

**St Dunstans**  
**REVIEW**  
**AUGUST**





# St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

NO. 655

AUGUST 1974

5p MONTHLY

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

---

### St. Dunstan's Widespread Services

I was talking the other day to Mr. Weisblatt who is our War Pensions Consultant and Legal Officer at Headquarters. I was glad to be reminded in detail of the extent of the services which he and his office are able to render to St. Dunstaners and their families.

He will make a Will for those who wish to consult him and in this connection I strongly advise any St. Dunstaner who has not made a Will to do so. When a person dies intestate—that is to say without having made a Will—complications and arguments can arise and it is better to avoid them. Frequently, a St. Dunstaner asks us to be his Executor and/or Trustee which means that, when his Will comes to be proved, we undertake the work and look after his interests. We gladly render this service and I recommend it.

While we may, in complicated or highly technical matters, have to refer a case to Solicitors, there are many legal matters—for example, insurance claims, neighbours' disputes, adoption, divorce, and claims for damages, etc., etc.—about which we may be consulted, and what I have written applies to widows and to some extent family problems generally.

This legal service is but one of many forms of advice and assistance, which St. Dunstan's has undertaken for very many years under Mr. Rice's guidance and it continues.

I sometimes get a letter from a St. Dunstaner telling me about his son or daughter or grandson or grand-daughter in connection with whom there is an educational or an employment problem. Often I can give personal advice and on other occasions members of the experienced staff will do what they can.

Then there is the War Pensions service. We will present a case to the Ministry of Pensions whenever this is appropriate and are skilled in this matter; we can advise if a man is getting all that is due to him.

We are also quite a considerable employment agency, dealing for example with cases where a St. Dunstaner may be threatened with redundancy on account of a takeover of a business or a new invention, or perhaps he is a trainee needing a job for the first time.

We also get enquiries from St. Dunstaners overseas on many subjects and do our best to help.

I mention these matters because they are a considerable extension of the ordinary welfare services; they involve an immense amount of work but are of great value to many. I doubt if there is an organisation in the land or even in the world which offers this help in every aspect of life in the detail that we do. I think it well that St. Dunstaners generally should know of this widespread interest. We are indeed a closely knit family and I hope St. Dunstan's may be looked upon as a good god-father.

---

COVER PICTURE: *On the mountain, John Simpson, Bob Fullard, Tom Lukes and George Miller, the St. Dunstaners who climbed Cader Idris. See centre pages.*

### On Foot or by Air

North Wales and North America are very different areas and far apart from one another, but they have had a slight link this summer in that each has been the scene of great activity on the part of a number of St. Dunstaners.

I commend for your attention Bob Fullard's article on the climbing of Cader Idris and Bill Shea's report on the St. Dunstan's physiotherapists' visit to Canada and the United States. I congratulate our mountaineers on their achievement and the physiotherapists on their participation in an important international conference and I thank all their sighted friends who helped both groups in so many ways.

Fraser of Lonsdale

---

### COMING EVENTS

#### FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

It is hoped that we will again be granted an allocation of tickets for the Afternoon and Evening Presentation of the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, 9th November. Any St. Dunstaner who has not previously had the opportunity of attending is invited to apply to Miss Bridger at Headquarters, not later than Friday, 27th September if possible, for inclusion in the ballot for tickets, indicating which Presentation he would prefer to attend.

Those St. Dunstaners allocated tickets who do not live within daily travelling distance of London will be assisted with fares and accommodation for one or two nights at St. Dunstan's expense and will be invited to join the St. Dunstan's contingent attending the Cenotaph Parade in Whitehall on Sunday, 10th November.

C. D. WILLS, *Secretary.*

#### Miss Stewart says "Thank You"

MISS STEWART writes to say that she has been overwhelmed by the number of letters and "get well" cards which she has received from St. Dunstaners and their families during her illness. As she is still on convalescent treatment it is difficult to reply individually and she wishes, through the medium of the *Review*, to thank everyone for their messages of goodwill which she has found most comforting.

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mr. A. D. Lloyds, C.B.E., represented St. Dunstan's at the Memorial Service for the late Arthur Sculthorpe held in Peterborough Cathedral on 2nd July, 1974.

### STAFF OBITUARY

#### Mr. R. Willis, M.B.E.

We are very sorry to report the death of Mr. R. Willis on 21st June, at the age of 73 years. Mr. Willis joined St. Dunstan's in May, 1946 and was in charge of Arundel Lodge, Brighton, until it closed in September, 1947. He came to London when the Headquarters at 191, Marylebone Road opened in 1948 and started the London Club on 1st June that year.

Before joining St. Dunstan's Mr. Willis served for 26 years in the Royal Air Force. He was mentioned in Despatches in June, 1942, for distinguished services in the Western Desert, and again in 1944 whilst serving in Bomber Command. He was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire on 1st January 1945, for services in Bomber Command.

Besides the running of the Club, Mr. Willis also assisted at many functions such as the Armistice Parades each year.

The funeral took place at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Worth, on 27th June. St. Dunstan's was represented by Mr. Norman Smith, our present Club Manager, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hancock, Mrs. S. Webster, (Mr. Webster was not well, so did not accompany Mrs. Webster) and Mrs. Cook, (widow of Harry Cook).

#### Miss Appleby

We regret to announce that MRS. G. M. HIDER, previously Miss Appleby, died on Thursday, 4th July. She was an Accounts Clerk in the Appeals Department and retired in 1959 after 41 years service. Her funeral took place on Thursday, 11th July. As Miss Appleby, she will, of course, be known to many ex-members of staff.



# REUNIONS

## LONDON

The first of the two London Reunions, principally for St. Dunstaners living in Kent and Surrey, was held at the Hotel Russell on Saturday, 15th June. The Welfare Visitor responsible was Miss B. R. Blebta, assisted by Miss H. Stewart, and a number of Headquarters staff members were also present. The total number of people at the Reunion was 141 including 16 St. Dunstaners from the 1st and 42 from the 2nd World War. It was a pleasure to entertain three retired members of staff, Miss M. E. Stevens, Mr. D. W. Ferguson and Mr. E. W. Roberts who had celebrated his Golden Wedding eight days previously, and other guests were Miss Diana Hoare, who has supported us in a voluntary capacity for very many years, M. R. Kalitka, a war blinded Frenchman studying in London whilst residing at Broadhurst Gardens, and Miss Jane Finnis, a journalist who often compères the B.B.C. "In Touch" programme.

Everybody was delighted that Lord Fraser, who was accompanied by Lady Fraser, was there to preside at the Reunion. St. Dunstaners were also very happy to meet Lady Ellerman who came to the gathering with the Frasers.

### Lord Fraser's Speech

In his speech after lunch Lord Fraser first greeted everybody present and expressed the hope that they would enjoy the Reunion. He paid a tribute to the staff headed by the Secretary, Mr. C. D. Wills, and outlined very briefly the functions of other staff members present. Lord Fraser dwelt on the importance of keeping the name of St. Dunstan's before the public both in the interest of our organisation and of individual members, and he had some words of praise for our *Review*.

Turning towards Lady Ellerman, Lord Fraser said that she and her husband, the late Sir John Ellerman, were the best and most generous friends St. Dunstan's ever had. He added a few words of welcome to Miss Hoare, M. Kalitka and Miss Finnis. He also expressed the regret of all who knew her on the death of Miss Lilian Woolrych, whose obituary we published in last month's *Review*.

Three St. Dunstaners from Northern Ireland, Joseph Laverty, Downpatrick, William Orr, Dunmurry, and Alexander Scott, Belfast, were at the Reunion, and Lord Fraser made them welcome. He told listeners that any St. Dunstaner in that Province had been told that if they would like to come to England for the duration of the current difficulties the necessary arrangements would be made, but none had accepted.

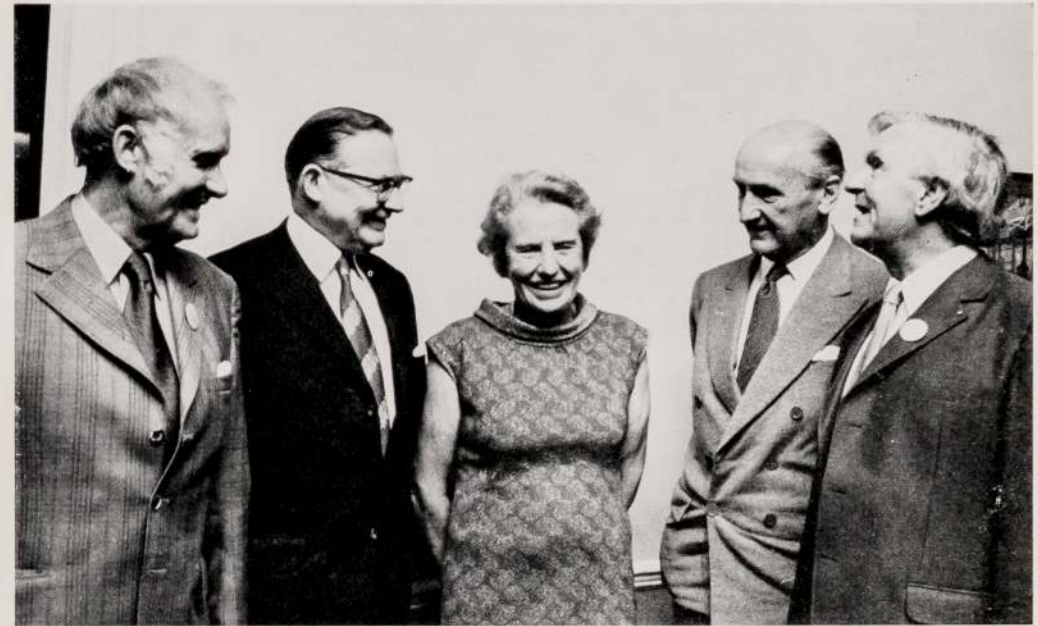
### Pensions

Speaking of Pensions, whose increase in July has already been published, Lord Fraser said that he would not fail to raise the matter in the Houses of Parliament if it was felt that War Pensions were falling behind in the future, but he thought St. Dunstaners could be well satisfied with the increase that had been announced. There had been great advances in social welfare in the country over the past 50 years, but these had almost invariably been anticipated by St. Dunstan's 20-30 years earlier.

We are represented in the Commonwealth countries the world over, Lord Fraser said. He had been in South Africa during the Winter months and as President of St. Dunstan's (South Africa) he, with Lady Fraser, had attended Reunions in Cape Town and Johannesburg. He always found that the St. Dunstaners were much the same as over here in their work and other pursuits.

He paid a tribute to the good bearing and success of St. Dunstaners generally and said that the help of their splendid wives was warmly appreciated.

William Crombie, Stoneleigh, then moved the vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners. At many Reunions he had listened to others performing the same pleasant task and agreed with every word that had been said, so now that the privilege was his he found it had all been said before. However, referring to Lord and Lady Fraser, the Headquarters staff and others, he thanked them for their hard and sustained work, kindness and consideration. "To all and every one thank you and we are proud to be associated with all concerned."



At the Newcastle Reunion, Mrs. Mickie King, retiring Welfare Visitor, talks with Lord Normanby, Mr. Wills, Leslie Thompson, Gateshead, and David Bell, Edinburgh.

## NEWCASTLE

It was a small gathering of St. Dunstaners at the Royal Station Hotel on 27th June, for the Newcastle Reunion but there was a warmth of family feeling which made the occasion most pleasant. Of the party of 50, there were 20 St. Dunstaners with their escorts, together with members of staff. Lord Normanby, accompanied by Lady Normanby, was the member of Council presiding.

Lord Normanby welcomed St. Dunstaners particularly three attending their first reunion: James Conroy, Eston, David Hodgson, Hartlepool, and Tom Simmon of Harrogate, and conveyed special greetings from Lord and Lady Fraser. Introducing members of staff present Lord Normanby mentioned, among others, Miss M. Skinner, new Welfare Visitor for Scotland. He thanked Mrs. I. Plaxton, Welfare Visitor responsible for arranging

### LONDON REUNION—continued

After lunch there was dancing to the Talbot Orchestra and additional entertainment was provided by Joseph Laverty on his accordion.

the Reunion and he had a special word for Mrs. E. M. King, assisting at her last Reunion before retirement.

Lord Normanby continued, "My yardstick for St. Dunstan's has never changed from what it was in the early years of the war. The Braille school which I started in Germany for some 30 prisoners of war was entirely dependent on St. Dunstan's for help and this yardstick was and simply is this, still. Does St. Dunstan's supply the right thing at the right time to the right man? . . . and if it doesn't, why not?"

### Communication

"To keep any organisation healthy and alive and on its toes one must have the information from those most effectively concerned and in the end this boils down to good communications. Now all of us know that communication is not always easy and the staff at St. Dunstan's are very much alive to this fact. But the fact that St. Dunstan's does manage to fulfil most of the demands made on it, which I think is true, is a tremendous tribute to the staff and I just can't emphasise this too greatly. We must not be complacent about it all and if there are any points which you want to





Lord Normanby chatting with Bertie Dean, Hawick.

raise or discuss with me as a Member of Council here to-day, please do not hesitate."

Commenting on the situation of events in the world to-day and the danger of inflation in Britain Lord Normanby said, "This country can only survive if small groups of sane thinking people stick together and make their wishes known. There is a very wide gap, I think, between what is happening in this country and what people really want. I hope that the members of St. Dunstan's will keep very close together and not hesitate to make their voice heard. Who is better entitled to do this? Reunions such as this are a cause for pleasure but they are also, by their very nature, an immense encouragement, and so let me repeat once again my very warm welcome to all of you here to-day and may I wish you happiness and success in the coming year."

Representing St. Dunstaners, Leslie Thompson, Gateshead, welcomed Lord and Lady Normanby and staff members. Speaking of the St. Dunstaners attending he said: "I think there are not so many here to-day but I am sure the quality is

still as good as it used to be". He brought laughter from his audience as he said, "As I look round here to-day, I don't think any one of you looks a day older than you used to look 28 years ago". Expressing thanks to Mrs. Plaxton, Mrs. King and Miss Skinner, Leslie Thompson said, "We all feel that St. Dunstan's has always attracted a very high standard of officials to its work. We would like them to know that we are grateful to them for looking after us". Concluding, he said, "On behalf of all my fellow St. Dunstaners I would like Lord Normanby to take back our appreciation and best wishes to Lord and Lady Fraser for their future happiness and health".

Saying that he has been trying to avoid making speeches at Reunions, Mr. Wills rose to pay a sincere and, at times, light-hearted tribute to Mrs. King: "She served in the British Red Cross as an ambulance driver during the last war and having completed that service she came to St. Dunstan's in 1946 as a V.A.D. at Ovingdean. Not content with looking after chaps down there, she took on visiting in the Midlands for quite a number of years". Later, went on Mr. Wills, Mrs. King



Mrs. Sandys is amused by George Allen's all-action story at the Sheffield Reunion. Also in the picture: Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Coupland, Mr. A. J. Parker and Mr. J. Barlow, Industrial Department and Bob Coupland.

moved North to take over Scotland and the North Country areas. "She loved Geordie-land and bonnie Scotland and when the time came for her official retirement she just wouldn't give up and begged me to let her carry on looking after the lads in Scotland. Here she is to-day, finally having decided that the wild life in the Highlands is too much for her and now she is handing over to her old friend and co-ambulance driver, Miss Skinner, who I am sure is going to prove a worthy successor to Mrs. King.

"Mrs. King has promised me that for many years to come she will turn up at this reunion to cheer you all up and make sure everything is all right". Mr. Wills asked the company to rise in a toast to Mrs. King.

#### Mrs. King

Replying Mrs. King said, "I would like to thank you very much indeed for all the happy years I have been with you. I am sure I don't deserve the nice things you have said about me but I have been one of the fortunate people who have had a job to do that they can really put their heart into. I would like to thank you all for much kindness, hospitality and very real friendship. I would like to send my love to your families, and the bairns I have seen grow up. I would also like to thank Mr. Wills

for much kindness and understanding. He has been a good boss over a lot of years. And just to show you I have learned something, I wish you all the best of Scottish luck!"

After luncheon there was dancing and St. Dunstaner, John Black, Cramlington, entertained with some Scottish songs before a very enjoyable Reunion concluded after tea.

#### SHEFFIELD

The Sheffield Reunion on 29th June was a lofty occasion—literally. It was held in a banqueting room with floor to ceiling windows, high in the Hallam Tower Hotel, which besides living up to its name is also situated on one of the hills which ring the city of Sheffield. About 135 people came up the hill to the Reunion including 64 St. Dunstaners, 21 from the First World War and 46 from the Second.

Major M. E. M. Sandys, Member of St. Dunstan's Council presided, accompanied by Mrs. Sandys. As a Lancastrian he said, he felt rather like the man with his head in the lion's mouth. "Anyway, it is very nice to see you all again and, seriously, it does give me great pleasure, and I also speak for my wife, to be able to preside again at another St. Dunstan's party. I have been asked to bring you messages of welcome from Lord Fraser, a very good and very old friend of



mine, and my fellow members of Council who send their best wishes to you all and hope that you will have a pleasant and very enjoyable afternoon”.

He had a special word of welcome for the five St. Dunstaners attending the Sheffield Reunion for the first time. Percy Acton, Halifax; William Arnold, Keighley; Robert Austin, Halifax; Edwin Hirst, Rotherham, and David Walker, Rothley.

### 30 Years of Peace

Major Sandys was the second Member of Council within a few days to express the encouragement he received from attending St. Dunstan's Reunions at a time when the world generally, is full of bad news. Pointing out that we have enjoyed 30 years of peace without any major war, he said it had produced strain in our society in other ways, citing the unrest in Northern Ireland. “Perhaps the other major effect is to put the cohesiveness of our society and our people under very severe strain indeed. Where, on all sides, one can see enmity and envy between one section and another; blatant self-seeking in all walks of life.

“One asks oneself can it be that the external threat is removed and then the naturally aggressive and acquisitive nature of man forces him to turn on his fellows? I wonder. Anyway God forbid that we should ever have to undergo the therapy of another world war to bring us to our senses but the threat to our way of life is, nevertheless, still there, albeit in a different form, and it ought to be enough to give us the sense of survival and national unity which is so obviously needed to-day.

### Variety of Occupations

“Now, that is why I am always very cheered when I meet St. Dunstaners and their families because the desire to give service and to lead useful lives to the extent of their abilities is always so very evident. The list of occupations which many of you follow is remarkable in its variety and no less remarkable is the usefulness of these occupations to the rest of our community and this is one of the marvellous things about St. Dunstan's”.

Major Sandys concluded by expressing thanks to all members of the staff at the Reunion, particularly Miss K. M. Broughton, Welfare Visitor responsible for the arrangements and Miss I. Newbold, who assisted.



Joseph Nicol and Mrs. Nicol dancing at the Reunion. In the background the relief drummer, our St. Dunstaner, Joseph Hamilton.

### A Yorkshire Man

Herbert Ward, of Leeds, rose to speak for St. Dunstaners and, as a Yorkshireman, he responded to Major Sandys opening remark:—“Thank you very much Major Sandys, for the wonderful address. Despite that fact that it came from West of the Pennines, as representatives of the white rose we do appreciate that we accept the red rose as being the next best colour”.

After expressing thanks to the staff of St. Dunstan's and that of the hotel for a “wonderful function”, Mr. Ward said his theme would be normality, “We hear so much of norms these days and threshold agreements and I really do think that the function of St. Dunstan's is to try to introduce into our society, and as individuals, the feeling of normality. I do believe that the service St. Dunstan's has offered to our members is the feeling that we can lead a normal life despite all the strains Major Sandys has already intimated do exist. I think they do, with the services they offer to us, give us the threshold to happiness”.

Mr. Ward concluded with a tribute to the wives of St. Dunstaners, “Who do, in

their normal way of life, work so hard in making our lives happy”.

The Ken Baxter trio played for dancing during the afternoon with assistance of a relief drummer in the person of Joseph Hamilton, of Nottingham—and he is a pretty good drummer! The afternoon concluded with tea and a prize draw. Mrs. Sandys presented the prizes and, afterwards, was herself presented with a bouquet by St. Dunstaner Eileen Williams.

### IPSWICH

On July 4th, the day of the Ipswich Reunion, the weather forecast for East Anglia was a typical British understatement: “Rather cloudy, rain in places at first, brighter spells later, isolated showers”. The “shower” might have been isolated but it was a very long and very heavy one, for it persisted in lashing down all the morning and most of the afternoon—but inside the Copdock International Hotel, it was summer whatever happened outside.

There were gathered some 70 people for lunch: 29 St. Dunstaners, 14 from the First World War and 15 from the Second, with them were their wives and escorts, guests and members of staff.



Mr. Donald Hopewell, Member of St. Dunstan's Council, greets Robert Bowers, who was attending his first Reunion. Other Ipswich St. Dunstaners in the picture are James Hancock, Michael Tybinski and Alfred Carpenter.



becomes rather difficult. Also so many people gathered together are apt to be confusing. So I think there is a great deal to be said for the small Reunions."

The smaller Reunion, Mr. Hopewell said, gave better opportunities to meet fellow St. Dunstaners and "Your friends of the staff." He mentioned the names of Headquarters staff present and Miss M. Midgley, former Northern Area Supervisor. "Then you have your own visitor, Mrs. Adkins to whom is due the smoothness and happiness with which this Reunion goes to-day."

Mr. Hopewell concluded: "Two hundred years ago there was a very wise, rather eccentric old clergyman who lived in Yorkshire whose name was Lawrence Sterne and he wrote an inimitable book called *Tristram Shandy*. At the beginning of the book he put these words: 'I hold it truth that a man when he smiles, much more when he laughs, adds something to this fragment of life.' I think to-day, everyone of us here can add something to the fragment of our lives and I hope that it may be so."

#### Mr. Wills

Mr. Wills rose to welcome Robert Bowers, of Ipswich, who was attending his first Reunion. "I am sure you will give him a very warm welcome," he said. Amplifying Mr. Hopewell's reference to St. Dunstan's as a world-wide organisation, Mr. Wills spoke of St. Dunstan's organisations in South Africa, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. "Where the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association has recently changed its title to Blind Soldiers of St. Dunstan's, Australia. They are so proud to belong to the family of St. Dunstan's."

Mr. Wills went on to describe the pioneering work of St. Dunstan's in the field of welfare and concluded: "Congratulations to you all for being such wonderful members of the organisation."

#### Fred Lock

Fred Lock, of Halstead, proposed the vote of thanks for St. Dunstaners saying, "I am afraid I am not able to make such a speech as those you have just heard." In fact his words were well chosen and neatly laced with some East Anglian humour. After thanking Mrs. Adkins "for all the work she has put in to make this thing a success", Fred, whose garden is immaculate



Mrs. Daphne Adkins (right) and Mrs. Briggs, junior—daughter-in-law of our St. Dunstaner entertain at the Ipswich Reunion.

without a weed in sight, referred to his next great friend, whom he called, Mr. Country Life: "He comes and sees me in my garden to see how many weeds I've got. I might mention that it's just sixty yards from my front gate up to my door and after he's struggled all through the brambles and nettles, he walks in and grabs my hand and he nearly shakes it off and he says, 'Mr. Lock, your garden looks wonderful!'"

Mr. Country Life is, of course, Mr. D. F. Robinson, who also handles Reunion expenses. "He must be a good friend," continued Fred, "nearly the first thing he said to me to-day when I got here was, 'Mr. Lock, how much money do you want?' Well, you know, you don't meet a friend like that every day!"

Fred Lock also thanked Miss Mosley and other members of the staff. Referring to St. Dunstaners' wives he said: "If I had to do with issuing out O.B.E.'s and B.E.M.'s and all the rest of them, I'm sure I wouldn't give them to those who delight in kicking each other's ankles nor should I issue them to those that delight in sitting down all day making plenty of money. I should give them to the groups who have the great task in looking after their blind husbands. I am going to close with a very hearty vote of thanks to all the members of our St. Dunstan's Society, not only for to-day but for all the year round. Ladies and Gentlemen—we thank you."

After lunch the guests were entertained by pianist Bill Haig, who was assisted by St. Dunstan's singing welfare visitor Daphne Adkins and Mrs. Briggs, junior, daughter-in-law of our St. Dunstaner Albert Briggs of Norwich. Mrs. Alfred Carpenter, wife of another St. Dunstaner, who lives in Ipswich, also sang.

Summer was brought in at tea-time in spite of the clouds outside by the appearance of strawberries and cream and, with the prize draw, this very friendly, family reunion ended on a happy note.

## BIRMINGHAM

After the heavy rain at Ipswich the weather turned warm and sunny, though with a stiff breeze, for the Birmingham Reunion held two days later on Saturday, 6th July. The venue was the Royal Angus Hotel, completed about five years ago, which was being used by St. Dunstan's for the first time. The company numbered 114, including 9 St. Dunstaners from the First and 41 from the Second World War or subsequent entries. The arrangements were made by Miss Newbold, Welfare Visitor responsible, and Miss Midgley formerly Area Superintendent (North) was our special guest.

#### Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme

Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, Vice-Chairman of St. Dunstan's, presided and he was accompanied by Mrs. Garnett-Orme. In his speech after lunch Mr. Garnett-Orme said that it was a very real pleasure for him to be there with his wife to make everyone welcome, especially as it was his first visit to a Birmingham reunion. He brought the best wishes of Lord and Lady Fraser and Sir Neville Pearson and he extended a special welcome to James Brown, Nuneaton, attending his first reunion.

Looking round the room, Mr. Garnett-Orme said that he was afraid that Alfred Mead, Rothwell, had not been able to make it. Too true. Mr. and Mrs. Mead had unhappily boarded the wrong train which took them to London, but, nothing daunted, they took another train and turned up at the Royal Angus, Birmingham, in time for tea.

After welcoming Miss Midgley, Mr. Garnett-Orme gave his audience the names of members of St. Dunstan's staff present

at the lunch. Each name was greeted with applause coupled with what sounded like some good humoured boozing.

Mr. Garnett-Orme said that 78 new St. Dunstaners had been admitted during the year ended March, 1974, which was the highest total we had had for many years. They were not all newly blinded people. Quite a number were St. Dunstaners when they were first blinded and then their sight recovered enough for them to leave our family, but now sadly it had deteriorated and they had rejoined us. Others of the new entrants had had partial sight, but it had been getting worse over the years and they had now become St. Dunstaners.

"At almost every reunion", said Mr. Garnett-Orme, "and rightly so, mention is made of the way St. Dunstaners themselves, by their example, have maintained the high name of St. Dunstan's through all the many years since we were founded by Sir Arthur Pearson. Also tribute is paid to the wives and families of St. Dunstaners who do so much. They help us so much to maintain these high standards. Today I would like, in addition, to express our gratitude to all those who work for our organisation. I have already told you of some nine of our officials and one retired who are with us today, and these people not only work a hard and busy week helping us, but they also give up many of their weekends during the summer when, after all, free weekends are most valuable, to come and meet us all at these reunions. This is a thing that is very much appreciated by all of us."

#### Staff Work Hard

Mr. Garnett-Orme said that the staff at Headquarters in London worked hard and overcame many travelling difficulties brought about by frequent strikes and shortcomings of public transport around the metropolis. Turning to the Brighton Homes, he praised the Commandant, Matrons, V.A.D.'s, Orderlies and all the other helpers for overcoming all their many problems, and always giving such a warm welcome and every care and attention to those who visited them. He concluded by hoping that everyone would enjoy a very happy afternoon, and he thanked Miss Newbold for the arrangements and the hotel staff for giving such a delightful lunch.





Paul Francia "views" by touch some of the natural sculpture in the Exhibition.

#### BIRMINGHAM REUNION—cont.

Thomas Jones, Telford, Shropshire, moved the vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners. "Mr. Garnett-Orme served in the Welsh Guards in the war", said Mr. Jones, "and now he looked round the room and found I was the only Welshman here (loud cry of "oh, no" from another Welshman) I wish to propose St. Dunstan's a toast, shall we all drink to St. Dunstan's?" Everyone did so.

After lunch there was dancing to Richard Manning's band whilst others chatted with friends old and new. There was the customary raffle after which Mrs. Garnett-Orme handed out prizes to the fortunate winners, and she was herself presented with a bouquet by Ann Hodges, Pencombe, Herefordshire.

#### GAINED DEGREE

Paul, son of the late GORDON RICHARDSON, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs., has gained his B.Sc. degree at Liverpool University and will be studying for one more year to take the Honours Course. Paul will be 21 on 30th August.



Some of Pembroke Artists with Paul Francia against the background of the Exhibition.

#### PEMBROKE ARTISTS EXHIBITION

For the second year in succession Pembroke Artists held their annual exhibition in the patio of the home of Paul and Thelma Francia, Cannon Green Lodge, Pembroke Park, Portsmouth. Again a percentage of the proceeds was given to Portsmouth Voluntary Association for the Blind.

#### Mrs. Francia's Students

Members of the Art group, students of Thelma Francia showed work on many subjects and compositions in a wide variety of media. Floral paintings, Landscapes and Still life in oil, gouache and water colours were prominent, natural sculpture was also on view as well as designs with string, metal and a little Pottery. A cheque for £75 was handed to the Association at the end of the evening making a total for the two exhibitions of £145.

Next year Portsmouth City Art Gallery has offered its premises for this annual Show and again it is hoped to raise funds during the exhibition for the local Blind.

PAUL AND THELMA FRANCIA.

## ... For Tomorrow We Diet —

by Phillip Wood

I am one of those unfortunates who puts on weight with terrifying ease. An innocent stroll past the Chinese Take-away—and there's another quarter of a pound to get off.

It is not that I over-eat. I don't. I know—they all say that. In my case, it's true, cross my heart. My daily calorie intake is about two-thirds of that of a thin man.

It's all to do with my metabolism . . . and it's grossly unfair. Some people I know eat like horses and are built like greyhounds. As I grow older the problem becomes worse. The only thing which gets thinner is my hair.

It is possible to lose weight, of course. But not with exercise. That only makes you eat even more. So it's not a bit of good belting round the Grand National course (with or without a horse) or climbing the Matterhorn once a week.

Dieting is the only way. Dieting is easy, I've done it hundreds of times. It consists quite simply of giving up all those splendidly succulent, civilised, appetising dishes which made life worth living, and substituting the drearily-dull, tasteless unsatisfying stuff that takes weight off you—and puts years on you.

And there's no shortage of "expert" guidance either—columns and columns of it in newspaper and magazine. These articles and diet-sheets are composed by emaciated sadists with a profound grudge against humanity in general and jolly plump people in particular.

Some of the writers are humorists, too. Their recommended diets include such tit-bits as Dee salmon, avocados, fillet steaks, and other dainty morsels which could easily involve the slimmer in raising a second mortgage on the old homestead.

For the really dedicated, there are slimming Clubs and similar torture-chambers all over the country. The Girth Control business would seem to be a profitable enterprise.

These establishments fall into two categories. There are the posh ones, including Health Farms. They operate on

the simplest of principles. The fees are pitched so murderously high that after you've paid them you've no money left to buy food anyway.

Then there are the humbler kind which in recent years has spread like a rash all over this green and pleasantly-plump land. These work on the group-therapy principle. Weak-willed backsliders are encouraged publicly to confess to that disgraceful episode with the chocolate biscuit. The strong stand proudly and declaim with evangelistic fervour how they won through against fearful odds and finally conquered the demon food.

I was once put on a very strict diet for three and a half years. At the time I was engaged on helping to build the Siam-Burma railway for the imperial Japanese Army. Now there was an organisation that knew a thing or two about slimming. They fined me down to four-and-a-half stone with no trouble at all.

The doctors tell us they are getting very worried about the increase in obesity (nasty word!) particularly in children. And well they might be! In our town, all the areas around the schools are practically ankle-deep in toffee-papers, sweet-wrappers and crisp-bags. It would appear that the Affluent (or effluent) Society is Hell-bent on raising a nation of fat litter-louts with bad teeth.

And it's not only the kids who are getting fat, it seems. Many "young marrieds" (as the women's magazines insist on calling them) confess to being very worried about their weight. But I thought worrying made you thin! Perhaps they aren't working hard enough at it.

All of which leaves me exactly where I started—overweight. I really could do with losing five pounds . . . half-a-stone . . . a stone?

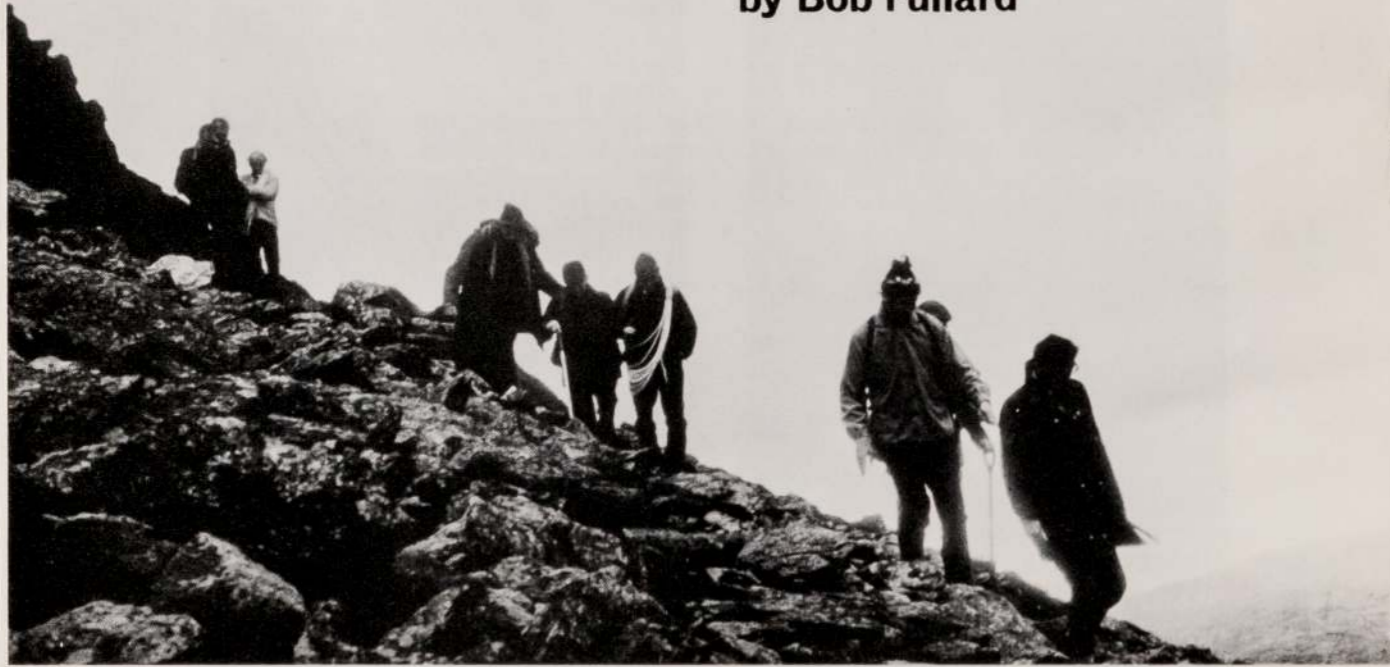
However, having just finished a good dinner, I can only think, from the comfort of my armchair, of the Rev. Sydney Smith's immortal words:

"Serenely full, the epicure would say,  
Fate cannot harm me, I have dined today."



# MERIONETH MOUNTAINEERS

by Bob Fullard



Our main reason for the journey to North Wales was to attempt the climb of Cader Idris (the chair of the giant) 2,927 ft. on Saturday, 8th June. We had gathered at the Red Lion Hotel, Dinas Mawddwy, on Friday, 7th June, where we had our meals, whilst being accommodated in an adjoining private house with Mr. and Mrs. Williams. On the eve of the climb there were those amongst us, perhaps not quite so athletic, who had some doubts about what faced us on the morrow, particularly when we were given our itinerary showing that we were to be accompanied by a mountain rescue expert and also when we read on the programme "30 yards rock scramble". However, thanks to the organising genius of Mr. R. O. L. Thomas, a sighted friend of St. Dunstan's, in spite of a somewhat hasty attack on the steeper lower slopes, all four St. Dunstaners, Tom Lukes, John Simpson, George Miller and Bob Fullard, were able to make the climb on which we were assisted by the following Forestry Commission colleagues and

friends of Mr. Thomas: Eric Williams, Maurice Davies, Frank Farrelly, Roy Jones, Reg Wheeler, Hugh Roberts, Sam Hayler, Brian Maxwell, Dave Williams and John Bond.

In order to get our second wind, stops had been arranged at different heights where we were told the geology and ecology of the locality. In particular, we were shown samples of rock which varied from the alluvial, fault type of the lower mountain to the rougher and heavier, igneous volcanic type of higher up. We also handled cotton grass and deer grass which one found at different heights.

Whilst we were reclining at ease with the world on high, priding ourselves somewhat at having got so high without too much strain, chicken sandwiches and either beer or fruit juice were laid on by Mr. Dan Rowlands of the Red Lion—according to whether one was "grog or temperance" in the phrase of our leader—and it was proposed, seconded and carried that "Pathfinder" Bob Thomas be President in per-

petuity of a new St. Dunstan's mountaineering club. Not only had he done all the combined ops. work beforehand in conjunction with his charming wife, Rowena, but during the climb, he was here, there and everywhere, first way ahead of us and then some distance below us taking action pictures of our climb. At one point we were told he was crouching low in the distance, camera at the ready, in order to get us all in focus with his priceless camera, said to be worth several thousand green shield stamps and to be more valuable than his own car!!

## Tallyllyn for Tea

We must have made the descent quicker than had been anticipated with the result that we went to another hotel, Tallyllyn for tea. Here we sampled Welsh bread, barra brith, whilst from the window of the tea room, could be seen small boats going out with trout fishermen on to the adjoining lake. Then back to our base for a quick shower and change. Here, must be scotched the rumour put about that an observer with binoculars had witnessed one St. Dunstaner being actually pushed up the mountain. Possibly, this slander results

from the fact that wives had to content themselves with walking in the surrounding countryside, sleeping in the car and visiting a local Welsh cloth weaving factory where there was so much to tempt feminine admiration. However, on Saturday evening, after a good meal, to the accompaniment of an electric organ, we joined in the singing. Strange as it may seem, a whole crowd of Welsh folk singing in harmony all the popular hymn tunes on a Saturday evening in a pub was really heart warming.

## Coed-y-Brenin

On Sunday, 9th June, together with our wives, we were driven by our friendly leader, Mr. Thomas, to visit Coed-y-Brenin, a forest renamed from "King's Wood" on the Jubilee of King George V. What happy memories of this Sunday! A picnic on the grass in truly romantic surroundings, the scent of blossom from the trees all around, waterfalls and good companionship and all this was due to the current Forestry Commission policy of presenting to the public the manifold aims of forestry: commercial exploitation of timber, provision of local employment, conservation and recreation. We were most impressed with

*"Mountaineers" and escorts pose for Mr. Bob Thomas's camera.*





all the commission staff, especially Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Roy Jones, who had gone to a lot of trouble beforehand to plan for our visit. The hospitality that was extended to us was again in evidence when we were served with a lovely tea at which Mr. Jim Hamilton, Chief Forester, presided, whilst Mrs. Hamilton and her daughter and Mrs. Rowena Thomas looked after us.

#### Types of Trees

We derived a good deal of information about what types of trees were grown in the forest. Mr. Wheeler with an enthusiasm for his subject which made it all the more interesting, explained the secrets of tree genetics and general arboriculture. At the Commission's recreation centre, we were able to handle various stuffed animals and birds indigenous to that locality. We also took part in tree identification but one of our party failed his test by not recognising a telegraph pole standing in amongst other trees.

#### Extracting Gold

At the centre we were shown an ore washing machine for extracting gold from a mine in the forest. We were told that Prince Charles had made the same visit as we had. We left with a sample piece of rock bearing gold pyrites, or fool's gold. The mine is, however, no longer in operation.

#### Picnic Spot

It was interesting to hear how the Commission plan to build up Coed-y-Brenin as a visitors' picnic spot with a carefully thought out programme of public education to prevent litter and, at the same time, to enable town dwellers to hear typical bird and animal sounds recorded on tape: in addition, the Commission are aiming to make their forests accessible to the disabled and with that in mind, we were able to make several suggestions concerning a nature trail on which St. Dunstaners might in future be able to follow along with the general public. Having seen something of the Commission's work before the war in North Wales, it may be said that I am biased but to sum up, the week-end was altogether enjoyable, very instructional and interesting. How nice everybody was to us and how helpful they all were trying their best to make the week-end truly memorable for us.

## 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.*

**William Edward Blackmore**, Bristol, joined St. Dunstan's in May, 1974. He served in the Royal Field Artillery in the First World War. On his discharge from the Service he worked as a mason and later as a gardener on several well-known estates in the Bristol area. He has now retired and lives with a married sister in a delightful cottage. He is a widower.

**George Farrant**, Eastbourne, Sussex, came to St. Dunstan's in May, 1974. He joined the Territorial Army in 1910 and was mobilised at the outbreak of the First World War. He served in the Royal Field Artillery and was wounded in 1917. After his discharge from the Army he worked as a postman and also as a taxi driver but since his sight failed he and his wife have lived in retirement.

**Douglas Robert Forshaw**, Bognor Regis, Sussex, joined St. Dunstan's at the end of April, 1974. He served in the 2nd Surrey Regiment in the Far East in the Second World War and was a prisoner of war in Singapore. He was discharged in 1946 and he worked in the Ambulance Service until recently. He is married with a young family.

**John McCoid**, Bootle, Lancs., joined St. Dunstan's in June, 1974. He served with the Nottingham and Derbyshire Regiment in the First World War and is a widower.

**Maurice William Searchfield**, Blackpool, Lancs., became a full St. Dunstaner in June, 1974. He served with the Royal Corps of Signals from 1937 to 1946. In 1942 he was taken prisoner of war in Singapore. He is married.

## KEMP TOWN NOTES

We started the month with a playreading called "The Willing Horse", no prizes for guessing who that was—the mother of the family, of course, well read by Mrs. Robinson, ably supported by Miss King, Mr. Boorman (not our St. Dunstaner), Mr. Butler, Mr. Harris, Mr. Robinson and staff.

The next important date was the Derby, and what a glorious day, sunshine all the way and I heard several comments about the food for the day, how excellent it was. So thanks are due to Mr. James and his team. I don't think anyone lost their shirt but on the other hand I don't think fortunes were made although one escort had beginners' luck, which is nice to hear.

#### Carden Consort

One Sunday evening we had a visit from a group, new to us, called "Carden Consort", five girls playing recorders of all sizes in harmony. All played a piano piece and the only boy accompanied on the guitar and played solos. A really enterprising group, all under 13, and their music

#### WELCOME—continued

**Montague William Pearce**, Basingstoke, Hants., joined St. Dunstan's in April, 1974. He served in the Queen's West Surrey Regiment in the First 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.

**Frederick John Wade**, Stanley, Co. Durham, joined St. Dunstan's in June, 1974. He served in the Durham Light Infantry and the Machine Gun Corps during the First World War. He is a widower with a grown up family.

**Harold Henry Walden** of Warley, West Midlands, became a full St. Dunstaner in July 1974. He served as an Engineering mechanic in the Royal Navy from 1955 to 1961. He is married with a young family.

teacher told me that they had compiled the programme and rehearsed on their own. They all sang some of the popular folk songs and, after the interval, they chatted to the audience and overcame some shyness. It was a very well applauded concert and a refreshing change to have such enthusiastic youngsters. We certainly hope they will come again.

We had another lovely day for our visit to the Bentley Wildfowl Collection. Mrs. Askew is so kind and generous, welcomes us on arrival, escorts us round the lovely grounds showing us the attractive wildfowl. The peacocks called loudly and continuously, their brilliant colours glistening in the sunlight. We returned to the shade of the Pump House for a most welcome tea.

The once monthly Tuesday visit of John Berlin playing the piano was enjoyed by the stay-at-homes, while others go to the Dome for a variety of entertainment.

The Brighton Tape Recording Club concluded the Sunday concerts, it was their first visit to us here at Pearson House—they were well known to us at Ovingdean. They presented a most enjoyable programme of light classical music introduced by Mrs. Carey, telling a little about the composer and the music. We shall look forward to another evening in September.

#### The Late Charles Colbrook

St. Dunstaners visiting Ovingdean will remember Mr. Charles Colbrook, the father of Miss Colbrook who worked in the General Office there. Mr. Colbrook often deputised for the Osborne family in the Kiosk and acted as escort to many St. Dunstaners in their travels to an from Ovingdean and Pearson House.

We regret to record his sudden death on Tuesday, 4th June.

#### Dr. Broadbent Honoured

The *Review* offers its congratulations to DR. D. E. BROADBENT, F.R.S., Chairman of St. Dunstan's Scientific Committee, on his award of the C.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.





# IT STRIKES ME

by  
Magog

## Rocking Chair and Cold cure

Our photograph shows Geoffrey Andrew, of New Southgate, with the plaque he received at the Department of Health and Social Security's Handicraft Exhibition.



Also in the picture is the rocking chair with cane seat and back which earned him his award. He joins a select list of St. Dunstaners who have won awards at this annual exhibition for people with all kinds of disability due to war.

In between times, Geoffrey has evolved an interesting theory that he claims can cure hay fever and the common cold and even lessen the chance of succumbing to 'flu. His remedy is to take orange pekoe tea with a piece of thin orange peel in it. He says that the oil from the orange peel—not a Jaffa as its skin is too thick—blends with the tea to produce the remedy.

Not taking this seriously? Well, Geoffrey Andrew says you should and that he has 300 friends who have proved it by taking his advice and remained free from colds. Let's try it—what have we got to lose?

## Cover Girl

We seldom have cover girls on the front cover of the *Review*—so perhaps readers will remember one of the few, even though they must go back to November 1971. She was Dawn Crombie, daughter of our St. Dunstaner William Crombie and then we were reporting her success at the International Disabled Games in Poland. She won an athletics gold medal and our picture showed her with the medal and her blue belt for judo.

I wrote she *was* Dawn Crombie because she is married and is now Dawn McAlpine. She and her husband Colin now have a daughter, Sonia Ruth, born on 26th June. Congratulations to them and to the proud grandfather, William. I wonder if this is another cover-girl to be?

## The Voice of Moderation

One place I would like not to be is in a position of responsibility in the strife-torn corner of the British Isles that is Ulster. So I am full of admiration for anyone who stands forward in this terrible situation. Someone like St. Dunstaner Professor Alan Milne, who teaches Social Philosophy at Queen's University, Belfast, and who was

*Geoffrey Andrew at the Exhibition.*

a member of a delegation of people of moderate views to visit London recently at a time when affairs were at deadlock with loyalist strikers bringing a real danger of total breakdown.

Professor Milne was interviewed on B.B.C. Radio 4, World This Week-end and was asked what his group was trying to do. Settlement of the immediate strike problem, he said, would lead on to wider talks . . . "and this is where we look to our politicians, our Government to show some finesse and political skill . . . Surely a Government with a will can establish contact and communication?"

Since then we have seen the setting up of the Constitution Convention and on both sides of the Irish Sea all look for a gleam of hope for the future. But one thing is sure. It must be right that the voice of moderate opinion should be heard through the efforts of Professor Milne and his colleagues of a variety of religions and professions.

## New Model Radio

Radios for the blind are, after all, to be exempt from Value Added Tax. Readers may recall reports in the *Review* of Lord Fraser's campaign in the House of Lords which received support from other peers.

This news coincides with information from **Richard Dufton** our Director of Research, who is Chairman of the Technical Committee of the Wireless for the Blind Fund, that the familiar Roberts R-600 receiver went out of production at the end of 1973. The Wireless for the Blind Fund has chosen the new R505 model to replace it for the current year. This receiver has just become available from the manufacturers. It has the same technical specification as the previous model but has a single rotary switch to select the three wave-bands instead of the push-buttons on the R600. The switch also incorporates "on/off".

On the advice of the Technical Committee the aerial on the new model can be scanned through 360° to make tuning more selective among the many new VHF stations. The tip of the aerial is fitted with a large diameter safety cap, and the radio has a turntable base and leather carrying handle.



*Albert Stroud at work at the factory of MEL, Crawley.*

## Honoured service

Just about four years ago I had the pleasure of meeting and interviewing Albert Stroud, a St. Dunstaner who lives in Crawley and works for M.E.L. Equipment Ltd. The occasion was the celebration of his 25 years' service with the Philips Group of which his Company is a subsidiary. From his Director at that time he received a gold watch which he accepted for his married sister, with whom he lives, and a presentation cheque. Now, in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, he has received the British Empire Medal for his long service in industry. During that time he has tackled many different jobs and his employers appreciate his efficiency and his loyalty. I remember being told he had never been late in his quarter of a century with the firm and I'd be prepared to bet he hasn't been late since then! Many congratulations to Albert for a splendid record suitably honoured.



## International Conference of the World Congress For Physical Therapy - by Bill Shea

On Saturday, 15th June, our party of 10 St. Dunstan's physiotherapists, including two first war members, wives and escorts, assembled at Heathrow for our flight to Montreal to attend the 7th International Conference of the World Congress for Physical Therapy.

In Montreal we stayed at the Windsor Hotel and Sunday morning found us at the Conference Centre, the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, for registration. In the evening we attended the reception given by the World Congress for Physical Therapy.

The Conference opened on Monday morning, this was a great affair with closed circuit T.V.

The Hon. Marc Lalonde, Canadian Minister of National Health and Welfare, officiated in the absence due to illness of His Excellency The Right Honorable Jules Leger C.C., C.M.M., C.D., Governor General of Canada, accompanied by Dr. Gustave Gingras, C.C., M.D., F.R.C.P.(C) Honorary President of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association and Miss Doreen Morne, President of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association.

The rest of the day was taken up by lectures which continued on Tuesday morning. Later in the day some of our party went swimming at the Y.M.C.A. whilst others paid a visit to the Botanical Gardens which are very fine. In the evening there was another reception at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel given by the Canadian Physiotherapy Association.

### Trade Exhibition

Wednesday saw us back at the Conference Centre attending lectures and examining the equipment in the Trade Exhibition. Some of the party went to the performance of the Bolshoi Ballet in the evening whilst my wife and myself visited an old amateur radio friend at Mount Royal, a suburb of Montreal.

Thursday morning lectures again at the Centre and in the evening some members attended the Conference "Supper Party" at the Bonaventure Hotel which they enjoyed enormously and a few of us went to dinner with Norman and Betty Daniels. We finished the evening with Norman,

Betty and Norman's family at the H.Q.'s Sgt.'s Mess of the Canadian Black Watch in Montreal where we were later joined by some of the party who had gone to the Bonaventure. Norman Daniels is one of our Canadian Physiotherapists who worked at Romford for many years. He and Betty wish to be remembered to all old friends in the U.K.

Lectures continued on Friday during the day with the evening marking one of the highlights of the trip. This was a party at the Windsor Hotel given by: The Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded. Mr. D. A. Jamieson, President of the Association and Mr. W. M. Mayne, Executive Secretary together with their wives attended from Toronto. A number of Sir Arthur Pearson Association members living in Montreal also were present.

Others present included the Blind Physiotherapists who were attending the Congress as representatives of the R.N.I.B. and the C.N.I.B. Norman and Betty Daniels were also there. It gave many of us in the St. Dunstan's party very great pleasure to meet again Miss Proctor, now Mrs. Bill Mayne. St. Dunstaners who were at Deanhurst will remember with affection Miss Proctor who was there as a V.A.D. She sends her regards and best wishes to all old friends back in the Church Stretton days. There was personal pleasure for me in meeting Lloyd McClintock and his wife. Lloyd is a director of the Montreal C.N.I.B. and another "White Cane" radio amateur. John Dione, Chairman of the Montreal Blind Society welcomed us very warmly and John Fawcett replied on behalf of St. Dunstan's Party.

### From 54 Countries

The Conference which had been attended by over three thousand physiotherapists from 54 countries closed on Saturday. Some of the party spent the day up in the mountains with Norman Daniels and his family having a "cook-out" and by all accounts had a grand day. For the rest of us it was last minute shopping and packing and for yours truly a visit to McGill University Amateur Radio Station where I was most generously allowed to operate

their fine station making many contacts back to the U.K.

On Sunday we boarded a coach for Ottawa where we were guided around places of interest such as Embassies and Parliamentary buildings. We arrived outside the Governor General's Residence in time to see the Changing of the Guard. The Guard being mounted by the Grenadier Guards of Canada and very fine they looked in their scarlet tunics and bearskins with the sun shining and the trees so green, the setting was perfect. Off we went in the coach again and arrived at Niagara Falls to stay at the Park Motor Hotel and then on to another bus for a tour of the Falls at night. This proved to be a fantastic spectacle—an enormous expanse of rushing water all colours of the rainbow and changing colour all the time.

We were back at the Falls on Monday morning donning special waterproof clothing and gum boots to descend by elevator to the tunnels which give access to observation points within a few feet of the Falls where one is simply lashed by the spray, hence the necessity for the special gear. This was a never to be forgotten experience.

### Washington

Back on the coach again for the marathon run to Washington via Pittsburgh. Tuesday was spent on an eight hour sight-seeing tour of Washington. This included a visit and tour inside the Capitol, a look at the White House, then on to the Lincoln and Washington Memorials. The tour of the Kennedy Centre with its Theatres, fine furnishings from all over the world and roof garden was well worth doing. On to Arlington Cemetery where we saw the graves of the Unknown Soldier, President John Kennedy and Senator Robert Kennedy. Of special interest to Joe Humphrey and myself was the very fine United States Marine Corps Memorial. The tour finished with a most interesting visit to Mount Vernon, the restored home of George Washington.

Another highlight of the trip was a luncheon given on Wednesday by the Washington Blinded Veterans Association at the Holiday Inn. We were welcomed by Mr. Robert Carter, Executive Director of the W.B.V.A. After a very good lunch Mr. Bill Thompson told us of the very great pleasure it had given him to visit St. Dun-

stan's. He went on to speak of the meeting with Lord Fraser and other St. Dunstaners and members of the staff at H.Q. He also told us how much he and his wife had enjoyed the visit of Commander and Mrs. R. Buckley to Boston and asked us to convey his best wishes. It was my privilege to thank the W.B.V.A. for their generous hospitality on behalf of St. Dunstan's party.

After lunch back on the coach bound for New York and the Edison Hotel. St. Dunstaners who were at Deanhurst will remember Primrose Elliott, a V.A.D. She is now Mrs. Stefan Pieser, living at Rockville, Maryland, Nr. Washington, D.C. I was able to telephone her, unfortunately a meeting could not be arranged, time was too short but she asked me to convey her greetings to all her old friends.

### New York

We spent Thursday on a sightseeing tour of New York. Many buildings of interest were pointed out including City Hall, the Empire State Building, also Times and Herald Squares. This was followed by a boat trip out to the Statue of Liberty. After going up to the observation gallery at the top of the plinth by elevator the guide told us it was possible to climb to the top of the statue, but "it wasn't worth it". Being St. Dunstaners some of us did not believe him and decided to climb up a spiral stairway which got progressively narrower and steeper and at the end of it we found the guide was right, there was nothing to see, but anyway we can say we made it.

Back on the bus and the tour then proceeded through the Bowery, Skid Row, Chinatown and on to the United Nations Building. Most of us took advantage of the opportunity of sending Post Cards with the United Nations stamps and post marks on, the only post office in the world where this can be done. The rest of the day was taken up by shopping, some of us visited Maceys, the largest Department store in the world.

On Friday most of us went our own way for the day, some to the Empire State Building, others to Radio City for the Variety Show. I went to the American Foundation for the Blind and was welcomed very warmly.

Saturday morning, back to the coach for the return trip to Montreal with a stop at Saratoga Springs for luncheon. We crossed the border, believe it or not, at Blackpool arriving at Dorval Airport in good time to





It is a far cry from an English lane on a damp summer evening to the road from Nairobi to Mombasa—but Mike Tetley will be cycling on both this month. He is planning a 500 mile tandem ride in Kenya to deliver his machine to the Salvation Army Secondary School for the Blind in Thika. With a sighted 'pilot' Edwin Rodrigues, Mike will be on the road from August 11th to 18th. On the front in our photograph is his English trainer, Dennis Bray.

#### CONFERENCE—continued

do some last minute shopping at the Duty Free shop before boarding our D.C.8.

A strenuous trip but a very happy one which I am sure none of us would have liked to miss. We all owe a great deal to Mr. Priestley for the hard work he put in before the trip and for his guidance during it.

#### A Visit to Buckingham Palace

HORACE JOHN BOORMAN, Faversham, Kent, went to Buckingham Palace at the end of May with the Civilian Blind Association. He is Chairman of the Faversham group. They all enjoyed their visit and had preferential treatment. They had a specially conducted tour of the Royal Mews, the Master of Horse had the barriers taken down and they were allowed to feel the Harness and Coaches.

Horace leads a very active life as Chairman of a number of local clubs and also a Noble Grand of his Oddfellows Lodge.

#### DANCING DAUGHTERS

##### Hilary Forster

St. Dunstan's Dancing Daughters, whose successful dancing examination results we have published in the *Review* from time to time are now growing up. Hilary Forster, Leeds, who once won competition medals herself is now having successes with her own pupils. She has pupils in the semi-finals of the Sunshine Competitions in the Ballet, National Greek and Character sections. All the profit from these particular competitions go to the Sunshine Fund for Blind Babies and Young People and it is the Golden Jubilee this year.

##### Heather Tait

Heather Tait, (née Richardson), was married at the end of May and her wedding was reported in the July *Review*.

## CLUB NEWS

### LONDON

The Sir Arthur Pearson Aggregate Domino Competition, the best eight results from twelve games, came to its final conclusion on Thursday, 4th June.

- 1st R. Armstrong
- 2nd J. Padley
- 3rd J. Majchrowicz

The Domino winners during the month of June were as follows:—

- 6th June 1st J. Padley  
W. Miller
- 13th June 1st R. Armstrong  
2nd W. Miller
- 20th June 1st W. Miller  
2nd C. Hancock
- 27th June 1st J. Majchrowicz  
R. Armstrong

The Ladies Aggregate Competition run in conjunction with the Sir Arthur Pearson Domino Competition was won by Mrs. Hancock, with Mrs. Armstrong coming second and Mrs. Padley was third.

W. MILLER.

### MIDLAND

After the gaiety of the Birmingham Reunion on the previous day our club meeting, held on Sunday, 7th July, was rather quiet and the attendance was low but maybe this was owing to the World Cup being held on the same day!

It was very good to have Les Fensome back with us once again. Les came along with his wife, Marjorie and their youngest son. We all sincerely hope that they enjoyed themselves and liked what they saw and that they will be coming to further meetings.

Our chairman, Joe Kibbler gave them a very warm welcome as he usually gives to all new members.

Mrs. Marjorie Hordyniec was responsible for an excellent tea and everyone thanked her.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, 11th August, and by then I hope to have further news regarding our trip to Stratford.

DOUG CASHMORE  
Secretary

## BRIDGE NOTES

The Summer Bridge Drive was held on Saturday, 15th June, at the London Club, Headquarters, Old Marylebone Road. Owing to the fact that several members with their wives were on holiday our numbers were somewhat depleted. Despite this twelve St. Dunstaners with their partners took part and thoroughly enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon.

The results are as follows:—

- 1st P. Nuyens and Miss Molly Byrne
- 2nd J. Lynch and Mrs. Lynch
- 3rd L. Douglass and Mr. S. Horstead
- 4th E. Carpenter and Mrs. Wiltshire

The prizes were presented by Mrs. Smith and as always the guests were appreciative of the prizes of various items made by St. Dunstaners.

P. NUYENS,  
Secretary.

### A PACK OF CARDS

I have often heard people at the Bridge Club talking about the number of different hands that could be dealt from a single pack of cards, but no-one seemed to know just how many. I have found the answer in an old Dunlop Book of Facts, and as they are facts not fiction, I do not think that they will mind my passing them on to my St. Dunstan's colleagues, leaving out the mathematical formulae.

#### Odds on Perfect Deals

The number of possible hands with four players using a full pack of 52 cards is 635,013,559,600. Thus the odds against picking up a specific complete suite are 635,013,559,599 to 1 or any complete suit 158,753,389,899 to 1. The number of possible deals is 2,235,197,406,895,366,368,301,560,000. A complete suit is thus to be expected once in every 39,688,347,497 deals. Cases throughout the world of single complete suits are in practice reported about once per year. This being so, cases of two players receiving



## OBITUARY

### Mr. Otto Huttenen

St. Dunstaners who were at Church Stretton during the latter stages of the 2nd World War may remember Otto Huttenen who served in the United States Air Force. He was blinded by a hand grenade explosion in North Africa losing his left hand and part of his right hand. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1943 for treatment at our hospital, Tiger Hall, and he also underwent some training in Braille and typewriting despite the severe injury to his hands.

In March 1944 Mr. Huttenen married Miss Ruby Curtis, a Red Cross member at Tiger Hall and she returned with her husband to the United States. They lived in Ohio but made a number of journeys to England finally settling in Northamptonshire in 1965.

Mr. Huttenen, who was an honorary St. Dunstaner, died on 22nd May, 1974 at the age of 68 and his friends and acquaintances will wish to join us in offering sincere condolences to his widow

### NO SEPTEMBER REVIEW

As in previous years, we shall be following the usual practice of **NOT** printing a September issue of the *Review*. The next *Review* will be the October one and St. Dunstaners should receive copies of this at the beginning of the month.

### BRIDGE NOTES *continued*

complete suits could be expected with the present volume of card playing once every 2,000 million years and this has only once been recorded. Cases of all four players picking up complete suits might be expected once in 56,000 billion years. This latter occurrence was reported in New Zealand on 8 July 1958, in Illinois, U.S.A. on February 1963, again in Illinois on 30 March 1963 and again 3 days later in Greybull, Wyoming. This is so unlikely, not merely to strain credulity but to be virtually certain evidence of rigged shuffling or hoaxing.

W. MILLER.

## Reading Time

by Phillip Wood

*Cat. No. 280*

### The Travels of Maudie Tipstaff

by Margaret Forster

*Read by Phyllis Boothroyd*

*Reading Time 7¼ hours*

Maudie, a sharp-tongued uncompromising God-fearing old Glaswegian, decides to spend four months with each of her three children, whom she hasn't seen for years. First, she visits Jean, living out an empty sterile life with her dentist husband in a plush London suburb. Problems of communication soon develop. There are sighs of relief all round when the time comes for Maudie to move on.

Sally is a good-natured slut with a strong penchant for getting in debt—and other men's arms. She has six neglected children and an inarticulate clod of a husband. Maudie's carbolic-clean soul is revolted by the squalor.

There is still Robert, he of the affectionate letters. Robert is an artist, a bachelor living on a Mediterranean island. Are there more disappointments in store for Maudie, or will she be "third time lucky"?

This is no ordinary run-of-the-mill generation-gap story. Told with verve and humour and a needle-sharp insight into the weaknesses—and strengths—of very human, human beings. A splendidly satisfying book.

*Cat. No. 65*

*Reading Time 4½ hrs.*

### The Art of Coarse Acting

by Michael Green

*Read by Garard Green*

A wickedly-funny sideswipe at the "ham" actors and spurious prima donnas who people the little world of amateur dramatics. Any of us who have ever trod the boards, however briefly or humbly, may feel just a slight warmth about the cheeks and wonder silently, "Good Lord! Was I as bad as that!"

By no means a memorable book, but a nice little "pot-boiler" whilst you are waiting for the Great Novel to drop through the letter-box.

*Cat. No. 463*

*Reading Time 8½ hrs.*

### Twenty Letters to a Friend

by Svetlana Alliluyeva

*Read by Phyllis Boothroyd*

An enthralling stranger-than-fiction collection of memories, happy and tragic, recorded, at the age of thirty-seven, by Stalin's only daughter.

Born in 1925 her very early childhood was secure and happy. After the revolution the Party Bosses took over the great estates (and life-styles) of the aristocrats and wealthy industrialists they had deposed. The young Svetlana was cradled in luxury, surrounded by servants, governesses, tutors and a nurse who stayed with her for thirty years.

Her mother's suicide in 1932 (Stalin did not attend the funeral) and the growing menace of the bureaucratic machine, had a profound effect on her life, culminating in the estrangement of father and daughter.

Predictably, the book is dominated by the dark brooding presence of Stalin, puritanical, unrelenting, suspicious of everyone but Beria, the infamous chief of the dreaded Secret Police, whom he trusted implicitly. He was totally isolated by his high office, a virtual prisoner of the system he helped to create. It is hard to reconcile the man who was adored by all his servants, a kind and indulgent father ("he didn't like to hear a child cry") with the sadistic murderer history has labelled him.

This is a book about repression and cruelty and savage injustice. It is also a testament of faith and hope. For the writer, a cultured highly intelligent Christian woman, who came to hate and fear "this monstrous system, this hideous machine" still cherishes a burning hope that justice and truth and freedom will one day return to her beloved Russia.

*Cat. No. 23*

*Reading Time 6¼ hrs.*

### Here Is The News

by Richard Baker

*Read by the Author*

Autobiographical behind-the-scenes account of the Life of a News Reader. The first couple of chapters I found a little repetitive, the style rather pedestrian and

self-conscious. But Mr. Baker soon warms to his task, gains mightily in confidence and with him we take a long hard look at the frenetic timed-to-the-split-second pandemonium responsible for the nightly News Bulletin.

And if you think (as I once did) that the News Reader's job is a piece of cake and all he has to do is comb his hair, straighten his tie, knock off the news and belt off and join his mates in the bar—read this book. It will show you how very wrong you were!

*Cat. No. 583*

### The Chill and The Kill

by Joan Fleming

*Read by Eric Gillet*

*Reading Time 7½ hours*

A thoroughly forgettable book. A school-girl of no particular attainments or distinction, is knocked down by the vicar, a notoriously bad driver. She suffers nothing worse than a bad shaking-up, but when she recovers she has the gift of clairvoyance—would you believe!

She foretells the death of the young locum who attends her and he very conveniently commits suicide. Later, she "sees" a rather nasty murder and this also comes to pass.

The plot is tissue-paper thin and the denouement totally implausible.

I felt it was a pity the vicar hadn't gone to a decent driving-school.

Then he wouldn't have hit the girl.

And she wouldn't have had second-sight.

And this book need not have been written!

*Cat. No. 166*

### Scruffy, A Diversion

by Paul Gallico

*Read by Michael Aspel*

*Reading Time 10¾ hours*

A riotously-funny tale by a master storyteller. In war-time Gibraltar the ape population declines catastrophically, until only Scruffy, the evil-tempered leader of the pack, is left. If the apes die out altogether it will mean curtains for the British—or so the legend says.





*St. Dunstaner Eddie Allchin of Plymouth was the only walker to complete the full 25 miles of a sponsored walk. He raised £32.50 for local autistic children out of a total of £300 in the event which was organised by the Plymton and Plymstock Ladies' Circle.*

#### READING TIME *continued*

The book tells of the hilarious and outrageous attempts of the Officer i/c Apes and his conniving drunken assistant to re-introduce the vanishing species.

A joyous frolic of a story, an absolute "must" for all who like a good laugh—and who doesn't?

Michael Aspel gives a stupendous virtuoso performance as a kind of one-man Repertory Company. I bet he could do Scruffy if he tried!

#### HEADPHONES In the use of . . .

I recently invested in a pair of headphones (£5.40 from the Talking Book people) for private reading.

They are robust, I'll say that for them! The heavy metal bands hold my head in a vice-like grip in a manner that would bring tears of joy to the eyes of any old-time Inquisitor. I now have permanently red ears. The cord soon developed a separate life of its own, curling and twisting about like an agitated worm. (Why, oh, why, can't some bright technical bloke bring out a cheap *non-kink* flex?)

Still, they are useful for a quiet read while the rest of the family are playing Scrabble or knocking down the kitchen wall or generally doing their own thing.

. . . And they do protect Auntie Mabel from all those nasty swear-words and orgies and things.

## FAMILY NEWS

### GARDENING NEWS

We have pleasure in reporting news of St. Dunstaners GEORGE ALLEN of Hull, who entered pinks, carnations and roses in the Hull and District Carnation Society Show held on 29th June. George obtained three 1st prizes, one 2nd prize and three 3rd prizes for pinks and carnations and one 2nd prize for roses.

### Silver Weddings

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. ERIC BRADSHAW of Northampton, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 2nd July, 1974.

### Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. ALBERT ROBERTS, Buckley, Flintshire, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 24th June, 1974.

### Grandfathers

#### Congratulations to:

WALTER BRAMLEY, of Manchester, who is pleased to announce the birth of a grand-daughter, Nicola Jayne, born to his son Michael and his daughter-in-law, Christine, on 1st July, 1974.

RONALD HOMEWOOD, of Norwich, who is pleased to announce the safe arrival of a grand-daughter, Lisa Ann, born on 6th June, 1974, to their daughter, Margaret. Lisa is their sixth grandchild.

FRANK JEANMONOD, Eltham, who has pleasure in announcing the safe arrival of his second grandchild, Donald John, born on 19th March, 1974, in Boston, U.S.A.

DANNY MCCARTHY, of Northampton, is pleased to state that his daughter Susan gave birth to a daughter on 20th July, 1974. She is their second grand-daughter.

ALBERT SPENCER, Gillingham, has pleasure in announcing the safe arrival of a grandson, Damien James, born on 23rd May, 1974, to his son James and daughter-in-law, Maria.

WILLIAM JOSEPH WOODHALL, Birmingham, is pleased to announce the safe arrival of his grand-daughter, Samantha Anne who was born to his son Philip and daughter-in-law, Dawn, on 18th April, 1974.

### Long Life and Happiness to:-

Kevin, son of PATRICK SHEEHAN, Wanstead, E.11., who married Susan Ashley at St. Andrew's Church, Chelsea, on 1st June, 1974.

Billy, son of WILLIAM ELGOOD, Chingford, Essex, who married Marylyn Pilkinton, on 29th June, 1974.

Sonia, daughter of PETER LOGAN of Sunderland, who married Robert Fair at Sunderland Parish Church, on 20th April, 1974.

Patricia, daughter of WALTER DURRANT, Norwich, Norfolk, who married William Frederick Barrie, Shotesham, Norfolk, at St. Catherines Church, Aysham Road, Norwich, on 29th June, 1974.

PETER BOOTH, Long Load, Somerset, is pleased to report that his younger daughter, Jane, has been awarded the British Amateur Gymnastic badge 4th class. She is 10 years old and it is highly thought of to win this in her school.

Mrs. Lilian Lee of London, S.W.19, widow of our St. Dunstaner, the late HENRY LEE, is pleased to announce that her son Stephen, who is studying at Exeter University, has passed his examinations and has now gained his B.Sc. degree.



## Deaths

We offer our very sincere sympathy to:

JOSEPH BOYCE, Belfast, Northern Ireland, who mourns the death of his wife Teresa, who passed away on 29th June, 1974.

WILLIAM LACEY, Eastwood, Essex, on the death of his wife, Mrs. Eleanor Louise Lacey, who had been ill for some months and died in hospital on 7th July, 1974.

ASHBY WARD-SMITH, Penryn, Cornwall, whose grandson, aged eighteen, was killed in a motor-car accident on 16th 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.

**Walter Grant. M.M., Northumberland Fusiliers**

Walter Grant of Brentwood, Essex, died at Northgate House, Rottingdean, on 26th June, 1974. He was 83 years old.

He enlisted in the Northumberland Fusiliers in August 1914 and served with them until his discharge in 1919. Although he was wounded in France in 1915 and suffered some additional disability, his sight did not fail until many years later and he therefore, did not join St. Dunstan's until February 1974.

For many years Walter Grant worked as a miner until his retirement in 1965. He was a widower and lived for some time with his married daughter, Mrs. Leybourne, in Ruislip and more recently with his married son in Brentwood, Essex. Unfortunately his health deteriorated and he died whilst at Northgate House.

**John James Hamson. Royal Army Service Corps.**

John James Hamson, Rochester, Kent, died in hospital on 18th June, 1974. He was 77 years of age.

He enlisted in the Territorial Army in 1913 at the age of 17 and served with them until his discharge in 1919. As John Hamson had already retired from his previous occupation as Stockman on a farm, when his sight failed completely and he joined St. Dunstan's in 1968, no occupational training was necessary.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamson enjoyed a quiet retirement in Rochester and their four grown-up sons and daughters all keep in constant touch with their parents. In recent months Mr. Hamson's health deteriorated and he had to be admitted to hospital during the last few weeks of his life.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Frances Hamson and their four grown-up children and their respective families.

**Albert James Frederick Jolly. Royal Army Service Corps.**

Albert James Jolly, late of Horder Road, Fulham, S.W.6. and latterly of Greenhyrst Nursing Home, Croydon, died on 4th July, just a fortnight before his 85th birthday.

He enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps in 1915 and served with them until his discharge in 1918 when he joined St. Dunstan's.

He trained as a Basket maker and despite his injured hand he managed to master all types of basket work. In 1931 he transferred to making seagrass stools and string bags and worked steadily until 1964 when he was admitted to hospital for a serious operation.

Mr. and Mrs. Jolly lived for many years in Fulham but owing to the ill-health of both, their son arranged for his parents to live as residents in a Nursing Home at Croydon so that he could call in and see them daily. Mr. Jolly had been in poor health for a number of years but since the death of his wife on 14th May, his health has given serious cause for concern and although we invited him to spend a convalescent holiday at St. Dunstan's in Brighton he was not well enough to make the journey.

He leaves his son, Mr. A. G. Jolly and his daughter-in-law, who both did so much to care for his parents.

**Harold Archibald Moss. Royal Horse Guards**

Harold Archibald Moss of Ipswich, Suffolk, died in hospital on 23rd June, 1974. He was 60 years of age.

He enlisted in the Royal Horse Guards in 1942 and served with them until his discharge in 1946, but it was not until 1971 that he joined St. Dunstan's.

He worked for many years as a telephonist with the North Thames Gas Board, but had retired by the time he came to us. His hobbies were Braille, his talking book and the radio and he found plenty to keep him busy in these fields.

He moved from London to Ipswich in January, 1973 but unfortunately became ill very soon after this. He was nursed devotedly at home by Mrs. Moss, but it was in hospital that he passed away in the early hours of Sunday morning, 23rd June.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Nora Moss and a son, who is married.

**Charles Albert Reed. Royal Engineers**

Charles Albert Reed of Peacehaven, Sussex, died in hospital, on 25th June, 1974. He was 86 years of age.

He enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1914 and served with them until his discharge in December 1918. His sight did not fail completely until later on in his life and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1964 when he had already retired from work.

From a health point of view it was felt advisable that Mr. and Mrs. Reed should live out of London and in 1965 they moved to Peacehaven where they enjoyed a quiet retirement. In recent years Mr. Reed's health sometimes gave cause for concern and he was admitted to the Brighton General Hospital in June where unfortunately he died a few weeks later.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Edith Reed and four grown-up sons and daughters and their respective families.