dart board and hope to start a very limited competition at our next meeting.

Mrs. Connie Faulkner was responsible for the tea at this meeting and despite being on a diet, she put on a grand spread for which we all thanked her.

Our annual outing was held on Sunday, 2nd June and we had an excellent run to Southport. The weather man was very kind too. With only one stop for coffee we arrived in Southport at about 12.30 p.m.

WELFARE TRUST—continued

never ceased his interest in the welfare of ex-service men and particularly war blinded. He sends greeting and best wishes to St. Dunstaners everywhere.

We were able to quench our thirsts in the Royal British Legion on arrival and it was very nice to be met there by Mr. Parker, our Industrial visitor, and Jack Newton, one of our 2nd War St. Dunstaners. Jack had quite a chat about old times with one or two of us who remembered him at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and Church Stretton.

Lunch had been arranged for one o'clock and at a restaurant only just down the road from the British Legion; a very good lunch it was too, all served piping hot. After lunch everyone was free to do as they wished until departure time. So we all went our various ways and everyone had a very enjoyable afternoon.

Our return journey was non-stop and we arrived in Birmingham at 9 p.m. During the return trip Mrs. Joan Cashmore handed out musical instruments, such as toy bazookas, cymbals, tambourines and castanets, we then had quite a musical hour's ride along the motorway!

Everyone enjoyed the day and said what a wonderful time they had had and how lucky we had been with the weather.

The next meeting of this club will be held on **Sunday, 7th July**, it has been brought forward one week owing to the industrial holidays.

DOUG CASHMORE,
Secretary.

"Music For The Blind"

MR. DEREK MILLS of 4 High Park Road, Southport, PR9 7QL, has started a project to tape record talks or music from the radio for blind people. Would interested St. Dunstaners please write direct to Mr. Mills for further information. As the service is free we suggest you send a stamped addressed envelope.

EXAMINATION SUCCESS

Paul, son of WILLIAM ALLEN of Farnborough, Hants., is studying law at Magdalen College, Oxford, and has just passed his first Law Moderations with Distinction. He will be studying for a further two years.

BRIDGE NOTES

The Masters

The annual match versus the members of the London County Contract Bridge Association (The Masters) was held on Saturday, 8th June, at the St. Dunstan's Headquarters in London. Five teams of four from each Club took part and the match was decided by the total net aggregate score on four hands played against each team; the winning team for the L.C.C.B.A. being the team with the highest plus score and for St. Dunstan's, the one with the lowest minus score. The results were as follows:

For the London County Contract Bridge Association

- 1 R. Sharples—J. Sharples**
D. Greenwood—W. Penchard +3390
- 2 G. Cooke—B. L. Teltscher
Mr. and Mrs. Garfield +2980
- 3 Miss V. Daly—D. Spooner
Mrs. R. Jenkins—Dr. R. Mallya +900
- 4 E. Wolfers—Mrs. K. Camrass
Mrs. R. Lodge—Mrs. S. Graham +580
- 5 R. Edmonds—W. Pitch
M. Sadek—J. Livesley +130

For St. Dunstan's

- 1 L. Douglass—E. Carpenter**
W. Allen—R. Freer -210
- 2 W. Lethbridge—F. Dickerson
A. Dodgson—R. Goding -1370
- 3 J. Lynch—M. Tybinski
W. Miller—J. Padley -1380
- 4 P. Nuyens—A. Caldwell
R. Armstrong—Mrs. Vi Delaney -1980
- 5 R. Evans—W. Phillips
H. King—J. Whitcombe -2780

Members of the winning visitors team were presented with a wool rug, the colour being of their own choice while Miss V. Daly, secretary of the L.C.C.B.A. presented each member of the winning St. Dunstan's team with a bottle of port and to every St. Dunstaner taking part a bottle of sherry.

In his speech, Bob Evans, Captain of the Bridge Club, on behalf of the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club, thanked our visitors for coming along and Miss Vi. Daly for once

again arranging this event so efficiently, as well as Mr. Percy Charters for directing the tournament. Bob also stressed the fact that this match constituted the highlight on our fixture card for the year and how much all our members were looking forward to our meeting again next year.

A hearty vote of thanks was also given to our Club Steward, Norman Smith, as well as his wife, and her helpers for serving such an excellent spread which certainly provided the finishing touch to a most memorable afternoon of Bridge.

Individual Competition

The fifth Individual Competition of both the London and Brighton Clubs were held on Saturday, 1st June. The results were as follows:—

London

W. Allen—J. Lynch	73
P. Nuyens—W. Phillips	70
J. Padley—W. Miller	69
F. Dickerson—A. Caldwell	63
J. Huk—J. Majchrowicz	60
H. Meleson—Miss Vera	
Kemmish	43

Brighton

R. Fullard—J. Whitcombe	67
M. Clements—C. Walters	65
R. Bickley—F. Griffiee	62
W. Scott—A. Dodgson	62
S. Webster—W. Lethbridge	59

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Trials. Stoke Mandeville

On July 6th and 7th B.S.A.D. are holding a week-end of sports trials at Stoke Mandeville Sports Stadium. The purpose of the event is to select a British team to participate in the Stoke Mandeville International Sports for the blind, amputees and paraplegics in September 1974. Also to select a team to travel to Poland in the same month. St. Dunstaners attending these trials are:—C. Stafford, M. Tetley, J. Simpson, W. Smith, N. Perry, S. Tutton, W. Griffiths and P. Spencer.



Father of the bride, "Dickie" Richardson, with Heather, who married Marc Andrew Tait at their local Parish church on 25th May.

International Sports Meeting— Berlin

An invitation was received from the International Federation for the Blind, Berlin, to send a team of 7 to participate in this meeting on 27th-28th July. The team was drawn from 11 St. Dunstan's sportsmen who showed the best overall past records. The result of the draw was as follows:—

Totally Blind. W. Smith, N. Perry,
P. Spencer, M. Tetley.
1st Reserve. C. Stafford. 2nd Reserve.
J. Simpson.

Semi-Sighted. E. Bunting, H. Cope,
A. Wortley.
1st Reserve. F. Barratt. 2nd Reserve.
W. Miller.

The occasion coincides with the centenary celebration of the Federation for the Blind, Berlin, and I am sure we all wish our sportsmen every success on both these occasions.

J. CARNOCHAN.

Outstanding Athlete

Thomas O'Connor of Birmingham, is pleased to announce that his granddaughter, Janet has been awarded the Cup for the best outstanding athlete for the Winter Sport 1973-74 (Cross Country Runs).

Janet also attended a meeting in Plymouth where she competed in the Hurdles, 800 metres, and Putting the Shot. She obtained two 3rds and one 4th.

Stainsby Braille Writer

The Stainsby Braille Writers are now in very short supply and it is proving very difficult to obtain spares with which to effect replacements. It would, therefore, be greatly appreciated if St. Dunstaners, who own Stainsby Braille Writers and are no longer using them, would kindly return them to Mrs. Lefrere in the Men's Supplies Department at Headquarters.

FAMILY NEWS

Marriage

FAWCETT-HITCHEN. Cecil Fawcett of Bournemouth, Hants, married Miss Rita F. Hitchen at St. Michael's Church, Bournemouth, on 31st May, 1974. We wish them every happiness in their life together.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to MR. and MRS. DONALD GROVES of Ilford, Essex, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 16th April, 1974.

Many congratulations to MR. and MRS. WILLIAM MILLER of Perivale, Nr. Greenford, Middlesex, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 11th June, 1974.

Many congratulations to MR. and MRS. REX ROBINSON of Acton, W.3. on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary which occurred on 4th June, 1974.

Grandfathers

Many congratulations to:—

ROBERT AUSTIN of Halifax, who has pleasure in announcing the birth of two grand-children: a girl, Cindy Louise, born to his son Derrick and daughter-in-law, Mary, and a boy, Robert Baron, to their son Baron and daughter-in-law, Violet.

FREDERICK PHILIP HARLEY of Elstow, Bedford, is pleased to state that his daughter Maureen gave birth to a son, David, on 22nd April, 1974—a brother for Anne Marie.

Long Life and Happiness to:—

Sandra, daughter of SAMUEL WATSON of Aldridge, Staffordshire, who married Stephen Jones, at Aldridge Parish Church on 23rd February, 1974.

Deaths

We offer our very sincere sympathy to:—

MRS. EILEEN WILLIAMS of Harrogate, mourns the death of her mother on 21st May, 1974.

Mrs. R. L. Hicks, of Palmers Green, London, widow of the late ALBERT EDWARD HICKS, whose only son died on 6th March, 1974, at the age of 38, after a long illness. He leaves a widow with two sons, to whom we also send our deepest sympathy.

PERCY HOLMES of Burgess Hill, Sussex, whose wife, Mrs. Ethel Holmes, died suddenly in Cuckfield Hospital, Sussex, on 15th May, 1974.

ALBERT JOLLY, late of Fulham, London, S.W.6, who has been in a Nursing Home together with his wife for over two years, mourns the death of his wife, Mrs. Georgina Jolly on 14th May, 1974. Our sympathy is also extended to Mr. Jolly's son and daughter-in-law who have looked after them both.

HARRY STOCKS of Belper, Derbyshire, mourns the death of his wife, Mrs. Thirza Stocks, who passed away on 10th May, 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.

Arthur William Cima. 13th A.I.F.

Arthur William Cima of Egglecliffe, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, died in the North Tees General Hospital, on 11th May, 1974. He was 77 years of age.

He was an Australian and enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces in May 1916 and served with them until his discharge in 1919 when he came to St. Dunstan's for training. He trained in carpentry and netting and it was on the latter that he concentrated, together with his garden, having decided to settle in England.

Mrs. Cima became ill in 1949 and passed away in the same year. After he had recovered from the shock of her death, Mr. Cima resumed his former active life, living alone and looking after himself in a very capable manner. He was independent to the last even though for the last few years of his life he was not very well.

He leaves a sister-in-law, Mrs. Pilditch, of Slough, Bucks.

Charles Jones. *Lancashire Fusiliers*

Charles Jones of Bolton, Lancashire, died in hospital on 31st May, 1974. He was 82 years of age.

He enlisted in the Lancashire Fusiliers in 1916 and served with them until he was wounded in 1917 but it was not until 1972 when he lost his sight that he joined St. Dunstan's.

Unfortunately, Mr. Jones was not very well when he came to St. Dunstan's but he lived with a distant relative, Mrs. M. McLoughlin and her family who looked after him very well and where he was very happy. However, two months ago he became ill and was admitted to Townleys Hospital and it was there he died on 31st May.

He leaves Mrs. M. McLoughlin and her family.

Cecil Henry Kington. *Royal Sussex Regiment*

Cecil Henry Kington, late of Sheffield, and in recent years living at Northgate House, Rottingdean, died on 19th May, 1974. He died ten days before his 82nd birthday.

He enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1914 and served with them until his discharge in March 1917. He was wounded in France during the 1st World War but it was not until much later in life that he lost his sight and came to St. Dunstan's in 1965. He had been in business as a furniture upholsterer.

Unfortunately, when he came to St. Dunstan's Mr. Kington was not at all well and together with his wife had been in hospital for some time. Mrs. Kington died only a few months later and Mr. Kington went to live at Pearson House, Brighton. Later he moved to Northgate House, Rottingdean, where he died.

He leaves a son and daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.

Arthur Rees. *Royal Engineers*

Arthur Rees of Brighton, Sussex, died at Northgate House on 10th June, 1974. He was 78 years of age.

He enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1914 and served with them until his discharge in 1917 when he came to St. Dunstan's.

He trained as a Physiotherapist and obtained a post at a general hospital in Wales. In the early 1920s Mr. Rees moved to London where he was appointed Physiotherapist at a London hospital.

During part of his professional career Mr. Rees was employed at the Ministry of Pensions Hospital in London but this appointment came to an end in 1930 and Mr. Rees decided to change his occupation and commenced re-training in telephony. He obtained work as a telephonist in south east London and carried on with this work until 1939 when he decided to return to Wales. Having resettled in Wales Mr. Rees resumed his Physiotherapy practice and in 1942 accepted another appointment with a Red Cross Hospital in Essex.

Unfortunately, Mr. Rees's wife died in 1951 and soon after he retired and settled in Sussex where he has lived for many years in quiet retire-

ment. His landlady looked after him when his health began to fail, until his admission to hospital in March 1974.

On discharge from hospital Mr. Rees went to stay at Northgate House and died there on 10th June.

Mrs. Nellie Robinson. *Munitions worker*

Mrs. Nellie Robinson of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs., died at her home on 23rd May, 1974.

Nellie Robinson (or Nellie Lowndes as she may be remembered by many St. Dunstaners), was wounded in an explosion in a munitions factory in 1947 and came to St. Dunstan's very soon after this. Nellie lived with her parents and after training at St. Dunstan's she returned home and played an important part in looking after the home and family, finding time nevertheless to work as a string-bag maker for many years. As a hobby Nellie found much joy in music and she spent many happy holidays at our Brighton Home. Nellie was, of course, well known to all our lady St. Dunstaners and regularly attended their special Reunions.

Some years after the death of her parents, Nellie made her home with her sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Parry, and they were, indeed, a very close and devoted family. It was at their home that Nellie passed away after a short illness.

She leaves a sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Parry.

Gideon Robertson. *Highland Light Infantry*

Gideon Robertson of Herne Bay, Kent, died on 2nd June, 1974. He was 89 years of age.

He enlisted in the Highland Light Infantry in 1904 and served with them until his discharge in 1920. He did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1967 when he had retired. Mr. Robertson was in the Civil Service and had worked in the India Office. He spent an annual holiday at Ovingdean and Pearson House but unfortunately during the last year or so his health had deteriorated and he was admitted to Canterbury Hospital on 2nd June where he died.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Violet Robertson, and the grown-up family of her first marriage and his family.

Alfred Thomas Wigglesworth. *West Riding Home Guard*

Alfred Thomas Wigglesworth of Burley-in-Wharfedale, Ilkley, Yorks., died in hospital on 1st June, 1974. He was 51 years of age.

Mr. Wigglesworth served in the Home Guard and lost his sight in an explosion in 1942, joining St. Dunstan's in the same year. He trained as a telephonist and settled down well into this occupation. He married in 1948. He was very interested in music and singing and was, indeed, very gifted in this direction, but was unfortunately unable to have any professional training. He became ill earlier this year.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Ivy Wigglesworth and their five children.