



**St Dunstons**  
**REVIEW**  
**NOVEMBER**



# St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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10p MONTHLY

## I LIKE TO WIN — But now it's for St. Dunstan's

In December 1944, Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, now Vice-Chairman of St. Dunstan's, but then just Colonel Mike, permitted his name to be put forward for the Chairmanship of the British Show-Jumping Association. He was elected by just one vote—possibly the most important single vote in the history of horse-riding. For that vote brought to show-jumping a man with ideas for the sport—nurtured during his time as a prisoner-of-war—and, despite his blindness, the drive to put them into practice.

In something over thirty years a sport in which international competition was mostly confined to Army teams, has blossomed into a major spectacle, where, through television, millions of people, most of whom may never have ridden a horse, follow the fortunes of the riders and their equally famous horses.

### Princess Elizabeth

Now Colonel Sir Mike has organised his last Horse of the Year Show which concluded on October 11th and in conversation he looked back over the years: "I was jumping at Olympia at the International Horse Show in 1931 and that was the first year I went abroad, to America, New York. I wasn't playing polo because I had broken my hand, so I took up show-jumping, competed at Olympia and won my first blue rosette. Then 1932 was the first year we had our trick ride there and it was the first year Her Majesty the Queen came—when she was very small, as Princess Elizabeth."

The trick ride was a display by Army horsemen and it was in organising this spectacular event that Colonel Sir Mike

learned the arts of production and showmanship. "We used to practise in the early morning then go through what we were going to do on our flat feet, putting out the props and things and literally running through.

"Jumping swords was really very, very highly skilled because a sword is so narrow, three feet six. The more risky things were picking up handkerchiefs because then you brought your right leg over to the left side of the horse and you had your left leg in a strap tied to the girth. Then you hung backwards to pick up anything on the ground. I had two really bad falls when the strap broke."

### Trick Ride Finale

The finale of the trick ride was four riders taking a jump as they left the arena and swinging on to trapezes, leaving the horses to run free. "It was all very well but they soon learnt that the faster they went, the sooner they'd be free. Sergeant Hodgson had two real falls because he could just hold on to the trapeze with one hand and he couldn't hold on when he swung right out. Then we were doing it in Leicestershire and we all four went on our backs and we thought, well, we've had enough and we cut it out."

That was split second timing with a vengeance, and today Colonel Sir Mike runs the Horse Shows to the minute, "I literally keep my finger on my watch the whole night. When I'm at Control I know everything that's going on, by listening. There's one person who sits to my right—I stand behind—and I can say to him at any time, 'how many more are there to



Signing his book 'Soldier On' for Colonel Harry Llewellyn and Pat Koechlin-Smythe.

jump?' and he may say, 'there's three to jump off, so it looks as if we might over-run by six minutes.' Then I think where I might be able to pick up six minutes, later in the evening. Last night we were running at one time about 17 minutes late but we picked it up and finished only one minute late. I think it's one advantage, a blind person running something because you are thinking ahead. You have nothing to look at. Nothing distracts me, I can just listen and think, think, think and think ahead."

The efficiency which permits timing like this is no accident, it comes from practising everything. When, sadly, a horse had to be destroyed in the ring at the International Horse Show, "We'd practised it for ten years and up went the screens, on came the house lights, the band started playing. The horse had been taken out on a skid in 3 minutes 40 seconds. I've seen it happen abroad and take 45 minutes to get a veterinary surgeon."

Good organisation and timing make the big shows the joy of television producers and it is through television that show-jumping has found its popularity with the millions. "I don't know what the viewing figures will be this week but at the International Horse Show in July the last four nights were on television and each night the viewing figures were ten to eleven million and I should think this Show will be higher. At one time when we had Eurovision on as well we were up to 17 million."

### Profitable Shows

Sir Mike opened his first show with advance bookings of £69. This year they were nearly £80,000. "With the Horse of the Year Show, after the second year, it was nearly always showing 25-30% profit. Both these shows are what I call viable, they have to be. Abroad there isn't a single show that makes money, but we are still holding our net profit at

**COVER PICTURE:** At the Royal International Horse Show, Colonel Sir Mike waves his goodbye to the audience. In the background are the riders of the England team. Photo: Leslie Lane.



the same figure, 25-30%. All of it goes back into the Horse World."

Colonel Sir Mike admits that he had no idea of the splendid shape those plans he made to pass the time in the prisoner-of-war camp would take. In fact, he had no intention of trying to put them into practice, but his flair, energy and leadership have been vital factors in the establishment of show-jumping as a major spectator sport. In 1948 came the Olympics at Wembley, "I was responsible for planning and building the course, but at that time I could see a little bit out of my left eye. We won a Bronze Medal at the Olympics. Then in 1952, my sight had gone completely and I went in charge of our team to Helsinki where we were the only sport to win a Gold Medal."

#### Something to Market

"Well, then we had something to market. We'd been gradually improving the types of fences to encourage the better quality horse and we made the rules much more simple so the spectator could understand them and we then had real spectator participation."

The turning point, Sir Mike asserts, was international success, "I think if we ever fail to win going abroad and become unable to take on the foreign competitors I think the sport would go down very quickly. It was wonderful last night, Alwin Shockemöhle was sitting very pretty, or thought he was, with a fast, clear round. In came David Broome and clipped about 2 seconds off his time and had the thing won. It is this excitement and success and, I think, again, good production, that captures the public."

## PENSIONS NOTES

#### Allowance for the over-eighties

A few years ago the Department of Health and Social Security brought in an allowance of 25p a week for *all* Pensioners of 80 years of age and over. Would St. Dunstaners and their wives, and the widows of St. Dunstaners, who are over 80 years of age, check their pensions to ascertain whether they are receiving the additional 25p. If they are in any doubt,

Among his winners over the years two stand out for Colonel Mike, "Pat Smythe, Mrs. Koechlin-Smythe, and Colonel Llewellyn, because they really put us on the map. All the foreigners know I like winning and they laugh at me about it. They're tremendous friends, actually, all these riders, yet they're highly competitive. It is a wonderful spirit." And that is the secret for Sir Mike: "I like winning and you must hate losing but you must never, never show it. You've got to accept it when you've lost."

For the future, Colonel Sir Mike Ansell sees his sport continuing its advance because, "You never reach perfection. I shall be a member of the British Equestrian Federation. I won't vote but I can talk—or help in any way possible—and I shall have more time to do anything that is wanted for St. Dunstan's."

#### A Message from the Chairman to Sir Michael:

In this interview you talk of the friendship between all the riders and refer to the "wonderful spirit". Every St. Dunstaner knows whose "wonderful spirit" is chiefly behind the success of show jumping in this country and feels a bit taller when the name of "Mike Ansell" is mentioned. We are all tremendously proud of you and grateful for the splendid way you have brought St. Dunstan's name to the fore in the horse world and beyond.

We all wish you a happy retirement and look forward to greeting you on many St. Dunstan's occasions in the future.

Ion Garnett-Orme

please contact **Mr. L. A. Slade** at Headquarters.

A note appeared in the *Review* at the end of last year advising St. Dunstaners of the new facility of having their pensions and allowances paid into their Banking Accounts monthly in arrear. In fact, these are paid 4-weekly in arrear so that Pensioners will receive 13 payments in one year.

## CLUB NEWS

### BRIGHTON

Under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre a Steering Committee was elected in September 1975 to consider a constitution for a new St. Dunstan's Social and Sports Club in the Brighton area.

As a result, a General Meeting was held at Ian Fraser House on Wednesday 1st October, and the following were elected for 1975/76:

President	Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre
Vice-President	Miss F. Ramshaw
Chairman	Mr. J. E. Frearson
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. K. R. Dew
Hon. Secretary	Mrs. J. Dennis
Legal Adviser	Mr. H. D. Rice
Auditor	Mr. F. Thomas

and representatives of the following Sections: Bowls; Bridge; Entertainment; Fishing and Sport.

A constitution was approved and will be circulated to members as soon as it has been considered by our legal representative, Mr. Rice. Membership of the Club is open to "St. Dunstaners permanently living in Brighton and surrounding areas". Membership may be extended to St. Dunstaners outside Sussex who are not already members of a St. Dunstan's Club. The annual subscription is £1 for Ordinary members (St. Dunstaners), 50p for Associate members (wives or permanent escorts). There is provision for honorary membership for widows of former

members of the Club or other persons who have given special service to the Club. Mr. Wills, Commandant and Matron, Mrs. Blackford were present at the inaugural meeting. Miss Guilbert kindly acted as Hon. Secretary at this meeting and at the meetings of the Steering Committee.

Correspondence concerning the Club should be addressed to:

The Hon. Secretary,  
St. Dunstan's Social and Sports Club,  
Ian Fraser House,  
Ovingdean, Brighton, Sussex.

At the time of writing the Club has a membership of over one hundred, and we hope we may have many happy gatherings in the future.

ELIZABETH DACRE *President*

We should like to thank all those who attended the first General Meeting on 1st October at Ian Fraser House of the Brighton Sports and Social Club, for the election of Officers.

Our thanks go to St. Dunstan's for the privilege of using the splendid facilities provided at Ian Fraser House. May I remind club members to take full advantage of these facilities, to use them sensibly and not to abuse them in any way.

J. E. FREARSON *Chairman*

### LONDON

We were very sorry to hear that *Charlie Hancock* had fallen some weeks ago and broken an ankle at Windsor. Unfortunately this necessitated the ankle being in plaster for some six weeks. However, all St. Dunstaners and friends in the London Club are pleased to hear the good news that Charlie is now more cheerful after having the plaster removed and able to move around a little. All our members send their best wishes, Charlie, and we hope that you and your wife Gladys will be able to join us again soon at the Club.

St. Dunstaners will also be very sorry to learn that Mrs. Carol Higginson, who

continued to visit the Club a number of years after her husband passed away, died a short time ago. Carol lived at Pinner and had been unable to visit the Club for some years owing to ill-health.

Recent Domino winners at the Club were:

September 25th	1 R. Armstrong
	2 W. Miller
October 2nd	1 R. Armstrong
	2 P. Sheehan
October 9th	1 G. Stanley
	2 P. Sheehan

W. MILLER  
*Secretary*



## MIDLAND

Sunday 14th September was the date of our last monthly meeting, and I am pleased to say that it was quite well attended.

We were therefore able to complete our Sir Arthur Pearson knockout competition; the winner was *Joe Kibbler*, who narrowly beat *Guy Bilcliff*. Well done, Joe, and our condolences to Guy. "Better luck next time".

The main feature of our meeting was one of our now very popular "Bring and Buy" sales. It was a very good one, and raised a substantial sum of money for our Club funds.

Mrs. Elizabeth Tomporowski was the lady concerned with arranging the tea for us this time and we thanked her warmly for a very lovely spread.

On Sunday, 28th September, we had our usual outing to Stratford where we had tea with our old friends at the Royal British Legion.

We left Birmingham at two o'clock and arrived at Stratford at approximately 2.45 p.m. It was a lovely afternoon so we all had a walk around and one or two had a boat trip on the river.

At five o'clock we all assembled at the British Legion for a fine tea which had been prepared for us once again by the Ladies Section of the branch. They certainly do us proud every time we go there.

As it went rather chilly after tea most of us stayed indoors and some played dominoes until it was time to open the bar. Our friends at Stratford had arranged for a pianist and an accordionist to come along and play for us so we had quite a good singsong for about an hour before leaving for home at 8.45 p.m.

Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves and I personally think each visit to the Stratford Royal British Legion gets better than the previous one. They certainly give us a very warm welcome every time we go there.

Will members please note that our meeting in November is, as usual, on the first Sunday of the month; the date is 2nd November, so everyone is free on Armistice Sunday to attend their own Memorial Service if they wish.

D. CASHMORE  
Club Secretary

## 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 Alfred Robinson** of Uxbridge, Middx., joined St. Dunstan's on 19th September. He served as a Private in the Middlesex Regiment.

**Robert Hollingworth** of Chester, Cheshire, joined St. Dunstan's on 19th September 1975. He was a Bandsman with The Green Howards. He is unmarried, and now staying at Ian Fraser House.

**Frank Cockayne** of Oldham, Lancashire, joined St. Dunstan's in September. He served in the First World War with the Labour Corps, and was wounded in France in 1917. He is a widower and lives with his married daughter.

### ST. DUNSTANERS' ACCOMMODATION

Occasionally St. Dunstaners inform us that they require temporary or permanent homely lodgings, with full board. If any relatives of deceased St. Dunstaners are willing to offer such accommodation, we should be most grateful if they would contact the Southern Area Superintendent, Miss P. J. Rogers (for the South of England and the West Country) or the Northern Area Superintendent, Miss C. Mosley (for the Midlands and the North).

### STEALING THE SHOW

Twenty-five first prizes and one second prize seems a record for any horticultural competition! In Norwich recently *Gordon Watts* collected this number of accolades at the Annual Show held by the Blind at the Vauxhall Centre on 3rd September. He—understandably—won the cup presented as the Show's All Round Award, which he also took last year.

## BRIDGE NOTES

### LONDON

On Saturday 27th September the Autumn Bridge drive took place at the London Club rooms, and as usual was very well attended.

The proceedings started with our captain asking everybody to stand for one minute, in memory of the late *Alf Field* who, as most of you know, has been friend, inspiration, mentor and tutor of our Bridge Section for many years, in fact the Bridge Club would never have existed but for his untiring efforts as far back as the Forties.

After this, play commenced, with eight tables. At the end of the afternoon Mrs. Nora Field, the recently bereaved widow of Alf, arrived and graciously consented to present the prizes to the winners. I am sure that I echo the thoughts of all members when I say that we hope to see her on many occasions in the future, and would like her to know that we will always consider her "one of us".

The proceedings then concluded with our usual very fine tea, arranged and served by our genial Club Steward, Norman Smith, his wife Flora and a band of willing helpers.

### Results

- 1 Alan Caldwell and Miss S. Lyons
- 2 Bill Allen and Mr. P. Woods
- 3 Bob Evans and Mrs. Evans
- 4 Roy Armstrong and Mr. J. Armstrong

**The Eighth Individual Competition** was held on Saturday 4th October.

### Results

J. Majchrowicz and J. Huk	74
W. Miller and F. Dickerson	69
J. Lynch and Partner	67
P. Nuyens and Miss Vera Kemmish	60
W. Allen and H. Meleson	56

**The best five results to date** are as follows:

J. Huk	355
W. Allen	353
W. Miller	340
F. Dickerson	337
P. Nuyens	336
J. Lynch	325
A. Caldwell	305

H. Meleson	304
Miss Vera Kemmish	301
J. Majchrowicz	298
J. Padley (after 4 games)	253
W. Phillips (after 2 games)	144
R. Evans (after 2 games)	102
H. King (after 1 game)	69

### IMPORTANT NOTICE Ovingdean Bridge Congress

The Annual Bridge Congress has been arranged for next year from Friday evening the 20th until Monday the 23rd of February, 1976. If any Club member so wishes it could be arranged that they could remain over the Monday night in the Ian Fraser House.

Any St. Dunstaners wishing to participate in the Bridge Congress should forward their names, addresses and the name of their partner to me at Headquarters. We shall endeavour to help any member who has not got a partner to find a suitable one.

H. MELESON  
Secretary

### BRIGHTON

**The Sixth Individual Competition** was held on Saturday, 4th October.

### Results:

S. Webster and J. Padley	73
J. Whitcombe and R. D. Fullard	70
A. Dodgson and F. Griffiee	65
W. Claydon and M. Clements	61
W. T. Scott and J. T. Simmons	59
C. Walter and P. McCormack	50

R. FULLARD  
Secretary

### Harrogate Bridge Week, 1975

A report of the Annual Harrogate Bridge Week, 13th-20th September 1975, will appear in the December issue of the *Review*.

### Acknowledgement

Mrs. Nora Field would like to express her deep appreciation and gratitude for the many letters, tributes and great kindness she received from St. Dunstan's on the death of her husband Alf.





## IT STRIKES ME

by  
Magog

### Golden Eggs

A sponsored walker whose success brought him something of a problem is **Ray Benson**. His 30 mile walk, for the benefit of a fellow member of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes who is a blind and legless diabetic, has raised £625. In addition, another sponsor offered a dozen eggs for each mile Ray covered which left him the proud possessor of 360 new-laid eggs to dispose of profitably before they aged!

No trouble—Ray turned egg salesman and his personal fund for his doubly handicapped fellow Buffalo was swollen by a further £49. Our photo shows him with some of the eggs on his friend's poultry farm.



### Dead?— But he won't lie down

How would *you* like to read your own obituary? Well, it wasn't quite that bad, at least we didn't print it in the *Review*. But **Bill Megson's** friends somehow got hold of the idea that he had departed this life and said nice things about him (will their kind opinions survive his continued appearance at his old haunts, still "in the pink"?). For the truth is that Bill, we are glad to report, remains hale and hearty, and greatly enjoyed his holiday at Ian Fraser House this summer. We wish him long life, and happy gardening!

### Great Cricket

**Wilfred Knight's** enthusiasm for cricket has been rewarded recently with a place in the Barclay's Bank team (he is a telephonist in York) which played against the Victoria Cricket Club (London) at the Bank's Sports Club in Ealing Broadway. Three matches were taking place in these "quite pleasant surroundings" but the "blind" one was the noisiest and the most keenly contested, it appeared.

The rules are slightly altered from the usual game. A player has two chances when batting; the space between the wickets is 18 yards instead of 22 and one has a runner when contact is made with the rather large audible ball. A fielder may catch the ball on the first bounce, and this still gets a wicket.

The Bank won by 38 runs. Wilfred was pleased at scoring 4 runs, and catching out three players. He thinks that the practice he put in when his son Nicholas was learning the game has helped him considerably. They used to play in the house drive, with a 6 in. audible ball and not very sophisticated stumps, "but you knew you were out when the ball hit the dustbin".

"We were entertained to a nice afternoon tea, and after the match there was lots of conviviality and chat in the bar. Altogether it was an enjoyable and interesting experience. I shall look forward if asked to have another outing with the team next season".

### From South Africa for Bowls

**Keith Branson**, a South African St. Dunstaner, arrived in England early in September for a fortnight's bowls, and a visit to Ian Fraser House. He took part in competitions at Hastings and at Lowestoft, and although he was not too thrilled with his own results, when he spoke to us on the telephone from Ian Fraser House he had obviously enjoyed his matches and his holiday very much indeed. He took back with him a Hastings Club tie, presented to the player who had travelled the farthest to participate.

### Musical Meeting

**Willy MacPherson** of Chiswick, London, is a St. Dunstaner with a talent for piano playing. At Ian Fraser House earlier this year he and an 83 year old fellow St. Dunstaner—a figure generally known as "G.B.S." because of his resemblance to the author—entertained their compatriots; Willy played and sang "Fall of Jerusalem"; they both sang "Little Grey Home in the West" and Willy continued playing. In the course of this convivial evening "G.B.S." told Willy that he lived in Watford, but previously in Croxley Green. This rang a bell for Willy. He enquired whether "G.B.S." knew Percy Jennings; "I am Percy Jennings" said his musical collaborator—Willy's first boss, in the firm of architects and surveyors to which he had been articled x years ago!

### Venture to Holland

**Dennis Freeman**, of Coventry, is an Assistant District Commissioner of Venture Scouts and in July he took 41 young people to Holland. They saw clog makers at work, cheese farms in production, bulb nurseries, diamond exhibitions and visited the Airborne Museum at Arnhem. The helpfulness and friendliness of the Dutch people contributed to the success of the expedition. BUT—one camper was obviously reluctant to leave Dutch soil, for his tent erupted in flames when packed for the return journey, to the mystification of all. Dennis is now sorting out the insurance . . .



George Hewett makes the presentation at Scout Headquarters, Baden-Powell House.

### Scouts' Rug

**George Hewett** shares with many other St. Dunstaners a talent for making most attractive rugs, and one of them is now gracing the portals of Baden-Powell House in Queen's Gate, London S.W.7, Headquarters of the Scout Association. 5 ft. by 2 ft. 3 in., and "scouting green" in colour, it has the Scout emblem in gold, embellished with two brown stars, proudly emblazoned in the centre.

George presented the rug to the Scout Association on Tuesday, 23rd September, and it was accepted by the Secretary, Ted Hayden. Other officials present were Norman Rowe, the Warden of Baden-Powell House; Charles Winn, Executive Commissioner, Headquarters Services; and Mr. Hayden's secretary, Mrs. D. Perry.

The rug took George a fortnight's work, and contains twenty-thousand tufts of wool. (Enough to clothe one sheep, we ask ourselves?).



## Deaf Reunion 1975

Ron Ellis reports on the Deaf/Blind Reunion held at Brighton this year.

The Deaf Reunion was held from 14th to 18th August and what a grand little get-together it proved to be. It beats me how time was found to work out a programme for the Reunion during the big changeover from Pearson House back to Ian Fraser House. Matron, the Commandant and Mrs. Williams must have worked extremely hard, as it turned out to be a real "on the go" Reunion.

Thursday 14th. At 7 p.m. we had sherry with Matron and the Commandant, followed by a lovely opening dinner. Our guests were Mrs. Dacre and Dr. O'Hara; it was such a pleasure to have them with us and to talk to them about our everyday life. Dinner now over, we made our way back to the committee room for another sherry or two and a bit more chit-chat. Our sincere thanks to the cook and staff for such a lovely dinner.

### A Day on the Thames

Friday morning saw the lads up nice and early. This was the big day, almost a life on the ocean waves. Our first port of call was the Pool of London, to board the cruiser H.M.S. *Belfast*, a great ship. We were taken on a grand tour of the ship. Our guide was superb, every little question was answered. I would not be surprised if he knew how many rivets and bolts there were holding the ship together. That's what Wally thought too. The tour of the ship over and having thanked our guide we made our way to the next port of call, Charing Cross Pier, for lunch aboard the Restaurant ship *Hispaniola*. An excellent lunch was served and with the slight roll of the ship it seemed to make it that much more enjoyable.

At 2.45 p.m. we boarded the Thames launch for the 3 p.m. departure to Greenwich. On arrival we boarded that grand old sailing ship *Cutty Sark* where another feast of exploration was had. Our guide was great, by the time he had finished explaining the different things to us, we thought we were back in the days of the great sailing ships. Wally turned to me and said "They must have had plenty of bully in those days to get

these things moving". Thanking our guide for all his kind help we made our way to the taxi which was to take us to the Grosvenor Hotel, Victoria. Oh, boy, were we glad to sit down for a few minutes now our old sea legs were just about beginning to feel the strain, a lovely dinner was had by all, then we were off to catch the train to Brighton then on to Ian Fraser House, where Matron was waiting to welcome us back with a smile to see that we were all safe and sound. It had been a real super day. It really made our day too, to have with us our dear friend Mr. Bill Webster. To us he is one of the greatest and we sincerely hope we shall still have him with us now and again.

### Wisley

Saturday morning we were taken by minibus to the Royal Horticultural Society Garden, Surrey. On arrival we were met by Mr. Ian Rees and Mr. Clayton, P.R.O., who were to take us on a tour of the grounds personally. An excellent lunch was served to us in the Restaurant and was greatly enjoyed by all. Now feeling refreshed we were off on our tour of the gardens with Mr. Clayton. There is so much to see there, it really would take about a week to get round it all. The greenhouses, which are huge, have dozens of exotic plants and flowers in them. It was a great pity there was none for sale, but then perhaps we would not have been able to keep them for long. The trees in the gardens were beautiful, dozens of different species from different parts of the world. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Clayton for all the information he gave us.

The tour of the gardens now over, tea was taken in the restaurant, and more talk exchanged with Mr. Rees and Mr. Clayton. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Ian Rees and staff for the excellent lunch and tea, and for their kind understanding, and then we were away to Ian Fraser House for dinner, and so another long day behind us, but a day to remember. It was very nice to have Mr. George Rees and his wife with us for the day.



The Reunion party on the Brighton Marina site.

Sunday, a nice quiet day, just to lounge about and talk or go for a stroll. At 3.16 p.m. transport whisked us away to Pearson House to have tea with Matron Hallett. It is always a great pleasure to meet Matron Hallett and have a good chat about one thing and another, it is always the same, when one goes out, the time slips by so fast and we were soon saying cheerio to Matron, then back to Ian Fraser House.

Monday. The last day of the Reunion, and still "all systems go". At 10.15 a.m. we were off to site office Brighton Marina, to meet Mr. R. Howart of Messrs. Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd., and Mr. A. Cooper, Consultant Engineer, who took us on a tour of the site. There was one thing that impressed me; for the amount of time and the number of men they have on the job, they have done a colossal amount of work. Let us wish them luck in getting the job completed on time. When finished it will be the pride of Brighton. There is still a lot of hard and dangerous work to be done,

but when finished the workmen will be entitled to puff their chests out. Our sincere thanks to Mr. R. Howart and Mr. A. Cooper, for all the information they gave us.

Tea was taken at 3.30 p.m. with Mr. Wills, Commandant and Matron and Welfare Staff, a pleasant afternoon of pow-wows.

About 5.30 p.m. the lads started cleaning up and fetching the few last whiskers off the chin, ready for the farewell dinner. All spruced up like pools winners we were aboard the transport to the Eaton Restaurant. An excellent dinner was served and enjoyed by all. Among those present were Mr. C. D. Wills, Commandant, Matron Blackford and Matron Hallett. After dinner and while drinking our coffee, Wally gave the speech of thanks, the signalling of yet another Deaf Reunion never to be forgotten. So, once again, I will say our sincere thanks to all for making the Reunion a happy and enjoyable occasion.





*Amber at home with her master.*  
Photo: Daily Telegraph.

## BETTER THAN ONE

by Robin Buckley

My yellow Labrador guide dog, Amber, died on 17th April, 1974. She was fourteen years, four months old, and was suffering from a severe and incurable kidney complaint. That night we buried her in a grave dug by my wife in our garden and I need hardly say it was a very sad occasion.

I had trained with Amber, my first guide dog, at Cleve House, the Exeter Centre of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, in June, 1961, a month of glorious sunny weather, so Amber had worked with me for just six weeks short of thirteen years, an all time record, I believe, for guide dogs trained at Exeter.

During the last eight months of her life Amber had been totally deaf as a result of a small overdose of anaesthetic given when her teeth were being attended to in August, 1973. The anaesthetic, I was told, had somehow got into Amber's central nervous system and this had resulted in immediate and permanent deafness. I thought it would be better for Amber to continue working despite the disability, provided she remained willing, as she always had been, and as she continued to be. I did not think Amber

at that stage depended greatly on her hearing when working and that safety would not be affected. I told nobody outside the family except Exeter for many months and I felt reasonably sure that nobody at work or in my home district would notice that anything was wrong. Nobody did, and indeed there was nothing special to notice, as Amber and I had become such a close-knit unit over this long period of years.

Knowing that I could not spare time to train with another guide dog before August, 1974—even assuming that a replacement dog was available—I contacted the National Mobility Centre in Birmingham the day after Amber's death and Mr. Peter Ryan, the Principal, immediately arranged for me to receive long cane instruction, starting on the following Monday.

As I could not find time to go for the full long cane mobility training, Miss Dix, at that time Mobility Officer for the Westminster Borough of the Greater London Council, in which St. Dunstan's headquarters is situated, very kindly came along on several afternoons each week for the next four weeks or so and



*Mrs. Buckley with Amber and her master after the latter had opened a garden for the blind at Hornchurch, Essex.*  
Photo: Hornchurch and Upminster News.

we went out from the office for about forty minutes on each occasion. This amount of training enabled me to continue my journey between home and office independently and it thus tided me over the four months period before my return to Exeter for a new dog.

The advantages of guide dog ownership are that the blind person can travel faster, more safely and in a much more relaxed and enjoyable manner than he can with any other mobility aid, or combination of mobility aids, known to us at present. The reason is simple enough. The guide dog owner has an animal making full use of its eyes and ears as well as its intelligence, coupled with all aspects of the training it has received over many months. Two heads, they say, are better than one. Moreover, the guide dog owner has no worry about the line he must take along the pavement in order to remain roughly in the centre and to avoid human and other obstacles, whereas the long cane user must concentrate much more on this part of the work. As to speed of travel, let me just say that my ordinary daily walk from home to station or the reverse, a distance of about one

and a half miles, took me twenty-five minutes with Amber and fifty minutes using the long cane.

Another important point is the amount of warning which a blind traveller receives from his mobility aid when approaching an unexpected obstacle. Let us suppose that the Electricity or Gas authority has come along early in the morning and dug a trench across the pavement prior to laying a cable or pipe and let us suppose that it has not yet been properly guarded. The long cane gives the required information just a fraction of a second before the trench is reached. The binaural sensor (ultra sonic spectacles) will give no warning at all. A guide dog, on the other hand, will indicate to its owner by slowing down or in some other way that something is different, at least ten paces away. No wonder, then, that the journey is so much more relaxed.

I think all independent blind travellers will agree that the most dangerous hazard which they meet in the ordinary way is a drop or series of steps down, and, of course, there is a technique for dealing with the situation whatever the mobility aid in use. Now, my guide dog



Amber, whenever we approached steps down, used to tap me with her nose on the left leg just below the knee. No one taught her to do this; it was something she thought out for herself.

Guide dogs are taught to walk to the left of the owner, the only exception being in the case of a blind person who has lost his left hand, in which case the guide dog has, from the start, to be specially trained to walk on the right. The natural pace at which the dog walks is matched as nearly as possible to the natural pace of the prospective owner. There are times when the dog is somewhat eager and wants to go faster and other times when it is feeling lethargic and wants to go slower. The technique of slowing down or speeding up the dog's pace is taught at the training centre. It is not difficult to learn, but, of course, it requires a certain amount of practice.

*Between dogs, the long cane proves to be a friend indeed.*



The dog and owner should obviously be walking at precisely the same speed. I say this because it is wrong for the dog to be pulling the owner along. The owner's left arm should normally be in a vertical position and loose, with the handle resting lightly in the palm of the hand. There should be an absolute minimum of tension between the two, just enough for the dog's movements to be transmitted almost instantaneously to the owner so that he can follow safely and rapidly. In difficult circumstances, such as walking along a crowded pavement, the dog has to make instant decisions, moving right or left as occasion demands, particularly in the case of pedestrians who are not looking where they are going, a situation by no means rare. In this, as well as in other respects, the dog's judgment is remarkably good and it does mean that the owner has to be fully alert and move quickly with the dog. The owner should continue, however, whilst his mind is concentrated to keep his body as relaxed as possible.

#### "Disadvantages"

There are two inescapable disadvantages to guide dog ownership, if "disadvantage" is the right word to use:

- (a) The guide dog's working life is on average only about seven years.
- (b) The dog has to be looked after. It has to be fed, it has to be groomed, its health has to be watched. In short, everything must be done to keep the dog in a healthy and contented state of body and mind.

Any working animal, such as a guide dog, has to adapt itself to a considerable loss of freedom. This it learns to accept, provided it is given suitable conditions and is properly trained for the work over an adequate period of time. The Association say that each dog should have a free run for at least ten minutes every day and this should take place in an enclosed space such as a large garden or a recreation ground.

When guide dogs were first introduced to this country there was quite a strong feeling that it was cruel to restrict them in this way. The feeling passed quickly when people saw how happy the dogs were when working with blind people.

Dogs, they say, are unable to mask their feelings. If the tail is up you can be sure that the dog is enjoying life and if it is down then the dog is unhappy. Besides, this idea of cruelty is misplaced. Dogs have excellent brains which are put to very little use if the animal is kept as a pet. On the other hand, if it is given a useful job of work to do, such as guiding a blind person in difficult situations, the dog is making good use of its brain.

This brings me to the point of how to treat a guide dog. The Association rightly stresses that the dog must respect its owner, if not it will work badly and be generally disobedient. No doubt there are different ways of obtaining the right degree of respect. It is said that a dog regards its owner as the pack leader, an instinct passed down through countless generations, but in my opinion this is only a part of the whole truth.

#### Unique Relationship

I remember a television film a few years ago in which men in the Arctic were shown beating their dogs viciously and viewers were told that they did this from time to time, not because the dogs had done anything wrong, but simply to show them who was master. Treatment of that kind is to me utterly repugnant, and most certainly inappropriate in the case of a guide dog. These dogs are unusual, if not unique, among working animals in that they remain with their owners for virtually twenty-four hours of every day. A little sharpness from time to time, particularly in the early days, may be needed to ensure the all important quality of obedience, but my experience is, that as time goes on—and quite a short time at that—the dog becomes increasingly obedient and is willing at all times.

On a few occasions I have met blind people, not guide dog owners, who have said to me, "if you have a guide dog you have lost your independence". This argument seems to me about as sensible as saying that if you travel from London to York by car or train you have lost your independence, because you have not made the journey on your own two feet. Of course the guide dog owner does have to think ahead when making unusual journeys which involve eating out in a

restaurant, where dogs may not be welcome, or when staying overnight in a hotel. My policy, whenever possible, is to contact the restaurant or hotel in advance in order to explain the position and make sure that there will be no objection to the dog going in with me. I think it wrong to arrive without prior notice at a restaurant with the dog and expect to be admitted as of right, for no such right exists in law.

I would like to dispose of another fallacy. This is that guide dog owners are unable to get about alone when they do not have the dog with them for any reason. The exact opposite is much nearer the mark. Since guide dog owners move faster and usually further than other blind people their muscles are toned up as well as their wits. As a result, their general orientation and mobility when they are without the dog is good.

In mid-August, 1974, I returned to Cleve House, Exeter, to train with Deana for three and a half weeks. Deana is a labrador crossed with a golden retriever, pale yellow in colour and slightly smaller than Amber. There were twelve students on this course, nine male and three female, which meant a full house. It is of interest, I think, that when I trained with Amber in 1961, I was the oldest student, but when I trained with Deana thirteen years later there were several students older than me. When I trained with Amber the number of guide dogs working in Britain was about 825 and now the number is about 2,000.

#### Tribute to Exeter

The St. Dunstan's Review of January, 1962, carried an article "One Man And His Dog", in which I paid a tribute to the Controller, trainers, kennel maids and domestic staff at Exeter, adding that "they seem to have achieved exactly the right balance between firmness and impartiality on duty and friendliness and informality off duty". My opinion remains exactly as before. There is a very friendly atmosphere at Cleve. The house had been extended since my earlier visit in order to take four additional students on each course. Everything is well arranged, including social outings in the evenings, and the food is excellent. Trainers, kennel maids and students all eat together and



the student is looked after by whoever the sighted person sitting next to him or her happens to be.

Every human being is different, and so is every dog. Whereas Amber walked steadily along as though on rollers, Deana tends to bucket along like a small boat in a choppy sea. On my first outing with Deana I said to Mr. Driver, the trainer, "goodness, it is like going for a walk with Marilyn Monroe"! There was another difference which I noticed within twenty-four hours of meeting Deana. She had taken one of my slippers when I was out of the bedroom and ripped out the lining. She was in fact a persistent and destructive chewer of almost anything, including metal objects, despite the potential danger to herself. Give Deana a perfectly good leather shoe and thirty minutes unmolested time, and that shoe would be partially destroyed. I will return to this subject later on.

#### Only One Weakness

Amber had only one fault, but this was serious. She was extremely greedy, and I cannot believe that any labrador dog was ever greedier than Amber. This was, however, her one and only weakness and although I did my best for a period of many weeks to effect a cure, giving her a special diet prescribed by an expert, this made not the slightest difference.

Sometimes people seem to think that once a guide dog has completed its training its work will continue impeccable for the rest of its life. A moment's reflection tells us that this expectation would be quite unreasonable. Human beings under discipline tend to slack off if they are allowed to do so and so do dogs. Indeed there is much more justification for a dog becoming slack because it cannot be expected to understand the reasons why the drill it has learned should be strictly adhered to. Putting this matter in the simplest terms, either the guide dog owner controls the dog or the dog takes charge of the owner and does what it wants to do. This might be chasing cats or anything else.

Arriving home with a new guide dog is, therefore, only a beginning and the problems can be considered as two-fold—problems at work and problems in the home. When I came home with Amber in

1961, there were no problems at home, except those connected with the previously mentioned greed, and problems at work were really confined to the business of Amber getting accustomed to a completely new area. But, whereas Amber had settled down at home at once with complete contentment, Deana had to be introduced gently to everything because she is a much more sensitive dog.

There were two problems in particular with Deana at home. The first concerned the chewing habit which I have already referred to. She would pick up anything and chew away at it until it was destroyed, if an eye was not kept on her. The second problem was cleanliness. Deana would relieve herself on the carpet in various parts of the house. There were two kinds of bad behaviour in this respect. I called one "excitement wetting" and the other "surreptitious wetting". The former occurred when a friend came to the door and was admitted. Deana would dash away to some remote corner, spend her penny and return with much tail wagging. The latter occurred at just any time, when she would sneak away and spend a penny in the house for this to be discovered later, despite the fact that she was put out to her run at regular and quite frequent intervals—much more frequent than was ever necessary with Amber.

#### From Home to Kennels

Of course I asked myself why this should be, and I sought the assistance of the Association. Guide dogs are first puppy walked from an ordinary home where they live in comparative or even considerable comfort and are treated with much affection. Then they go to the training centre where they live in kennels and undergo their training over a period of four months or more. I was told that Deana had been puppy walked in the Birmingham area and that her conduct had been exemplary in every respect—no chewing, no wetting.

Now Deana, very friendly and affectionate, is a sensitive dog—I would go further and call her timid—so it occurred to me that the change from a comfortable home at the puppy walking stage to kennels at the training stage put a severe strain on the dog's personality. My

solution has been to make Deana feel as secure as possible at all times and this seems to have worked out in practice. In all fairness, I must add that I took Deana to our vet, Mr. Michael Findlay, and he prescribed pills which undoubtedly helped to eliminate the wetting habit.

It is said that it takes about a year for a guide dog and its owner to become a good unit as regards work, but I believe this can be achieved in a much shorter time, say two or three months, if the blind person has previous experience. During the early stages, when the guide dog has to become accustomed to its new owner and to all his habits and idiosyncrasies and to learn a new area, things can go wrong. Let me give a fortunately isolated example.

#### Hammersmith Bridge

On normal working days I walk from home to the underground station, crossing Hammersmith Bridge on the way. The bridge is being strengthened, the operation scheduled to last about two and a half years. Meanwhile, the pedestrian walks on either side of the bridge are closed and a new pedestrian walk has been built on the downstream side. It is cantilevered out from the bridge, is fairly narrow and there is a wire-mesh barrier on either side which to a dog must give the impression of being in something like an elongated cage. Moreover, the pedestrian walk shakes quite violently as the heavy traffic crosses Hammersmith Bridge, the wire-mesh rattles against the vertical struts and the whole arrangement chatters ceaselessly to itself in a low murmur. Sighted pedestrians have told me that they have been frightened by this new pedestrian walk. Deana was initially terrified. On our first crossing when the shaking began, she lay down flat with her tail between her legs. I had to lift her gently to her feet and persuade her that all was well before we went on. It took about five crossings of this bridge to reassure Deana that there really was no danger and ever since she has not minded at all, but meanwhile . . .

On my way from home I have first to cross a main road, turn left and then cross five minor roads on my way to the bridge. On the second or third morning of my approach with Deana we came to the



*Deana on her way back to St. Dunstan's after a free run at Paddington Green.*

first of the side roads and I gave the order 'forward' in the usual manner. It was raining slightly, there was a strong gusty breeze and aircraft passing overhead on their way to Heathrow—conditions which make orientation very difficult.

Then two things happened almost simultaneously. The first was that I realised we were taking rather a long time to cross that side road, and the second was that the lights a little further up the main road changed from red to green. The traffic started to thunder past us on both sides and I realised that we were stationary right in the middle of the main road. I stood there facing towards the bridge hoping that some clever little fellow with a taste for speed would not come tearing down the centre of the road, passing the other traffic. Fortunately nothing like that happened. I waited until the first flush of traffic had passed then I held up my right hand and the traffic



coming from the bridge stopped, and Deana and I walked slowly back to the pavement. I have little doubt that the reason we got into this predicament was that Deana was wanting to re-cross the main road and thus avoid coming up to Hammersmith Bridge.

I relate this incident because I want to make it clear that problems do arise when working a new guide dog. Fortunately time is very much on one's side and as the dog's confidence in its owner grows, so does the likelihood of dangerous situations diminish. One is often encouraged when undergoing training to let the dog pick the best line across any given road, but of course, ultimate control and responsibility rests with the owner. A good maxim, when things go wrong, is to look first for the fault in oneself. It should not be thought that mobility with a guide dog is unduly dangerous. I have walked in this way fourteen years, covering some 25,000 miles, and remain unscathed. Any kind of independent travel by the blind can be hazardous at times.

Deana has now been with me for a little over twelve months. She works well, and has always done so, except under the stimulus of apprehension or fear. The domestic problems, about which I have written, have greatly receded. She still chews, but not in the violent destructive way of a year ago. The wetting within the house has, touch wood, ceased.

#### MESSAGE FROM LADY FRASER

This number of the *Review*, I know, will reach its readers all over the world before Christmas and I am therefore asking the Editor to publish this message for me.

I am not sending cards but I want you to know that you will all be in my thoughts over Christmas and in the New Year. I send greetings and my love to St. Dunstaners, their wives and families, to St. Dunstan's widows, to staff and ex-staff, and to all old friends. I hope each and every one of you will have a very happy Christmas and the best of luck in 1976!

Irene Fraser

I have made it clear that in my opinion the guide dog is the best mobility aid for a totally blind person, provided that the owner is suitably motivated, is reasonably fit in wind and limb and that conditions both at home and at the place of employment, if the owner works, are appropriate for keeping a dog. The service given by the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is absolutely first class, and I would like to express gratitude for the regular attention given to guide dogs, without charge, by members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Many thanks also to my wife for all the help she gives at home and elsewhere.

#### Devoted Service

As time goes by the owner and dog become more and more attached to one another. On the owner's side this is partly due to the fact that these dogs are pleasant companions with fetching ways, but principally because they seem always ready and willing to go out in harness by day or night in any conditions of weather. They become more and more reliable and show a remarkable sense of responsibility towards their owners. It is this characteristic of devoted lifelong service that impresses me most of all. The nature of the dog is to be like that. Once the owner and dog have been able to establish mutual understanding and trust they can walk fast, walk safe, walk easy.

#### ST. DUNSTAN'S FIRST BOWLING TOURNAMENT, 1975

It is intended to hold a first St. Dunstan's Bowling Tournament from 1st to 5th December at Ian Fraser House. Bowling tournaments being played:

Singles:

St. Dunstan's men and St. Dunstan's women and wives of St. Dunstaners.

Doubles:

St. Dunstan's men and St. Dunstan's women, and Mixed Doubles.

All intending competitors should make application to Miss Bridger at Headquarters in the first instance for accommodation, and secondly to Mr. Carnochan for bowls entry forms. Applications to be made not later than 14th November.

## OVINGDEAN NOTES

Reminiscence and nostalgia were rife during September. During the month we happily welcomed our Hand-Amputees for their Reunion at Ian Fraser House, whilst nostalgia was the dominant theme at the Theatre Royal. Two plays were from the prolific pen of William Douglas Home—"The Reluctant Debutante", a comedy set in the fifties, and "The Dame of Sark". The former was amusing, but curiously dated—for attitudes within our society have undergone quite a revolution in the past twenty years. "The Dame of Sark" was set in war-time, and conjured up that period most vividly. It was both written and acted with quiet understatement which, combined with authentic settings and clothes, made it extremely effective. Anna Neagle, in the title role, gave a splendid performance.

An account of the Handless Reunion will be found elsewhere in this issue—may we just say that it was lovely to see those particular St. Dunstaners again, together with their wives and escorts. The ladies "went to town" with their evening dress and I think all would agree that Gwen Obern and Winnie Edwards looked charming. It was the all-talking, all-laughing, all-exhaustion show of the year—lovely!

On one or two occasions, the expected trips to the Races had to be cancelled, owing to wet weather. The final meeting of the year at Goodwood was abandoned before the card was completed, for the course became waterlogged; but nothing seems to dampen the ardour of your actual dedicated punter!

Visits were paid to our tried and trusted friends around Sussex on the Drives, and we found a new restaurant near Pulborough called "The Brown Owls" which met with general approval. Mr. Hardman, the owner of "The Arches" restaurant in Brighton, very kindly invited a party of St. Dunstaners to lunch, took them round the Aquarium, then back to his restaurant for tea. Everyone had a splendid time and we are most grateful to Mr. Hardman for his generosity and kindness.

Our Sunday evening entertainments were given on two occasions by V.A.D.s Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Lamb, whose choices

of records were much enjoyed. Our good friends "The Arena" presented an anthology of prose and poetry entitled "Things that go Bump", and used appropriate sound effects, which added to the eerie atmosphere.

One of the highlights of the year, as far as entertainment is concerned, is always the concert given by the "Not Forgotten" Association. The packed Lounge resounded with laughter and applause and there was a delightful warmth between artistes and audience. It was one of those evenings—all too rare!—when everything went according to plan. Even the number of ice-creams ordered worked out beautifully! Bob Fullard gave a sincere vote of thanks to Colonel Shoolbred, Miss Seeley, and all the artistes, which was supported enthusiastically by all those present. A few days later, Miss Seeley, who is the Hon. Sec. of the Association, wrote to say how very much the artistes had enjoyed playing to such a warm and receptive audience. Altogether it was a very happy evening.

It would perhaps be appropriate to conclude these Notes by paying a small tribute to two long-serving, and warmly-regarded members of the staff at Ian Fraser House, Mr. George Short and Mr. Joseph Ryszka. They both retired recently after being with St. Dunstan's for around thirty years. We regret their departure very much; they will be sadly missed. They both take with them our good wishes, our gratitude and our affection.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, 2nd November 7.30 p.m.

Concert given by "Renee and her Friends"

Sunday, 9th November 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Tom Eales presents "A Stereo Spectacular"

Sunday, 16th November 7.30 p.m.

Mr. P. Larson, of Clarges Hotel, will entertain at the Organ.

Sunday, 23rd November 7.30 p.m.

Concert given by the Arena Choir

Sunday, 30th November 7.30 p.m.

A Play-Reading by Mr. and Mrs. Lillie and Company





Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme presents a gold watch to Mr. Short.

#### STAFF RETIREMENT

##### Mr. George Short—Brighton Staff

For thirty years Mr. Short has been on the staff of St. Dunstan's, and he retired on 30th September from his post as House Steward, Ian Fraser House. He joined the staff at Church Stretton in December 1945 as a Nursing Orderly, and when Ovingdean re-opened the following year he went there as an Assistant House Steward. He has been a House Steward

since November 1951, and has served St. Dunstan's loyally. Many St. Dunstaners will no doubt remember him from their visits to Brighton. On 3rd October Mr. Short was presented with a gold watch as a retirement gift from the Council of St. Dunstan's by Mr. Garnett-Orme, our Chairman.

We wish him a long and happy retirement.

#### Well Done All

Three silver cups, and a gold plinth which is his for one year, have been won by Jeremy Holland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hayward Holland of Newton Abbot; we send him our congratulations.

Marion Ripley, daughter of Fred and Peggy Ripley of Wimbledon, has gained a B.A. Honours degree in French at Durham University, and has obtained a post at International House in Paris as a language teacher.

Jonathan Ripley has passed the final of the Institute of Bankers examination at Barclay's Bank.

#### PEMBROKE ARTISTS' EXHIBITION 1975

Pembroke Artists, the group who work in the studio at the home of Paul and Thelma Francia, held their annual Exhibition for 1975 in Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery. The Exhibition opened with a Private View on Friday 11th July, attended by the Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Portsmouth, together with members of the committee of Portsmouth Voluntary Association for the Blind and many of the Artists' friends. As usual, collections were made for the local Blind Association, Pembroke Artists' special charity, during the Exhibition and it is hoped that a good sum will be collected to add to the total so far reached of £165. Pictures on view depict many local scenes; there are also portraits in various media, together with compositions using a wide variety of form and material. A smaller Autumn Exhibition was held in the home of one of Mrs. Francia's students, and again a percentage of the proceeds went to the local Blind.

#### Garden Prizes

##### Balcombe, Sussex

In his local Flower and Vegetable Show *William Dunlop* of Balcombe, Sussex, won first prize for his Dahlia entries, second prize for his Beetroot and third prize for Tomatoes—not a bad score. He also had the pleasant task of judging the perfume of the roses on show.

##### Headstone Horticultural Society

*Henry James Haskey* of Harrow Weald has proved his prowess as a gardener in the recent Headstone Horticultural Society flower competition. His prizes were:

Gladioli	2nd prize
African Marigolds	2nd prize
Mixed Annuals	2nd prize
Miniature Flower Arrangement	2nd prize
Harrow in Bloom Front Garden	2nd prize
	and Royal Horticultural Society Certificate

In the studio at the home of Paul and Thelma Francia, one of the students completes her painting in oils for the exhibition. Photo: The News, Portsmouth.







Bert Davenport helps Harry Preedy send his wood down the lawn by clapping to aid his aim.

## ON THE GREEN

On 27th August a bowling match was held between St. Dunstan's and Hove and Kingsway Bowling Club. A very pleasant afternoon was spent on the green. The weather was very nice, everybody enjoyed the game. After the game we were entertained to an excellent dinner in the Hove and Kingsway Club Rooms. Speeches of welcome to St. Dunstan's were made by Mr. E. Sutton, Chairman of Hove and Kingsway, and Mr. Bert Davenport of Hove and Kingsway, and Mr. Ted Frearson replied with a vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstan's. Later in the evening we were entertained by members of Hove and Kingsway Club and professional artists. A very good evening was had by all. After a few drinks and farewells the boys, wives and friends of St. Dunstan's made their way home.

TED FREARSON

## READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

*Cat. No. 1932*

**Erewhon**

by Samuel Butler

*Read by David Dunhill*

*Reading Time 8¾ hours*

As a schoolboy, I had to "do" this book—presumably for the good of my soul. At that time, the experience was neither profitable nor elevating.

Whether from curiosity or plain masochism, I decided to give it one more chance. I am delighted that I did.

In the hands (or more correctly, the mouth) of such a practised reader as Mr. Dunhill, Butler's splendid rolling prose takes on a new elegance, his tongue-in-cheek irony and gentle satire are a real joy.

So if you, too, have "done" this book at school (and thought you'd left it for dead in consequence) why not try it "just one more time". The experience could be most rewarding.

*Cat. No. 1992*

**The Double-Cross System in the War of 1939-1945**

by J. C. Masterman

*Read by John Richmond*

*Reading Time 9 hours*

During the war, when enemy agents were picked up (in surprisingly large numbers, too, it would seem), they were usually given the option of changing sides and acting as double agents. Most of them accepted, from one motive or another. They were given very fetching *noms-de-guerre* like Gelatine, Fido, Treasure and Tricycle and set to work. Soon the whole German spy-ring was being controlled by British Intelligence.

Through these double agents misleading and false information was systematically fed to the enemy. The nice thing about it was that the unsuspecting Germans were feverishly pouring money into the UK to maintain their espionage system. Thus Operation Double-Cross was very largely financed by the Nazis themselves!

## Handless Reunion, 1975

The return home of the Handless Reunion to Ian Fraser House on Thursday, 25th September commenced with sherry and dinner in the Restaurant with Commandant, Matron Blackford, and our old friend Dr. O'Hara. This was a very pleasant start to what was a grand weekend.

Early on Friday morning we set off to the Royal Horticultural Society Garden at Wisley, Surrey. This was a strange adventure, so we first thought, but to everyone's surprise it turned out to be a most enjoyable and educational trip, with some wonderful meals supplied by the chef who is a son of a St. Dunstaner.

Saturday started with a meeting among ourselves in the Winter Garden with an evening trip to Eastbourne for a Variety Show and Dinner at the Congress Theatre which was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday, at the invitation of Lord and

Lady Astor of Hever, the afternoon and early evening were spent at Hever Castle, which we all found most interesting.

We were invited into Lord and Lady Astor's private apartments and chatted whilst having light refreshments. Then leaving Hever Castle we made our way to the Roebuck Hotel for dinner with Mrs. Dacre and Matron Blackford.

Monday afternoon was the time of our Domestic and Technical discussions in the Winter Gardens with Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme; Mr. Wills; Commandant; Dr. Fletcher; Mr. Dufton; Mr. French.

Our weekend finished with a Dinner in the Gold Room of the Eaton Hotel, Hove. Our afternoon's guests were there, and also Mrs. Williams.

We would like to thank Mrs. Williams for a most varied and enjoyable weekend.

E. HIGGS

## FAMILY NEWS

### Marriages

*Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell William Ash* of Paignton, Devon (formerly of Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset), are pleased to announce that their daughter, Carolyn Jane, was married to Paul Nicholas Mackey on 4th October.

*Mr. and Mrs. William Crombie* of Stoneleigh, Surrey, announce the marriage of their daughter Allison with Bernard Verblow at St. John the Baptist Stoneleigh Parish Church, on 20th September.

### Silver Weddings

Congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Botly* of Worcester Park, Surrey, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 30th September.

We congratulate *Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Palmer* of Southery, near Downham Market, Norfolk, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 23rd September.

We congratulate *Mr. and Mrs. James Spink* of Croxley Green, Hertfordshire, on their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 2nd September.

### Grandparents

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell William Ash* of Paignton, Devon (formerly of Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset), on the birth of a grandson, Richard Maxwell, to their son David and daughter-in-law on 26th September.

*Walter Bick* of Leamington Spa, whose first grandchild, Joanna Mary, was born on 5th August to his daughter-in-law, and son Albert.

*Mr. and Mrs. Alan Moore*, of Oxhey, Herts, whose daughter Barbara Fry and son-in-law had their second child, Samuel Leon, on 21st August.

*T. "Jack" Simmons* of Southampton, whose first grandson, Ian Peter, was born on 25th September to his son Peter and daughter-in-law Elaine.

### Great Grandparents

#### We congratulate:

*Mr. and Mrs. Bob Finch* of Solihull on the birth of a great-grand-daughter, Michelle, on 19th September to their grand-daughter Ann Marie and her husband.



## Examination and Career Successes

### We offer our congratulations to:

Angela Miller, youngest daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. Ted Miller* of Leamington Spa, who has passed the finals of the Central Midwives Board and is now working as Ward Sister at the Cowley Road Hospital, Oxford.

Carole Skellett, grand-daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Parker*, of Grantham, Lincolnshire, who has recently obtained 8 "O" levels. Carole has acted as escort while staying with her Grandparents in Brighton.

## In Memory

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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.

### **Alfred Walter Cook.** *Middlesex Regiment and Border Regiment*

Alfred Walter Cook of Canvey Island died in hospital on 26th September, aged 84 years.

He served in the First World War, and was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1968.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Lily M. Cook, and two sons and their families.

### **William Edmund Cook.** *11th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers*

William Edmund Cook died in Australia on 16th September. He was wounded in Italy in July 1918 while serving with the 11th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. Previously he had spent three years in the trenches in France. He was trained at St. Dunstan's, and later started a picture framing business in Hammersmith. Subsequently he joined his brother in running a poultry farm near Ely, but had to return to London on his brother's death shortly afterwards. For a time he was a joinery instructor at St. Dunstan's. Later he retrained to become a telephone operator, and worked in London until the end of the Second World War. In 1947 he decided to go to Australia; after spending a year in New Zealand he settled in East Doncaster, Victoria. Showing considerable perseverance, patience and determination he built a weather board house for his family. His efforts gained him the respect of many friends and neighbours.

He leaves a Widow, Mrs. Lilian Cook, two sons and a daughter in Australia and his eldest son in London.

## Deaths

### We offer our sincere sympathy to:

*Miss Marjorie Ball* of Leeds, Yorkshire, on the death of her Mother on 7th September.

*Walter Andison* of London N.12, on the death of his wife Mrs. Mary Ellen Andison while on holiday in Brighton, on 11th September. Mrs. Andison also leaves children by her first marriage.

*Thomas Williams* of Brynmawr, Gwent, on the death of his wife, Elsie May, on 16th September.

### **Henry Thomas Doyle.** *Royal West Kent Regiment*

Henry Doyle of Harefield, Middx., died on 29th September in Mount Vernon Hospital, aged 75. From 1915 to 1920 he served with the Royal West Kent Regiment. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1971.

He leaves two nieces, Mrs. Winifred Gibson and Miss Maud Doyle.

### **Thomas William North.** *7th Lincoln Regiment*

Thomas William North, a permanent resident at Pearson House, died on 17th September at Pearson House. He was wounded while serving at Cambrai in April 1918, and after training at St. Dunstan's he returned to his home in Walsall in 1921 where he looked after poultry, did netting work and carpentry. At the latter he was particularly skilled. He became interested in sports and was also an active member of his local British Legion. He enjoyed visits to the St. Dunstan's camps, and the Blackpool and Brighton homes.

His wife died in 1948, but Thomas North remained at Walsall until 1961 when he became a permanent resident at Brighton.

### **George Thomas Willey.** *Green Howards*

George Thomas Willey of Tile Sheds Farm, Welbury, near Northallerton, North Yorkshire, died on 3rd October in hospital at the age of 41.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1968, although his sight began to fail while serving with the Green Howards from 1952 to 1954. Carrying on the farming tradition of his family, he moved to his own smallholding in 1969, which with their help he cultivated and kept geese. For the past three years he was looked after by his house-keeper, Mrs. Ivy Kilbourn.

He leaves his mother, Mrs. Willey, his sister Mrs. S. Barker and other relatives.