

St Dunstans Review February



Mine Hosts-
Peter & Margaret

St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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10p MONTHLY

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Everyone connected with St. Dunstan's suffered a grievous loss when Nigel Pearson died suddenly on December 8th after a short illness. I know that you will all wish to join with me in extending deep sympathy to his widow, Lady Frances Pearson, his father, Sir Neville, and to all his relatives and friends.

Nigel, only son of our President, Sir Neville Pearson, joined the Council of St. Dunstan's in July 1965 and was appointed to the Finance and General Purposes Committee in May 1974.

Born on the 30th August, 1925, Nigel Pearson was educated at Eton and in the United States. He served in the Army before joining his father's family business, Newnes Pearson. Later he worked at Helena Rubinstein's and retired in 1975 when he and his wife moved to Wales to farm and breed ponies.

Nigel Pearson will be greatly missed on the Council of St. Dunstan's. He attended our meetings regularly and made many helpful contributions to our discussions. He also presided at a number of Reunions, and in 1973 he gave the address at the annual Founder's Day Service with an impressive speech commemorating the great work of his Grandfather and of our then Chairman, Lord Fraser of Lonsdale.



A characteristic study of Nigel Pearson.

Bank Accounts

At a recent staff conference, I was told that a number of St. Dunstaners still do not have Bank accounts and may even run the risk of keeping quite large sums of money in their homes. I know Lord Fraser always advised you all to have Bank accounts, as a convenient, simple and, above all, safe way to deal with your pensions and other income and I should like to repeat his advice most strongly.

Any Bank Manager would be pleased to help you to open an account. If you would like to have a Bank account with Barclays Bank (St. Dunstan's bankers), you should write to Mr. E. V. Stevens at Headquarters and tell him which branch would be nearest to your home and then he will arrange matters. For anyone who has not got an account, I suggest that opening one would be a very good way to start 1976!

COVER PICTURE: *This cartoon photograph adorns the bar of the General Havelock, North Shields. The story of "Mine Hosts" is told in Ways of Life starting on centre pages.*

Christmas Cards

My wife and I would like to thank all those who sent us such attractive Christmas cards. We were delighted to hear from many St. Dunstaners and their families, widows and other friends. We are very grateful for the many personal messages enclosed with them.

ION GARNETT-ORME

MR NIGEL PEARSON

The funeral of Mr. Nigel Pearson, to whom a tribute is paid by our Chairman earlier in the *Review*, took place at Hampstead Cemetery during the afternoon of Tuesday the 16th December.

At the request of the family the service was conducted by the Rev. Popham-Hosford, St. Dunstan's Padre, and our Chairman read the Lesson, the 13th Chapter of St. Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians. Mr. Pearson was buried in the family vault with his illustrious grandfather, Sir Arthur Pearson, founder of St. Dunstan's.

With Lady Frances Pearson were members of her family: Viscount and Viscountess Kemsley, Mr. Arthur and Lady Georgina Coleridge, sisters and brothers-in-law, and Mrs. Neil Smith, niece. Mr. Pearson's two sisters were also there; they were Lady Glenkinglas accompanied by Lord Glenkinglas, and Mrs. Robert Hardy and Mr. Pearson's half-brother, Mr. Christopher Hordern, with his wife.

In addition to our Chairman, St. Dunstan's was represented by Mr. Wills and Commander Buckley from Headquarters, and Paul Nuyens represented St. Dunstaners in London. Matron Blackford from Ian Fraser House was accompanied by George Coote and Eddie Allchin, and Matron Hallett from Pearson House was accompanied by Joe Langley and Horace Kerr.

In his address, Mr. Popham Hosford said:

"We are here to care for one another, as has been the inspiration of people from generation to generation, and it has been this love that made Nigel what he was. It is always a bitter blow to see a life finished at such an early age and at the beginning of a fresh venture. Nigel

and Frances had only just started a new life in Wales, when he was taken.

St. Dunstan's loses in Nigel one who was already showing how worthy an inheritor he would be of his Father's and Grandfather's great service to St. Dunstan's. We always looked forward to his appearance at the Founder's Memorial Service. He was so cheerful and had the common touch.

Though we at St. Dunstan's must regret his going, though his friends and family mourn, our thoughts must mostly be with Frances to whom Nigel was devoted, and shared his life, his interests, and above all his joyous enthusiasm. They lived together, in such a close and delightful way, unselfishly giving to each other. Although one has gone from that partnership, his love lives on and will give that extra strength to Frances.

He has gone to a greater life and may God give special comfort and help to his widow."

Welcome to St. Dunstan's



On behalf of St. Dunstan's we welcome a St. Dunstaner recently admitted to membership. The Review hopes he will settle down happily as a member of our family.

James Fraser of Maidstone, Kent, joined St. Dunstan's on 3rd December 1975. During the Second World War he served in the R.A.F., and was a prisoner-of-war in Java. He is married, and is employed as a telephonist.



H.E. Herr Karl-Günther von Hase, the German Ambassador, applauds Colonel Sir Mike Ansell after investing him with the insignia.

West Germany Honours Our Vice-Chairman

At a reception given by H.E. the German Ambassador and Frau von Hase at the West German Embassy in Belgrave Square on Thursday 18th December, a very high honour was conferred on our Vice-Chairman, Col. Sir Michael Ansell, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L. Among those present were Mrs. Williams, Sir Michael's sister, and Mr. and Mrs. Ion Garnett-Orme, and a number of well-known people from the world of horses in both Britain and Germany.

Before decorating Sir Michael with the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit, the Ambassador spoke of Sir Michael's tireless work for horsemanship in Britain and abroad, and of his work for the war-blinded.

The following is an abridged version of the Ambassador's and Sir Michael's speeches:

Herr von Hase said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the foreword to Sir Michael's book 'Soldier On' His Royal Highness Prince Philip has written: 'The happiest mortals are those who are consumed by an abiding passion'. I should add to this motto another one. Originating from an Outward Bound school in the Lake

District which has close connections with Prince Philip; the motto says 'To serve, to strive and not to yield'.

"Sir Michael had a very promising career as a professional soldier and was the youngest Commanding Officer in the Army in 1940. Disaster struck him when he was blinded at St. Valéry. Since then Sir Michael has fought full of stamina to overcome this handicap and we see him now as a past Chairman of the British Show Jumping Association and The British Horse Society, and now as President of the British Equestrian Federation. With his talent for organisation and deep devotion for the equestrian life Sir Michael managed to organise equestrian shows at a level which it will be difficult to surpass. But Sir Michael didn't restrict his efforts in the field of equitation to his own country. It is very much due to his personal effort that my country's equitation reached international reputation again after the War. He helped to open the way for our fellow countrymen to participate in international tournaments. He also gave valuable advice for the furthest development of riding in Germany—and he did all this for a former enemy of war during which he lost his eyesight.

"Having learned Braille in a P.O.W. camp, St. Dunstan's arranged for him to

learn horticulture when he was repatriated.

"Since then Sir Michael has become very actively involved in the work of this organisation for the care and training of the war-blinded. He is the only blinded member of St. Dunstan's Council apart from the late Lord Fraser, and a year ago he became the Vice-Chairman of St. Dunstan's. Also under this head he improved the relations between the St. Dunstan's organisation and the war-blinded in Germany. He visited Germany several times. During his different lives as a soldier, as an equestrian, as a gardener, as a St. Dunstaner and as a member of a great family Sir Michael has become a living symbol of good sportsmanship and bravery.

"The President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Herr Walter Scheel, has instructed me to present the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany to Sir Michael in recognition of his services to German equitation and war-blinded. In presenting the decoration to Sir Michael we include also our sincerest thanks and the expression of the high admiration we all have for him."

The Reply

Sir Michael Ansell:

"Your Excellency,

I thank you personally for bestowing upon me this great honour and I hope you will express my gratitude to the President of your Republic. I am very moved and honoured and yet feel very humble.

"I spent three-and-a-half years as a prisoner of war, and no one could have had better medical treatment in an endeavour to save my sight. When locked up I was fortunate to find two great friends. Dr. Meyer, who is here today, operated on me on three or four occasions. He is certainly a great eye specialist, but he was an even greater companion, for when he visited me six days a week (the seventh was when he went shooting in the countryside) he encouraged me. The other, Oberst or Colonel Martin, was the Commandant of a P.O.W. camp in Rouen. It was entirely thanks to him that I was sent from Rouen for treatment in a German Military hospital in Paris under Dr. Meyer. Oberst Martin used to come



A reunion handshake after thirty years: Colonel Sir Mike greets Dr. Meyer.

once a fortnight to Paris, and always came to see me and brought my wife's letters. He used to talk a great deal to me and gave me the best advice I ever had. 'If you are worth a damn you only remember the good things in life'. This I have always tried to do.

"Since the war I have had endless interest in the world of equestrian sports. I hoped all would get the pleasure I had from the horse. I honestly believe that well-governed sport can perhaps stop wars. None of us really wants to fight, and certainly in the world of the horse we never do.

"Your Excellency, once again, I only hope you realise how proud I am of this great honour you have bestowed upon me, and how much since the War we have enjoyed being with your riders."

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

All members of the staff at Headquarters, Estate, Industrial and Welfare Visitors, and staff at Ian Fraser House and Pearson House, thank St. Dunstaners for their greetings over the festive season. Their good wishes are heartily reciprocated.



Norman Smith with members of the London Club and the Address which was presented to him; from left to right, Les Douglass, Jerry Lynch, Vera Kemmish and Harry Meleson.

Norman and Flora cut their cake.



Norman Smith Retires

The St. Dunstaners who attend the London Club and the Staff at Headquarters were very sorry to say goodbye to Mr. Norman Smith, who retired at the end of December after ten years' service as Steward of the London Club. Mr. Smith's willing help and cheerful personality made him very popular and he will be sadly missed.

All at Headquarters join in wishing Norman and Flora the best of health and happiness in their retirement.

C. D. WILLS

Tributes to Norman and Flora

From W. Miller, Chairman, London Club

"ear all, see all, say nowt',
eat all, sup all, pay nowt',
if ever tha' das' owt' for nowt',
allas do it for th' sen'."

The Yorkshireman's motto, and if Norman Smith had lived up to, or down to this motto, there would have been little for me, or anyone else to write about.

It was in the Autumn of 1965, when Norman took over as manager of the

London Club, and began to mould it to his character. The atmosphere became one of warmth and happiness, and feelings ran deeper than mere friendship. The members became so devoted to him, that no-matter where there was to be a gathering of St. Dunstaners, his presence was demanded, whether it be at the Harcourt or Harrogate or Saltdean bridge congress, and at the London Reunions there was always scrummage to sit at Norman's table.

So devoted to his friends did Norman become, that he travelled all over the south of England, visiting members at their homes, joining them in their good times and their sorrows. Any member could guarantee that, should he fall ill, Norman would be along, on his day off, bringing with his cheery self a cheering word, and some small token of good tidings.

Little wonder, that when his time for retirement came, we at the London Club were not filled with the usual rejoicing, for we knew that the time had come to say goodbye to one for whom we all had deep affection.

His absence from the London Club will be felt for some time to come, but we will, eventually recover, and in the meantime I and all the members and their wives, and other friends of the London Club wish Norman, and Flora his wife, a long, healthy and happy retirement.

From Paul Nuyens

It was Saturday morning, 3rd January, that a van, drawn up in St. Dunstan's forecourt, was busily being loaded with the belongings of our friend, Norman Smith, while as the job was almost finished another van drew up bringing in the furniture of his successor, Ian Dickson. A few more minutes with the habitual cup of tea, and Flora and Norman seated themselves in their son Ken's car: there were a few hoots, as the car disappeared round the corner on its long journey to Yorkshire, to hand waves of "Goodbye and God Bless You". Thus ended a ten years' devoted service to St. Dunstan's and to all concerned with this great organisation.

Norman, who arrived in October, 1965, soon after the return of the Bridge Party

from their annual visit to Harrogate, quickly absorbed the dedicated atmosphere of St. Dunstan's shown throughout its existence by so many members of the staff. So started his close association with me as Captain of the Bridge Club, which as time went on developed into a solid friendship, during which I came to recognise in full his constant thought and helpfulness to others.

No words can express how much I shall miss him, but such is life. Being the first to hear of his decision, I was whole-hearted in wishing him the best of luck in his coming retirement, and long life to share it with Flora who was only happy when she knew he was happy. His energy was boundless and it was not out of the blue that in one of my addresses on the last night of one of our Harrogate weekends, I referred to him as the Scarlet Pimpernel, for he was always "here, there and everywhere". In fact he was, as a friend quoted in a letter to him, "a round peg in a round hole". I feel certain that all his comrades will join with me in wishing him and his wife every happiness in the future.

Norman's leaving is indeed a sad occasion, and he will ever be remembered by those who had the privilege of knowing him, while I will always miss a real friend.

NORMAN'S SPEECH

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The very thought of making a speech I find very frightening, and I am not at all sure that I can compose myself sufficiently to express in words what I would really like to say to you all. I do feel, however, that after this presentation and the lovely tribute you have just paid me I must at least attempt a reply. I have been much moved by this occasion and from the bottom of my heart I would like to say "thank you all for everything".

I would like you to know that it is your friendship which you have extended to me over the years that I shall treasure most of all. When I look back, as I shall often do, I shall cherish the many happy memories I shared with you. In the early years the trips to Scotland with the Bowling Club. Taxi outings. Derby Days. The Bridge

Congress at Saltdean. Our annual visit to Harrogate for the Bridge Week. And I shall remember more than anything else in the world the happy times spent in our Club Rooms here in Old Marylebone Road. This has been my home for the past ten years, where I have looked forward to your visits on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and often Sundays, too.

Today, in many ways, is a sad day for me—yet at the same time a happy day. For I see gathered around me a host of good friends. People who by their kindness, and in extending their hand in friendship, have made my work here a pleasure.

Looking back over the years I remember friends who can no longer be with me on this day. Freddie Jackson, Jock Brown, Jim Murray (Grandad to us all), Bill Harding, Bob Cameron, Jimmy Chell, Frank Rhodes, just to mention a few. Names that are like the good old songs—they live on forever. I could not forget Renny Byrne, whose sisters Molly and Eileen—I am happy to say—are here with us today. Not so long ago we mourned the passing of our good and loyal friend, Alf Field. What wonderful people they were.

When I finally take my leave of you and St. Dunstan's on January the 3rd, I have no doubt that I shall find life very empty, but I am happy in as much that my wife Flora will be with me to share my new life in Yorkshire. And I would like to say to Flora—"Thank you for all the help you have given me in the past and in particular at St. Dunstan's. And for giving me the licence to do all the things I have wished to do".

Once again, may I say thank you for this wonderful tribute.

Thank you . . .
God bless you all . . .

LETTER FROM NORMAN

My wife joins me in my wish to thank our many kind friends for the handsome present received on the occasion of my retirement. This includes the many St. Dunstaners, their wives, visitors and other friends of St. Dunstaners who contributed.

We would also like to give thanks to the participants of the party given for us both

on Thursday evening the 18th of December, 1975.

We shall remember them constantly and hope to meet them all again in the future.

6th January 1976 *NORMAN SMITH*

BRIDGE NOTES

LONDON

Saturday 13th December was a very special date in the diary of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club, for two reasons; firstly, we met at the London Club rooms for our annual Christmas Bridge Drive, and secondly, it was the last time that our genial Club Steward, Mr. Norman Smith, would be officiating, prior to his retirement.

The bridge drive, with 11½ tables in play, was a huge success, both from the social point of view and also because of the keen interest taken by all our members in this most absorbing game. When play had terminated, the scores were counted and checked and four winners were announced. Then a scrumptious tea was served by Mr. Smith, and his willing band of helpers, after which we had the pleasure of welcoming to our clubrooms for the first time Mr. and Mrs. Weisblatt from Headquarters, as Mrs. Weisblatt had kindly consented to present the prizes, which she proceeded to do as follows:

- 1st Paul Nuyens and Miss Molly Byrns
- 2nd Roy Armstrong and Jack Armstrong (unrelated)
- 3rd Bob Evans and Mrs. Lynn Evans
- 4th Alan Caldwell and Miss Sheila Lyons

A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs. Weisblatt by Jerry Lynch for having carried out her duties so graciously.

We came next to the most important event of the afternoon, the presentation to Mr. Norman Smith on the occasion of his retirement, after many years of loyal service. First Vera Kemmish presented Norman with an illuminated address, which had been beautifully

framed. Next Harry Meleson gave to Mrs. Flora Smith a bouquet of flowers as a token of the appreciation which we all felt towards her for the help she had given both to Norman and the Club in general. After this Jerry Lynch, our Captain, presented Norman with a cheque which had been subscribed for by members and friends of the Bridge Club, and finally Norman responded with a moving and well phrased speech, thanking everybody for their gifts and good wishes expressed that afternoon.

This brought the afternoon events to a happy conclusion.

H. MELESON
Secretary

A GREAT CHARACTER

Once again we mourn the passing away of a dear old comrade; **Sammy Webster**, who died on 8th January.

He was a grand chap, who took an enthusiastic part in all St. Dunstan's activities, such as open-air sports, rowing, running, dancing and even singing in the choir.

When the Bridge Club began just before the last World War, Sammy joined the ranks of players and was, until his death, its esteemed Treasurer, with his wife as his right hand.

He was not a man of long speeches; "straightforward to the point" was his motto and it was not surprising that his sudden well-thought out remarks cutting short long deliberations would be greeted by cries from many in the audience of "Good old Sam".

And so a great character is gone from our midst, deeply missed by all who knew him.

PAUL NUYENS

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

Philip Booth, son of St. Dunstaner *Mr. Peter Booth* and Mrs. Booth, of Somerton, Somerset has received the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award, and we send him our congratulations.

Garden Prizes in Rhodesia

Bill Megson of Ovingdean, Brighton, tells us that his son Ronald, has won prizes in a vegetable and flower show in Rhodesia. He is also a keen breeder of Indian River Hens.



IT STRIKES ME

by Magog

Greatly Appealing

In Bromsgrove on 29th November last year the Austin Branch of the Royal British Legion were feeling very pleased with themselves—and with a St. Dunstaner member, **Doug Cashmore**. He topped the collectors for the Poppy Day Appeal, and when the results were announced at the end of November, Doug's total of £150.89 was the highest individual contribution to the final sum of £3,600. On 4th November Doug had been presented with the Life Membership badge, so the Legion must have been gratified to see the honour justified on this occasion! (He was made a Life Member for Meritorious Service in 1949).

To achieve his grand total, Doug, apart from taking two days' leave from his work as a telephonist to sell Poppies, and doing a house-to-house collection, bought trays from some of the St. Dunstaners in the Club and auctioned them in the Legion Branch. In addition, "he grew wonderful Chrysanthemums," writes his wife Joan, "and took bunches upon bunches and auctioned them". He also wrote to the "Evening Mail" and "Bromsgrove Messenger" suggesting that readers "take a look at themselves and decide whether they could do a little more to help those less fortunate than themselves", mentioning the care given at the Star and Garter and Royal British Legion Homes. He appealed to them to help make the £2½ million target reach yet



Doug Cashmore at his switchboard.

another half million, for "disabled ex-servicemen and the dependants of those who did not come back. I will be out collecting on November 8th because I consider myself more fortunate than hundreds of others."

Obviously the silver cup, which he will hold for twelve months, the trophy which eventually will be engraved and the half-bottle of whisky presented to Doug for his Poppy Day efforts, were more than deserved.

150th Anniversary

In December we reported, elsewhere in the *Review*, that Douglas Howard of Croes y Ceiliog, Cwmbran, Gwent, was to make a visit to Germany at the invitation of his old Regiment (Royal Engineers 16th Field Squadron) to participate in their 150th anniversary celebrations. Doug thoroughly enjoyed the occasion, and writes:

"As a matter of interest to ex-sappers, the 16th Survey Company, Royal Engineers, was formed in the year 1825 at Belfast. This company served in various parts of the United Kingdom and abroad. When I joined it in 1937, it was stationed on the island of Malta, and specialised as a Fortress Anti-aircraft Searchlight Unit.

"The present station for the 16th Field Squadron is Osnabruck, and it was arranged that past members, such as the veterans from Malta, should be invited.

"A party of two coach-loads of these veterans and their wives left London on the morning of Thursday, 20th November, and yours truly was proud to be amongst them.

Parade

"We were entertained royally with banquets and cocktail parties, but the main point of our visit was the parade, naturally held at night, when aspects of the history were shown. A surveyor with his theodolite and then a diver of the first submarine diver service were shown. Then came the searchlight, picking up an aeroplane in its beam. Then all the guns came in, and the scene was really fantastic. It would have done credit to a Hollywood movie. Then the sappers were shown with their mine detectors in Northern Ireland, and finally the drive past of all the armour and equipment, including a detachment of the German army of engineers.

"The march past of the veterans came next, and as I am a mere six foot two, I was a number one leading the old lads. It was very cold, and a flurry of snow came down in our faces as the Royal Engineers Band, Aldershot, led the parade, but I don't think we really felt the cold now as I'm sure we all stuck out our chests another couple of inches.

"There were more than two thousand people in the stands, and without exception they all got to their feet, clapping and cheering. Yes, a really momentous evening never to be forgotten.

Sunday morning, 23rd November, we naturally went on Church Parade, and finished up with lunch in the Officers' Mess, leaving for home amidst cheers for the final time at two-thirty in the afternoon.

Reunions 1976

All Reunions to be held at 12.15 p.m. for 12.45 p.m.

Date	Reunion	Hotel
Saturday, 27th March	Southampton Mrs. Lyall	Polygon
Thursday, 1st April	Ipswich Mrs. Adkins	Copdock
Saturday, 3rd April	Birmingham Miss Newbold Miss Broughton	Albany
Saturday, 1st May	London (Kent & Surrey) Miss Stewart Miss Blebta	Russell
Thursday, 13th May	Manchester Mrs. Ballantyne Miss Broughton	Midland
Saturday, 15th May	Liverpool Mrs. Ballantyne Miss Broughton	Adelphi
Saturday, 5th June	Brighton Miss Stewart Miss Blebta	Metropole
Thursday, 10th June	Newcastle Mrs. Ward Miss Skinner	Royal Station
Saturday, 12th June	Sheffield Miss Broughton Miss Newbold	Hallam Tower
Saturday, 26th June	Bristol Miss Meyer Miss Newbold	Bristol Esso
Saturday, 10th July	London (Central) Miss Davis Miss Newbold	Russell

ST. DUNSTAN'S CAMP H.M.S. DAEDALUS

The Royal Navy have very generously invited once again a party of St. Dunstaners to spend a week at H.M.S. Daedalus, Lee on Solent. The dates of the camp this year will be from Friday, 13th August, 1976 until the morning of Saturday, 21st August, 1976. The camp fee will be £7 and railway fares over £3 will be refunded.

Will all those wishing to be considered for a place at camp please contact: Miss Elspeth Grant, Flat 1, 7 Craven Hill, London W.2. Telephone (after 6 p.m.) 01-262 2723 before the last week in May.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUB

BRIDGE SECTION

The first of our Individual Competitions was held on Saturday, 3rd January 1976, in the Annexe of Ian Fraser House.

Results:

M. Clements and R. Fullard	84
J. Simmons and B. Burnett	68
J. Padley and P. McCormack	66
W. Lethbridge and W. Claydon	66
A. Dodgson and V. Delaney	64
W. Phillips and W. Scott	54
F. Griffiee and R. Bickley	36

W. LETHBRIDGE

Dominoes Aggregate Score for 17th December

1st Equal Scores

A. Smith, B. Inman

2nd Equal Scores

J. Padley, C. Walters, Mrs. Padley

Mrs. Mudge

Mrs. Mudge's name was spelt incorrectly in last month's *Review* (as "Mudd"). Sorry, Mrs. Mudge.

Will all Club members note that after a vote of members present, it was decided that all future club meetings will be on Wednesday afternoons only.

ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Club Dances will be held on 14th February, 13th March, 3rd April, 1st May, 12th June, 10th July, 10th August, 11th September, 9th October, 13th November and 11th December.

These evenings are proving to be very popular and are well supported by local members and also Club members visiting Ian Fraser House from other parts of the country.

FISHING SECTION

At stated in last month's *Review*, Boat bookings have been made for 1976 and the dates of the trips are as follows: 17th February; 12th March; 14th May; 23rd July; 20th August; 24th September; 19th November; 10th December.

I hope that any Club member interested in a day's fishing will contact me by letter or telephone (Peacehaven 2290).

If any Club members in employment wish to take part in Sunday trips, this may be arranged if sufficient interest is shown, but it must be fully understood that to obtain a Sunday booking I must be contacted as soon as possible, as these days are quickly taken. Club members taking part will have to provide all their own fishing tackle, life jacket and protective clothing. These are purely Club trips, and are in no way connected with St. Dunstan's organised fishing.

A. DODGSON
Fishing Representative

LONDON

We were all too pre-occupied during the month of December with the arrangements for Norman Smith's retirement, to think of much else.

We did of course hold our Christmas domino drive, and this was won by Harry Meleson, with Charlie Hancock and Bill Miller sharing second place.

The Christmas bridge drive and presentation to Norman Smith are reported as a separate item in this *Review*.

The New Year has started very quietly, and I would appeal to St. Dunstaners living in the London area, to turn over a new leaf, and come and join us on Thursday evenings at the London Club.

WALKING

Walking continues at Ewell, but in a very quiet way; here again the shortage of members taking part gives some cause for alarm, and I would remind St. Dunstaners, that there are no speed kings these days, and that if they wish to take some exercise they would be more than welcome to come and join us.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The 29th Annual General Meeting of the London Club will be held in the club rooms at 191 Old Marylebone Road, on Saturday, February 7th, at 1.15 p.m.

W. MILLER
Chairman

MIDLAND

December is quite a gay and social month in the club's calendar. On Sunday 14th we held our Christmas party, at which the children can take part. Once more a beautiful tea was prepared for us by our wives, who each brought something, such as mince pies, trifles, etc. Turkey and pork sandwiches were added to all these goodies, and a Christmas cake rounded off the spread. Everyone sat down and tucked in, and very little was left.

At the end of the tea our Chairman, Joe Kibbler, thanked Mrs. Joan Cashmore for all the good work that she had put in on the club's behalf. With the sale of Christmas cards, etc., she raised the wonderful sum of £48.17 which will help greatly towards the costs of future activities.

When the spoils of the meal had been cleared away we all gathered in the lounge to await the arrival of Father Christmas. He gave each of the children a present, and then told each lucky recipient in the domino games to come along and choose their prize. These members were as follows:

Sir Arthur Pearson Knock-out Competition

- 1st Joe Kibbler
- 2nd Guy Bilcliff
- 3rd Doug Faulkner and Lorry Rea

Doubles Competition

- 1st Mr. and Mrs. G. Bilcliff
- 2nd Mr. and Mrs. L. Androlia
- 3rd Mr. W. Green and
Mrs. E. Tomporowski;
Mr. and Mrs. D. Faulkner

Each member not winning a prize was given an envelope containing a Christmas box. It was then time to open the bottles and fill up the glasses, and wish each other all the best.

Our guests at this meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Ted Holt from the Langley Royal British Legion and Mr. and Mrs. Joe McKenzie of the Austin Branch, Royal British Legion; he is a member of the County Committee of the Region. We were very pleased to have them with us, and look forward to their company once again in the near future.

The following Saturday, 20th December, was the date of our Christmas Dinner, once again held by the Austin Branch of the Royal British Legion. On arrival everyone was met by the Branch President, Mr. George Queen, and before going in to take our places at the tables we were all given a glass of sherry by the E.C. of the Branch.

Our Guest of Honour at this function was Miss C. Mosley, who had travelled up from London to be with us at the Dinner. She was accompanied by Miss I. Newbold.

It was a first-class meal, and was prepared and served for us by the stewardess, Mrs. Ann Swinnerton. It was all piping hot and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.

Mr. Queen, in his after-dinner speech, said how happy he was to be with St. Dunstaners once more, and wished that we would make more visits to the Austin Branch during the year; an open invitation was always there for us.

When the meal was over and the tables cleared we all settled down to join in the evening's dancing. Unfortunately Miss Mosley and Miss Newbold had to leave before this started, as Miss Mosley had to catch her return train to London.

Before leaving she had a chat with everyone present, and we were very happy to have her with us: I do know that Miss Mosley thoroughly enjoyed the evening and was very sorry that she had to leave so early. Let us hope that she will be able to join us at another of our events.

This was the final event in our club calendar for 1975. It has been a good year socially, with a couple of outings and two social evenings; with the rising cost of everything this has been quite good, and I only hope that we can do as well in 1976.

New Members Welcome

We are always looking for new members, and all St. Dunstaners are very welcome. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month, commencing at 3 p.m. at the Headquarters of the Royal British Legion, Thorp Street, Birmingham. There is no charge to join us, we simply hold a tea collection to defray the cost of the tea, and there is always a raffle. Why not give it a trial.

Unfortunately I now have to end on a very sad note. I am very sorry to have to report the death of our Club Treasurer, Louis Androlia. Louis had been a real stalwart of this club for many, many years; he and his wife, Cath, rarely missed a meeting. He passed away very suddenly at home on Saturday, 27th December. Louis will be sadly missed by all who knew him, and our club meetings will seem very empty for a long time without his company. To his wife, Cath, his sons and daughters-in-law we offer our deepest sympathy. I, personally, will miss Louis very much; since taking over as Treasurer he has kept a keen eye on club finances, and with his wife's help has done a grand job. Wherever the club has gone Louis has been known for his Stetson hat and has had his leg pulled about it, but good sport as he was he always had an answer.

Eight St. Dunstaners, with their wives, all members of this club, attended the funeral on Tuesday, 6th January at Handsworth Cemetery, Birmingham. Also with our contingent was Mr. Joe Mackenzie, of the Birmingham County and Austin Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Many beautiful floral tributes were laid, including a wreath in the shape of St. Dunstan's badge, laid on behalf of the Midland club.

In his address, Canon Douglas Maclean, who is also Resident Priest of Birmingham Cathedral, said what a wonderful family man Louis had been. I am sure that all who knew Louis would certainly agree with this.

A very warm and sincere invitation has been extended to Mrs. Cath Androlia to attend our club meetings and outings once again as soon as she feels well enough to do so. The prayers and thoughts of all club members are with you, Cath, in your very sad loss.

DOUG CASHMORE, *Secretary*

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Miss Diana Hoare, known to walkers, campers and "Sutton Club Members" moved on 14th January to: 3 Clausentum Road, St. Cross, Winchester, Hampshire. If any of her friends are in that neighbourhood she would be delighted to be visited. She hopes to be on the 'phone later.

North Shields is not the prettiest town in the North-East. Situated on the Tyne, with its twin, South Shields, on the opposite side of the river, its main industries are shipping and shipbuilding, fishing, engineering and mining. Part of the centre of town is demolished, awaiting development, and overlooking this temporary open space is the General Havelock public house. I went in, leaving the tough, Northern environment outside to find the warm, Northern welcome within from licensees, Peter and Margaret Logan.

Very often in this series the way of life of the subject depends a great deal upon his wife. Peter and Margaret are an outstanding example of this, working together as a team. Margaret's father is a publican and she worked for him during the early years of her marriage. In the three years or so since they took over their first pub in Sunderland, she has taught Peter the skills of the licensed trade, particularly cellar work. Not many husbands would take to being taught by their wives but Peter proved to be a good pupil, commenting, "Anybody that knows the job better than me can show us it."

Peter was serving in the Royal Navy when his sight began to fail: "I was a ward-room chef. My idea was to do my 22 years, come out and use some of my pension to get into this trade where you can mix the catering with the beer. That was always my plan."

When he was discharged from the Navy he had lost the sight of one eye. He worked as Head Chef for a teacher training college at Alnwick Castle. "I started off when they used to have 120 students. By the time I finished I was cooking for about 450."

In that time, seven years, he had undergone fruitless operations to save his sight. It was a difficult period, "Your hopes being raised and then dashed and then raised and coming down again." The last operation was carried out to save the optic nerve in one eye. It was, perhaps, an act of faith to agree to it but later, after Peter came to St. Dunstan's in 1968, Mr. Cross was able to restore a little vision. "This was the eye I had the operation to save the optic nerve. If I'd been squeamish and said No, I would never have got any sight back."

WAYS OF LIFE 28

EVERY DAY IS DIFFERENT — Peter Logan

Talking to David Castleton

That tiny amount of vision was the key to Peter returning to his original plan to enter the licensed trade but before that he worked in engineering at Worthing in Sussex. "I've got a very good reputation in engineering down in Worthing in about four or five different factories, through blokes who were setting machines for me who moved to other factories. At that time they were doing tubes for cash registers. They had to be right within a thou and a half. I used to cut them on the lathe by the million and then I'd sit there for about three weeks on end checking them on an audio comparator. If a job is worth doing, it's worth doing right, isn't it?"

Engineering experience has been an asset to Peter in his work in the cellar where, in the poor light, he is totally blind and works by touch. "Changing gas cylinders, kegs and that—the engineering helped there because it was what I was used to, a spanner, a nut and a washer."

Throughout the pub everything is kept in the same place. "We've got everything

so that I know where it is. In the cellar the hoses to the taps are all hanging in separate positions. The fitting I first put on for the Heavy Beer, you notice the gas tap was straight opposite on the stairs. Now the other Heavy one, that's three or four barrels along, the gas fitting for that is under the stairs. They're well separated; you can't switch the wrong one on. Then the Light one is further away from the stairs and the Lager is straight off the gas cylinder. There's no way of getting them mixed up."

As a learner Peter was drenched from time to time in beer from the kegs. "The pressure in the kegs when you are putting that little valve in, sometimes, if you don't catch it just right and you're pressing it, you get a shot of beer right up in your face. You have to feel round until it's right in the slot and then you just press and turn."

When Margaret wanted a crate of brown ale, Peter went down the unprotected stairs into the cellar with the sure-footedness of long practice, ducking his head at the crucial moment to miss



The 'Logan Team'





Changing the "Keg Heavy" barrel in the cellar

the edge of the hatch. "I knew where the crate of brown was. The draymen always stack them in the same place for me."

Although he can work blind in the cellar, Peter is quite sure that his small amount of residual vision is essential to his all-round work in the General Havelock. "I am all right in places where I know exactly where I am, and if the light's all right. But if I get bright light in front of me, or, of course, in the dark, I am just the same as total again." In the bar Peter positions himself as much as possible so that the light is behind him. If he were totally blind, in the bar, glassware would be too great a hazard he says.

A Long Day

Despite a reliable staff, to whom they both pay tribute, and the help of their daughter, Sonia, the Logans' working day is a long one. "We never go to bed the same day as we got up," says Margaret. At ten o'clock their day begins as they prepare for opening time.

"We're open until three, by the time you get washed up and swept up, prepared for the evening session, it's getting on for four o'clock. Of course we've got to start thinking about something to eat then. We open again at six until eleven in the summer, half-past ten in the winter." It is well past midnight when they get to bed. "You have your money to check up, your float for the next day has got to go into the till, your glasses have to be washed up, polished and put away. Quite a lot goes on that the customers don't see."

Yes, it means long hours agrees Peter. "But you've got company, you've got different conversations going on. There's always something happening. It's not like engineering where you're standing at a lathe all day—doing the same thing day in and day out. Every day is different."

Cosmopolitan Customers

The General Havelock is not far from North Shields' Town Commissioners' Quay, where the Norwegian ferries come in. "We have Norwegian passengers and crew in here, the stewardesses come in here regular. They do their shopping, then come in here for an hour, spend £6 on brandy or vodka and walk out straight!" says Peter admiringly. "Maybe they'll have a little bit dance—the last couple of records—but they just say 'bye, the same as they walk in.'"

The Logans' customers are a cosmopolitan crowd but Norwegians, Germans, Scots, Irish and the native Shields fishermen all get on together. Language is not a problem, Peter explains. "We usually find that they've got one of them in their company who speaks fairly fluent English."

They make a lot of friends says Margaret. "And this type of people are long-lasting friends. They keep coming back. We've found this with the Norwegians, they keep coming back. We even get cards from them." Was recognising all these customers a problem? I asked. "Not really" said Peter. "I can recognise a lot of them by their voices. If they come in on my totally blind side and speak, or the light may be shining right in my eye and I can't see them but as soon as I hear the voice, I know who they are."

And how about the sighted reactions to a blind "gaffer"?

"Some of the fishermen might be away two or three months but as soon as they come in the bar, if I'm behind the bar or sitting up this side, 'All right, Peter, how's it going?' even though I've not seen him for months."

Their first House, The Queen's Arms, in Sunderland gave them a very hard time. Situated in a poor area, it was to use Margaret's term, "Just a funny pub, I can't tell you why it never got off the bottom." They explained the situation to Dryborough's, the Scottish brewery which owned the pub and later, the General Havelock came up. Margaret described it: "We came along, had a look at it and thought, goodness, what are we going to take on here? The brewery said they were going to renovate it and decorate it and we had a small proportion of the money. A little bit of paper, a little bit of paint, some new curtains. It's very cosy now."

Peter and Margaret are tenants, that is they rent the General Havelock from

Dryborough's and must buy their beer, wines and spirits from the brewery. However, their profits are their own and since taking over, their draught beer sales have doubled. "Spirit sales have snow-balled" says Margaret, "We have done very well, better than I thought we would have done."

Young People

One of the reasons for the General Havelock's increasing popularity is the Logans' commonsense attitude towards young people. In a room off the bar they have a juke box but not a discotheque. The dim lights of a disco make it difficult to know who is there and this can lead to problems. As it is they have a good crowd of youngsters and no trouble explained Margaret.

"I've got a lot of old records put on the juke box," says Peter, "but the youngsters play those just the same as the hit parade. Ballads—Johnny Cash, Slim Whitman. You get a lot of customers my age coming in as well but the youngsters play the old records just as

Negotiating the cellar stairs with a crate of bottled brown ale.



much as them. They don't want this screaming pop all the time."

Spotting the customer who is under the permitted age is always a problem but the police station is not far away and Peter finds this helpful. "Every now and again they have a wander round all the pubs looking for under-age drinkers. They just walk in, see them, tell the managers or whoever it is, and then travel on like."

Who was the general?

One problem the Logans have not solved yet is who was General Havelock? "We don't know whether he was Napoleonic Wars or Boer War or what," said Peter—and when customers ask? "If they speak with a Scotch accent I tell them he used to play for Celtic. If you mention this in the *Review* we'll probably be snowed under with calls from St. Dunstaners who served with him!"

The General Havelock is not the summit of the Logans' ambitions. Peter is a catering man. He learned cookery the hard way: "I used to cook for a family of four or five when I was nine years old. My father died and my mother and my elder sisters had to go out and work. So I had to cook the meal for them coming in. I used to have to go out and catch a rabbit so they could have

something for their dinner. Of course, this was in the war."

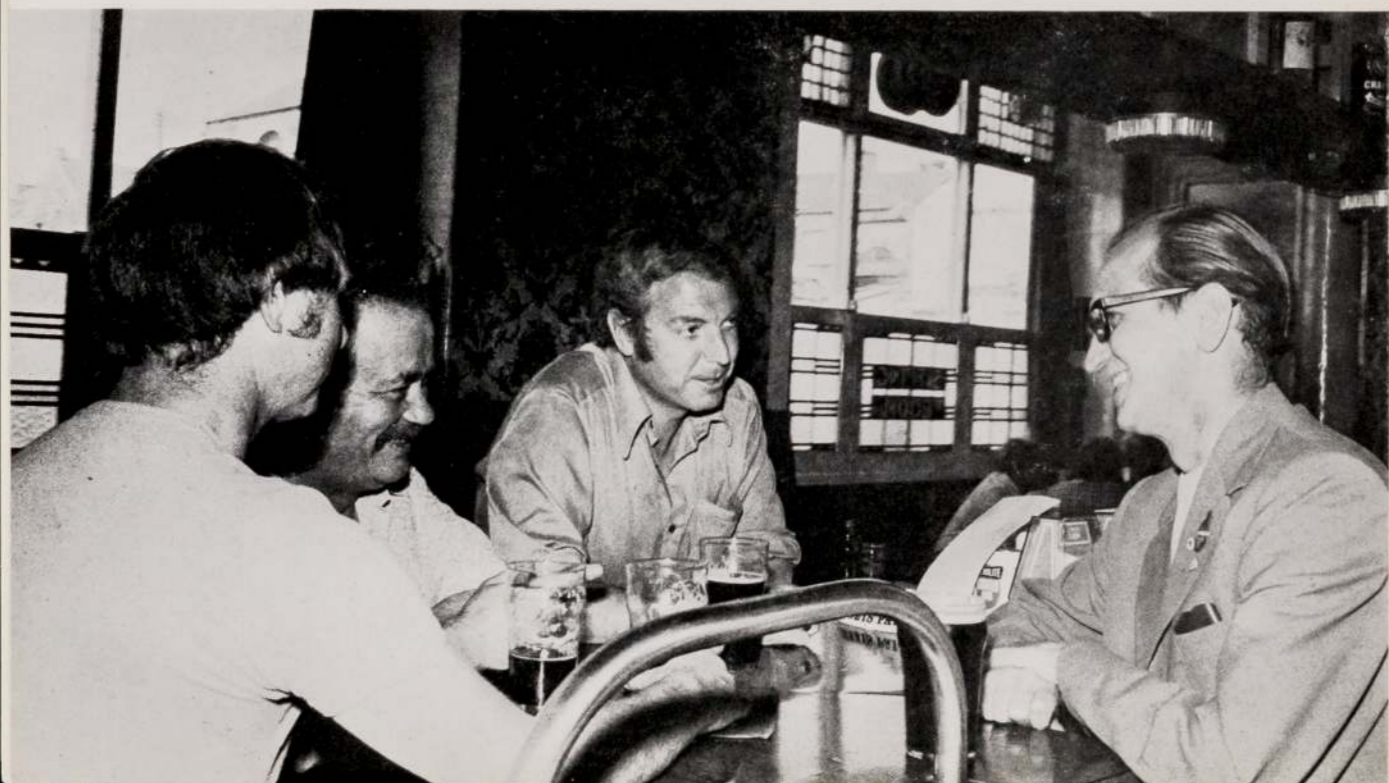
Back in Margaret's home town, Alnwick, in the North of Northumberland, is an hotel—a little bigger and more important than the General Havelock. "They have a big banqueting room up there," said Peter, "They do Naval dinners, Golf and Rugby."

"It's always been an hotel we'd like to have a hold of. Something to get our teeth into. We do like a challenge. This was a challenge. This was a bit derelict and off-putting when we first came. It is working out very nicely now." That was Margaret speaking for the team and although she says there is no chance of that hotel in Alnwick, their team-spirit will see them through—if not in Alnwick, then somewhere else in the North country, where they both belong.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Since going to press, Peter and Margaret have reported that their investigations into the naming of the "General Havelock", have borne fruit; apparently the gentleman fought in the Indian Mutiny, serving alongside Sir Colin Campbell—after whom a neighbouring pub is named.

Peter chats with some of his Geordie customers.



READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 365

The Garden of the Finzi-Continis

by G. Bassani

Read by Andrew Gemmill

Reading Time 9 hours

This is an autobiographical novel in which the narrator tells of his life in a Jewish community in a small town in Northern Italy.

It is a secure comfortable life, enriched by his association with the wealthy and influential Finzi-Contini family, and in particular his close friendship with the son and daughter.

This starts in childhood and continues and strengthens through adolescence, university and beyond. It is an idyllic existence of books and music, endless discussions about life, tennis parties in the garden of the big house. Even Mussolini's race laws of 1938 seem little more than a minor irritation.

But not for long . . . The book is written in retrospect. The narrator has survived the German slave-camp, but the Finzi-Continis did not. They have paid the price for being Jews.

This is a sensitive-written book about life in a Jewish community, a life full of warmth and kindness and wisdom, but doomed to end in disintegration and death.

Cat. No. 1253

An Area of Darkness

by V. S. Naipaul

Read by Alvar Lidell

Reading Time 12½ hours

The author is a Trinidadian of Indian parentage, and this is the account of his first visit to the country of his origins. An established writer and teacher, he spent a year travelling—and sharply observing—in the sub-continent.

The result is no cosy nostalgic travel-book. His view of India is mercilessly objective and totally unsentimental. There is no conflict of ethnic loyalties, no ambivalence regarding his 'Indian-ness'.

He is a self-confessed 'colonial, without a past, without ancestors'. The only emotions India arouses in him are disgust, anger and sadness. He sees, not the India of the guide-books, but a country of decayed pragmatism, filth and unimagined squalor, the brutal degradation of the caste system, the 'quivering poverty' of its people, a place of stagnant futility and pain.

I don't suppose that this book would go down too well with the Indian Tourist Board, but as one man's view of Mother India, fiercely and uncompromisingly proclaimed, it certainly makes fascinating reading.

Cat. No. 1718

Cancer Ward

by Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Translated by Nicholas Bethnell and David Burg

Read by Garard Green

Reading Time 27½ hours

The hospital is in Asiatic Russia and the patients a polyglot collection of Russians, Tartars, Uzbeks, Khazaks. Many will die, treatment has been delayed for too long.

They come from widely differing backgrounds. Russanov is a self-important petty official and a KGB informer, the ebullient Chali a 'wide boy' and a black marketeer. The bear-like Kostoglotov, morose and suspicious, has been granted special permission to leave the wilderness to which he has been exiled 'in perpetuity' for a student indiscretion.

The hospital is old and grossly overcrowded, there are many serious shortages. The dedicated women doctors work dangerously long hours exposed to massive doses of lethal radiation.

The ward is in effect a microcosm of the USSR, with its sufferings, its suspicions, its injustices.

With its brilliant low-key treatment, this is an eminently readable book and, happily, no one should have any difficulty with these Russian names. The characters are all very easily identified.

International Conference On The Situation Of Blind Women

St. Dunstaner *Barbara Bell*, a physiotherapist, represented us at this conference, held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, from 18th to 20th November 1975, as part of International Women's Year, with Superintendent Physiotherapist Joan Clark as her escort.

Over 170 delegates attended, representing more than 60 countries, and the sessions were held in the Engineers' and Technicians' Centre. A Brazilian delegate, who was Chairman of the Programme Committee, took the Chair at the opening of the conference, and further chairmen were elected for each session.

The leader of the British delegation was Lady Jean Wilson, of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind. Barbara writes to tell us that the travel arrangements went very smoothly, and that their hotel was pleasant, although, not unexpectedly, the language presented some difficulties! They had free time for visiting local places of interest, and on one occasion were entertained by wives of British and Australian Embassy staff. The three major social events were a Reception on the first evening; a musical concert; and a Dinner.

Various Countries

The Conference "certainly opened our eyes, if you see what I mean, to the tremendous difference between the provision for blind welfare, especially with regard to women, of course, in our 'developed' societies and that of the less advanced countries".

The papers presented during the conference outlined the conditions in the various countries, and underlined the differences in attitudes towards and aims in rehabilitating the blind; this exchange continued during the open discussions.

A German delegate who had represented the World Council for the Blind at the International Women's Year conference in Berlin said that double discrimination seemed to exist, firstly because one was a woman, secondly because one was blind.

In Russia, they were told, kindergartens and nurseries were provided so blind

women could have their children looked after while they went out to work.

In Sweden, with the aim of giving full independence and self confidence, the figures for 1974 were 175 rehabilitation day-centres, provided by the Ministries of Education and Labour, with 65.5% men and 34.5% women attending. Of the 510 registered blind in the country, 48% were men and 51.5% were women.

Poland also has day-centres, and attention is given to guidance in the preparation of food and home rehabilitation. Short courses are also given in makeup and space orientation. Financial aid is provided for home aids; for the provision of refrigerators, vacuum cleaners and the adaptation of equipment.

In the United Kingdom, said our delegate Joan Williams, we felt it important that real rehabilitation should be given, and real skills taught, because we felt it better for patients to return to their own occupations if they were blinded later in life, or to some closely related work. If this was not possible, then new channels should be opened. More domiciliary training should be given.

A Norwegian delegate thought it better for a blind person to teach the blind, because she would be able to teach from touch, and she should also have the skills of a social worker, and be able to give confidence in the handling of mobility and orientation aids.

A sighted delegate from Yugoslavia spoke about schemes there for sport and recreation and socialisation for the blind.

Other papers and contributions came from Ghana and from the USA.

They learned that the conditions in Jordan needed much improvement. An opera-singer delegate from Teheran, who had been blind for about six years, said her country had a fine official organisation, as well as two or three private Christian societies.

Future Policies

There was some discussion about the policies which should be adopted when delegates returned to their own countries, and it was felt that each country should

decide and concentrate on its most pressing needs. The improvement of working opportunities, and overcoming of discrimination seemed vital.

Lady Wilson chaired the final session. The resolutions were passed unanimously, and will be transmitted to the United Nations via the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind. "Recognising that there are more than 16 million totally blind people in the world, that an even larger number are visually handicapped and that at least half of them are women and girls", reads the introductory paragraph, "this Conference requests all appropriate specialised agencies of the UN in considering and implementing programmes for the advancement of women, to make adequate provision for the particular needs of the blind and visually handicapped". This is the main theme of the resolutions, which conclude by exhorting "blind and visually handicapped women to participate actively in the attainment of these objectives".

Barbara's final comment seems appropriate: "I think we felt that the whole thing was very worth while and might produce some concrete results"; we join her and her colleagues in these hopes, and send them our congratulations and thanks.

THE PEMBROKESHIRE COAST

For those living in, or on holiday in Wales, the "Guided Walks" and "Accompanied Walks" along the Pembrokeshire coast would seem an interesting and informative occupation. The 1976 programme is available from the

Information Officer
Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park Information Service
County Office
Haverfordwest
Dyfed
Telephone: Haverfordwest 3131

There are eight National Park Information Centres, and the guided walks, as well as including information on flora and fauna, vary in their interest; some study ornithology, some archeology; marine biology; history; forestry; ecology; marine biology, etc. They are organised from March until the end of September. We wish you happy walking!

BASRAB

In November 1975 I attended, as St. Dunstan's representative, a meeting of the Steering Committee of the British Association of Sport and Recreational Activities for the Blind.

The aims of the Association will be:

- (a) to represent the widest range of sporting and recreational activities for visually handicapped persons of all ages;
- (b) to ensure that the needs of the visually handicapped are borne in mind when programmes of such activities are arranged within the community;
- (c) to encourage visually handicapped persons to participate in such activities and wherever possible integrate into clubs for the fully able;
- (d) to promote, foster, and generally support sporting and recreational activities;
- (e) to organise or assist in the organisation of local, national and international activities and competitions;
- (f) to initiate and stimulate the growth and development of sporting and recreational activities and ensure that instruction is available in the widest range of activities;
- (g) to act in an advisory capacity to appropriate authorities, organisations and clubs, to ensure that they have the necessary knowledge and information for the provision of amenities and instruction for the visually handicapped;
- (h) to offer an advisory service to the visually handicapped in all sporting and recreational activities and provide a source of ideas, knowledge and information;
- (i) to establish a Central Register of information related to Sports and Recreation.

I would add that these have always been the objectives of sport and recreation at St. Dunstan's, and there is no doubt that the long experience of our sportsmen is going to be invaluable to the promotion of this new association, which in my opinion will be of tremendous value to all visually handicapped sportsmen. I shall keep you posted as to its progress.

J. CARNOCHAN

OVINGDEAN NOTES

Yes, thank you, we had a very happy Christmas; so far the New Year is pretty good too! How about you?

Although you will be reading these words at the beginning of February, they are being written on New Year's Day. An hour ago the Escort Office was knee-deep in burst balloons, paper-hats and streamers, but now the only reminders of festivity are the wet towels, and the occasional St. Dunstaner plaintively asking: "WHAT time did you say the coach leaves for the Pantomime?"

To start at the beginning of December, we were visited by the Sussex Theatre Group, who gave us a varied and entertaining programme, both of group singing and individual items. They were most ably conducted by our friend and colleague, Henry Kerr, whom many of you will know. Our thanks for an enjoyable evening were expressed by George Stanley.

The Theatre Royal offered two somewhat forgettable plays, followed by a season of "Godspell". Now that the Dome Variety is produced only once each month, it seems to have improved in quality, and is the source of more enjoyment. During the second half of the programme on December 16th, the audience was invited to join in, and to sing carols. This was recorded by the B.B.C. and broadcast on Christmas Eve.

Many Friends

We have been blessed with the friendship, goodwill, and practical assistance of many kind people throughout the year, and at no time are our friends more active than during the Christmas season. We are indebted to them for much enjoyment—to name but a few, the Not Forgotten Association invited three St. Dunstaners and their escorts to a Christmas Party in the Royal Mews. The staff and pupils entertained our party to tea before escorting them to the beautiful Chapel for the Carol Service at Roedean. The owners of two delightful houses invited large parties from St. Dunstan's to partake of lavish Christmas teas. Mr. and Mrs. Brooks of Smugglers' Farm, and Mr. and Mrs. Lyndhurst of Tylden House,

were gracious and generous hosts—indeed Mr. and Mrs. Brooks insisted on giving a Christmas Cake for St. Dunstan's, and this was used in the buffet, following the Whist Drive and Domino Tournament.

The Sunday of Christmas week saw our old friends "The Arena" entertaining us with their anthology, "Christmas Then and Now". They are a very talented threesome, comprising Mrs. Ann Goodman, Mr. Eddie Barton and Mr. John Henson, who write much of their own material, in addition to performing so well. The following evening we held the Grand Prize Bingo in the Las Vegas Golden Slipper Room (Oh, all right, then . . . the Lounge!). Amidst a reverent hush (for Bingo is a pastime for the dedicated), Matron pulled out the numbers, Miss Allison called, and your Entertainments Officer acted as Cashier, after which she suffered a short nervous breakdown! The following afternoon the coach (not Cinderella's Golden, but Plain Old Diesel) took a large party to the Pantomime at Eastbourne, and that evening Mr. Michael Hayes presented "Music in the Christmas Mood" on records. Another old friend, Mr. Les Harris, came on the afternoon of Christmas Eve to play his "Christmas Choice", and we thank them both most sincerely for the pleasure they gave us, particularly as there must have been much time and effort spent on their part at a very busy time, and both are dependant on public transport . . . not easy with some twenty records to carry!

Sugar and Spice

Christmas Eve saw the Lounge filled to capacity for "Sugar and Spice" the concert given mainly by the Staff. Having that afternoon held the one and only rehearsal at which all those taking part could be present—but without our pianist—our spirits at 7.45 p.m. were understandably low. However, we bravely donned our cloaks over our uniforms, lit our lamps, and feeling like Nurse Cavell facing her persecutors, launched into our processional carol, "Oh, Come all ye Faithful". The lights dimmed as we began our walk from the rear of the Dining Room, and as we sang those well-known words,

we took fresh heart. Rather to our surprise, we arrived on stage at the right moment, everyone joined in the last few lines, and we felt warmth and goodwill coming toward us from all directions. We could not fail to respond, and what our show lacked in professionalism, it made up for in enthusiasm. Although there were a few solo and duet items, it was mainly a team effort, but mention must be made of our splendid Accompanist, Mrs. Keogh. She was indeed our mentor, encourager-in-chief, and friend, and we owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude. She brought along one of her pupils, Jane Spooner, who played the clarinet with both musicianship and feeling. Her performance delighted her audience, and we hope very much that both she and Mrs. Keogh will be able to visit us again. During the interval Commandant and Matron prepared hot-dogs with great speed, efficiency, and good humour, and these, together with mince-pies and sherry, were served to the audience by the cast. We may not be good, but By Golly, we're versatile! Before and after the interval Tom Eales entertained the audience with some delightful taped music in the Christmas mood, and then the cast, having changed into evening dress, took the stage again. The second half passed very quickly and it seemed no time at all to us (although it may have seemed centuries to our listeners!) before we began the final item—"Bless This House". Harry Meleson made a graceful speech of thanks to those taking part, to which we may perhaps add a word of appreciation to our friend, Mr. Bob Field. His official designation is "Maintenance", but without Bob, his resource, goodwill and endless hard work, we should be, as they say—"up the creek without a paddle". Thank you, Bob.

Christmas Day

Christmas Day was dismal weatherwise, but what did that matter? The Chapel was filled, and it gave us great pleasure to see a large party from Pearson House. But we much regretted the absence, owing to the demands of their duties, of Matron Hallett and Miss Feaver. Christmas Readings were beautifully given by Miss Smith, Miss Houlton and Mrs. Dantine and—an especial joy—by Blodwyn Simon and

Thelma Meredith, our Resident Lady St. Dunstaners. It was a lovely Service, we felt we were a family, rejoicing together on Christmas morning. The whole Day was a happy one, and then (wouldn't you know it) disaster struck. At 7.30 p.m. Commandant and Matron were to star in a comedy, entitled "Every other Evening", and the title nearly proved all too apt. At 5.30 p.m. we received a telephone call, informing us that our guest-reader was unable to come. After replacing the receiver gently, but with despair in her heart, your Entertainment Officer said to herself: "Now don't panic," and immediately felt sick. But Sir Galahad was at hand in the person of Steve Lee, one of our Student Orderlies, and he read the part splendidly, picking up his cues like a veteran. Commandant was, as always, splendid in the part of a man being cleverly manoeuvred and manipulated by the women in his life—his wife, his daughter, his mistress. (Did I mention that it was adapted from the French?) Matron acted the part of the wife with wit, charm and natural humour; Lyndon Mason, as her . . . 'er, well, gentleman friend . . . was a joy to hear; Miss Smith, Mrs. Lamb, Steve Lee, and the aforesaid Entertainment Officer, enjoyed themselves hugely. We hope our audience did too.

After a visit to "Godspell" on Boxing Day afternoon, preparations, with much smothered laughter, were made for the Fancy Dress Dance. The Parade caused enormous fun, and our three Judges, Ann Goodman, Eddie Barton, and John Henson, of the "Arena", had a most daunting task. In the end they chose the following winners:

Elsie Aldred	— Peas in a Pod
Brenda Bates	— Night
Vi Delaney	— Ghost of Ovingdean
Eddie Allchin	— Botticelli's Cherub
Wally Andison	— Popeye
George Stanley	— Eliza Doolittle

Two group prizes were also given . . . one to the "Ladies' Bowling Team" (Blodwyn Simon, Thelma Meredith, and Mickey Robinson) and "More than One Loch Ness Monster" (Mrs. Hall, V.A.D., Bob Davis and a very tatty pram overflowing with babies. As the very pregnant (pretend!) Mrs. Hall said: "If the Judges don't hurry up, there'll be another in the pram!"

The following evening (we never give up), saw the Whist Drive and Domino Tournament, the winners of which were:

Whist

Ladies

1st	Mrs. Maynard	87
2nd	Mrs. Dodgson	84
	Mrs. Wilson	84

Men

1st	H. Meleson	88
2nd	Miss Blodwyn Simon	87
3rd	Victor Goodwin	83

Dominoes

1st	Eric Humphreys	8 games
2nd	Edward Porter	6 games
3rd	Robert Dewhurst	5 games

Our congratulations to all of them.

Sunday, we optimistically forecast, would be a quiet day. Well, if you consider a lounge full of children, grandchildren, second-cousins-once removed, and Uncle Fred from Birmingham, spells quiet, it was quiet . . . but nice. In the evening, one of our most popular entertainers, Mr. Peter Larsen, again brought his electronic organ, and cheerfully played every "request", with which he was bombarded. Harry King spoke for all when he said, "Come again soon".

On Monday we were all set to be entertained by St. Dunstaners. At 8 p.m. we despaired of ever getting anyone started, and then, lo! it all began to happen, and everyone wanted to get in on the act. It would be impossible to mention all those who performed, but perhaps we may just say that it was lovely to hear our lady St. Dunstaners singing "Away in a Manger" and "Once in Royal David's City".

The year ended with a visit to the Dome Pantomime, and a New Year's Eve Party and Dance. Inhibitions were shed in all directions, and we much enjoyed watching Mrs. Dacre win her heat of the Balloon-between-the-Knees Race . . .

It was a great pleasure to have our Chairman and his charming wife with us. We thank them most sincerely for coming and for bringing good wishes from Lady Fraser.

And so, as the travelogues used to say, we say farewell from this oasis of gracious living, with V.A.D.s sinking in the West, the East, in every direction . . .

KEMP TOWN NOTES

We at Pearson House began to think about Christmas early in December when we joined friends from Ian Fraser House to attend the annual Carol Service at Roedean School.

Later in the month we welcomed Miss Farmer, a music teacher from Hove, who came to play the piano and sing for us. Her selection of carols was very much enjoyed, especially when she invited audience participation.

On Saturday the 20th, Padre Popham Hosford brought his choir from St. George's Church to sing carols to the men in the wards and Winter Garden.

By this time we were really into our stride and Christmas "happenings" followed fast and furious.

The next evening we were happy to greet Wally Muspratt and his Concert Party. We always have a good evening's entertainment from this group and we like to think that they enjoy themselves as much with us as we do with them.

Two days later we were delighted by the efforts of young members of the Salvation Army Band. We have to hide a smile when these diminutive musicians arrive, bearing instruments larger than themselves. However, what they lack in size they certainly make up for in enthusiasm—how they can blow!—with quality as well as quantity we hasten to add.

On Christmas Eve we heard an anthology of words and music entitled (surprise, surprise) " 'Twas The Night Before Christmas". The programme was compiled, produced and presented on tape by Mr. and Mrs. E. Dennis.

Christmas Day dawned and off we went to Chapel at Ian Fraser House. After the Service of carols and Bible readings we returned to Pearson House for coffee and the distribution of Christmas gifts by Matron and Commandant. Then it was time for a drink and in to dinner. It was a magnificent meal accompanied by much merriment as crackers were pulled and their contents examined and exclaimed over. Afterwards Christmas messages from friends old and

new were read by Matron and Miss Feaver.

We spent a lazy afternoon sleeping off the Christmas "pud" and then gathered in the Winter Garden for a play reading. Three humorous one-act plays were read by Matron, Miss Feaver, Mrs. Dennis, Mrs. Dantine and Bob Doyle (who operates our Lift when he is not playing leading man) and Mr. E. Dennis. The plays were amusing and met with an enthusiastic reception.

The next evening we had another treat in the shape of a Stereo Concert by St. Dunstaner Bill Jack. Bill owns some really wonderful equipment and his programme was varied and entertaining. We marvelled at his skill with all those controls. Among the musical items were spoken items by members of staff, which Bill had previously recorded. We congratulated Bill on a very successful evening and hope we may have more of the same at some future date.

A MAYDAY SIGNAL

Bill Shea writes that on the evening of Friday November 28th 1975, whilst operating on the 80 Metre amateur band on a frequency of 3973 Kcs. with a group of European "hams" talking to a group of Middle East likewise, a Mayday call was heard on the frequency at 22.30 hrs. so the frequency was cleared for emergency traffic only. DA 1EK, Rick of the U.S. Army in Ansbach, West Germany, made the first contact with the station putting out the distress call. The station was W2/ACS/P/MM/R1 operated by "Tom" on the yacht *Scorpion* which was of fibreglass construction and had lost a mast which had damaged her hull and she was taking in water. She was 44 feet long and had a beam of 11 feet 6 inches. Tom was making the call on the amateur band because she had lost her maritime radio and was therefore unable to use the standard distress frequencies. There were five people on board including Tom's wife; he gave their position as 33.52 deg. North, 31.23 deg. East. Rick, who adopted the role of Control Station for the rest of the night, notified the U.S. authorities in Germany, who alerted the U.S. air rescue units in the Mediterranean

Trips to the Pantomime with our friends from Ian Fraser House, dominoes, bingo and records on our super new stereo record player brought us happily up to New Year's Eve. We began the evening with prize Bingo and continued with refreshments, competitions and story telling. By this time our numbers had dwindled somewhat! However, a few stalwart souls stayed awake. Again we sang carols assisted by our two night orderlies—Alan who played the piano and Gordon who led the singing. At last the chimes of Big Ben ushered in the New Year and we drank each other's health and happiness for 1976 in a glass or two of excellent punch.

On New Year's Day another excellent dinner and the very welcome visit of the Chairman and Mrs. Garnett-Orme brought our festivities to a most satisfactory conclusion. We hope that all our readers enjoyed the holiday and will have a very happy and successful year.

life raft was ready for launching, packed with emergency stores. All the party were wearing their inflatable life jackets. At 00.08 hrs., Tom left the radio to help launch the raft, at 00.16 hrs. he returned to say the raft was launched, the rest of the party were in it and he was attached to it by lifeline. There was a portable radio receiver in the raft with which they were able to listen on the present frequency. SM5 BLA, a Swedish "ham" who was a helicopter pilot, broke in to advise them to tune the portable receiver to 121.5 M/cs. which is an emergency band, and they would be able to receive instructions from searching aircraft. At 01.35 hrs. it was necessary because of interference to change frequency to 3796 K/cs. It was getting more and more difficult for stations in England and Germany to copy Tom's signal, but JY 3ZH in Jordan and a Danish station were still hearing him. The last signal this station G4 AUJ heard was when Tom said they had heard a jet plane overhead; they had let some flares go but there had been no response. It was thought this was probably a plane on regular schedule.

Tom also said that the deck was now only six inches above water and the waves were breaking over, which could have put out of action his batteries as nothing further was heard from him. Perhaps he had decided to join the others in the life raft.

FAMILY NEWS

Marriages

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Craddock of Warrington, Lancs., are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Denise, with Lionel Ousdine on 22nd December in Cape Town, South Africa.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Farnen, of Manchester, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Elizabeth to Philip Williams at Manchester, on 6th December.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Galway, of Sandbach, Cheshire, are pleased to announce the marriage of their son Andrew to Miss

At 03.00 hrs. it was reported from the M. of D. London that the helicopter from Cyprus had returned to base having reached the limit of its search. Nothing had been sighted. No news was heard of the launch sent from Cyprus, nor from the U.S. helicopter which had gone out from Rhodes. Shortly after this a signal from Germany said that a Hercules aircraft specially equipped with search and rescue gear had left Sicily and would be in the area about 04.15 hrs. Nothing further was heard and I closed this station down at 03.35. At this point the only casualty was the yacht's cat washed overboard.

A great deal of credit must go to Rick DA 1EK for the way he acted as controller during the operation. This is my first experience of a Mayday call on the amateur bands, and I was so glad I could help in a small way.

Nov. 29th, Saturday:—B.B.C. One O'clock News: It was reported that a Sea and Air search was being carried out in the Eastern Med., the vessel involved was the yacht *Scorpion*. The search was mounted after a Mayday call being reported by amateurs in England and Germany.

The final outcome of this is not yet known. The U.S. authorities in Germany say that the U.S., British and Israeli rescue services flew 180 hours; nothing was sighted of the *Scorpion* or her life raft, and an official enquiry has begun.

Ann Williams, on 8th December 1975 at St. Mary's Church, Sandbach.

Mrs. Janie Kempe, of Camborne, Cornwall, widow of St. Dunstan *Samuel Kempe*, is pleased to announce that her son Anthony married Miss P. Trapp of Helston, Cornwall, on 15th July 1975, and that her son Robert married Miss R. Dunstan of Troon, Ayrshire, on 25th October 1975.

Silver Wedding

Congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. Dennis John Freeman* of Coventry, Warwickshire, who celebrated their Silver Wedding anniversary on 23rd December 1975.

Grandparents

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Walker, of Lewes, Sussex, whose first grandchild was born on 8th October last; a son Martin, the first child for their son Michael and their daughter-in-law.

Great Grandparents

Congratulations to:

Henry Baker, of Billericay, Essex, on the birth of his third great grandchild; a second son born to his grandson Leslie and wife Pat on 27th November 1975.

John Fawcett of Bournemouth, Dorset, whose grand-daughter and grandson-in-law, Delia and Ryan Hoffman, of Capetown, South Africa, had a daughter Zoe on 28th November. Delia is the daughter of his younger son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. David Fawcett.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Moseley of Blackpool, Lancs., whose first great grandchild, Clive, was born to their grand-daughter Anne and her husband John, of Kidsgrove, Worcs., on 20th December 1975.

In Memory

It is with great regret we have to record the deaths of the following St. Dunstaners and we offer our deepest sympathy to their widows, families and friends.

Arthur Allaway. *Labour Corps.*

Arthur Allaway, of Leicester, died on 17th December 1975 at Pearson House. He was aged 85.

He lost his sight while serving in France with the Labour Corps in 1918, but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1961, by which time he was retired. In 1969 he and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Allaway, and son Dennis.

Louis Androlia. *Canadian Tank Regiment.*

Louis Androlia, of Great Barr, Birmingham, died on 27th December 1975 at the age of 57.

He was American by birth, but enlisted in the Canadian Tank Regiment in 1941. He was wounded in 1945 and came to St. Dunstan's six months later, making his home in the Midlands. In January 1949 he returned to

H.N.C.

We congratulate Michael Walker, son of St. Dunstan *Paul Walker*, of Lewes, Sussex, on gaining the Higher National Certificate in Draughtsmanship.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

William Henry Burnett, of Maidstone, Kent, whose mother died on 18th June 1975.

Thomas Stanley Cooper, of Bridlington, Yorkshire, whose wife Mildred died on 16th December 1975.

Sidney Gobourn, of Cheltenham, Glos., whose wife Kathleen died on 4th January 1976.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Heys, of Peacehaven, Sussex, on the death of Mrs. Heys' mother on 3rd December, aged 83.

Victor Thomas Powell of Solihull, Warwickshire, whose mother died on 29th November 1975.

Ernest Sayers, of Birchington, Kent, whose wife Florence Elizabeth died on 21st December.

America, then went to Canada, where his third son was born; he returned to England in 1953. Because of the injuries received when he was wounded he was unable to follow an occupation, but he had many interests. He last visited Canada in 1972 when, accompanied by his wife, he was Guest of Honour at celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of his Regiment. He also took the opportunity to visit relatives in the U.S.A.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Catherine Androlia, and four sons.

Richard William Cumberland. *Royal Artillery (L.A.A.)*

Richard William Cumberland, a resident of Pearson House, died there on 14th December 1975 at the age of 70.

He served in the R.A. (L.A.A.) from 1939 until 1942, and was injured by a bomb blast at Tangmere in 1940. He had been a cameraman, and for a time had lived in South Africa. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1961, and learned Braille and typewriting. Until prevented by ill health in 1974, he was a journalist, and author of several books.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Coralie Cumberland, a son and daughter.

Joseph William Fowler. R.A.O.C.

Joseph William Fowler of Saltdean, Sussex, died on 19th December 1975 at the age of 69. He enlisted in 1928, and was recalled at the outbreak of the Second World War. Following his war service he was a company director of a furniture manufacturing company, but had to retire in 1958 due to loss of sight. He joined St. Dunstan's a few years later. During his retirement he was keenly interested in his garden and greenhouse.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Mary Fowler.

Henry Frederick Goodley. 3rd Norfolk Regiment.

Henry Frederick Goodley of Pulham Market, Diss, Norfolk, died on 9th December, 1975, at the age of 93. He served in the 3rd Norfolk Regiment, and after being wounded in France and coming to St. Dunstan's, he trained as a poultry keeper, and for twenty-five years kept quite a large poultry farm. When he retired in 1948 he turned his attention to his garden and greenhouse, and much of his produce he exhibited with considerable success in local shows. He will be much missed at the East Anglian Reunions.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Jessie Goodley, two sons and a daughter, and a large family of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

William Hart. 7th Royal Sussex Regiment.

William Hart, of Chichester, Sussex, died on 21st December 1975 at Pearson House, aged 89.

He joined St. Dunstan's in January, 1963. He was retired, and lived with his brother and sister-in-law. Following the death of his brother he continued to share the family house with his sister-in-law. He went to Pearson House as a resident at the beginning of 1975.

He leaves a sister-in-law, Mrs. Ethel Hart.

Jacob James Hiscock. 17 Squadron No. 3 Remount Depot.

Jacob James Hiscock, of Swindon, Wilts., died on 1st January 1976 at Pearson House, aged 75.

He was blinded in a mine explosion while serving in the 17 Squadron No. 3 Remount Depot during the 1st World War, and joined St. Dunstan's in 1919. Although South Wales was his birthplace, he settled in Swindon. He was a keen poultry keeper, and for some time was also a mat-maker for the Stores.

He was a bachelor, and leaves a niece, Mrs. Priscilla Rautman, and two great nieces.

Dennis John Jones. Royal Army Service Corps.

Dennis John Jones, of Sutton, Surrey, died on 24th December 1975 aged 55.

From 1940 until 1946 he served in the R.A.S.C., and prior to enlistment was a Clerical Officer in the Civil Service. On 26th November 1975 he was admitted to St. Dunstan's, and on the same day was involved in an accident. He died in hospital without regaining consciousness.

He leaves his mother, Mrs. G. C. V. Jones, and other members of their family.

William Macpherson. Intelligence Corps.

William Macpherson of Chiswick, London W.4, died in hospital at the age of 52.

He served as a Private in the Intelligence Corps during the Second World War, and joined St. Dunstan's in 1945. He was a bachelor, widely travelled, and a keen and valued member of the Comedy Club of London, and amateur dramatic society. He was in the antiques business for some time with his mother, but this was discontinued with her illness and death. His love of antiques continued throughout his life, and he had a private collection.

James Miller. 7th Medical Regiment R.A.

James Miller, of Rutherglen, Glasgow, died on 3rd December 1975 in hospital, at the age of 69. He lost his sight while serving in action with the Royal Artillery in Germany in 1945. At St. Dunstan's he was trained for industrial work, in which he completed twenty-one years' service when he retired in 1971. He was a keen gardener, and occupied his retirement with this and his greenhouse.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Sarah Miller, four sons and two daughters and their families.

Edward Tuck. 5th South Wales Borderers

Edward Tuck, of Tondy, Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan, died on 3rd January at the age of 86.

He was wounded in 1917 at Vimy Ridge, but worked as a stoker on the Bridgend Estate and came to St. Dunstan's in 1973, after he had retired.

Samuel Webster 5th King's Own Shropshire Light Infantry

"Sammy" Webster, of Saltdean, Sussex, died on 8th January at the age of 78. Before the First World War he was an electric cable worker.

He served in the 5th King's Own Shropshire Light Infantry, and joined St. Dunstan's after being injured at Warnecourt in 1917. He trained as a telephonist, and worked in that capacity for a Religious Society until his retirement in 1963.

He was a Bridge enthusiast, and a valued member of the Brighton Sports and Social Club, as well as of the London Club.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Hilda May Webster, and other members of his family.