

St Dunstons
REVIEW
JULY

St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

NO. 665

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5p MONTHLY

Pensions and Allowances

Note by our Legal Officer

St. Dunstaners will have heard of the Statement in the House of Commons on the 22nd May, 1975, by Mrs. Barbara Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, that there are to be increases in War Pensions and other Pensions and in some Allowances, of the order of 14½ per cent.

The Basic 100 per cent Disability Pension will go up from £19.00 to £21.80 a week, and there are to be corresponding increases in those Allowances which are to be raised.

The Basic War Widow's Pension is to be increased from £15.00 to £17.20; Age Allowances for War Widows will go up 20p on the lower rate and 40p on the higher rate.

Although the up-rating was promised for December, the payment date has been brought forward to the week commencing the 17th November, 1975.

In accordance with usual practice, a supplement will accompany the October issue of the *Review* containing more detailed information, and pending that issue, should St. Dunstaners have any enquiries would they, please, address them to Mr. L. A. Slade, our Pensions Officer at Headquarters.

Meanwhile, two examples of the proposed revised payments are set out in next column.

EXAMPLES OF PENSIONS

Employable	Totally Blind	
	Present	New
Basic Pension	£19.00	£21.80
Attendance Allowance	7.60	8.70
Comforts Allowance	3.20	3.70
Wife's Allowance	0.50	0.50
Child's Allowance	0.38	0.38
	£30.68	£35.08

Unemployable	Totally Blind	
	Present	New
Basic Pension	£19.00	£21.80
Attendance Allowance	7.60	8.70
Comforts Allowance	3.20	3.70
Unemployability Supplement	12.40	14.20
Wife's Allowance	7.40	8.40
Allowance for First Child	6.03	6.88
Invalidity Allowance	1.50	1.70
	£57.13	£65.38

"HOWARD ON HOLIDAY"

Our good friend, Mr. Howard Langley, who both produces and introduces "Torch Light" the weekly 30 minute programme for the blind, recently visited Ian Fraser House. Radio Manchester will be broadcasting the programme which he has made from the visit, under the title "Howard on Holiday". Sunday, 20th July, 4.30 to 5 p.m., repeat Monday, 21st July, 3.30 to 4 p.m.

REUNIONS

NEWCASTLE

Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, accompanied by his wife, presided at the Newcastle Reunion held at the Royal Station Hotel on Thursday, 15th May. Altogether 60 people were present, including 7 St. Dunstaners from the First and 20 from the Second World War or later.

The Reunion arrangements were made by Mrs. Plaxton, assisted by Miss Skinner who is now welfare visitor for Scotland and Mrs. Ward, who succeeded Mrs. Plaxton on her retirement at the end of May. We also had the pleasure of Mrs. King's company, paying a welcome visit among her old friends as our guest.

Our Chairman

"I give you a warm welcome here this afternoon", said Mr. Garnett-Orme in his speech after lunch. "Especially Mr. Marley of Washington. He is with us for his first St. Dunstan's Reunion and I hope that he will feel at home, enjoy the afternoon and come to many more of our Reunions".

Our Chairman went on to welcome Mrs. King, a retired member of the Welfare Staff, well known to all St. Dunstaners and he also welcomed active members of St. Dunstan's staff present, headed by our Secretary, Mr. C. D. Wills, about whom Mr. Garnett-Orme said, "He is in charge of our whole organisation and we are very grateful to him for the way he looks after us all and all our affairs." He then thanked Mrs. Plaxton for all she had done by looking after the welfare of St. Dunstaners in the North East and wished her a very happy retirement. He offered congratulations to Mrs. Ward who was taking over from Mrs. Plaxton.

Mr. Garnett-Orme then referred to our Diamond Jubilee Year and the special menu cards. He said that Lady Fraser sent her love and best wishes to all present as, sadly, she could not attend the Reunion. It was, said Mr. Garnett-Orme, the first time that he and his wife had attended the Newcastle Reunion and it was a great pleasure to have the opportunity to meet everybody there.

After referring to the modernisation of Ian Fraser House and expressing the

hope that St. Dunstaners would visit the Home, where he thought they would be surprised and delighted, Mr. Garnett-Orme added, "Our lease of No. 1 South Audley Street has expired and Miss Tatham and Miss Barnard have moved to a section of their own at Headquarters in Old Marylebone Road. This enables us to have the records of all St. Dunstaners, including officers, under one roof and, of course, it will also save expense. The Chairman has always had a room of his own at Headquarters and space has been found for a large room which is used for Council Meetings and any other large gatherings which we may have."

Torch Shines Brightly

Giving the number of St. Dunstaners alive today as 1,213 in the United Kingdom and a further 594 overseas Mr. Garnett-Orme went on to say, "Although it is now thirty years since the end of World War II, the lighted torch of St. Dunstan's shines as brightly as ever as a symbol of inspiration and endeavour. That this is so is due to the example set by you in overcoming your problems and I can congratulate you all and also your wives who do so much to make these high standards possible. It is important to us all and especially the new St. Dunstaners like those who are joining us now from Northern Ireland that our name should continue to be well-known and held in high repute and on behalf of our newcomers I thank you."

Expo in Australia

Mr. Garnett-Orme then mentioned Colonel Sir Michael Ansell's visit to South Australia where he opened an Expo in Adelaide, involving everything to do with the horse world. (See article "Sir Mike in South Australia").

He concluded by thanking the hotel staff, with a special mention of Margaret, one of the staff who had been at every St. Dunstan's Reunion at the Royal Station Hotel, and also Mrs. Plaxton and her helpers for all their hard work in organising the afternoon.

COVER PICTURE: Ray Peart, Alan Wortley and John Simpson at the last rest point before ascending to the summit of Cader Idris.

BACK COVER: Dwarfed by the mountain a group begins the long descent from the summit.

David Bell

The vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners was moved by David Bell, Edinburgh, who welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Garnett-Orme to Newcastle and wished him every success on his appointment as Chairman of St. Dunstan's. David added, "We would like you to take back our sincere and warmest regards to Lady Fraser and we regret the loss of our finest St. Dunstaner, Lord Fraser."

"I would also like to thank Mr. Wills, Miss Mosley and all members of the staff who do such hard work to make this Reunion a most memorable one and also this is an opportunity to enable us to meet some old friends, make some new friends and meet some very old friends. We would like to welcome Miss Skinner attending her first Reunion as Welfare Officer for Scotland and also Mrs. Ward, who is taking over from Mrs. Plaxton, and of course we are pleased to see Mrs. King."

"We would like to thank the management of the Hotel, both upstairs and downstairs for a wonderful repast. This brings me to a story, I don't know whether it is apocryphal! Mike Tetley last year was on a tandem ride in Kenya and they were passing through the lines of Kikuyu with their Russian type machine guns and Chinese grenades. They arrived in the centre of a village where the head man and the witch doctor were. The witch doctor raised his eyes to Heaven and cried, 'Thank you very much for sending us our "Meals on Wheels" .'"

SHEFFIELD

Two days later the Sheffield Reunion was held at the Royal Victoria Hotel on Saturday, 17th May. On this occasion there was a total of 133 people, including 11 St. Dunstaners from the First and 42 from the Second World War or later. The honoured guest was Miss Midgley, formerly Welfare Superintendent (North).

"My friends," said Dr. D. G. Hopewell, M.A., LL.B. (Cantab), Hon. LL.D. (Leeds), who presided at the lunch, "I want to bring you the good wishes of the Members of your Council who hope you will enjoy your Reunion today and that in meeting each other and renewing old acquaintances you will have a very

happy time. Also I have a special message for you all from Lady Fraser, who told me to tell you that she hopes when the arthritis which is crippling her at present is improved and she becomes more mobile, she will be able once again to come to Reunions."

Diamond Jubilee

Referring to the Diamond Jubilee Year, Dr. Hopewell said he thought that St. Dunstan's was as young as it ever was. Because of the spirit which was in it he thought it would remain young for as long as it lived. "And though in this last year we have lost our leader," added Dr. Hopewell, "who was our inspiration and our guide and our encouragement through all those sixty years, we still have undimmed his great reputation which will inspire us in the future as in the past."

Welcoming two new men, Seth Bennett, Bradford, and Peter Jones, Sheffield, Dr. Hopewell mentioned the special menu cards which he hoped St. Dunstaners would take away as a remembrance of the day's meeting and he then gave the number of St. Dunstaners alive today, adding that the same spirit prevailed at home and overseas, the spirit of hope, the spirit of courage and the spirit of cheerfulness.

Welcoming members of the staff present and making particular mention of Mr. Wills and Miss Mosley and expressing thanks to Miss Broughton and Miss Newbold for the arrangements, Dr. Hopewell said that we were delighted to see Miss Midgley back again as a guest at the Reunion. He then concluded:

Old Friends

"It is a great pleasure for me to come amongst you today and to meet so many old friends and acquaintances and to see you happy and so well and so cheerful. As I say, we are the members of one family and that family spirit is perhaps the most wonderful thing of our organisation and I know that family spirit is largely due to the wives of St. Dunstaners. We give a special thanks for all they do to help St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners."

Robert Coupland, Hull, gave the vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners. He thanked Dr. Hopewell for his encouraging message and endorsed all that he had



Dr. Donald Hopewell, with Miss K. Broughton and St. Dunstaners, Patrick Timiney and John Barlow at the Sheffield Reunion.

said about Lord Fraser. "I would also like to express our appreciation to St. Dunstan's Council for what they do for us and for what St. Dunstan's staff has done for you and me for the past sixty years", said Mr. Coupland.

It was pleasing to know that Ian Fraser House was now open again and this in itself would always commemorate Lord Fraser. He concluded by thanking the hotel management and staff congratulating them on the food, the wine and the music, which he thought very fitting.

BRISTOL

The Bristol Reunion returned this year to the Esso Motor Hotel and it was a happy return. Situated in sylvan surroundings on the outskirts of Bristol—not far from the M4 Motorway, this hotel is a most convenient meeting point for travellers but most of all, despite its modern design and appearance, its staff keep an old-

fashioned warm welcome for St. Dunstaners.

Saturday, 31st May, then, saw a happy group gathered under the Chairmanship of an ever popular Member of St. Dunstan's Council, Dr. D. G. Hopewell.

Altogether there were 120 people at the sociable round tables: 63 St. Dunstaners, 15 from the 1st World War and 48 from the 2nd World War or later, with their wives or escorts, guests and members of the staff.

Opening his speech, Dr. Hopewell brought a message from Lady Fraser and read a telegram from Miss P. Rogers, Southern Area Welfare Superintendent who was prevented from attending. He said 1975 was a special year because it was 60 years ago that Sir Arthur Pearson, inspired by Lady Fraser, took the house in Bayswater Road and for sixty years St. Dunstan's had gone all over the world until to-day, thanks largely to the St. Dunstaners themselves, and their splendid wives and families, there was no name more honoured and more revered in every corner of the world.



With the oldest and youngest St. Dunstaners at the Bristol Reunion, Bill Lear (right) and Colwyn Lloyd (left), Dr. Hopewell cuts the Diamond Jubilee cake.

Dr. Hopewell greeted the special guests, "Our old friends, Mrs. Spurway, Miss Oliphant and Miss Joyce Meyer." After mentioning the names of Headquarters and technical staff present—particularly Miss M. Meyer, Welfare Visitor responsible and Miss I. Newbold, assisting, Dr. Hopewell described the new facilities at Ian Fraser House, Ovingdean. "In fact, someone has said to me," he went on, "it's now looking so delightful that when the men go, they will never want to leave it."

Dr. Hopewell concluded with a tribute to the late Lord Fraser: "Although it is a remarkable year for us, as it is our Diamond Jubilee and as it sees the re-opening of Ian Fraser House, it must always be for us a year of sadness because during the last few months we have lost our great leader. It would ill become me to add to the eloquent words of Lord Redcliffe-Maud in that magnificent service of triumphant thanksgiving which we attended on 4th February, but we all have our own memories of Ian Fraser.

"I, after a friendship of 40 years, will always think of him as one who never turned his back but pressed forward never doubting clouds would break. He was a man whose memory will live long beyond our time, whose good name will grow with the years. But one thing I am sure of, he would be the first to say to us, 'Better by far that you should forget and smile, than that you should remember and be sad'."

Speaking for St. Dunstaners, Henry Perrett, of Devizes, endorsed and echoed Dr. Hopewell's tribute to Lord Fraser, reminding the company, "that he had his dear wife and, in fact, a dear friend to all St. Dunstaners, at his right hand throughout all his life." Through his great vision Lord Fraser had chosen the best people for jobs over the years culminating with Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme now his successor. Paraphrasing the famous Remembrance Day lines, Mr. Perrett said, "He grew old, but he did not weary, at the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember him."

Mr. Perrett concluded by expressing thanks to all the heads of departments and their staff, to Miss Meyer and to the Manager and staff of the Hotel.

After lunch there was dancing and the prize draw followed by tea and the cutting of a special commemorative cake provided by the Hotel.

From Miss Rogers, Southern Area Welfare Superintendent.

May I thank all St. Dunstaners and their wives, who attended the Bristol Reunion, for their kindness in sending to my home a very beautiful flowering plant in compensation for my having to miss the Reunion. I was deeply touched by your thoughts.

Phyllis Rogers

LONDON

On Saturday, 14th June, the Hotel Russell again provided the venue for the reunion of St. Dunstaners living in central London, to which also came others from the Home Counties and as far afield as Hunts., Northants., Oxon., Staffs. and Northern Ireland. There were 85 St. Dunstaners present, 17 from the First World War and 63 from the Second and 5 post-war. With wives, escorts, members of the staff and friends, the total number of people at the reunion was thus nearly 200.

It was a very successful reunion with arrangements made by Miss Davis, assisted by Miss Newbold and Mrs. Thompson from Northern Ireland. Friends included Miss Hoare and Miss Midgley and we were very happy to welcome Canadian St. Dunstaner Charles Hornsby from Victoria, B.C., making his customary biennial visit to the country of his birth with his niece Mrs. Breakspear as escort.

Air Marshal Sir Douglas Morris, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., was the member of the Council presiding. In his speech after lunch he first brought greetings from the Council. Sir Douglas thanked various members of the staff, particularly Miss Davis for organising the function, but he added a sad note which was that Lady Fraser had been advised by her doctor not to come. However, she sent her love and best wishes to everyone present and

Sir Douglas felt sure that the company would wish him to take back the same sentiments to her.

"We have a very good turn out today," said Sir Douglas and he particularly welcomed 5 new St. Dunstaners Arthur Purser, Bethnal Green, William Rowland, Lambeth, Thomas Slater, Romford, Sidney Whiting, Isleworth, and Charles McConaghy, Belfast. On that very day, the Queen's official birthday, Mr. McConaghy, blinded in Northern Ireland, had been awarded the Queen's Police Medal for bravery. Next Sir Douglas analysed the types of employment and other occupations followed by the St. Dunstaners attending the reunion, he gave the total number of our people in the United Kingdom and overseas and he named all members of the staff present, headed by the Secretary, Mr. Wills.

"One thing of course that we in this country are particularly concerned about is this awful period of inflation", said Sir Douglas, "I won't attempt to say here what all the clever people in the country of all types are saying. Unfortunately nobody seems able to do anything about it and we all suffer individually and, of course, an organisation like St. Dunstan's must suffer."

St. Dunstan's Personified

Turning to the subject of the Diamond Jubilee year, Sir Douglas said that he saw two outstanding events. The first was the death of Lord Fraser about whom he said, "To me, serving under him on the Council, he was the personification of St. Dunstan's and I have no doubt, and I am sure you have no doubt, that the one thing he would wish is that his work should continue in the way he shaped it".

The second outstanding event was the re-opening of Ian Fraser House which Sir Douglas thought was a magnificent piece of work, and he paid a tribute to the architects and others concerned, with particular mention of Commandant Fawcett and the staff in Brighton. He concluded by expressing the hope that everyone would have an enjoyable day meeting old friends, and making new friends, and that all would be present at next year's reunion.

In his vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners, Fred Ripley, Wimbledon, said, "I would like to say thank you for

SIR MIKE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

International Equestrian Expo

Col. Sir Michael Ansell had the great honour of opening the International Equestrian Expo in Adelaide, South Australia on 12th April which was attended, in its closing stages, by H.R.H. Princess Ann and Captain Mark Phillips.

The event, which lasted a fortnight, covered every possible aspect of the horse world: Riding Clubs, Pony Clubs, Polo, Racing, Rodeo, Trotting, Pacing, Show Jumping, Dressage, Eventing, Tent Pegging, and Musical Rides, and covered every breed. Altogether 5,150 horses and ponies took part.

Sir Mike was guest of the organisers, led by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Mr. Robert Clampett. Accompanied by his sister, Mrs. A. Williams, he was met at Adelaide Airport by a group of Expo

officials and appropriately, by Bob Farmer, President of St. Dunstan's, South Australia. During their stay they were allocated a car adorned with the British Horse Society badge.

In addition to the events, exhibitions of equipment, books and pictures were mounted. "I can, with all sincerity, say that there was always something to enjoy and something new to learn," summed up Sir Mike.

Another enjoyable event was Sir Mike's meeting with the St. Dunstaners of South Australia and, as he recalls, "A momentous occasion for me meeting Graham Williams, a test cricketer who had been shot down when flying over North Africa and, as a P.O.W., had taught me to type with one hand. I had not seen him since 1943."

London Reunion—continued

this splendid occasion today, the excellence of the meal and the soft music. On this beautiful summer day you think of all sorts of places you would like to be, but I feel there is no place I would rather be than here in the warm pleasant sunshine of the comradeship, friendship and the understanding of St. Dunstan's. Our great chief has gone, but that spirit I am sure will continue and live on, and I am sure he would wish it to be like that. I thank all the staff responsible for organising this reunion, it must have taken some organisation. I would like to add my welcome to the visitors from Northern Ireland and visitors from the Midlands and other places and all the wives and escorts. I would also like to thank the members of the staff, who not only come here to help us today, but are responsible all the year round for the comprehensive service which St. Dunstan's provides for us."

After lunch there was dancing to the Talbot Orchestra for those in need of exercise, whilst others talked to friends and members of the staff. There was also the customary draw with prizes presented by Miss Midgley.

DAEDALUS CAMP FUNDS

At Mrs. Sheila McLeod's suggestion the ladies of Titchfield Camp Liaison Club held a pub supper in aid of camp funds. It was organised by Mrs. Buchanan and Mrs. Freeman on Wednesday, 7th May, 1975, and the sum of £200 was raised. Thank you ladies.

CHARLES STAFFORD

I would like to add a personal note of appreciation and thanks to Sheila McLeod for all the help she has given to the Camp.

How did she get involved? She called to see us at Titchfield Vicarage in 1942 and worked with me in a Service Canteen in the village. I talked about reviving the Camp directly after the war.

The first thing was to start a Camp Fund and we had a fete in the Vicarage garden a week before D Day and made £100 which in those days seemed a lot of money.

Sheila became Hon. Treasurer in 1944 and when plans got under way in 1945 she acted as Hon. Sec. and Treasurer. She was a marvellous secretary and such fun to work with. She has done more for the Lee Camp through the years than anyone. Thank you Sheila.

AVIS SPURWAY

OVINGDEAN NOTES

After a long absence it is a great pleasure to be writing once more from Ovingdean. As was mentioned in our last notes from Kemp Town, our first visitors in May were the Physiotherapists, who came for their annual Conference. It was a happy reunion, both for them and for those of the staff who were here during their last visit four years ago.

First Morning

To put it mildly, we struck a few snags—we were surprised on the first morning of the Conference to note that half our visitors came to breakfast looking quite dishy, while the other half resembled the chorus of "Gypsy Love". The explanation of this phenomenon was the failure of all the shaving points on one side of the house. The following day the food lifts had a fit of pique, and stubbornly refused to descend, making lunch half an hour late, but everyone took these small contretemps with good humour. Some days later the writer glanced out of the lounge window and thought "What a pleasant evening", two minutes later, when passing the sliding door to the verandah, rain appeared to be hurling itself in abandoned fury . . . odd! The reason was not "an act of God", but the fallibility of a nameless plumber—a tap went berserk, and caused an overflow. Hastily we add that life here is now more orderly, though less exciting!

On May 12th, we held our first Monday night dance here, and it was good to see so many local St. Dunstaners and their wives and escorts. Matron, in a short speech, welcomed them most warmly, and at the end of a very happy evening, Ted Frearson (the Chairman of the Brighton Club) expressed his pleasure at returning to Ian Fraser House after such a long absence. He felt sure, he added, that he spoke for all the St. Dunstaners present.

During May the Brighton Festival took place, with concerts, recitals, exhibitions, etc., on the theme of "The Grand Tour". One of the happenings was a tour of the Brighton sewers, which turned out to be most interesting, though a trifle heart-stopping at times. The final hazard was

a climb to the surface, using an iron-runged wall ladder, which rose at a sheer 90 degrees. It was a nasty moment. My feminine readers will readily understand that my fear of the climb was quite overshadowed by the fact that I was wearing uniform—which includes a knee-length skirt. Never have I longed more yearningly for a trouser-suit! We emerged into bright sunlight from a manhole situated in the middle of Steine Gardens, and the expressions on the faces of passers-by were a joy to behold. Jaws dropped, eye-brows rose, blank incredulity met our emergence from the bowels of the earth. Great fun!

Social Life

In addition to the special events, our usual Drives, Bingo sessions, Theatre visits, etc., continued, and one of our newer V.A.D.s, Miss Twell, gave a record concert, which was very popular. On Sunday evening we enjoyed a welcome visit from Mr. and Mrs. Carey of the Brighton Tape Recording Club, and some of their friends. Their programme was both well-produced and varied in content, ranging from Flanders and Swann to an open-air Band Concert in Regent's Park, and then to an old forge in Sussex.

Another Sunday evening was happily spent in the company of "The Arena", three gifted people who write and perform their own material. They wickedly presented a sketch about "Mrs. Queen, head cook at St. Dunstan's" which was savoured (no pun intended) by their appreciative audience. Mickey Burns gave an entertaining speech of thanks in which he mentioned one of the sketches concerning a witches coven. He said it reminded him of the lorry driver who stopped one evening to give a beautiful blonde a lift. When she was seated beside the driver, she warned him that she was a witch and put her hand on his knee. He promptly turned into a lay-by!

That story brings me, surprisingly enough, to our trip to Goodwood Races. For many years we have drawn into the same lay-by a few miles from the course, in order to consume the contents of our lunch boxes. But what had happened to

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

Although the cost of printing the Derby Sweepstake Tickets this year caused us to raise the price to 20p each, it still seems very popular and we paid out more than ever! There were eighteen runners and the pay-out was as follows:

1st Prize—A. S. Emerson, Clacton-on-Sea. *Grundy*. Ticket No. 1528. £249.36

2nd Prize—D. Beddoes, Birmingham. *Nobiliary*. Ticket No. 1757. £99.74

3rd Prize—S. C. Pike, Brighton. *Hunza Dancer*. Ticket No. 1455. £49.88

All those holding a ticket for the remaining 15 horses received the sum of £6.64.

Ovingdean Notes—continued

"our" lay-by? It was now a huge expanse of yellow clay, littered with dumper trucks, lorries and dire warnings of DANGER—HIGH VOLTAGE CABLES. We felt most affronted, but fortunately found a haven a couple of miles further on, and all was well. It really was "Glorious Goodwood" that day—the sun shone, the mood was cheerful, and even the horses came home in the correct order for many of the party—so who could ask for more? Unfortunately the following day was cold, and overcast and much of our luck ran out, but you can't win 'em all!

The month ended with the Bank Holiday weekend—on the Saturday evening a Whist Drive and Dominoes Tournament were held, and on the Sunday we were visited by some very faithful friends, the Cecilian Singers. Their excellent singing and the warmth of their personalities made it a memorable occasion, and they were sincerely thanked in a charming speech by Vic Buck, who reminded us that the choir had been visiting us for 21 years. We trust they will continue to do so for many more.

On Bank Holiday Monday, our usual Dance, with buffet and bar, was held, and a happy evening was enjoyed. It was a great pleasure to welcome some of our old friends from Pearson House at the month's events. We hope very much that they will continue to visit us and in this way strengthen the bonds between the two houses.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From George Fallowfield, Durrington, Worthing, Sussex

Britain is in a poor state at the moment what with one thing and another and it is our duty to do all we can, as we have done in the past to wriggle out of the mess and one way to do this is by choosing, or changing, to a profitable hobby.

Prior to the 1914-1918 war when I lived in the rich lands of Hertfordshire, most people kept pigs on their allotments and poultry in their backyards.

If you went to Australia you would see that people in small towns keep one or two sheep in their gardens, they get good prices for wool before the sheep is killed for eating.

The most fierce looking bullocks are really the gentlest of animals and this is proved by the length of time it takes to annoy them at a bullfight so there is no reason why one with a barn should not take up the fattening of a bullock for Christmas.

If you started this kind of hobby the price of meat and poultry would quickly come down and, do not listen to stories about lawns, the people who want you to have lawns have their money invested in firms that make lawn-mowers and relations who are butchers and want to keep the price of meat high without any competition.

I would go as far as to suggest that, in view of the grave state of affairs our public Bowling greens, cricket and football grounds, golf courses and tennis courts as well as our parks, should be turned over to grazing land.

Talking books could be made on this subject and if anybody wants close-up hints, I will be only too pleased to advise but please write in Braille only.

Editor's Note

Please do not telephone George Fallowfield as he is one of our deaf/blind St. Dunstaners but he would be delighted to hear from you if you would be kind enough to write in Braille.

150th Anniversary of Braille System

International Conference in Paris

by Richard Dufton

A two-day Conference was held in the imposing UNESCO building in the Avenue de Suffren on 22nd and 23rd May, sponsored by the European Regional Committee of the W.C.W.B. The Conference was attended by some hundreds of blind and sighted delegates from 35 countries.

The Conference opened with greetings from M. Amblard, President of the Union of War Blind in France, and he was followed by an opening address by M. Lenoir, Secretary of State for Health.

Louis Braille

The first paper "Louis Braille: His life and work" was presented by Andre Nicolle, Chairman of the Organising Committee.

The speaker touched on many biographical and historical aspects, notably the interaction of Capt. Barbier's "Night-writing" tactile code on which young Louis Braille continually worked to improve, evolving his own famous code, in a few short years.

The interesting point was made that, blinded at the age of three, he could not have had a knowledge of language to the extent that mental imagery might have influenced his approach in developing his code and an alphabet.

The Neuro-physiology of touch was the subject of a highly professional paper in which the author referred to "the seven senses of touch" . . . the perception of pressure, temperature, relative movement, impact and so on, all combined to give blind people a sense that should be highly valued.

While specific reference to the reading of Braille was not made, the author clearly had this in mind . . . we all know about movement in reading Braille, but "impacting" is the principle upon which the latest reading machine, the Optacon, is based.

The speaker went on to consider the brain's role in continuously synthesising information from all the sense organs . . .

"we feel as we learn to feel" and "we think with the same words that we talk with". Finally, there was a plea for a relaxed outlook on life in order to offset the effects of nervous fatigue. The sense of touch had a significant role to play and many tactual readers get the same beneficial effects that are known to result from visual reading.

M. Pierre Henri, Honorary Professor at the Valentin Haüy Institute, an acknowledged expert, gave a lucid account of the origins and evolution of Braille. He referred to the logical approach adopted—only 10 of the 15 possible combinations of the upper 4 dots in the Braille cell had been used as the base line of the Braille system. Capt. Barbier had used two columns of six dots per column to represent 36 word sounds in French. Louis Braille "cut the cell in two" to give his system a degree of universality that even now was still expanding world-wide. The author made interesting reference to Sir Clutha Mackenzie whom UNESCO had commissioned in 1949 to examine multilingual aspects of promoting Braille in India. Later in the Conference a UNESCO speaker confirmed that Sir Clutha's comprehensive report "World Braille Usage 1954" was out of print but funds had been allocated for an updated edition to be published.

Mr. Eric Boulter

Mr. Eric Boulter, Director General, R.N.I.B., gave comprehensive coverage to the topic of the Braille system in a vocational context.

Valentin Haüy had been moved to provide training for the blind debarred from many occupational avenues and there had been a transformation in the 1½ centuries since the Braille system was evolved to provide both a reading and a writing facility.

The requirements of musicians, mathematicians, linguists and the computer specialist could be met and expressed in Braille with equal facility to widen the

range of employment and academic achievement.

Tribute was paid to both Valentin Haüy and to the illustrious Louis Braille whose system was even now under contemplation in several countries for wider adaptation in computer science, programming, and the other aspects of data processing.

There were two papers concerning the teaching of Braille in schools—one French and the other from the U.S.S.R.

The French speaker had 30 years' experience and expressed surprise that, even now, some countries had not taken up the teaching of Braille in formal education programmes for the blind and visually handicapped. It was a moving, perceptive presentation, highlighting many of the psychological problems involved but also the rewards of group teaching sessions when both Braille and language blossomed without inhibition.

Russian Speaker

The Russian speaker gave a wide ranging account of teaching practice and procedures in the Soviet Union—extending from pre-school instruction through boarding school and higher education establishments to adult education for those already in employment in industry or commerce. The operation of Libraries in towns, cities and in factories was mentioned, together with the close ties that educators have with the Institute of Defectology Researchers and their investigations to improve and adapt the Braille code for use with new outlets. A figure of 630 symbols was given for their latest scientific and mathematical notation with an even higher figure to meet the needs of advancing educational and technological developments in a range of disciplines.

A Danish paper dealt with a modern technological approach in that country to the production of Braille books.

The speaker first made historical reference to relief letters formed on small cubes, to aid the teaching of individually blind people as early as 1740. He also referred to Valentin Haüy's epic step forward in Paris in the year 1780 when he became the first to use enlarged letter shapes formed in relief on paper and

it was this system that young Louis Braille learned as a boy of 10 on first entering the Paris Institute in 1819.

Concerning modern production, it was stated that the Danes had rationalised their Braille system as recently as 1971, increasing the number of whole word contractions and reducing the number of lesser contractions preparatory to an advanced data processing approach to Braille book production.

Care had been taken to ensure that new readers could handle existing Braille.

Braille book masters are produced as an alpha/numeric equivalent of print, recorded on magnetic tape—the information being key punched in, at a commercial centre.

Printing Centre

At the Organisation's printing centre a small computer reads the magnetic tape masters and feeds this information to control a high speed line embosser. Embossing rates quoted were as high as 20 pages per minute or 15 minutes for a 300 page book.

A West German Jurist reviewing the position of blind and partially sighted in the legal profession in that country, commented on the invaluable role that Braille played in their unique communications problem.

Over 60 Judges and Public Prosecutors are concerned and, while they are provided with a sighted assistant to aid in the dispensation of their duties, the use of Braille helped to solve many problems. For example, the speaker himself had compiled 10,000 pages of reference information and he quoted a total number in the legal profession as being 165 actively engaged in the several aspects of Law in the Federal Republic.

He did not feel that Braille would be replaced as a result of technological advances in communications methods, but rather that it would still complement the improved recording and information retrieval aids, still to come.

An Honorary Professor in Music from the Valentin Haüy Institute referred to musical notation. It had existed from as early as 1829 when Louis Braille evolved his version. The code had undergone many adaptations since that time and students and choristers themselves had

played a part in evolving methods which enabled them to follow quite difficult works.

The method adopted by organists was described—it involved playing with the right hand, reading the music with the left and operating the left pedal for bass.

The final paper in the formal sessions was presented by a Computer Scientist from the Ministry of Finance. He emphasised the suitability of the Braille code in this area, against a background of other developments in voice communication with the computer. Information tactually displayed was very attractive to the specialist, for the code with its normal permutation and its almost unlimited potential for adaptation was destined to play a significant part in expanding the ambit of blind people in this field.

New Development

New developments would enable information to be fed into a computer with ease, while processing the output in tactile form was the subject of current research and development in a number of countries.

Aspects concerning the teaching of computer science to blind students were considered together with developments in mathematical calculators which also displayed their answers in Braille—albeit in adapted form, more akin to mathematical notation. The presentation concluded with reference to high speed document copying developments—to provide rapid conversion of typescript or other print material into Braille with the minimum of delay. The Conference must have felt that technology was indeed "catching up with Braille".

Social Interludes

Outside the Conference Programme there were social interludes and visits to the Braille Library and Printing Centre and to the nearby Valentin Haüy Institute for the young blind, which currently has resident 100 boys and 80 girls under instruction.

9,000 readers make use of the Braille Library and numbers of volunteer transcribers emboss specialist works as these are requested.

In the Valentin Haüy Institute was a fine display of early communicating frames

and small hand operated machines—in the main they appeared to give a graphic representation of somewhat enlarged letter shapes. There was also the first bound Braille book on display dating from 1838, its pages were about 50% heavier gauge than present-day thick manilla.

Students' Orchestra

The Institute's music salon with organ console and pipes across the entire width of one wall was most impressive, and the students' orchestra gave a concert on the first evening to the delegates.

It was fitting that the anniversary programme ended with a visit by coach to Louis Braille's birthplace at Coupvray, some miles from Paris.

Mr. Dufton Speaks

Towards the end of the Conference on the Friday evening, when appreciation was being expressed by speakers from a number of countries, I was able to address the Congress for a minute or two on behalf of St. Dunstaners of both Wars, paying tribute to Louis Braille whose system had played an enormous part in the lives of so many of us.

I quoted the last line of a Lord Lytton poem which seemed singularly appropriate to the occasion and the name we were honouring—it is as follows:

"Genius does what it must
and talent does what it can."

FISHING

With the re-opening of Ian Fraser House, fishing will again become one of the activities provided for the enjoyment of the St. Dunstaners staying in the Home. It is proposed to arrange three expeditions each year, four days in the Spring, five days following Sports Weekend and four days in the Autumn when the necessary tackle etc. will be provided by St. Dunstan's for those who do not have their own. Numbers will be limited to 18 fishermen per day.

The Fishing Club will, of course, arrange other expeditions independently, according to the wishes of members.

C. D. WILLS

CADER IDRIS CLIMBED





An early halt finds Bob Fullard, Arthur Rowlands and Ray Peart to the fore, also in the picture Hugh Roberts (with rope) of the Snowdonia National Park.

CADER IDRIS CLIMBED

"Half a million boots went marching through hell", sang Bob Fullard gaily as he came safely off the mountain after the successful climb of Cader Idris on June 7th. He then, like the rest of the party, hastened to remove his boots and cool his feet in the mountain stream which flowed beside the car park that was our base for the expedition.

Something like six hours before we had swung out of the car park, each St. Dunstaner with two sighted escorts, at the beginning of the first complete ascent of the "Chair of the Giant" by a St. Dunstan's team.

Ahead of our group went three expert climbers headed by Hugh Roberts of the Snowdonia National Park, responsible

for the safety of our expedition. Two portable radio transmitters kept in touch with the National Park Land Rover in the car park. Within 15 minutes a call relayed from the mountain would have brought the R.A.F. helicopter to our aid. In addition a mountain rescue team in the area was also on call.

Fortunately, despite the blistering heat of the day we had no casualties and the experts were very pleased with the performance of our team. The climb took 2 hours 45 minutes from the start at the car park until our last member reached the 2,927 foot summit called Pen-y-Gadair.

At first our path ran through trees but these soon thinned as we climbed steeper slopes, where only scrub and

grass alternated with rocky outcrops. As the way steepened the party spread out—farther apart than our leader, Bob Thomas, would have liked had the weather been bad.

The first rest was beneath an escarpment where John Bond, of the Merioneth Education Authority gave a short talk on the local landscape and geology. While this was going on, Hugh Roberts and his advance party were fixing a rope to help St. Dunstaners up the steep escarpment on to a ridge.

Up went the St. Dunstaners, commando-style on to the ridge. Most of them stripped now of the warm clothes donned in deference to the warnings that, whatever the temperature below, it could be very cold on the mountain. So, indeed, it must usually be, but on June 7th, the sun shone on the righteous as well as on the unrighteous and even at the summit scarcely a breeze stirred.

Now the views were magnificent, although haze denied the sighted members a clear view of the sea, quite easily visible from the higher slopes. Bob Thomas recalls one great occasion when he actually saw the mountains of Ireland in the far distance. There was opportunity for the sighted to describe the scene at the next stop before the most strenuous scramble—ropes again to prevent St. Dunstaners straying over a 1,000 foot drop down to a lake, Llyn-y-Gadair.



Tom Lukes on the rope at the first scramble.

John Simpson and Stan Tutton with their escorts on the escarpment.



Overleaf: On the top of the world – the party, including escorts, pose for the camera on the summit Pen-y-Gadair



*Two aspects of the final ascent:
Above Hugh Roberts watches as Arthur Rowlands and his son Gareth climb on.
Below: Alan Wortley and his escorts make a last determined effort.*



After that the mountain had no more defences to offer and the party gathered at the cairn marking the summit before eating a picnic lunch, washed down with cans of beer or soft drinks according to preference.

After lunch, posing for triumphant photographs on "top of the world" and Bob Thomas "splicing the mainbrace" with a celebratory bottle of rum, the descent began to that refreshingly cool stream.

At the Red Lion, Dinas Mawddwy that evening we had experience of the Welsh love of song. Travellers from miles around come to the Red Lion for the singing and a huge extempore Welsh choir spilling into corridors and even out into the car park, harmonised all the famous and historic Welsh songs until closing time. It was an experience not to be missed.

Bob Thomas had organised a visit to Coed-y-Brenin, The King's Forest, on Sunday. Reg Wheeler, the Recreation Forester took charge here. He is that rarity, an enthusiast who can fascinate the layman with his subject—trees and all to do with forestry. We had a picnic lunch beside a waterfall, a visit to a now

disused gold mine, from which the precious metal was last extracted in 1934.

Later at the Visitor Centre, there was the opportunity to examine the machinery formerly used to crush the ore and to handle stuffed exhibits of the wild-life of Coed-y-Brenin. The exhibition is designed in the modern manner. There is a recorded lecture illustrated by colour slides and the whole Centre is an informative introduction to the Forest. We were guests here of Jim Hamilton, Chief Forester, who personally took a hand in telling St. Dunstaners about his 34 square mile charge. The foresters' ladies, including Rowena Thomas, arranged tea for us all before we returned to Dinas Mawddwy where we rounded off a most successful weekend by entertaining to dinner our host and hostess in Wales, Bob and Rowena Thomas.

A St. Dunstaners Account

Alan Wortley writes:

Saturday, 7th of June, had dawned clear and warm, a perfect Summer's day. Stan Tutton, Bob Fullard, Tom Lukes, John Simpson, Arthur Rowlands, Ray Peart, and myself mustered at the foot of Cader Idris with Bob Thomas and guides from mountain rescue and Forestry Commission, Arthur Rowlands is a policeman who lost his sight in a shooting incident in 1961. We were very pleased to have him with us.

There was the sound of rushing water from a stream off to our right as we set off with the sun warm on our backs. As we climbed, conversation ceased, but there was plenty to say at each resting place. Up and up we toiled. Articles of clothing were rapidly shed—not for us the one degree drop in temperature for every three hundred feet ascended. It just became hotter and hotter. Johnny Simpson, remembering the cold day of his previous climb, was attired to accompany Shackleton to the South Pole, but even he had to discard his waterproof leggings, Sou'Wester and one sweater.

Our guides were marvellous, steering us past pitfalls and picking the better route. While we rested and quenched our thirst, John Bond enlightened us about local

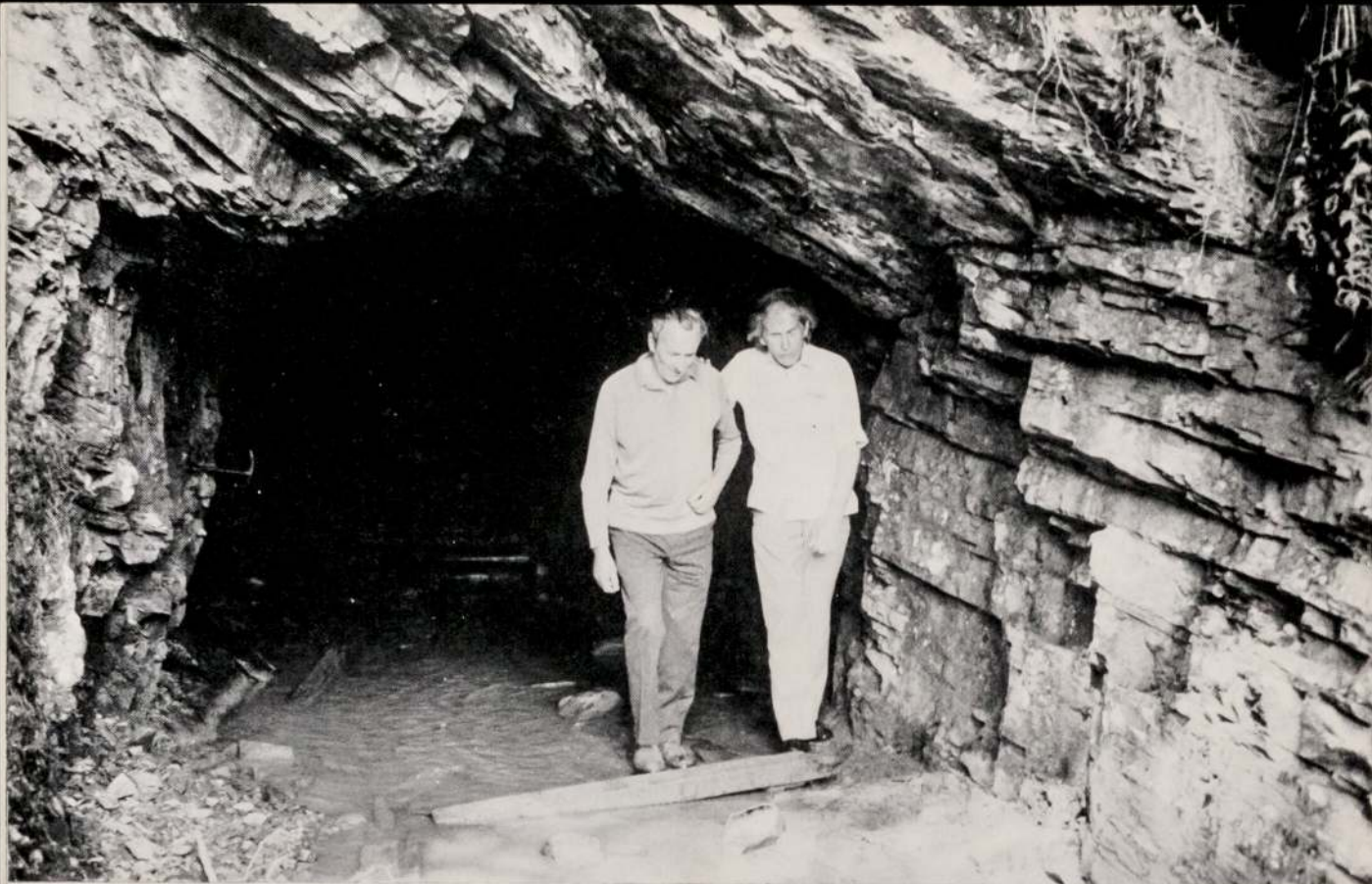


Putting his new knowledge to the test in the forest is Bob Fullard.

geology. A foot or two in front of us, he said, there was a sheer drop to a lake hundreds of feet below. I retreated to a safer position! The lake was two hundred and fifty feet deep, filling a fault in the rock structure. The mountain tip itself was once the floor of a valley with other mountains stretching majestically above it; but those had long since been eroded...

Our thanks to the advance party who kept just that bit ahead of us and fixed ropes to guide us over the more difficult parts.

I felt life was really great when I reached the trig point at the summit cheered on by a few other people who had chosen that day to make the climb. Bob Thomas gave us each a most welcome tot of rum—he was full of kind surprises this man. The St. Dunstaners sang out three hearty cheers to him and all our helpers. Then a group of children, who had made the ascent by another route, sang some beautiful local songs in Welsh for our



John Simpson and escort return to the heat of a summer's day from the chill of the disused gold mine shaft.

benefit. As their voices drifted away across the valley, I felt at peace with the world.

The descent was rather more difficult for me and the sun continued to bake us. What bliss to reach base camp and dabble our feet in the ice cold water of a mountain stream.

We returned to our hostelry and after dining on fresh salmon caught in the nearby Dovey, there was a sing song in the bar. The fact that the lyrics were in gaelic or something, didn't stop us from humming the tunes.

The next day was spent in "The King's Forest" and was just as perfect. Reg Wheeler with his easy way of talking was a fountain of knowledge about trees. He pushed my finger into a blister in the bark of a grand fir and out squirted an aromatic fluid that I can still smell on my handkerchief despite several washings. We were taken a long way into the shaft of a gold mine which was still operational until shortly before the War. The hillside was

riddled with passages. It was easy to trace the gold bearing rock strata.

The excellent Forestry Museum could easily have been designed with blind people in mind. We were allowed to grind quartz into dust with machinery still in working order. All the animals of the forest were there for us to handle—stuffed of course. I was able to make my first acquaintance with a polecat which can still be found in the area. The roof was supported by all the different types of tree trunks. We were given a most delicious tea. Rowena Thomas and all the other helpers really put themselves out to make us feel at home. David Castleton, our intrepid photographer, should find himself in the Guinness Book of Records for the amount of food he put away that day!!!

To sum up . . . A perfect weekend, highly recommended, and I'm sure I carry the thanks of the other members of the St. Dunstons Mountaineering Club to all who helped in the venture.



Above: Stan Tutton, Joan Wortley, John Simpson and Alan Wortley get to know the outline of a polecat at the Coed-y-Brenin Visitors' Centre. On the right is their mentor, Reg Wheeler, Recreation Forester.

Below: The final celebrations at the Red Lion, in the centre are Rowena and Bob Thomas with, standing, Chris Rowlands 'Mine Host'.



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.

James J. Costello of Garstang, Lancs., who joined St. Dunstan's in May, 1975. He served with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in the Second World War. He is married and has a son and a daughter.

David Walford Davies of Port Talbot, came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1975. He served with the Royal Engineers during the 1st World War and is married with one son.

Robert Dewhurst of Bolton, Lancashire, came to St. Dunstan's in May, 1975. He served in the First World War in the Royal Field Artillery and was wounded in Belgium in 1917. He is a widower.

Hubert Harrison of Lytham St. Annes, Lancs., joined St. Dunstan's in May, 1975. He served with the 10th Scottish Rifles in the 1st World War and was wounded at Loos in 1915. He is a widower and has two married daughters.

Edwin Kippax of Burnley, Lancashire, joined St. Dunstan's in May, 1975. He served with the Cheshire Regiment during the First World War. He is married and has one daughter.

Colin Mills of Mexborough, Yorkshire became a full St. Dunstaner in May 1975. He served with the Royal Corps of Signals in the 1st World War and is married with four daughters.

Sidney Gordon James Whiting of Isleworth, Middlesex, joined St. Dunstan's in June, 1975. He served with the Royal Fusiliers during the 2nd World War from 1940 until 1946 when he was discharged. He worked for the Metropolitan Water Board until 1957. He is married with three grown-up children.

International Seminar

St. Dunstan's in co-operation with the American Foundation for the Blind held a two day seminar on documentation research in London at the end of May.

The A.F.B., here represented by Dr. Milton Graham and Dr. Leslie Clark, had proposed that the seminar should be dedicated to the memory of Lord Fraser—as a tribute to his great contribution to research which was directed towards reducing the main handicaps of blindness.

The topic for discussion at the seminar concerned the documentation on an international scale of all the information appertaining to the blind and visually handicapped.

There has been in existence a Research Information Service published and distributed in many countries by the A.F.B. since early in the last decade. However, there has been the growing problem of documenting the results of research in an ever increasing number of areas affecting the blind. Rehabilitation and educational aspects are expanding rapidly and this was a factor in the A.F.B.'s initiative in proposing a joint seminar.

In addition to R.N.I.B. and St. Dunstan's representatives present, there were documentation specialists from Austria, West Germany and Switzerland to consider if any existing information service might be modified or adapted to provide comprehensive reference to activities in the specific areas mentioned.

It is hoped that the decisions arrived at will lead eventually to an effective information service which will not only meet the requirements of scientific and technological researchers but also those concerned with rehabilitation, training, educational and employment aspects.

John Ernest Storer Edwards of Ashstead, Surrey, came to St. Dunstan's on 8th May, 1975. He served in the Second World War in the Royal Air Force and was injured at Kidbrook in 1944 by a bomb blast. As a result of his war injuries John's health has deteriorated and he has been unable to work since 1969 but prior to this he was with the Police. He is married and has a married daughter.

STAFF OBITUARY

Miss Mildred Dagnell

St. Dunstaners and their wives will be sad to learn of the death of Miss Mildred Dagnell, on Saturday 24th May, 1975, from a distressing illness borne with great courage.

She first joined St. Dunstan's staff in 1947, in Handicrafts (the Rug Shop), where she remained until 1951. She returned to St. Dunstan's in 1954, as a V.A.D., and with the exception of certain periods away, remained until her retirement in 1973.

In 1968 she became the Senior Escort and Entertainments Officer, and it was in this work that her special talents had full scope—particularly her skill as a pianist.

On her retirement she went to live with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Mackie, in Solihull. From January 1974 her condition deteriorated, but Mr. and Mrs. Mackie nursed her most devotedly in their home until she had to be admitted to a voluntary hospital (The Christadelphian Hospital) where she remained until her death.

A collection was taken in both houses at Brighton, from St. Dunstaners and staff. This was so great that as well as sending a floral tribute (carnations) just over £10 was sent to the hospital, where she was lovingly nursed, which was in accordance with her sister's wishes. Miss Newbold attended the cremation service. A letter from Mrs. Mackie is printed below.

Dear Everyone,

I would like to thank you all for the lovely flowers and in fact all the wonderful help and support you gave to my sister during her illness. She always felt so much a part of St. Dunstan's until the last, and the tapes were a joy to her. She felt near to you all.

Your help and close contact was a great support to me and in fact I felt part of St. Dunstan's myself.

My very grateful thanks to you all,

Yours very sincerely,
Elsie Mackie

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 339

And There Was Light

by Jacques Lusseyran

Translated by E. R. Cameron

Read by Alvar Lidell

Reading Time 11 hours

Born in Paris in 1924, Jacques Lusseyran was blinded at the age of eight in a classroom accident. In a few weeks he had adjusted to what was for him an exciting new world of sound and "inner light". His parents, professional people of great understanding and imagination, decided that he would return to his "sighted" school.

Learning was easy and he soon outstripped his classmates and went on to the *Lycee Montaigne* in preparation for the university—even *L'Ecole Normale Supérieure*, the most uniquely prestigious educational establishment in France. (Later he was barred from taking the examination to the *Ecole Normale* by a Vichy decree that only the "physically sound" could be considered.)

He was sixteen when the Germans occupied Paris. Disgusted with the apathy he saw around him, he decided to organise a Resistance Movement. On the first day there were three of them, by the end of the week six hundred young people had joined.

Soon the organisation became a serious threat to the Germans—Jacques and his young friends celebrated *Quatorze Juillet* by openly distributing thousands of copies of their underground newspaper in the streets and the Metro (they even handed them to German officers!).

But the friends were betrayed. The leaders of the Resistance were rounded up and sent to Buchenwald. Of the two thousand transported with him, the author records that only thirty survived.

His own survival must have been little short of miraculous—he said it was the hand of God.

After the war he continued with his studies and eventually became a University Professor—although the book covers only the first twenty-one years of his life.

This is a most remarkable book, sensitively and beautifully written by an extraordinary, almost unique, human being. His joy of life never deserted him, not even in the appalling conditions of the concentration camp.

Cat. No. 1178

Puppet on a Chain

by Alistair Maclean

Read by Michael de Morgan

Reading Time 8½ hours

This is what the movie-trailers would undoubtedly refer to as "an action-packed, fast-moving thriller!" And it is. The format is pretty much that of most of its fellows.

The goodie is a self-sufficient, fast-thinking, practically indestructible "loner"—from the Narcotics Division of Interpol (where else?) with not one, but two, very delectable girl-agents to assist with the easy bits. The baddies are very bad indeed and make Moriarty and Dr. Fu Manchu seem like Sunday School teachers by comparison.

Naturally he solves the case and ties up all the loose ends in a matter of days, although this particular thorn has been plaguing the side of the Dutch police for years. And he does it all by himself—with the entire Amsterdam force just panting to lend a hand.

This is a most enjoyable tale of chaps being thoroughly nasty to each other. And there is a most agreeable amount of bloodshed. And, would you believe, absolutely no sex. Which is a very, very welcome change!

CLUB NEWS

MIDLAND

Even though the rebuilding programme at the Headquarters of the Royal British Legion, where we hold our meetings, is still being carried out, we managed to meet as usual on Sunday, 11th May even though we were rather restricted for space and we were only able to use one room.

Nevertheless we managed to play off three of our quarter finals in the domino competition.

The meeting was quite well attended and an excellent tea was provided for us by Mrs. Cath Androlia, everything was home-made and really beautiful. We all thanked her most sincerely for her very hard work.

Our June meeting was held on Sunday, 8th, and once again we had to put up with small inconveniences, but all went well and the last quarter final match was played off.

We also had the pleasure of meeting Miss Florence Round, who is the fiancée of Dennis Beddoes, one of our club members. They hope to be married soon. We all wished them the best of good fortune and drank a toast to their good health and happiness.

Tea for this particular meeting was arranged for us by Mrs. Sallie Bilcliff and once again, home-made cakes were provided. We gave her our warm thanks for a grand spread.

Next month we hope to be back to normal with our club rooms in full use, the rebuilding of the bar completed.

DOUG CASHMORE
Secretary

LONDON

The winners in our Domino Games in May were as follows:

1st May	1	G. Stanley J. Padley C. Hancock
8th May	1	C. Hancock
	2	J. Padley G. Stanley W. Miller
15th May	1	W. Miller W. Phillips
22nd May	1	J. Padley
	2	R. Armstrong W. Miller J. Lynch
29th May	1	W. Miller
	2	C. Hancock

FAREWELL PARTY

The name of Bill Phillips has been familiar to us all over the years in the pages of the *Review*. Many in the field of sport . . . first in the 1968 totally blind sections for sprinting, long jump, discus

and free style swimming to name but a few. Then there was the "Sports Seventy" and again first in the list of Victors Ludorum. Bill also was a member of a team of four who were invited by the French war blinded to the very first International Winter Sports at Courchevel in March 1972. This time he won a gold medal.

We of the London Club are grateful to Bill for his active membership of our Thursday Club and also the Bridge Section, and he also has served on both committees. It was a great pleasure to attend the very happy party on Thursday, 15th May when his many friends gathered together to wish him, and his wife, Nancy, long life and happiness for their retirement from the London scene, to the fresh air and salt spray of Saltdean.

Our members spent a very happy evening with music and dancing, and the delicious refreshments provided by Mrs. Phillips. The party really went with a swing, a memorable occasion in honour of a long and happy association.

Then as a farewell gift to the Phillips, members and wives and friends of the London Club presented them with a pair of silver candlesticks and a crystal bowl.

BRIDGE NOTES

The Masters Versus St. Dunstons

On Saturday, 7th June, it was our pleasure and privilege to welcome L.C.C.B.A. (The Masters). This annual fixture is the highlight in the St. Dunstan's Bridge Card. As usual, St. Dunstaners travelled from all over the country to take part in this event, and as usual we were well and truly beaten, but to be beaten by players of this calibre is no disgrace. I can only hope we learn and benefit from the experience.

There were five teams of four on either side and this Tournament was very well directed by Mr. Michael Green. This function is normally performed by Mr. P. Charters, now happily recovered after a long and serious illness but to everybody's pleasure, he came along and played for the Masters. I hope he will be joining us for many years to come. Good luck Percy.

A void has been left in the Club which will not be easy to fill. Apropos to this we hope to be able to read in the *Review* that Bill will be equally busy in the future down Brighton way.

W. MILLER

To all our friends at the London Club

Bill and I wish to thank all our dear friends at the Thursday evening club for the most generous gifts that were presented to us last Thursday on the occasion of our retirement to Saltdean. We were deeply touched at the generosity and good wishes for the future.

I cannot say it was an exceptionally jolly evening because we have not many Thursdays that were anything else. We are leaving the London Club but NOT we know our friends, for good that is. We hope to meet our friends fairly often either in Brighton or London. There is no doubt that we shall want to come back to the fold as often as possible.

Thank you Dear Dear friends (my words—not Bill's). Keep in touch all of you,

Love

Nancy and Bill Phillips

I would also like to thank Miss I. Daly, Secretary of the L.C.C.B.A. for organising their teams and also like to thank all the members of the L.C.C.B.A. for joining us on this very happy occasion, and to add even more pleasure and enjoyment to the occasion, the Masters presented each of the St. Dunstaners taking part with a bottle of sherry, and as an extra, a bottle of port each to the winning St. Dunstan's team.

Prizes

The members of the winning L.C.C.B.A. team were each presented with a prize selected from products made by St. Dunstaners, and consisted of one contemporary coffee table, one bathroom cabinet and two wool rugs.

Final scores and positions will be found below. Thank you Masters for coming, and we are looking forward to next year's fixture already and in conclusion, I would like to thank Norman Smith and all his willing helpers for providing a very nice tea.

J. LYNCH

For the London County Contract Bridge Association

- 1 J. Gardner, W. Pitch, K. Jenkins, S. Cocheme +3530
- 2 J. Sharples, R. Sharples, W. Pencharz, W. Costyn +2520
- 3 Miss Vi Daly, J. Cook, J. Hunt, Miss L. Frazer +1860
- 4 Dr. Fox, Mrs. Fox, Mr. and Mrs. Riley +1740
- 5 P. Charters, M. Green, Mrs. King, Mrs. Meleson +1200

For St. Dunstan's

- 1 P. Nuyens, A. Caldwell, R. Armstrong, Mrs. Vi Delaney -950
- 2 J. Whitcombe, H. King, W. Phillips, F. Dickerson -1130
- 3 J. Lynch, L. Douglass, R. Freer, W. Allen -2430
- 4 H. Meleson, J. Padley, W. Miller, Miss Vera Kemmish -2980
- 5 W. Lethbridge, W. Claydon, R. Goding, J. T. Simmons -3360

FAMILY NEWS

Marriages

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Blake of Chertsey, Surrey, are pleased to announce the marriage of their only son, Brian John, to Miss Ann Cockcroft of Crowthorne, on 23rd March, 1975.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bick, Leamington Spa, Warks., are pleased to announce the marriage of their eldest son, Christopher to Christina Large, also of Leamington Spa, at St. John's Church, Leamington Spa, on 31st May, 1975.

Golden Weddings

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Clarke of Blackpool, Lancs., who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 30th May, 1975. There was a family party to mark the occasion.

Warmest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. D. Moss of Christchurch, nr. Bournemouth, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 3rd June, 1975.

Grandfathers

Congratulations to:

Tom Basson of Bognor Regis, who is pleased to announce the safe arrival of his fifth grandchild—a grand-daughter, born on the 5th June, the first child of his daughter, Geraldine Hannis, of Cheltenham.

David Bell of Edinburgh who is pleased to announce the birth of his first grandchild, Guy Alexander, born on 25th May, 1975, at Cuckfield, Sussex, to his daughter, Diana and son-in-law, Roger.

James O'Hara of Wimbledon, S.W.19, who is proud to announce the safe arrival of his first grandson, John Paul, born to his daughter Ann and his son-in-law, Paul, on 15th April, 1975.

Herbert Greasley of Coventry, who is pleased to announce the birth of their third grandchild—Scott Graham, born to his daughter, Julie on 27th March, 1975, and is a second son for Julie.

Great Grandfathers

Many congratulations to:

William Baker of Caernarvon, North Wales, is pleased to announce the safe arrival of his 8th great grandchild, Carol Ann who was born recently.

Robert Finch of Birmingham who is pleased to announce the birth of a great grandson, born to his grandson, Michael and grand-daughter-in-law, Pauline on 5th May, 1975.

Arthur Rowe of Newcastle, Staffs. has pleasure in announcing the safe arrival of another great grandson, Ian Rigby, born on 13th December, 1974.

James McClintock of Marple, Southport, has been made President of the Romily and Marple Dog Training Club. Mr. and Mrs. McClintock have been very active in the recently formed Social Club for the blind in Marple.

Deaths

We offer our very sincere sympathy to:

Miss Elsie Aldred of Warrington, Lancs., who mourns the death of her mother on 27th May, 1975.

James Joseph O'Donnell of Dublin, mourns the death of his father on 12th May, 1975 at the age of 61 years.

Glyndwr Jones of Folkestone, Kent, mourns the death of his brother who passed away in February 1975. Glyndwr's brother was a preacher and collapsed and died during the course of a service at a Baptist Chapel in Swansea.

Peter Spencer of Weston-super-Mare, mourns the death of his mother on 13th May, 1975. Mrs. Spencer was 80 years of age.

Loreto Rea of Longbridge, Birmingham, mourns the death of his mother who passed away in February 1975.

Isaac Ostle, Cockermouth, Cumbria, mourns the death of his mother, who passed away on 16th May at the age of 86.

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.

Joe Buckle. Norfolk Regiment

Joe Buckle of South Wootton, King's Lynn, Norfolk, died in St. James's Hospital, King's Lynn, Norfolk on 31st May, 1975. He was 81 years of age.

He enlisted in the Norfolk regiment in September 1914 and served with them until his discharge in 1916. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1920 and trained in basket making, a craft in which he did excellent work, carrying this out from his home.

He exhibited with some success in local shows and the Princess Victoria showed interest in his work and visited him in his home in order to see this. Both Mr. and Mrs. Buckle were in service at Sandringham House in their youth, Joe was employed as a groom. In the later years of his life he very much enjoyed visiting the Sandringham estate and cherished mementoes of his service there.

In 1927 Joe opened a small shop in order to sell tobacco and confectionery and later undertook some boarding of dogs, fitting these activities in with his basket work.

Over the years he was a regular visitor to Brighton for holidays and always enjoyed attending the East Anglian Reunion. Five years ago, due to failing health, Mr. and Mrs. Buckle had to give up their own home and went to live in residential accommodation, first in Wisbech and then in 1973 near King's Lynn, an area to which they were both happy to return, having known it all their lives. Joe was taken ill and admitted to hospital towards the end of May and sadly passed away there five days later.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Jane Buckle.

Leslie Frederick May. Royal Artillery

Leslie Frederick May, late of Lower Kingswood, Surrey, and of recent months living at Pearson House, died on 28th May in the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton. He was 66 years of age.

He enlisted in the 2nd World War in the Royal Artillery but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1973. He worked as a Surveyor with a Brewery Company until he retired in 1971. During the last months of his life he had been staying at Pearson House.

Albert Edward Patton. Worcester Regiment

Albert Edward Patton of Portsmouth died on 7th June, 1975, at the age of 86 years.

He enlisted in the Worcester Regiment in 1905 and served with them until his discharge in 1923. He was wounded in the 1st World War but his sight did not deteriorate until later on in life and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1957. He visited our homes in Brighton many times where he is well remembered for his distinctive cap and matching waistcoats which he invariably wore together with a fresh flower in his buttonhole. He did not enjoy good health in recent years and was nursed devotedly by his wife.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Gladys Patton and members of his family.

