

1976



St Dunstans
REVIEW
JULY

Message from the Chairman

Those St. Dunstaners who live permanently at Pearson House or temporarily at Ian Fraser House will have received a letter from Mr. Wills about the decision made by our Council that a charge would be made to them towards the cost of their keep.

Two of the most important benefits which St. Dunstan's provides are the provision of properties for St. Dunstaners to rent and the provision of accommodation in our Homes for those who become permanent residents.

Because of the present very high rate of inflation, the cost of providing these two benefits has become out of line with other benefits, which are provided generally for St. Dunstaners. It is for this reason that we are reviewing the rents which are at present charged to St. Dunstaners living in our properties and, at the same time, have decided to ask permanent residents, or those who stay in our Homes for more than a continuous period of eight weeks, to make a relatively small contribution towards the cost of their keep.

We have naturally been reluctant to come to these decisions and all cases where hardship might occur to a St. Dunstaner will, as always, be considered individually.

I feel confident that St. Dunstaners will appreciate that a great deal of thought has been given to these matters and will consider these new provisions to be reasonable.

Ion Garnett-Orme

CHAIRMAN

COVER PICTURE: At the Liverpool Reunion, Elsie Aldred presents a bouquet to Mrs. Sandys.

From the Chairman's Postbag

Extract from a letter received from Dr. J. W. Woollen, Bushey, Hertfordshire

I write to thank you and your staff for sending the wreath to my father's funeral service at Brighton a week ago. The Flanders poppy has always had a deep significance for our family and it seemed fitting to see a wreath of them at the very moving service which marked the end of his life.

My father was a St. Dunstaner for over sixty years and for as long as I can remember his life was given direction and support by this wonderful organisation. This was done with a warmth and humanity of which we were always conscious. It ranged from the tremendous undertaking of rehabilitation and training as a physiotherapist to the continuous concern and support for him and his family manifested in such a variety of acts of real and practical help, financial and otherwise. The provision of the holiday home at Ovingdean, where he ended his days, was a particular joy for him.

During my own, albeit second-hand, acquaintance with St. Dunstan's, I have come to see how it works to direct its members into lives of their own which are as independent and individual as possible, and having done so, continues to sustain them with a never-failing active concern. This is implemented by staff of fine character and ability, and I thank them all most deeply for all they have done to enrich the lives of my father, mother, sister and myself.

I dare not envisage the sort of lives men like my father would have had to lead were it not for the marvellously imaginative and resourceful organisation of which you are Chairman. I hope that as long as it is needed it will long remain as it is, a warm, humane and very real support for a cruelly handicapped group of men and women.

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.

Alfred James Codling of Cranleigh, Surrey, who joined St. Dunstan's on 17th May, 1976. He was a Private in the Northants Regiment and served in the First World War. He was wounded at Messines Ridge in 1916, but was not discharged until Easter 1919. In civilian life, Mr. Codling was a land worker, which occupation he followed until his retirement about 14 years ago. He is married.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

On the Queen's official birthday, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme sent a telegram of greeting. The text of his telegram and Her Majesty's reply appear below:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
ON BEHALF OF BLINDED EX-SERVICE
MEN AND WOMEN THROUGHOUT
THE COMMONWEALTH I WISH YOUR
MAJESTY MANY HAPPY RETURNS
OF THE DAY.

ION GARNETT-ORME
CHAIRMAN ST. DUNSTAN'S

THE CHAIRMAN ST. DUNSTANS
I SEND YOU AND ALL BLINDED
EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN
THROUGHOUT THE COMMON-
WEALTH MY SINCERE THANKS
FOR YOUR KIND MESSAGE ON THE
CELEBRATION OF MY BIRTHDAY

ELIZABETH R

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: William Scott, Rottingdean, Sussex

The passing of Bill Lacey calls to mind very happy memories of the times we had at various camps when he was always the life and soul of our party. At Little Gaddesden and North Runton he was ever ready with his banjo and many impromptu verses of "Weezy Anna".

Bill could tell a good story, as when he was feeling around a currant bush on his allotment when he touched some fruit as large as grapes. He made his way back to his wife and brought her to see them. It turned out that a couple of windfall plums had lodged themselves on a twig.

He was a great sport who also enjoyed his handicrafts and, in spite of his age, would take part in any activity with us. In his early days, he was associated with Tottenham Hotspur. Latterly, he often expressed gratitude to the local members of the Red Cross for their kindness and attention.

Bill enjoyed his stay at Pearson House, but could not make up his mind whether to leave grown-up members of his family. He was very loyal to St. Dunstan's.

Bill Lacey joins a happy band of "Old Timers" such as Sammy Webster, Johnny Walker and Bert Woollen, who have passed on this year. I am proud to have known such men and will remember them with gratitude.

From: Margaret Stanway, Macclesfield, Cheshire

I would like to thank Phillip Wood for the way he condenses in the *Review* some of the books he reads and I, for one, am helped in making my selection from the catalogue. Admittedly every book is not my cup of tea but, as Sir Winston Churchill said, "We cannot please all of the people all of the time . . .".

READING TIME

Cat. No. 278

The Golden Ass

by Apuleius

Read by Duncan Carse

Reading Time 9½ hours

Apuleius lived during the second century A.D. and was educated in Rome and Athens. He travelled widely on what we would nowadays call lecture tours. *The Golden Ass* is the best-known of his surviving works.

It takes the form of a fictional autobiography written by one Lucius whilst travelling in a foreign country. The women there are chiefly remarkable for their powerful magic and a nasty habit of transforming anyone they happen not to like into practically any form of low animal life.

But the metamorphosis of Lucius is entirely accidental, being due to the honest

blunder of a current girlfriend, something of a tyro in the art of witchcraft.

The rest of the book is taken up with his hair-raising adventures as an ass, and he spends most of the time being starved and beaten by a succession of villains. But it all ends happily with Lucius being changed back into his original shape by a kindly Goddess.

The book is a delightful mix of mythology, folklore and magic, with enough violence, bloodshed, marital infidelity and general skulduggery to satisfy the most avid reader of modern fiction.

William Adlington's beautiful 1566 translation adds charm and piquancy to a book which he hopes will serve ". . . to generate their (the readers') minds from brutish and beastly custom".

And if it doesn't, it's very pleasant to be addressed as "gentle and studious reader"!

Cat. No. 1599

Apparitions and Ghosts

by Andrew MacKenzie

Read by David Strong

Reading Time 8 hours

The author is a member of the Society for Psychical Research and his book recounts many well-authenticated hauntings. Each case is dealt with in depth and compared with similar phenomena, some recent, some going back many years.

What struck me forcibly was the fact that, without exception, all the ghosts and apparitions are a sober and un-adventurous lot. They don't *do* anything. They just *appear*. Their lives (if that's the right word) must be deadly dull to the point of excruciating boredom! In fact, there's not one single clanking chain, screaming skull, nor headless horseman in the whole book!

Still, if you do happen to be of a nervous disposition, the thought of all those ghosts just going about quietly minding their own business, could I suppose, be quite a comfort!

Cat. No. 429

Bhowani Junction

by John Masters

Read by Garard Green

Reading Time 17¼ hours

It is May 1946. Victoria Jones has returned home to Bhowani to await demobilisation. Times are changing in the railway town. There are the first rumblings of discontent and hostility against British rule.

Victoria's attitudes are changing too. An Anglo-Indian, she is faced with the growing need to find an identity in post-war India.

She is ordered to report for duty to Colonel Savage, commanding the Gurkhas in Bhowani. He is a tough sardonic war-wise regular soldier and there soon develops a clash of personalities.

Victoria exchanges European dress for the sari, and to complete the transformation, agrees to Ranjit Singh's persuasion to convert to Sikhism. But she cannot go through with the ceremony and rushes blindly from the temple. She boards a

train, neither knowing nor caring where it is going. On the train she meets Savage . . .

The story develops against a background of rising national tension and local disturbance. A train is derailed. There is mounting Hindu-Moslem antagonism. A dangerous Communist terrorist is on the loose.

And in the middle, the tragi-comic Anglo-Indian community. ". . . they despise 'the natives', call England 'Home', speak with a Welsh accent—and wear topees at midnight . . .".

The book has all the ingredients which go to make a first-class story—love and hate, prejudice and tolerance, wisdom and foolishness. A splendid yarn—once serialised on BBC Radio 4.

" . . . Were You There? "

One Sunday recently, Tom Taylor was guest preacher at Goose Green Methodist Church, Leyland, Lancs. Unknown to him, in the congregation was a fellow Burma War Veteran, Eddie Hampson. They were introduced to one another by church officials and in the course of conversation Tom mentioned he was wounded in the Battle of San Pan Gon. Eddie asked if he was the soldier who had been left wounded on the battlefield for seven days. "Yes", replied Tom. "Well, I was the bloke who brought you in", said Eddie.

In January, 1945, Tom had been shot through the head and left for dead during an attack on Japanese positions on the bank of the Irrawaddy. The Japanese had stripped him of his uniform thinking he was dead. But when Eddie Hampson, a medical orderly leading a reconnaissance patrol in no-man's land, came by, Tom, hearing their voices, managed to attract their attention.

"The coincidence of meeting Eddie after all these years was almost beyond belief", said Tom. "The theme of my sermon was prosperity in the middle of poverty: and it made me think back to the time when my life seemed so desolate. Yet even in desolation precious and wonderful things still occur—the meeting with Eddie was one of them."

Mr. A. G. FULLER

Our Dental Surgeon, Mr. A. C. Fuller, held his last Surgery at St. Dunstan's on 30th June and retires from dental practice.

As honorary Dental Surgeon at Ovingdean and latterly at Pearson House since 1946 he has attended the dental needs of very many St. Dunstaners and Staff.

Mr. Fuller has always been an enthusiastic supporter of the activities in the Brighton Homes and we wish him health and contentment in his retirement.

Commandant has had a number of enquiries from St. Dunstaners and Staff who would like to contribute to a token of our regard and has agreed to receive any subscriptions.

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

The Derby Sweepstake again proved very popular this year. There were twenty-three runners and the pay-out was as follows:

1st Prize K. Cooper, Ian Fraser House
Empery Ticket No. 2494 £266

2nd Prize A. Ward Smith, Falmouth
Relkino Ticket No. 1282 £159.60

3rd Prize J. R. Burton, Portchester
Oats Ticket No. 2579 £53.20

All those holding a ticket for the remaining twenty horses received the sum of £2.66.

BRIDGE NOTES

ST. DUNSTAN'S v MASTERS

The annual match of the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club v Masters was held on Saturday, 5th June, at Headquarters. Three full teams and one scratch team competed for the St. Dunstan's side. How unbelievable it may seem, the scratch team, composed of H. Meleson, S. Lightning, J. Majchrowicz and Mrs. Meleson, were handsomely first, their minus score being less than half of that of the second team. Congratulations and well done.

The Masters winning team were Mr. Thompson, Mr. Young, Mr. Maer and Mr. Steckelmacher. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Green who directed the match.

THE HARVEST

by Thomas Bradley

Gentle winds draw patterns o'er the corn,
Whose sturdy straws uphold the ripened ear.
Inclement weather caused the anxious wait;
But now the combine-harvester is here.

The peacefulness of early-rising day
Is shattered by this modern robot scythe;
This many-handed mopper-up of crops;
Which speedily and surely carves his way.

This clamorous monster storms around the field,
Devouring all and grimly spewing straw;
Snorting chaff, and coughing diesel gas;
But, storing wealth of golden grain in sack.

The corn is ripe, and must be got;
The field is dry, the sun is hot.
What e'er befall, the barn must hold
This crop of gold ere night does fold.

From the centre of this wonted haven;
This field of food and shelter long enjoyed;
Was heard a sudden menace, chill as death,
Encircling every bound of their retreat.

As madly round and round the combine surged,
Each lap a little shorter than the last,
The fateful open space twixt corn and copse,
With every round grew dangerously wide.

The wild things sickly paralysed with fear
Crept closer to the centre of their hide;
Afraid to cross the naked open stubble
Laid bare by shouting, shooting deadly men.

A pheasant made a sudden panic flight.
On whirring wings he sought to reach the copse;
A gun cracked out; he steeply dived to earth,
And futile feathers lightly floated down.

A rabbit made a dash to gain the wood;
A shouting farmer's lad, and dog gave chase;
So close were they, no gun dared speak
And sobbing rabbit scuttled underground.

A water-hen made fearful flopping flight,
To seek the reedy shelter of the pond;
She was not worth the powder or the shot,
And so the carnal exhibition closed.

The sacks of grain were proudly gathered in,
And stacked in rows, like portly Aldermen.
The harvester went rumbling down the lane,
To keep his tryst with Farmer Lewis Jones.



At Manchester Sid Jones, Joe Lewis, Thomas Bradley, Edwin Kippax and Harry Hocking pose with Dr. Donald Hopewell.
photo: Salford City Reporter.

REUNIONS

MANCHESTER

"I bring you a special message of affection and remembrance from Lady Fraser. She will be thinking about us all the time that we are gathered together here, and I know there is nothing more near to her heart than that she should be able again to come to some of our Reunions and meet the men of St. Dunstan's and their wives".

With these words, Dr. Donald Hopewell, the longest serving member of St. Dunstan's Council, opened his speech after lunch at the Midland Hotel on Thursday, 13th May. The arrangements had been made with their customary efficiency, by Mrs. Ballantyne and Miss Broughton, who were again assisted by Mrs. Eaton, Mrs. Harris and Miss Coop. 103 people sat down to lunch, including 12 St. Dunstaners from the First World War and 31 from the Second World War or later. Mr. John Brady, retired member of the staff, was an honoured guest.

We were glad to welcome Mr. Howard Langley of Radio Manchester

to another Manchester Reunion. Mr. Langley interviewed Dr. Hopewell and four St. Dunstaners after lunch, and produced a thirty-minute programme which was broadcast by Radio Manchester's Torchlight programme on 23rd and 24th May.

Happy Years

"Now I am not by birth a Lancastrian", continued Dr. Hopewell, "but I can claim to be a Lancastrian by adoption. I spent thirty happy years of my life in the most beautiful part of your county, the valley of the River Lune, and I grew to become tremendously fond of that river and Lancashire folk. And, therefore, it is always a pleasure to come back to Lancashire". Dr. Hopewell went on to express sympathy to the widows of St. Dunstaners who had passed on during the year, with special mention of those whose widows were present at the Reunion: Mrs. Bower, Mrs. McClintock and Mrs. Smith. However, we were still

gaining St. Dunstaners, said Dr. Hopewell, and he welcomed James Costello, Garstang, Robert Dewhurst, Bolton, Edwin Kippax, Burnley, and Harold Greenhalgh, Bolton (although the latter was not actually present). "And though they have come to St. Dunstan's rather late in their careers, we hope that they will be very happy with us and that they will find at St. Dunstan's the friendship which all St. Dunstaners give, the one to the other".

Dr. Hopewell then gave his audience the names of members of the staff present, and concluded: "I look forward to seeing you again at some future time. In the meantime, I wish you well, great happiness, good health and good fortune in the years to come".

Mr. Wills then introduced John McDermott from Manchester, who proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners. He thanked Dr. Hopewell for his speech, Miss Broughton and Mrs. Ballantyne for the arrangements and the hotel staff for an excellent meal.

After lunch, there was dancing to the music of the Harry Simons Band, much conversation and the customary raffle.

LIVERPOOL

Turn left out of Liverpool Lime Street Station and just a few minutes' walk through the bracing Mersey breeze that always seems to be blowing will bring you to the Adelphi Hotel, scene of many St. Dunstan's Reunions.

95 people gathered there on 15th May for the sixth Reunion of the 1976 series. Presiding over the occasion was Major M. E. M. Sandys, a member of our Council, accompanied by Mrs. Sandys. The 41 St. Dunstaners—7 from the First World War and 34 from the Second World War or later—included Miss Elsie Aldred, Warrington and Mrs. Vi Delaney of Liverpool. Among their guests were Dr. and Mrs. D. L. Charters. Few of our readers will need to be reminded of Dr. Charters' work for war-blinded men in German P.O.W. camps in the Second World War.

After lunch, Major Sandys proposed the silent toast and then welcomed St. Dunstaners and guests on behalf of the Council. He referred to Dr. and Mrs.

Charters, Mrs. J. Harris and Miss Midgley, former Northern Area Welfare Superintendent. He then mentioned the names of Headquarters' staff at the Reunion, paying tribute to the work they carry out.

"We have three new members here today", continued Major Sandys, "They are George Nolan of Ellesmere Port, Ernest Patterson of Birkenhead, and Charles Crewe, aged 91, and perhaps I should mention their ladies as well. I know that you would wish me to extend a hearty welcome to them all and we hope that we shall have the pleasure of their company at many future Reunions".

After giving the current statistical information on St. Dunstaners in the United Kingdom and overseas, Major Sandys referred to the casualties from Northern Ireland saying, "There seems to be no end to that sad and unnecessary conflict, but it is just part of a much larger pattern throughout the world when people resort to violence at the drop of a hat to resolve differences and disputes.

Different World

"Now most of you today are the same generation as myself—some are older—and we can remember a very different world. One where, with all its manifest injustices and imperfections, any single one of our present day news broadcasts would have brought such a wave of shock and horror that it would have been a talking point for weeks. Today, we are so hardened and inured to violence in the world that the daily ration is served up with scarcely any comment".

Major Sandys, however, takes an optimistic view, "There are many straws in the wind which I think show that things will improve. There are more people than ever—especially among the young people—coming forward to offer themselves for various forms of community service.

"I think that also it is realised that selfishness in pursuit of economic advantage is somewhat self-defeating, at least if it is pursued to its bitter end".

It was all part of an evolutionary process over the past fifty years, Major Sandys suggested, and in this country, because of its power in the 19th and earlier 20th Centuries, people had taken longer to adapt to the changed circumstances of



Mrs. Ballantyne introduces Charles Crewe of Liverpool, at 91 attending his first Reunion, to Harry Boseley of Wallasey, in the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.

their country than other nationalities. "But I do see signs that perhaps things are going to come right, and I hope that we shall all live to see it happen".

He had a special word of welcome for St. Dunstaners' wives before concluding, as he put it, on a hopeful and pleasurable note: "A pleasure that we are all able to meet here, exchange ideas, exchange stories and let us hope that, over the years to come, we may be able to come to this Reunion and renew old friendships and acquaintances on what I trust will be a happy and very enjoyable occasion for all of you. Please have a very happy afternoon".

Mr. Wills, Secretary of St. Dunstan's, also welcomed the company and, at the conclusion of his remarks, called upon Ted John, of Wallasey, to propose the vote of thanks.

After expressing thanks to Mrs. Ballantyne, Welfare Visitor responsible, and Miss Broughton, who assisted her, Ted John had a special word for Miss Mosley, saying that all St. Dunstaners were pleased to know that her mother's health was improving. Then, turning to

Major Sandys, he said, "This is the first time that I have sat on the same bench as a magistrate, Sir, at least on this side and it is a great pleasure for me to meet you for the first time".

Of St. Dunstan's, Ted said, "It has its own 'Age Concern', its many action groups, its 'Citizen's Advice Bureau', its 'Department of Health and Social Security' and also its own 'Housing Department'. When you get one organisation which embodies all these facets then it really is *some* organisation".

Ted thanked the staff of the Adelphi Hotel and that of St. Dunstan's for their kindness and consideration. "The words on so many letters epitomise what St. Dunstan's means. On their signatory remarks in practically all their letters are the words: 'With kind regards and best wishes, Yours sincerely'."

The last of the formalities was the presentation, to much applause, of a bouquet to Mrs. Sandys by St. Dunstan's Elsie Aldred. There followed dancing and a great deal of talk before tea and the prize draw brought the afternoon to a close.

BRIGHTON

A June morning at its best and brightest welcomed St. Dunstaners and guests arriving at the Hotel Metropole on the Brighton sea front on Saturday, 5th June for the seventh 1976 Reunion. Including three of our lady members, there were 107 St. Dunstaners present, 29 from the First World War and 78 from the Second World War or later.

In all, 252 people attended the Reunion which was presided over by our Chairman, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, accompanied by Mrs. Garnett-Orme. The principal guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton, Councillor and Mrs. P. E. W. Best, and other guests included Mrs. F. D. Opperman, Chairman of St. Dunstan's, South Africa, and Mr. Opperman, Mr. K. S. C. Phillips, Chairman, Sussex Grocers' Association, and Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre.

Chairman's Speech

After lunch, Mr. Garnett-Orme rose to propose the Silent Toast before greeting St. Dunstaners and guests. He said:

"This Reunion at Brighton is always one of our happiest annual gatherings and the citizens of Brighton have extended their friendship and hospitality to St. Dunstaners since our earliest days. We are, therefore, very pleased that Councillor and Mrs. Peter Best, the Mayor and Mayoress, have snatched time from their many duties to join us this afternoon.

"Our numbers here today are about 250 and I give you all a warm welcome, especially those St. Dunstaners whose first Reunion this is: Eric Ould from Southwick, Charles Shepherd from Bosham and Robert Hollingworth from Ian Fraser House.

"Also with us are Mr. and Mrs. Opperman from South Africa. Our fellow St. Dunstaners 6000 miles away where winter is just starting are indeed fortunate to have Mrs. Opperman as their Chairman, or perhaps I should say their 'Madam Chair'. The links between our two organisations, which were so well laid and firmly cemented by Lord Fraser, are close, and many St. Dunstaners from here, visiting South Africa, have experienced



Mr. Garnett-Orme greets our St. Dunstaner Louise Farrow.

the generous hospitality which is always extended to them.

"From Australia, we welcome Colonel Rex Hall. Colonel Hall is Chairman of the Victoria Blinded Soldiers' Welfare Trust, and we are very pleased to have him with us this afternoon.

"Here too are some of our longstanding friends and helpers including Mr. Phillips, the Chairman of the Sussex Grocers' Association, Mrs. Dacre, who we are all delighted to see here, and Miss Riley. You will also be able to meet some good friends who have returned from retirement to be with us this afternoon. These are Mrs. Avison, Miss Carlton, Miss Ramshaw, Mr. George and Mr. Rice".

Mr. Garnett-Orme then mentioned staff present from the Brighton Homes and Headquarters, referring particularly to Miss Rogers, "You will have read in the *Review* that Miss Rogers retires at the end of June, and so this will be her last Brighton Reunion in her official capacity. We shall be saying our official good-bye to her at the London Reunion on 10th July. Nevertheless, all of us here wish her a very happy retirement".

Our Chairman then referred to another retirement: "I have left until last to mention two of our guests today, Mr. and



Laughter during Councillor Best's speech.

Mrs. Fuller, because I know you will be sad to hear that Mr. Fuller has decided it is time for him to retire. More than thirty years ago, Mr. Fuller joined St. Dunstan's from the Navy on a three months' trial to see how he liked us, and not only has he looked after our dental health at Brighton with great skill ever since, but he has become a personal friend of many St. Dunstaners. Mr. Fuller will be much missed here, and on behalf of us all I thank him for everything he has done for us and wish him and Mrs. Fuller many years of happy retirement".

From Lady Fraser, Mr. Garnett-Orme brought a message of love and best wishes and her regrets that her health prevented her visiting Brighton for the Reunion. Then, saying that he hesitated to talk about Brighton in front of the Mayor, he continued: "Knowing what keen fishermen many St. Dunstaners are, I thought they might be interested in a bit of history which the Mayor looks to me too young to contradict from personal experience.

Doomsday Book

"According to the Doomsday Book, compiled in 1086, the three manors of Brighton had only a very small population and they were taxed to pay 4,000 herrings a year. However, history relates that this was not such a heavy burden as it might seem, since this number of fish could easily be caught by a few fishermen

in two or three days. It would seem that during the last 900 years, humans have decided that Brighton is the place for them but the herring shoals have found a better home somewhere else".

Responding to Mr. Garnett-Orme, Councillor Best expressed thanks for St. Dunstan's hospitality on behalf of all the guests. He continued: "I'm afraid that I really knew very little about St. Dunstan's, although I've lived in Brighton all my life. I've already learned a lot today and, incidentally, hearing your speech, I have learned a little bit more about Brighton as well". Saying that he hoped to have the opportunity of visiting Ian Fraser House and Pearson House during his year of office, the Mayor concluded with a further expression of thanks.

Speaking for St. Dunstaners, Ted Frearson reiterated Mr. Garnett-Orme's welcome to the Mayor and Mayoress and wished them a very happy and rewarding year of office. He continued, "Today it is my job to offer a vote of thanks to St. Dunstan's. This I do with very great pleasure because we all owe so much to St. Dunstan's. Don't judge them too harshly because you don't get everything you want. In the economic climate of this country today any organisation, whether it be business or charity, has great difficulty in surviving. Please be a little tolerant when you come up with your demands.

Miss Rogers

"I would just like to bring Miss Rogers' name into my speech. Miss Rogers, you have served us well. We have brought our problems to you, and I say this to you, who have looked after so many of us for so long, and you have done it so well, thank you very much. On behalf of all the St. Dunstaners here, I wish you a very happy and long retirement".

Ted Frearson concluded by thanking the staff of the Metropole Hotel and the Welfare Visitors responsible for the Reunion arrangements, Miss Stewart and Miss Blebta.

That concluded the formal part of the programme but during the afternoon there was dancing to the Ken Lyon Orchestra and tea before the company dispersed into the June sunshine.

OVINGDEAN NOTES

To begin at the end—for there's no fun in doing the predictable—the last evening in May saw us tripping the light fantastic at the Spring Bank Holiday Dance. There was friendliness and good humour in abundance, and a happy evening passed very quickly. There were a few aching muscles the following morning, but as Grannie used to say with smug satisfaction: "You have to pay for your pleasures, dear".

One welcome innovation this month has been the presentation of recorded and taped programmes by St. Dunstaners. The first of these was given by Bob Hollingworth, and was entitled *The Instruments of the Orchestra*. The subject is one about which Bob is knowledgeable, for he played the French horn in the band of the famous Green Howards. The programme featured in turn, strings, woodwind and percussion, and finished with that glorious crescendo of sound, *The 1812 Overture*. Taped programmes were also presented by Tom Page, and contained a variety of music, verse and song. Some of the humour was decidedly "earthy Blackpool" in style, and was much enjoyed by the Northerners present—and quite a number of Southerners too, judging by the laughter. We hope that other St. Dunstaners will "have a go" at entertaining us from time to time.

Nucleus Theatre Group

Other concerts in the house have met with general approval: the Nucleus Theatre Group, presented the famous farce *Thark* (and try announcing that!) with great success. There was a large cast, of which two young male readers were particularly talented. That very accomplished Group, the Brunswick Readers, presented *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* by Oscar Wilde, and though we enjoyed it, the highlight of the evening was a curtain-raiser, *Superannuated Winnie the Pooh*. It was a monologue, written by that witty contributor to *Punch*, Alan Coren. Poor old Pooh, fifty years on, was

creaking in every joint, and suffering from terminal moth. He revealed that he had never been the sweet, cuddly, honey-loving Pooh of fiction. Inside that lovable exterior lurked a sophisticated, hard-bitten bear-around-town, longing to set audiences alight with his rendering of "Body and Soul". Another illusion shattered! It was great fun, and we are grateful for the time and effort spent so unselfishly on our behalf.

Racegoing began in earnest during May. We visited Brighton, Goodwood and Fontwell Park. The latter outing took place on Spring Bank Holiday Monday. The twice-weekly drives were augmented by drives for the chair-borne, a visit to Drusilla's at Alfriston, proving very popular.

Old Friends

Our old and valued friends, Dolly Harmer and Cyril Haslett, entertained us one Tuesday evening with *Four Hands, One Piano*. St. Dunstaner Ken Revis sang in French, and Escort Sister, quite carried away by the Bohemian atmosphere, borrowed a white cane and did a soft-shoe shuffle. She expects her cards any day now! (Lew Grade, please note). The Brighton Recording Club gave us a most interesting programme one evening, comprising interviews with well-known people, and some delightful music. On Bank Holiday Sunday the Brenton Singers from Harrow entertained us with a varied and most delightful programme. Victor Buck thanked them on our behalf, with the hope that they will visit us again soon. Speaking of singing, we have the Sussex Police Choir visiting us on Tuesday, 27th July, and hope that as many locally resident St. Dunstaners will join us as is possible.

On Bank Holiday Sunday the Chapel was well-filled for Morning Service. As we walked sedately to our pews, the organ played softly. The music seemed familiar—what was it? Enlightenment dawned—it was Glenn Miller's signature tune! Unexpected, but nice.

The last Saturday in the month saw the Whist Drive and Dominoes Tournament.

As we were short of gentlemen whist players, one of the ladies kindly agreed to a temporary male-impersonation. We couldn't help being somewhat relieved that she just failed to win a gentleman's prize—we've heard of ladies wearing a scent called "Charlie", but "Brut After-Shave" is ridiculous.

Next month we shall report our adventures and misadventures at the Derby, and other excitements. Until then, hasta la vista!

Whist

Ladies

1st Mrs. M. Stanway
2nd Mrs. A. Smith
3rd Miss J. Briant

Gentlemen

1st A. Smith
2nd B. Ingrey
3rd F. Griffie

Dominoes

1st G. Stanley
2nd A. Robinson
3rd J. Griffiths

CLUB NEWS

THE ST. DUNSTAN'S LONDON SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL CLUB

There are still a few seats available for St. Dunstaners and escorts on the Mystery Outing arranged for Saturday, 24th July. The cost per person is £3 and applications, with appropriate remittance, should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Paul Nuyens, St. Dunstan's, 191 Old Marylebone Road, London NW1 5QN.

St. Dunstaners living in the Greater London area may be interested to know that the London Transport Executive will announce shortly that from 18th July, holders of old age pensioners' and blind bus passes, will be able to travel on London Transport rail services for a maximum single fare of 20p.

PAUL NUYENS

Hon. Secretary, Steering Committee

The winners of our weekly Dominoes matches during May were:

6th May	1st	R. Armstrong
	2nd	C. Hancock
13th May	1st	J. Majchrowicz
	2nd	C. Hancock
20th May	1st	R. Armstrong
	2nd	B. Phillips M. Sheehan
27th May	1st	S. Khabbazi
	2nd	M. Sheehan

MIDLAND

Our May meeting was rather a quiet affair after the excellent one in April but, nevertheless, we had a good get together.

Semi-finals

We had hoped to reach the final of the Sir Arthur Pearson knock-out competition this month but, unfortunately, one of the contestants did not attend the meeting so we had to be satisfied with just playing off one of the semi-finals. This was between Bruno Tomporowski and Tom O'Connor, and the result went in Tom's favour—much to everyone's surprise, including Tom's.

The tea arrangements for this meeting were in the hands of Mrs. Connie Faulkner and it was a very nice spread including lemon meringue, smashing Con, we all thanked her in our usual manner.

Outings

The final details and times were announced regarding our outing in July to Symonds Yat, and we then made plans for a half day trip to Church Stretton in August and our usual visit to Stratford in October.

DOUG CASHMORE
Secretary

BRIGHTON SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUB

We were very pleased to see members of the club who were on holiday attending our monthly dance on 15th May, which once again proved most successful. Music was provided by the Geoff Donaldson Band, and Mr. Alf Garstang was our efficient M.C.

All St. Dunstaners and escorts will be welcome to our next dance to be held on Saturday, 10th July.

BOB OSBORNE

BRIDGE SECTION

On Saturday, 15th May an enjoyable afternoon was spent playing a match against our friends from the Saltdean Bridge Circle. Result: a victory for our visitors.

Our fifth pairs match was held on Saturday, 22nd May. The winners were:

North-South

Miss B. Simon and Miss C. Sturdy 80

East-West

F. Griffiee and Mrs. E. Gover 83

WALTER LETHBRIDGE

Dominoes Aggregate, May 1976

1st J. Langley

2nd T. Mугan

Mrs. J. Aldridge

Ladies and Mens fives and threes will be playing the finals from the end of June.

Whist Aggregate Scores 26th May 1976

Ladies

1st Mrs. H. Webster 86

2nd Mrs. S. Meleson 84

3rd Mrs. M. Crabtree 83

Mrs. H. Smith

Mrs. E. Walch

Gentlemen

1st T. Giles 89

2nd W. Holmes 88

3rd A. Dodgson 83

BOWLING CLUB REPORT

At the Bowling Club A.G.M. the following officials were elected: Ted Frearson, Chairman and Captain, Henry Preedy, Vice Chairman and Vice Captain, Edward Quinn and William Burnett, Committee Members, Mrs. L. Dennis, Treasurer and Mrs. P. Jones, Secretary. Henry Preedy was also selected to represent the Bowling Club on the Management Committee of the Social and Sports Club.

During the last month, three away matches were played at Southampton, Ottershaw and Guildford. A very pleasant afternoon was had at the respective clubs. We enjoyed our reunion with our friends from previous years.

TED FREARSON
Chairman and Captain

FAMILY NEWS

Marriages

Mrs. Sadie Stokes of Bury, Lancashire, is pleased to announce that her son, Thomas, was married on Thursday, 22nd April to Miss Christine Evans of Chorley.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Waters of Sevenoaks are pleased to announce that their daughter, Valerie, was married to Mr. Malcolm Chapman at the United Reform Church, Sanderstead, on 12th June.

Ruby Wedding

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Thomas William Chamberlain, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on 3rd June, 1976.

Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jackman of Brentford, Middlesex, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 23rd May, 1976.

Grandparents

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fullard of Saltdean, on the birth of their first grandchild, a boy, Stephen Robert Lloyd, born on 1st April to their son Martin and his wife Gerrie.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hoyle of Chadder-ton, on the birth of their fourth grandchild, a boy, born on 10th May, to their daughter Joan and her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Westby of Morecambe, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Lindsay Marie, on 7th May to their daughter Jean and her husband.

Examination and Career Successes

We warmly congratulate:

Muriel Bryant of Midsomer Norton, who has been awarded a silver plaque by the Department of Health War Pensions Home and Art Competition, for the Arran cardigan which she knitted and which was exhibited at their National Exhibition in London recently.

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

Donald Baker. Royal Air Force

Donald Baker of Rhyl, North Wales, died on 23rd May, 1976 at the age of 54.

Mr. Baker served in the Royal Air Force from July 1940 and lost his sight through a detonator explosion in 1941. Later that year, he came to St. Dunstan's where he was trained for physiotherapy and, after passing his examinations, he became an Assistant Instructor with us at Church Stretton. When St. Dunstan's moved back to Brighton at the end of the War, Mr. Baker remained in Shrewsbury in private practice until 1951 when he moved to Rhyl to take up a position at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. He was a popular and well respected member of the hospital staff and, in due course, became Assistant Superintendent of his department. He also carried out private practice.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Netta Baker, a daughter and two sons.

William Baker. Royal Engineers

William Baker of Llanrug, Gwynedd, died on 5th May, 1976 aged 86.

He enlisted in 1915 and served as a Private with the Royal Engineers until January 1918. He came to St. Dunstan's in February 1930 and took up basket making as his profession. He was an excellent craftsman and over the years enjoyed making a large variety of baskets both for St. Dunstan's and private sale until he took his retirement in 1962.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Gladys Baker, and two married daughters.

James Caldwell of Stockport, who has passed his Amateur Radio examination with credit—and did it in three months.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mr. and Mrs. John Bailey of Guildford, on the death of Mrs. Bailey's mother earlier this year.

Mr. George Broughton, of Alford, whose wife, Doris Irene, died on 23rd May.

Mr. Edward Sayer of Deal, Kent, whose sister died recently.

Charles William Barrett. Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (7th)

Charles William Barrett of Aylesbury, died on 19th April, 1976, at the age of 76.

Mr. Barrett served with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry during the First World War and was wounded in 1917. After the war, he joined his father in the building and decorating trade until about 1930, when he became a Clerk for the Ministry of Supply until his premature retirement, due to ill health, in 1957.

His wife, Mrs. Ethel Louise Barrett, died in 1969, when our St. Dunstaner went to live with one of his daughters, Mrs. E. M. Jackson and her husband who cared for him devotedly.

Mr. Barrett was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1960 and was a frequent visitor to Pearson House and to Ian Fraser House.

He leaves three daughters, Mrs. E. M. Jackson, Mrs. Berry and Mrs. Taylor.

Albert Birley. Leicestershire Regiment

Albert Birley of Sleaford, Lincolnshire, died on 22nd April, 1976 at the age of 71.

He served as a Private with the Leicestershire Regiment from June 1915 until March 1919 and suffered the loss of his sight as a result of a gun shot wound. Mr. Birley became a St. Dunstaner in April, 1967, but was by then in rather poor health and for the last seven years he had been cared for in the St. Andrew's Nursing Home in Sleaford.

He was a widower and leaves three children.

In Memory

Continued

Alfred Henry William James. *2nd Wessex Field Ambulance*

Alfred Henry William James of Margate, died on 4th June, 1976 at the age of 83.

Mr. James was wounded in France in 1916. In civilian life he had been a fitter but on admission to St. Dunstan's in 1919, he undertook training in boot repairing, mat-making and telephony and reached a high standard of proficiency. For many years, Mr. James was employed as a Telephonist at the London Hospital but, due to deteriorating health, he retired in 1948 and moved to Margate with his wife, Mrs. Esther Grace James, who died in 1971. For the past four years he had been devotedly cared for by his housekeeper Mrs. Gwen Styles.

He leaves one son, Mr. John James, of Eltham.

William Henry Lacey. *Royal Army Service Corps*

William Henry Lacey of Leigh-on-Sea, died on 23rd May, 1976 at the age of 90.

He served with the Royal Army Service Corps during the First World War. In his youth he had been a famous footballer and played for Tottenham Hotspur in about 1910. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1930 and, after a period of industrial training, Mr. Lacey was employed in basket making and chair work for our Stores. He then obtained outside employment in a factory working on assembly, where he remained until his retirement, when he resumed basket making and, with a high standard of competence, continued to supply a quota of work for our Stores. He was a music-lover and on the occasion of Lord Fraser's 50th year as Chairman, he composed a special song.

Since the death of his wife, Mrs. Eleanor Louise Lacey in 1972, he lived with Mr. and Mrs. Ray of Leigh-on-Sea and their family.

He leaves a son, Mr. W. Lacey, and two daughters, Mrs. Wagstaff and Mrs. Elven.

Edward Myatt. *Kings Fifth Liverpool Regiment*

Edward Myatt of Liverpool, died on 15th April, 1976, aged 79.

He served as a Private in the Kings 5th Liverpool Regiment from March 1915 to March 1919 and lost his sight as a result of mustard gas poisoning, but it was not until September 1972 that he became a St. Dunstaner. Mr. Myatt had held a clerical position until reaching retirement age.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Amy Myatt, and two married sons.

Arthur Gordon Relf. *Royal Navy*

Arthur Gordon Relf of Tunbridge Wells, died on 19th May, 1976 at the age of 71.

He joined the Navy at 16 years of age as a Seaman, ultimately rising to the rank of Chief Petty Officer. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1946 and, after a period of training at Ovingdean, Mr. Relf took over a confectionery and tobacconist's shop with attached hair-dressing salon, which he ran for a few years with the able assistance of his wife. However, on moving to Tunbridge Wells in 1957, the business was sold and our St. Dunstaner undertook a further period of training in carpentry and joinery, subsequently undertaking work for our Stores, in which capacity he was still employed until recently. Mr. Relf was very fond of music and at one time his greatest hobby was playing the piano.

In accordance with Mr. Relf's wishes, his ashes were taken to the Naval Barracks at Portsmouth to be scattered at sea.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Audrey Joyce Relf, a son and three daughters.

Walter James Roden. *Loyal North Lancashire Regiment*

Walter James Roden of Chorley, Lancashire, died on 30th May, 1976 at the age of 87.

Mr. Roden served as a Private with the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment from November 1914 and lost his sight after a mustard gas attack in 1918. After becoming a St. Dunstaner in 1953, he was able to enjoy doing some hobby work at home but was obliged to take life rather quietly—although, within the last year or two, he had derived great pride in doing a little greenhouse work, encouraged and assisted by his family.

Mrs. Roden died in 1972, since when our St. Dunstaner had lived with his step-daughter, Mrs. Emma Pressler, and her family.

George Taylor. *Cheshire Regiment*

George Taylor of Handbridge, Chester, died on 16th April, 1976 aged 81.

He enlisted in December 1915 and served as a Private with the 10th Battalion Cheshire Regiment. He was wounded in 1917, and discharged from the army in January 1918. In spite of his loss of sight, Mr. Taylor was able to work as a postman until his retirement in 1962. About a year later, his remaining sight began to fail and he came to St. Dunstan's in October 1964.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Rhoda Taylor.