

St Dunstons  
**REVIEW**  
APRIL 1976



# St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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10p MONTHLY


## Message from the Chairman:

### Memorial to Lord Fraser of Lonsdale

Many St. Dunstaners and widows and a number of regular readers of the *Review* have very kindly sent contributions to the cost of the memorial tablet to be erected in Westminster Abbey Cloisters.

I should have liked to reply personally to all but the postage rate nowadays is so high and we are endeavouring to cut costs as much as possible.

I am therefore writing this note to thank very warmly all those who are sharing in the cost of the erection of this tablet.



CHAIRMAN

## MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE HONOURS LORD FRASER

A service in tribute to Lord Fraser of Lonsdale was held at his old school, Marlborough College, on Sunday, 7th March. This was part of an Old Marlburian Club Weekend. The service, which included a reading from H. G. Wells' short story, *The Country of the Blind*, was attended by Lord Fraser's daughter, The Hon. Mrs. A. E. McDonald, his sister, Mrs. E. F. Dacre, and his grandson, Dr. A. N. McDonald.

In the course of his sermon, the Rev. Peter Hardman, referred to Nunez, the one sighted man who found himself in *The Country of the Blind*, and went on to say:

"But could it be that our society is becoming 'The Country of the Blind'?—that our materialistic age has induced a strange disease like that which affected

those dwellers in H. G. Wells' strange valley, so that not our physical, but our spiritual sight—or insight—is shrivelling away? In that case, God, like the mountain peaks around the hidden valley of the Blind, is not only beyond our sight, but beyond our comprehension. If this be so, then mustn't our lot be as pathetic as Nunez at first believed it to be for the citizens of the Country of the Blind?

"Is the role of the Church, as he believed his to be, to show them the errors of their ways, and to demonstrate his own superiority? No! We must understand, as Nunez had to learn to understand, that the sightless inhabitants may develop skills, abilities and philosophies equal to, and superior to his own. The spiritually blind in our world may be good, clever, loving, inventive, happy, normal—just like you or

Front and Back Covers: *Some of George Brooks' life-like elephant models: (see Elephant Man on centre pages).*

### Lord Fraser—continued

me. We will live among them, we will get to know them, fall in love with them—and perhaps we may one day decide to become as one of them—indeed you may have already made that decision.

"Think for a moment, then, of Lord Fraser of Lonsdale. This man, blind for sixty years, accomplished more in his life-time than almost all of his sighted contemporaries. He loved life; he found a great fulfilment in helping others. Any of us would be delighted to accomplish a fraction of his achievements. But do you think for one moment that if he had been offered the chance of regaining his sight, that he would not have leaped at it!

"This Service combines many art forms: the inspiration of art in the paintings along the walls, the splendour of music and choral singing, and the timeless words of Scripture—all combine to proclaim this one Truth:

"That Jesus Christ still opens Men's eyes—and gives them vision. 'To open the eyes of a man born blind—it is unheard of since time began. But all I know is this: Once I was blind, now I can see'."

### FREE GAS SAFETY CHECKS

Further to the statement about the above matter which was contained in the *St. Dunstan's Review* for January, enquiries have been made of British Gas Corporation and quoted below is an extract from British Gas News Release.

"Safety checks will then be made to ensure the soundness of the installation and appliances. In addition, any necessary adjustments to appliances will also be made free of charge. Minor parts required, up to a cost of £1, will also be free".

However, the various area Gas Boards will only act on a written request from St. Dunstan's so that if you live in a St. Dunstan's house you should contact your Staff Surveyor so that he can write to the correct area official. If you do not live in a St. Dunstan's house you should write to your Welfare Visitor and she will take up your request with the area official involved.

### BLIND STUDENTS AT THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Any blind or partially sighted person thinking of taking an Open University degree should contact the Open University Special Counselling Service for Disabled Students for full information about the facilities available to them. Handicapped students may be recommended for a guaranteed place on an O.U. course if they can prove that they would otherwise suffer severe educational hardship. There are special induction courses for blind and partially sighted students run by the O.U. in conjunction with ABAPSTAS (the Association of Blind and Partially Sighted Teachers and Students). A limited number of courses, mainly in the Arts faculty, are available on tape through the RNIB Student Tape Library, but it is also possible for a blind student to be "paired" with a sighted person doing a similar course and arrange for course material to be read onto tape or cassette. For full information write to Geoffrey Tudor, Senior Counsellor for Disabled Students, Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. The RNIB has recorded a "Guide to Applicants for Undergraduate Courses at the Open University" which is available on a Talking Book cassette. The Tape Recording Service for the Blind is also willing to record material for O.U. students. Contact the Secretary, Charles Cadwell, at 48 Fairfax Road, Farnborough, Hants. GU14 8JP.

*Reprinted from "In Touch" bulletin, January, 1976*

### ROYAL AIR FORCES EX-P.O.W. ASSOCIATION

Our Chairman has received a letter from a Committee Member of the Royal Air Forces Ex-P.O.W. Association inviting St. Dunstaners to be honorary members of this Association.

In his letter, Mr. Vic Gammon says "I am sure that they would meet some old friends and find a real comradeship at our reunions and other activities".

We suggest that interested St. Dunstaners might make direct contact with Mr. Gammon at: 110, Okehampton Crescent, Welling, Kent.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**From:** Mrs. B. M. Stratfull, Blackpool, Lancs.

Referring to the picture on Page 15 of the March, 1976 *Review*, this is easily identified being the occasion when Queen Alexandra was presented with the Mahogany Table made by Thomas W. Stratfull and the Basket by Paddy Moore. The others in the photo, I believe, were Sir Robert Borden, Princess George of Russia, Princess Victoria and the Matron of the Bungalow, where the presentation was made.

My late husband, T. W. Stratfull was totally blind and both hands were badly damaged. Queen Alexandra presented both men with a special Braille Watch with her Monogram of crossed A's on the front.

I am sorry I have not the date, but our copies of the St. Dunstan's *Reviews* were destroyed after we were bombed out and the furniture my husband had made was damaged when it was stored in Harringay. The occasion would probably be 1919 or 1920.

I have a framed copy of this photo in my dining room, and also a newspaper cutting which states "Queen Alexandra, accompanied by Princess Victoria has visited St. Dunstan's to witness performance by The Pierrot Troupe of Blinded Heroes and Her Majesty, on whose left is seen Sir Arthur Pearson, was presented by one of the patients with carnations placed in a basket made at the Hostel."

I trust this information will be of help to you.

*The photograph from last month's As I Remember feature, showing a little more of the late Thomas Stratfull's table. With Mrs. Stratfull's information we were able to discover that this picture appeared in the January 1919 issue of St. Dunstan's Review. The occasion took place on 12th December, 1918.*



**From:** Glyn Jones, Folkestone, Kent

I was interested and amused to read Sydney Scroggie's letter about the old man with the Omar Khayyam outlook.

We cannot abjure our responsibilities, and life is a paradox. W. H. Davies tells us to stand and stare, whilst John Donne has written "No man is an Island". Sizzling in the sun saps the strength, and I would prefer a quart of good ale to a gallon of wine! The disorders of the tropical scene are many. Malaria, flies, dengue fever and tinea (sweat rash) with scorpions and snakes to help.

Here where the North Downs beckon I find my world walking with my dog. The wind blows fresh where the grass is green, and along the cliffs the murmur of the sea and the cry of the gulls is the changeless music of the years. I could

not join the old warrior in that sun blessed isle. I would miss the seasons and the changing mood of Nature in its endless beauty. I join issue with Scroggie only in that I believe the menial tasks we did were worthwhile, for in another verse it was said that "life is real; life is earnest".

I like to think of Man as a figure standing amidst the smoking ruins of a bombed town, or the aftermath of an earthquake, and preparing to build again. Blake's Jerusalem will not be built sitting in the sun. Systems will collapse, but I think Man will prevail. I trained with Scroggie at Ovingdean from 1948-50 and he was an activist then. Shades of Miss MacAndrew and the reading room, but honestly Scroggie, isn't it fun to climb a mountain?

### REMEMBER THE SOMME?

Malcolm Brown, Producer of Documentary Programmes for BBC Television, is anxious to hear from old soldiers who fought in the Somme offensive, with a view to quoting from their reminiscences in a documentary film on the Battle of the Somme in the 60th anniversary year. He is concentrating on the opening day of the battle, 1st July, 1916, but he is also interested in the training and preparation of Kitchener's new armies between 1914 and 1916.

Any St. Dunstaner who would like to help Mr. Brown should contact him at the BBC Television Centre, London W12 7RJ.

### DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

**The Closing Date of the Derby Sweepstake is Wednesday, 19th May.**

Tickets are 20p each, and are limited solely to St. Dunstaners or St. Dunstan's trainees.

**Each application must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.**

The name and full address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, should be sent, with the stamped

addressed envelope, to the Editor, D.S.S. Dept., *St. Dunstan's Review*, P.O. Box 58, 191 Old Marylebone Road, London NW1 5QN.

The Draw will take place at the London Club on the evening of Thursday 27th May. All those drawing a horse will be notified.

### MAINLY FOR WOMEN

#### REGIONAL RECIPES

In our January issue we invited ladies (and gentlemen!) who had favourite recipes from their own part of the world to pass them on to our other readers. **Mrs. Margaret Stanway**, of Macclesfield, Cheshire, writes: "I know this isn't a regional tip, but this is my favourite 'high tea'—bacon, cheese and tomato. Grill or fry some bacon or ham; cut up tomatoes—add pepper and salt, cook gently in pan and then add sliced cheese and cook until melted. And hey presto, a tasty meal in less than five minutes". It sounds tasty enough to try out!

#### APOLOGY

Apologies to Mrs. Spurway and her daughter Jandy for a double error. Mrs. Spurway's grand-daughter's name is: Melita Lucy Odeyne Paton.



## CHESS INSTRUCTION WEEKEND

by Dave Thomas

*Pictured left*

I am pleased to report that we had the largest attendance for over twenty years at our chess instruction weekend, held at Ian Fraser House from Friday 13th to Sunday 15th February. At our opening session on Friday evening, our good friend and tutor for many years, Mr. Bonham, suggested that we divided into the following three groups:

Beginners—J. Black. F. Bullough. A. Carter. E. Frearson. S. Heys. P. McCormack. Miss B. Simon. R. Stanners. W. Thomas.

Improvers—E. Allchin. R. Benson. P. Blackmore. R. Davis. Mrs. V. Delaney. Mrs. A. Gimbere. G. Hudson. J. Padley. R. Palmer. M. Tybinski.

Advanced (dubbed The Professors)—R. Donald. R. Hyett. H. Mallinson. D. Thomas.

Mr. Bonham gave each group three periods of instruction during the weekend, allocating a slightly larger part of his time to the beginners. Here he was ably assisted by a new friend of St. Dunstan's, Miss Daphne Garland, a county player who we hope will visit us again at our future chess weekends.

At our final session on Sunday afternoon, engraved cups were presented to our current champions—Section one, held jointly between R. Donald and H. Mallinson; Section two, G. Hudson. Vi Delaney made a small presentation on our behalf to Mr. Bonham and he, in his closing remarks, said how delighted he was at seeing so many people there; a special word of welcome was made to our deaf blind St. Dunstaner Wally Thomas.

On behalf of us all I would like to thank Matron, Mrs. Williams and all the staff at Ovingdean for their Trojan efforts to make it a most enjoyable weekend. I would urge all those who attended and anyone else interested to come to our chess championships which will be held later in the year; win or lose everyone always enjoys them.



*Mrs. Nora Field with Blodwyn Simon and Bruce Ingrey, winners of the trophy honouring her late husband's memory, the Alf Field Memorial Cup.*

*Roy Armstrong receives the Lord Fraser Cup for individuals from Mrs. Field.*



## BACK IN THE OLD ROUTINE Bridge Congress at Ian Fraser House

By J. Lynch

Once again we are back at Fraser House for our Annual Bridge Congress, this was really a wonderful week-end and thoroughly enjoyed by all those taking part, and here may I say welcome to all the newcomers I hope they will all become members of our Bridge Club. We competed for five cups over the week-end and full results will be found below this article, but pride of place on this occasion must go to THE ALF FIELD, this magnificent trophy was presented by Nora Field and is a fitting tribute to a wonderful man who devoted well over thirty years giving help and advice to all Bridge Members. He also initiated all these wonderful years at Harrogate, plus wonderful friendship and kindness, thank you Nora for this marvellous trophy. On

Saturday evening we had a very fine get together in the new Club Rooms with Licensed Bar, this was most enjoyable and I thought it a pity that more Members were not there to enjoy it with us, maybe we will have a better attendance on our next meeting at Brighton. In conclusion can I say a very warm thank you to all members of the Staff who were so helpful, to the Markers without them this function could not take place, and last but no mean feat, thank you, Geoff Connell for a marvellous job directing, sometimes under trying conditions and the best tribute I can pay to you Geoff is that Alf Field picked you to succeed him at St. Dunstan's and he made a marvellous choice.

#### BRIDGE CONGRESS RESULTS

Sir Arthur Pearson's Cup for Pairs  
 1st **Miss B. Simon, B. Ingrey**  
 2nd R. Evans, W. Phillips

Sir Arthur Pearson's Cup for Foursomes  
 1st **Mrs. V. Delaney, R. Freer**  
**W. Allen, R. Armstrong**  
 2nd Miss B. Simon, B. Ingrey,  
 E. Slaughter, G. Hudson

Alf Field Memorial Cup  
 1st **Miss B. Simon, B. Ingrey**  
 2nd W. Phillips, R. Evans

Lord Fraser Cup (Individuals)  
 1st **R. Armstrong**  
 2nd B. Ingrey  
 3rd Mrs. V. Delaney

Drummer Downs Cup  
 1st **A. Dodgson, M. Tybinski**  
 2nd P. Nuyens, W. Burnett

First Bridge Drive  
 1st **J. Lynch, B. Miller**  
 2nd P. Nuyens, J. Whitcombe

Second Bridge Drive  
 1st **Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Bickley**  
 2nd H. Meleson, Mrs. Meleson

Mrs. Vi Delaney (centre) with (l.-r.) Ron Freer, Bill Allen, Roy Armstrong, winners of the Sir Arthur Pearson Cup.



## READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 446

**The Italians**

by Luigi Barzini

Read by Andrew Gemmill

Reading Time 17 hours

The author, Italian M.P., political journalist and war-time anti-Fascist, traces the development of the Italian character from early days to present time.

The result is a remarkable biography of a whole race, a people forced to endure centuries of foreign occupation, a fragmented country of divided fiercely-held loyalties, perpetually surrounded by tangible evidence of vanished glories.

There are some finely executed pen-portraits of famous (and infamous) Italians, Cola di Rienzi, Machiavelli, the Medicis and the clownish Mussolini.

According to Barzini the Italians are not too strong on efficiency. Claims for damage caused by Garibaldi and his Red Shirts were finally settled in the 1950's—ninety-six years after the event!

This is a well-researched, well-written book which manages to throw considerable light on the complex character of a highly-civilised and often much misunderstood, race of people.

Cat. No. 162

**Any God Will Do**

by Richard Condon

Read by Anthony Parker

Reading Time 13½ hours

At the age of fourteen, Francis Wollmer is taken out of an orphanage by a distinguished New York banker. Over the ensuing years he conceives the extraordinary idea that his parents are members of the English aristocracy.

The book opens with Francis, now thirty-eight, alone in the bank with his benefactor. The banker shoots himself and the opportunist Francis abstracts 450,000 dollars from the strongroom, knowing that he will never be suspected.

In an effort to cure him of his delusion his wife tells him the terrible truth about his parentage. His only reaction is to desert her, assume a false identity, open a Swiss bank account, and disappear en route for England and his noble parents.

He assumes the life-style of a gentleman of wealth, living in England, France and Switzerland with his upper-class mistress. He is now consumed by his paranoia, a monomaniac, teetering on the brink of total insanity.

The final blow comes when he learns that the genealogist, to whom he has paid vast sums to obtain title to an English dukedom, is in fact a common swindler. He escapes certain committal to a mental clinic by fleeing to Paris. There he comes face to face with someone from his distant clouded past (a nice twist, this).

I found this a curiously compelling book. It is written with all the skill and cunning that one would expect from the author of *The Manchurian Candidate*.

Cat. No. 763

**Old Goriot**

by Honoré de Balzac

Translated by Ellen Marriage

Read by Robin Holmes

Reading Time 12 hours

The story is set in Paris in the early eighteen hundreds. The residents of Madame Vaucaire's sleazy boarding-house in the Latin Quarter are from varied backgrounds, but the common denominator is poverty.

There is mystery here, too. Why is "Papa" Goriot forced to beggar himself, go hungry even, to give money to his two selfish daughters, both richly married and leaders of the glittering Paris society? And what is the real identity of the sinister Vautrin?

As the story unfolds we meet other residents of Maison Vaucaire, the young Eugene de Rastignac, determined to claw his way up the dizzy ladder of Paris society, sad little Victorine, the dispossessed heiress, and others.

But the central character is old Goriot. This is the classic story of a father's unselfish love for his two worthless daughters whose folly and overweening vanity finally bring about his destruction.

Balzac's brilliant prose vividly brings to life the decadence and cruelty of the fashionable society of his day.



*George Brooks holds a splendid and recent example from his collection of elephants.*

## ELEPHANT MAN

by David Castleton

"Did you know that the elephant is the only animal that has four knees?" That is a strange question to be asked in the lounge of a bungalow overlooking the South Downs but, having met and talked to many St. Dunstaners about their interests and hobbies, nothing surprises me now.

It was George Brooks adding to my education this time, "You see an elephant doesn't run—it trundles. An elephant has four knees, all other animals have got bent back legs for jumping and springing but an elephant never jumps or springs—he trundles. The elephant, bless him, he's got four knees."

George was explaining to me his obsession with elephants—not just live elephants at second hand but clay ones at first hand. In his hand, in fact, for we were talking about his hobby of modelling in a special type of clay which needs no firing after shaping.

I asked him how long he had been modelling in clay: "I have been doing

this for fourteen months actually. My grand-daughter had some of this clay and she brought it here. I got a piece of it and started messing about with it. The first thing I made was an anvil because I was a blacksmith, I was apprenticed to an engineer's blacksmith and the first thing I thought of making was an anvil."

To George the clay he moulds is the metal he forged into shape in his work as a blacksmith, "I would probably have had tongs, an anvil, or a steam hammer but I am doing this now with my fingers as though I'd got a lump of hot metal in my hands and I'm drawing out the different parts, like the legs or whatever it is."

To judge by the many finished models of every kind arranged around his lounge: flowers, ships, lighthouses, all sorts of animals, George's visual memory must be very accurate. It is more than thirty years since he saw anything—since 1944 when he was wounded at Anzio serving with the Royal Engineers. I found it almost unbelievable. How does he do it?



*A representative collection of models.*

"By sense of touch and memory, of course. I use no tools whatsoever. The only thing that you can see here is this piece of wood. When I make an elephant, with the heavy weight, and I get to the legs, I rest it on this piece of wood otherwise it would collapse. I use no tools just my fingers. If I can do it—anyone can do it.

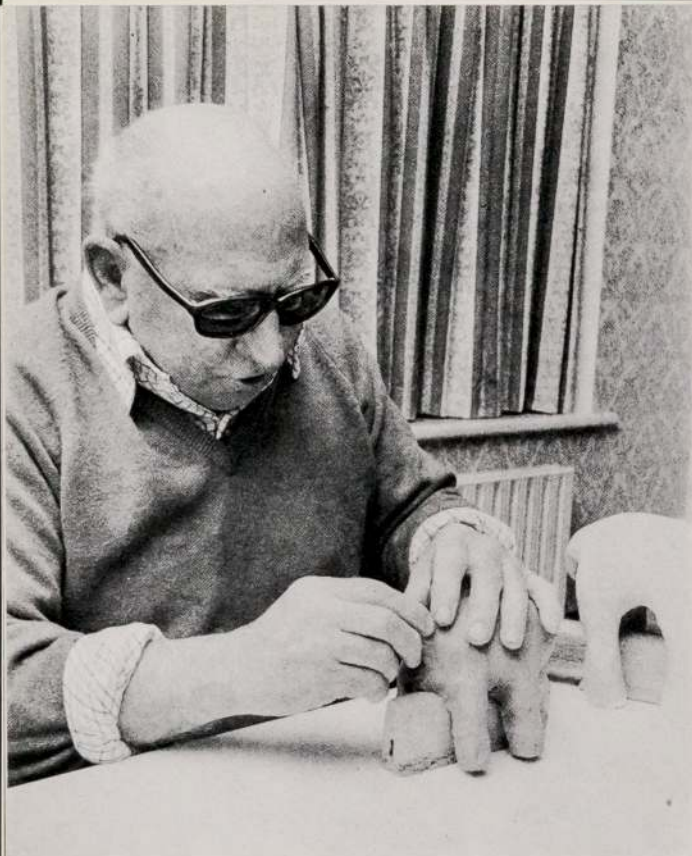
"I plan it, I think I'll make a ship or a lighthouse. I get this done in my head first and just get weaving, hoping that I get the right perspective. I've got to think about it a lot: Height, width and things like that but being blind is no obstacle—once you've seen all these things, they're always there in your memory. It may seem strange as I am absolutely, totally blacked out but I lift it up and 'look' at it. It somehow comes from the past when you get it up in front of you—you put your hand over like that, you seem to get a better perspective."

As a creative artist one might say that at present George is in his "elephant

period". "I had a piece of clay and I thought to myself well I'd like to make a little elephant. Somehow the elephant seemed to make itself and so I went elephant crazy. I could be called the elephant man. I think the elephant is a noble animal and I really like them. Whenever I get this clay I've just got to make an elephant."

It takes George just about two hours to make an elephant. Two hours of concentrated work as the ball of clay is transformed into the splendid shape and proportions. Lovingly George puts an individual twist to the animal's trunk, or shapes its ears. "Yes, it takes about two hours to get the whole shape of him but then you are titivating him every time you come and run your fingers over him and think that might be a bit better here or there."

George would not dream of selling any of his elephants, "I have had so much enjoyment from making them. To sell them just for money, I couldn't possibly



Above: Using a wooden block to support the elephant's body.

Below: Mrs. Brooks paints the completed models and advises George during modelling.



do it. I come in here, in this room, I put my hands on all these elephants. I know where they are. I can feel them. It's just as though they are real to me."

He would recommend his hobby to any blind person: "It's a relaxing thing and if you want a good hobby away from the normal run of things you usually make, baskets and so on, it keeps your mind occupied. When you've finished you've really got something that you can say, 'Well, I made that'. This is a creative art, I think, don't you?"

With no tools needed and 2 lbs. of clay costing less than £1—sufficient for one of George's large elephants or half a dozen small models—it would seem an ideal hobby to try. George's advice for the beginner is to choose something fairly solid with a simple outline for a first model, "Get the clay, pull off a lump, have an idea of something you want to make and you'll find that it will come out from your mind and form itself and from there on you just build on that for yourself. Just think of something and make it."



## IT STRIKES ME

by Magog

### Troop Reunion

Many readers will remember **Norman Kershaw's** story of Operation Colossus in the October 1975 issue of the *Review*. This photograph from the *Manchester Evening News* shows Norman, wearing dark glasses, with surviving members of X troop and the R.A.F. crews who flew

them to the Tragino aqueduct, at a Reunion held on Saturday, 7th February, at the Swan Hotel, Bucklow Hill, Knutsford. The organiser of the Reunion found all but three of the members of X troop, writing more than 1,000 letters over four years.



## Brief Encounter

Lord Fraser used to say that the best public relations officers for St. Dunstan's were St. Dunstaners themselves and he would have been pleased to see a recent article in the *Southern Evening Echo*, headed "Brief Encounter on the 9.10 to London".

In it, the Echo's Assistant Editor, Arthur Smith, described how he sat opposite a blind man and his guide dog in the train...

"Then I noticed the badge on the man's jacket—St. Dunstan's... The blind man and I chatted throughout the ride to London... The man and his dog were travelling for a visit to St. Dunstan's. 'A wonderful organisation,' said the blind man, 'I owe everything to St. Dunstan's. They gave me hope. They trained me to be a telephone switchboard operator. I run an exchange at Bournemouth with 120 extensions. St. Dunstan's train people for all sorts of jobs.' He laughed and added: 'They have yet to turn out an air-pilot.'" At Waterloo, Arthur Smith hailed a taxi for the St. Dunstaner and his guide-dog, Daniel. "I waved goodbye. He did not wave back. I forgot that my friend for 70 minutes could not see me.

"I felt very humble and very lucky. Not once did the blind man utter one single

word of complaint about his lot or the troubled world about him."

120 extension board in Bournemouth? Guide Dog Daniel?—Got him? It was **Tommy Bice**, who so impressed the Echo's Assistant Editor. Nice one, Tommy.

## The Name's the Same

A new bowling club for blind players has been formed in Hull. It is called the Pearson Pioneer Bowling Club and with a name like that it is not surprising to find a St. Dunstaner is one of the moving spirits behind it. **Joe Nicol**, who is the club's Treasurer, tells me the inaugural meeting was held on March 6th. He is the only St. Dunstaner among ten totally blind and four semi-sighted members.

They also held their first practice on March 6th—the first time Joe had played bowls—at the Young People's Institute where there are indoor and outdoor greens. When the season gets started, their home green will be in Pearson Park. The name has local connections and is not associated with Sir Arthur. Nevertheless, says Joe, it is a happy coincidence. It is indeed, and we wish the Pearson Pioneers good bowling in Hull.

## OVINGDEAN NOTES

February began happily and harmoniously, and ended with one of Escort Sister's disasters—but more of that later.

The "happy and harmonious" start was made by Tom Eales, who presented two programmes this month, "The Music of James Last" and "The Music of Frank Chacksfield", in his usual impeccable style. We have come to expect perfection as the normal standard in Tom's programmes, and we marvel that he is able to maintain it so unfailingly.

Mr. Michael Hayes brought us a splendid selection from his vast store of records, and presented a programme entitled, "Music Around the World". There was a Russian singer with an

unpronounceable name, and an unbelievable range from basso profundo to falsetto. He quite took away our breath... what it did to his we dread to think. But the most popular records were from the sound-tracks of Laurel and Hardy films... they were hilarious, and we laughed until we ached. Of course, some of us had only heard about Laurel and Hardy from our mothers. Naturally you believe us implicitly!

Although a few residents and staff succumbed to those nasty little germs, 'flu and colds were less rife than they might have been. However, they prevented a barber-shop quartet, splendidly named, "Four Men in a Bar", from coming

## OVINGDEAN NOTES

*Continued*

to entertain us, but we hope that they will be able to come in the near future. Miss Briant, of the V.A.D. staff, gallantly stepped into the breach, and played records of her choice, which were much enjoyed.

### Save the West Pier

You may remember that here in Brighton there is a flourishing "Save the West Pier" Campaign. Spike Milligan gave his services to entertain the public at Hove Town Hall, and all proceeds went to the Fund. Through the good offices of St. Dunstaner Ken Revis, who is a very active participant in the campaign, we were offered tickets for the show. From all reports, it was certainly different!

There was a good range of plays at the Theatre Royal this month, including a musical version of Dickens' "Great Expectations". John Mills, Moira Lister and Lesley Ann Down, starred, and though John Mills was excellent, Moira Lister was sadly miscast, and Lesley Ann Down lacked the impact she made in "Upstairs, Downstairs". The Company's great strength was the excellence of the supporting cast, several of whom had fine voices and strong personalities. It was, therefore, a great pleasure to welcome a party of them to Ian Fraser House one afternoon—they had tea in the Lounge with us, and then treated us to the best concert we have enjoyed for a very long time. Joy Nicholls, who was such a well-known radio personality in the fifties, starring in "Take it from Here", sang "Glorious Mud" with all her old zest, and we joined in with a will. Kim Begley, an up-and-coming young singer, told some very funny jokes about his home town, Liverpool, and Austin Kent sang numbers from "Fiddler on the Roof" in a lovely rich bass-baritone voice. They were accompanied on the piano by the show's musical director, Mr. John Burrows, and his musicianship was a revelation. It was a very happy and entertaining afternoon, and we were

delighted to have with us friends from Pearson House, from the Brighton Club, and locally-resident St. Dunstaners.

### Special Interest

We have held two "special interest" weekends this month, first Chess and then Bridge. The Chess Instructional Weekend was again directed by our old and dear friend, Mr. R. Bonham. It was well attended, and we were delighted to welcome ten "beginners". The Bridge Congress was held the following weekend—those of us attending both of them had dreams of the Black Queen attacking the Knave of Hearts! The Bridge Congress was directed by Mr. G. Connell, ably assisted by Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Nora Field. The ladies taught the beginners, whilst the more experienced players waged unrelenting—though good-humoured—war upon each other. Accounts of both these successful weekends will be found elsewhere in this issue.

This month has seen the regular use of the Bowling Rink and the Rifle Range—both of which have provided much interest and enjoyment. Either one or the other is open on three afternoons each week—we are indeed fortunate to have such splendid facilities so readily available.

### Confession

And now... it's confession time! Escort Sister's Disaster (one of the more resounding ones) started with the best intentions. There was no Dome Variety on the last Tuesday in the month, but the Pavilion Theatre offered a "Country Music" night. In the mind's eye appeared Jim Reeves, with that lovely dark brown velvet voice; Slim Whitman; strumming guitars; check shirts and cowboy hats. And the reality?... Bare boards, iron chairs, a teach-in on English Folk Dancing, and the ultimate in rewards... a hot dog and a tin of Coke...

Anyone for tennis???



# CLUB NEWS

## LONDON

All St. Dunstaners living in the London area should have received a letter and questionnaire from the Steering Committee looking into the possibility of re-organising the London Club, and I hope that they have completed and returned the questionnaire.

A meeting is to be held on Saturday, 10th April at 6 o'clock in the club rooms, with the intention of launching a new image London Club, and this will be followed by refreshments and a dance, at which we hope for a good attendance. Those who have not yet replied to our circular regarding this gathering should immediately get in touch with the Honorary Secretary of the Steering Committee at H.Q. so that we can make appropriate catering arrangements.

The winners of our Thursday Dominoes matches in February were:

5th February	
Equal 1st	R. Armstrong C. Hancock
12th February	
Equal 1st	R. Armstrong R. Evans
26th February	
1st	W. Miller
2nd	J. Majchrowicz

W. MILLER  
Chairman

## BRIGHTON SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUB

It was a happy coincidence that our Club Dance fell on St. Valentine's Day. Between seventy and eighty club members and friends filled the large room in the Annexe at Ian Fraser House and a very enjoyable evening was had by all. We were delighted to have our President, Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, in our midst and during the evening our Chairman, Mr. Ted Frearson, had the pleasant duty of presenting her with a cyclamen plant and a Valentine card, a small token of the affection we all feel for her and for the help that she gives us in so many ways. The music was provided by Mr. Henry

Kerr and Mr. Phillip Barton and we are grateful to them for coming to our aid at such short notice. The Club Dances are proving to be very popular and a group has been booked to play for dancing for the rest of the year.

The Club Dance dates, as published in the February *Review*, have had to be altered owing to the fact that we have had to engage the services of new musicians. The new dates are 15th May, 12th June, 10th July, 14th August, 18th September, 16th October and 6th November.

We are delighted to welcome Joe Kennedy to our Club as an Honorary Member and we are very grateful for all the assistance he gives us on our Club afternoons, especially his help in running the Darts Competition etc.

## ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

All Club members outside the Brighton area please note that there is a Club meeting every Wednesday at 2.30 p.m. in the Annexe, and anyone on holiday at Ian Fraser House is cordially invited to join in the entertainments.

## BOWLING CLUB REPORT

I am pleased to report that the bowling club is going from strength to strength. We have in the past had several matches at Ian Fraser House, which have been very popular with our friends visiting, and has also been a great source of satisfaction to the members of St. Dunstan's Bowling Club. I would like to add a vote of thanks here to the officials and wives of the club who have done their utmost to make all these events a success.

We are now fast approaching the open season with many more matches in view than in previous years, and I feel sure that all members and wives etc., can look forward to a very happy and enjoyable season.

T. FREARSON  
Chairman and Captain

## BRIDGE SECTION

Our second pairs match was held on Saturday February 28th in the Annexe of Ian Fraser House. The winners were:

*North-South*

A. Dodgson and Mrs. E. Dodgson

*East-West*

C. Walters and Mrs. V. Barker

**Saturday, March 6th**

Results of the 3rd Individual are as follows:

A. Smith and F. Griffee	70
P. McCormack and A. Dodgson	67
W. Phillips and J. Padley	65
W. Lethbridge and R. Fullard	63
C. Walters and Miss B. Simon	59
W. Scott and W. Burnett	54

## Roedean School

Roedean School versus St. Dunstan's Brighton Bridge Club at Roedean School No. 3 House, Monday February 16th.

In a pleasant room with a blazing log fire, we were welcomed by our opponents. These were young ladies 15-17 years old, led by Miss M. Stenning, a former house mistress at Roedean. A most entertaining bridge match took place, the keen play of the young ladies being just outmatched by the experience of the St. Dunstaners.

Miss Gordon, the house mistress of No. 3 house, provided a delicious tea which was served to us by the young ladies. At the end of the match, Miss Stenning kindly presented a bottle of wine to the St. Dunstan's team.

W. LETHBRIDGE

## Fishing Section

On Friday, 14th February, a party of Club members left Newhaven aboard the "Pisces" all set for a good day's fishing. The weather forecast the previous day was not at all favourable and it was doubtful if the trip would take place, but as luck would have it the wind moderated overnight and all was well. We had a good day and amongst the various catches were some 2-3 lb. Channel Whiting, and the best fish of the day was a 15 lb. 7 oz. Cod caught by Bill Phillips. This is the heaviest that has been caught on a Club trip so far. There is an annual trophy to be won outright by the member who catches "the heaviest fish of the year".

Our fishing year runs from October, 1975 to September, 1976, so come on lads, see who can better this!

## Dominoes Aggregate, February 1976

First	Mrs. Mudge
Second	Mrs. Preedy
Equal third	R. Bickley W. Aldridge
Equal fourth	Mrs. H. Smith G. Hudson

## 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.*

Albert Charles Lamper, of Brighton, Sussex, joined St. Dunstan's in February. He served with the R.A.F.V.R. from 1940 until 1946, and was a prisoner of war in Java from 1941 until the end of the Second World War. Despite ill-health he was able to continue working, for 37 years, with the Brighton Wholesale Co-operative Society. He is married, with one adult son.

## BRIDGE NOTES

The first London individual competition for 1976 was held on 7th February and the results were as follows:

J. Lynch and W. Allen	82
R. Armstrong and Miss V. Kemmish	72
J. Majchrowicz and J. Dickerson	68
R. Stanners and R. Goding	61
R. Evans and H. King	61
H. Meleson and W. Miller	47
P. Nuyens and L. Douglass	40

Results of the second individual competition, held on Saturday, 6th March, were:

L. Douglass and W. Miller	75
W. Allen and H. King	70
P. Nuyens and Miss V. Kemmish	68
J. Lynch and R. Armstrong	61
J. Dickerson and R. Goding	57
J. Majchrowicz and H. Meleson	47

## BRIDGE NOTES—continued

The Harrogate Bridge Week will take place this year from Saturday, 11th to Saturday, 18th September. The hotel tariff is as follows:

Single Room with full board £38.50  
Double Room, per person £35.00  
These prices do not include VAT

For those travelling by rail from London we have obtained from British Rail a special charge of £7.50 London-Harrogate return.

Will those wishing to attend please

let me know as soon as possible, and send in the appropriate railway fare, as the Dirlton Hotel is unable to hold firm provisional bookings after April 15th.

### St. Dunstan's v L.C.C.B.A. Masters

This match will be taking place at H.Q. on Saturday, 5th June. Will the captains of those teams of four taking part please let me have the names of the members of their respective teams by not later than May 15th.

P. NUYENS  
Honorary Secretary

## FAMILY NEWS

### Marriages

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis John Freeman of Coventry, are pleased to announce that their son Raymond was married to Linda Kelso on Saturday, February 14th at Christchurch, Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Thomas *Hermitage* of Northfleet, Kent, are pleased to announce the marriage of their granddaughter, Lynda Margaret Hughes, to Stewart Washington on 6th March, 1976, at Shorne Parish Church.

### Silver Weddings

#### Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dadswell of Perivale, Middlesex, who celebrated their Silver Wedding on December 26th, 1975.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Stacey of Orton Longueville, near Peterborough, who celebrated their Silver Wedding on 25th November, 1975. The occasion was marked by a family party given by their sons and daughters-in-law.

### Pearl Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Morris of Ongar, Essex, who celebrated their Pearl Wedding on January 26th, 1976.

### Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. George Broughton of Alford, Lincolnshire, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 18th March, 1976.

### Diamond Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Tarry of Saltdean, Sussex, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 31st March, 1976.

### Grandparents

#### Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chritchlow of Leicester, whose eleventh grandchild was born on 28th January; a daughter, Karen, for their son, James and his wife.

Mr. and Mrs. James Minter of Ruislip, Middlesex, on the birth of a third grandchild on 12th January; a son, Andrew, for their daughter Gillian and her husband.

### Great Grandparents

#### We warmly congratulate:

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hill of Portishead, Nr. Bristol, on the birth of their second great grandchild, Zoe, born to their grand-daughter on 3rd January, 1976.

Mr. and Mrs. James Owen of Tony-pandy, Rhondda, on the birth of another great grand-daughter, Ceri Rosalyn, born on 14th November, 1975, to their grandson and his wife.

## Family News — continued

### Examination and Career Successes

#### We offer our congratulations to:

Mr. Ernest Russell of Leeds, who was awarded the Area Certificate of Appreciation of the Royal British Legion on February 14th, when the Certificate was presented to him by the Duke of Northumberland at the Royal British Legion's Northern Area Conference at the Royal Hotel, Harrogate.

Anne Minter, youngest daughter of St. Dunstaner James Minter of Ruislip,

Middlesex, who has passed her S.R.N. examination at University College Hospital, London.

### Deaths

#### We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mr. Victor Charles Buck of Patcham, on the death of his brother on 23rd January, 1976.

Mr. James Coupland of Preston, whose wife, Louisa, died on 4th March, 1976.

## 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.

### William Daniel Hopkins. Royal Air Force Service Police.

William Daniel Hopkins of Luton, Cornwall, Devon, died on 26th February, aged 55.

He served as an A/Corporal in the Royal Air Force Service Police from 1940 until the end of 1946. He took part in the campaigns in the Western Desert but due to eye injuries was repatriated to the United Kingdom at the end of the war, after a period spent in Cairo.

He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in October, 1974. He was employed as a groundsman at a local Grammar School, and was a keen gardener, having had his own market garden at one time.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Olive Vera Hopkins, and a daughter, Mrs. Small.

### Daniel Pieter Pretorius. 4th South African Reconnaissance Unit

Danie Pieter Pretorius, of Groot Plaas, Skeerpoort, Transvaal, died on Sunday, 29th February at the age of 57.

Daniel visited Britain on several occasions to represent St. Dunstan's (South Africa) at conferences and on the last occasion was South African representative at Lord Fraser's Thanksgiving Service in Westminster Abbey.

He was blinded by a sniper's bullet in 1940 whilst serving as an armoured car Commander in Abyssinia. After hospitalisation, he went to Tembani, the war-time training home in Cape Town, where he learned Braille, and trained as a telephone switchboard operator all in the space of four months. He then returned to the Transvaal and was re-employed by the Crown Mines for

whom he had previously worked as a Mine Captain. Later he returned to Tembani and began retraining as a physiotherapist. He continued his studies at the R.N.I.B. Physiotherapy School in London where he qualified. Thereafter he returned to South Africa and went into private practice in his home town Pretoria, where he built up a flourishing practice and had many distinguished patients.

Danie was the great great grandson of the famous and historic Boer leader, Commandant General Andries Pretorius. He was a great St. Dunstaner and a great South African, who will be much missed.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Hennie Pretorius, and a son and a daughter.

### John Herbert Underwood. King's Liverpool Regiment

John Underwood, of Birstall, Yorks., died in hospital on the 25th February, 1976. He was 82 years of age.

He was commissioned and served in the First War and then became a businessman in China for some twenty years. He was a prisoner of the Japanese throughout the Second War, after which he returned to England. His sight ultimately failed as a result of mustard gas in 1918 and he joined St. Dunstan's in 1973. He had been in very poor health for many years, but remained at home and was cared for devotedly by his wife until his admission to hospital shortly before his death.

He leaves a widow and son and daughter, both of whom are married and living abroad.

