

# St Dunstons Review August



## Message from the Chairman:

### Memorial to Lord Fraser of Lonsdale in Westminster Abbey

St. Dunstaners will like to know that the work on the Memorial Tablet is proceeding and that arrangements have been made for the Unveiling Ceremony to be held on Thursday, October 14th at 11.30 a.m. in the Cloisters of Westminster Abbey.

Unfortunately, the space available for the Service is very limited so that it will not be possible to invite all St. Dunstaners to attend. A number will therefore be selected by ballot, probably at the beginning of September.

Those whose names come up in the ballot will be informed and, if they wish to attend, tickets of admission will be sent them with details of the arrangements we are making as regards travel, accommodation, etc. If any of these are unable to accept the invitation, further names will be drawn by ballot.

I acknowledge, with very many thanks, the generous contributions received from St. Dunstaners and friends, both in the United Kingdom and in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. This warm-hearted response is greatly appreciated.



CHAIRMAN

**COVER PICTURE:** Barbara Bell, taking part in the St. Dunstan's Sports Weekend, is seen on the springboard during the diving.

## WAR WIDOWS PENSIONS

Some War Widows of St. Dunstaners will have received from H.M. Inspectors of Taxes, Notices of Assessments and Demands for Income Tax, probably the first they have received during their lives. In many instances, this will have caused alarm and distress. However, as a result of an Amendment to the Finance Bill passed in the House of Commons in the small hours of the 14th July, one half of the War Widows Pension will be exempt from Tax and it is almost certain that War Widows, who have no other substantial source of income, will not be called upon to pay any Income Tax.

It is worth noting that the Amendment was supported by MPs of all parties and reflects the pressure brought to bear by St. Dunstan's and other ex-Service Organisations over very many years.

### Temporary Allowance

Some problems may still arise in the first year following the death of a severely disabled War Pensioner where his Widow receives the Temporary Allowance. (In most cases the Allowance is equal to the pension and allowances formerly in payment to her Husband, for the first 26 weeks of widowhood.) That Temporary Allowance is liable to tax and, when added to the War Widows pension which may be granted later, could be sufficiently large, calculated over the year, to rank for actual payment of the tax. In subsequent years, the exemption referred to above will apply and no further tax should be payable. Our Pensions Officer at Headquarters, Mr. L. A. Slade, will advise in individual cases.

### Staff Retirements

#### MISS B. WILLS

After nearly 18 years service, Miss Wills of the Accounts Department retired on the 31st May. She joined the staff in July 1958 and took over the senior post of Salaries and Wages Clerk in August 1970, a position of trust she filled most ably. We offer our best wishes to Miss Wills on her retirement.

## PHYLLIS ROGERS WRITES:

Through the columns of the *Review* I would like to express my sincere thanks to all St. Dunstaners and their families and to all Widows who have written to me to send their kind wishes for my future health and happiness now that I have retired from the Headquarters staff. The overwhelming number of letters and cards makes it difficult to write an individual reply as much as I would have liked to do so.

At the London Reunion I was presented with a splendid camera and a cheque and I thought members may like to know that I am getting a portable radio and some carpentry tools so that I shall be well set up for leisure, pleasure and a little hobby work and in all these activities I shall think of everyone who helped to make my departure from H.Q. just that much easier, as one always feels a tinge of sadness at giving up the associations of many years. Neither must I fail to thank those St. Dunstaners who showed me such goodwill at each S. Area Reunion this year — particularly at Bristol where I was given a most attractive floral arrangement. May I thank the anonymous donor for the beautiful cameo left for me at Headquarters?

Please accept my heartfelt thanks. I know that all St. Dunstaners will offer my successor Miss Penelope Lord the same warmth of friendship which it has been my good fortune to receive over many years. I look forward to meeting many of you at future reunions. Meantime my affection, greetings and thanks to you all.

*Editor's Note:* The London Reunion will be reported in the October *Review*.

#### MR. H. WRIGHT

For the past 20 years Harry Wright has been cutting and despatching quotas of timber to our joiners. He reached his 65th birthday a year or two ago and we were pleased that he was able to continue working for a few more years. Harry retired at the end of June and we wish him good health and a happy retirement.



Sybil Bell loses no time in trying out her prize "tickling stick" on David at the Newcastle Reunion.

## REUNIONS

### NEWCASTLE

What the Newcastle Reunion lacks in numbers it makes up for with "Geordie" warmth. There were 48 people in all at the Royal Station Hotel on Thursday, 10th June and the "family" aspect of St. Dunstan's was very prominent, particularly in the welcome for retired welfare visitors: Mrs. King and Mrs. Plaxton.

Major M. E. M. Sandys, accompanied by Mrs. Sandys, was the member of the Council presiding over the luncheon. After first proposing the silent toast, he welcomed 4 St. Dunstaners from the First World War and 14 from the Second World War or later, with a special word for Patrick Murphy, Alloway, and Albert Steer, Billingham, who were attending a reunion for the first time.

After mentioning the names of members of staff present, including Mrs. Ward, welfare visitor responsible and Miss Skinner, who assisted, Major Sandys went

on to pay a tribute to the work of the staff generally: "We can never express too strongly that success or failure lies almost entirely on the work and devotion to duty of the permanent staff. It is they who bear the heat and burden of the day and they who look after all our individual members. Our grateful thanks, I think, are due to them for all they do week-in and week-out to make this organisation the success it is".

#### Current Problems

Major Sandys referred to the numbers of St. Dunstaners living in the country and abroad before turning to the wider implications of the pressure that current problems bring to bear on the work of St. Dunstan's.

He reminded his listeners that the complete series of Sir Winston Churchill's works have just been published in 34 volumes and said that, in this connection, he had been reading a number of articles



Colonel Sir Mike Ansell is amused by Percy Acton's speech at Sheffield.

on Sir Winston, his life and times—particularly his war leadership.

"The effect it left on me was one of a picture of a different country, single minded, united, comparatively uncomplicated and set in the direction of self-sacrifice which only first-class leadership can produce in times of peril".

Major Sandys contrasted this with the present situation: faced with internal economic collapse which he blamed on our own actions—"Other countries all have their difficulties and they seem to be able to overcome them with the appearance of unity. This so far seems to have escaped us. We've thrown overboard so many of the principles which have served us so well in the past.

"This is not the world which so many of us remember. Now we are getting this showing up not only in your lives and mine but more directly and insistently in our pockets, and even in the pocket of such a well-run organisation as St. Dunstan's. Inflation is bound to affect us but everything will be done to keep up the level of help and the quality of service which our members have every right to expect".

For the future, Major Sandys remains optimistic: "We are now at the moment celebrating the removal of our first empire in 1776, when the Americans walked out. We've since then made another empire and we've lost that one. Everyone thought the roof was falling in when that happened and we think the roof is falling in now. I am quite certain that we shall overcome these difficulties just as we've overcome all the difficulties in the past".

Major Sandys concluded by expressing the hope that all St. Dunstaners and their families would share in any improvement the country could afford and wishing everyone, "an enjoyable afternoon here in good fellowship".

After Mr. Wills had addressed St. Dunstaners, David Hodgson, Greatham, spoke in reply. "I want first of all to extend a welcome to our chairman and his lovely lady. We are indeed proud to have him with us and I hope we will see him again in the near future".

He thanked Major Sandys and Mr. Wills for their speeches and then referred to the staff: "I would like to thank the organisation's staff working so hard all

the year round. I don't think we can ever say thank you enough to the ladies and gentlemen on the staff. Also I would like to thank the kind ladies who organised this afternoon in such an efficient manner. We have clearly enjoyed the lunch, it was well served and it was hot".

After luncheon, there was dancing to the Don Fraser Sound and the usual prize draw at tea-time. Among the prizes were a number of Ken Dodd style "tickling sticks"—once known as feather dusters—which caused a good deal of amusement. So another Newcastle Reunion ended in great good humour.

## SHEFFIELD

From the Victorian stateliness of the Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle, to the modern glass and steel of the Hallam Tower at Sheffield, on Saturday, 12th June, is a real contrast in backgrounds. Further, the Sheffield Reunion was a gathering of 90 people, almost twice as many. One thing was the same, the air of warmth and cordiality, this time with a strong Yorkshire flavour.

Forty St. Dunstaners were there, with their wives or escorts, 8 from the First World War and 32 from the Second World War or later. Their chairman for the day was Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, Vice-Chairman of St. Dunstan's. Sir Mike, who had served in Yorkshire before the War, was in fine form and met many old friends among St. Dunstaners.

### Greeting from Lady Fraser

Opening his speech after the silent toast, Sir Mike brought a message of greetings from Lady Fraser. He continued, "To me it's particularly interesting to come up here today because 12th June, 1940, was the day I got shot up at a place called St. Valery and then there were some of us went to jug and we came home after certain hesitant moves of the Germans after, possibly, 3½ years".

Sir Mike said that two things helped his rehabilitation on his return to England: "St. Dunstan's and the horse." He described how he became a successful flower farmer, winning medals at the Chelsea Show, and how he was drawn back into the competitive world of horse riding—as a producer.

"There is one thing we do learn in the Army, how to produce. Whether it be mounting the guard, Trooping the Colour; whether it be Beating the Retreat or marching in some wretched soldier: 'Cap off, left turn, right turn, speak up; Yes, sir; Are you guilty?; Yes, sir; Three days C.B.; right turn, left turn, out'. The whole thing is a production. It helped me endlessly in the horse world".

### 'Guests from Overseas'

"I was madly keen to defeat the foreigner every time that we could get him. I was told later to call him, 'our guest from overseas', but that never really worried me. In the horse world it is one thing that we've won. There are only three equestrian events in the Olympics, and at every Games since 1948 we've won medals".

Saying that it was a very great pleasure to be in Yorkshire because he spent many years of his Army life at Fulford Barracks in York, Sir Mike commented on the St. Dunstaners on the Reunion list: "When you look at that list—Inniskilling Fusiliers, I was Inniskilling Dragoons, we served together. The Royal Ulster Rifles, I served with them. The Royal Scots were with us when I was in France. On that list there's a representative of every regiment that I've had the good fortune to serve with, and I notice there are even three cavalymen here and I make the fourth".

### Fulford Barracks

Referring to Fulford Barracks, Sir Mike said it was dreary but a wonderful place for the cavalry officer to learn to lead. "I had a hundred days' hunting from Fulford Barracks, when I was equitation officer, without a single day's leave. You'll all laugh at that but we did learn our job through hunting. We learnt an eye for the country, to read a map and to take our own line and to make up our own mind when to take a risk. We didn't have to go to a committee or civil servants or councillors to decide whether we were going to jump a certain fence. We just went ahead and did it.

"The present trend of this country is nobody will ever lead. Nobody will ever make a decision. You must refer it to another County Council. Then you must

get the councillors to send in their expenses. Then you must do the rest before anybody makes a decision".

Repeating his pleasure at being back in Yorkshire, Sir Mike wound up by expressing thanks to Mr. Wills, and the staff of St. Dunstan's, "And all those who help in making these arrangements and the work they do for us St. Dunstaners. We regard ourselves as a very fine regiment, well-staffed by the civilians who follow behind. I think in the days of Waterloo some of the ladies weren't altogether—they were camp-followers—but Mr. Wills' are not!"

Mr. Wills then addressed the gathering and introduced Percy Acton, Halifax, to propose the vote of thanks. He first of all thanked Sir Mike for his speech, "I must say this that as I have heard Sir

## BRISTOL

An exceptionally hot sunny day in the prevailing spell of exceptional weather for the Reunion held on Saturday, 26th June just outside Bristol, but the Esso Motor Hotel, with its spacious rooms, was the ideal place for this gathering.

All together, 126 people sat down to lunch, including 9 St. Dunstaners from the First World War and 44 from the Second World War or later. The arrangements were made by Miss Meyer assisted by Miss Newbold, and the guests of honour were Mrs. Spurway, Miss Oliphant, and Miss J. Meyer, our Welfare Visitor's sister. The Rev. F. Darrell Bunt was the member of St. Dunstan's Council presiding, and he was accompanied by his wife and young daughter.

After proposing the silent toast to Sir Arthur Pearson, Lord Fraser and St. Dunstaners who had died, Mr. Bunt said that it was a great pleasure to be there and he brought greetings from all members of the Council with a special message of love and affection from Lady Fraser.

"I have been to many Reunions, but I have never actually been to Bristol", said Mr. Bunt, and he went on to name the guests and members of St. Dunstan's staff present and to give the numbers of St. Dunstaners at the Reunion and alive

Michael speaking, I must admit he would make an ideal Yorkshireman. To Sir Michael I would like to express a vote of thanks, but don't let us forget all the other people".

Mr. Acton then mentioned all the members of staff at the Reunion by name, particularly thanking Miss Broughton, Welfare Visitor responsible, and Miss Newbold, who assisted her. He continued, "From the bottom of my heart I do wish these people all that they wish themselves and I am sure that you wish them also".

Dancing and much talk and banter filled the afternoon until tea-time and the prize draw brought the gathering to a close. Yorkshire had done it again, producing a very happy and successful Reunion.

today at home and overseas. Turning to personal matters, Mr. Bunt informed his audience that he had served as a member of St. Dunstan's Council for twenty-five years and proposed to retire after the next Annual General Meeting, thus making way for someone younger and more active. He added that he would do so with very many regrets and said about the Reunions: "They've all had one thing in common, every one, and that is what I describe as the happy, confident and optimistic atmosphere of those who have learned to cope with adversity and handicaps, and found not only the satisfaction of overcoming but the sharing of the victory with others. That is the spirit which I have found in St. Dunstaners over these years—and it's a happy atmosphere because, if I may say so, it is a family atmosphere".

Mr. Bunt then analysed the various components which made up the services provided by St. Dunstan's and he went on to speak of the wives: "I would like to pay a very special tribute to St. Dunstaners' wives who, if I may say so, have done—and do—a magnificent job. After all, this can sometimes be extraordinarily difficult—and when I think of that I am reminded of a certain well-meaning lady who saw a little girl, an almost emaciated thin little girl, staggering

under the weight of a little boy who was nearly as big as herself, and the well-meaning lady stopped her and said 'You know, you're carrying a very heavy burden, aren't you?' And the little chin went up and the eyes flashed and she said 'He's not a burden, he's my brother'—and I think sometimes it is a very good thing to remember the spirit of that little lady. 'He's not a burden, he's my brother'—he's my husband, she's my wife".

Speaking of the future of St. Dunstan's, Mr. Bunt said that despite the loss of so many fine characters in recent years, he believed that this family feeling was so firmly implanted that it would go on.

"So many people see visions", he said, "but you don't need eyes to see visions, but you do need the spirit to make visions come true—and that is the spirit which in the past twenty-five years I have seen at St. Dunstan's, the spirits of Sir Arthur Pearson, Ian Fraser and many

others whom you and I will always remember with affection and gratitude for their service".

Mr. Bunt concluded as follows: "I want to wish you all a very happy day, all the best in the years ahead, and to assure you that I shall always remember with gratitude my 25 years' association with St. Dunstan's and the many happy Reunions I have attended—and may I as a parson finish by saying God bless you".

Mr. C. D. Wills, St. Dunstan's Secretary, then introduced Len Curnow, Liskeard, who proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners. After thanking Mr. Darrell Bunt for his speech, Len Curnow went on: "Looking back over 29 years, which I have spent with St. Dunstan's—and many of you have spent over fifty—we reminisce and we look back. We hear men of the 1914-18 War speak of Sir Arthur Pearson, our Founder, with great respect, also of the Matron who was referred to many times as the

At the Bristol Reunion, The Rev. Darrell Bunt is seen with (left to right) Mr. Wills, Miss Newbold, Tom Daborn, Miss Rogers, Rev. Darrell Bunt, Len Curnow, Miss Meyer.



Angel of St. Dunstan's, Miss Boyd-Rochfort. We also of the '39 War look back, and we think of our great leader, Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, and we look back to our homes where we were born and which gave us the light to go forward into the outside world, to Ovingdean, the late Matron Pain, also the Commandant there, Commandant Dacre, Mrs. Dacre who, I am pleased to say, is still carrying on great work in the Royal British Legion, and still trying to do her very best for everyone concerned.

"The Rev. Bunt referred to Lady Fraser, sending her our love. I am sure all of us here would like to return that love, with great sincerity".

Len Curnow then thanked the management and staff of the hotel for their services and an excellent meal, and he also thanked Miss Meyer and Miss Newbold.

#### Dr. O'Hara

Referring to the two Brighton Homes, Len paid a special tribute to Dr. John O'Hara, physician, philosopher and friend. He concluded by thanking Mr. Garnett-Orme, Lady Fraser and other members of the Council and all members of St. Dunstan's staff.

Tom Daborn, Paracombe, spoke next saying that the pleasurable part of the Reunion was tinged with regret because of the coming retirement of Miss Rogers: "You all know the great work that Miss Rogers has done on behalf of Headquarters: a sympathetic ear, inexhaustible patience with our trials and tribulations, be they big or small, a counsellor and friend".

#### Phyllis Will Fix It

Drawing a parallel with the Jimmy Savile BBC programme, Jim'll Fix It, Tom Daborn added that it could be said of Miss Rogers at St. Dunstan's "Phyllis Will Fix It". "Miss Rogers, it gives me great pleasure on behalf of your whole family at St. Dunstan's to wish you well—and it is our sincere wish that you enjoy a long and happy retirement and take with you that peace of mind and tranquillity you have so ably instilled into others".

He then called on Mrs. Mary Davies, wife of Vic Davies, Braunton, who presented a bouquet to Miss Rogers.

"Well, I'm almost speechless and that'll be a change, won't it?" said Miss Rogers. "Over the years, I must have written thousands of letters to you all and it is very difficult for me to say good-bye. I only propose to say au revoir, and I hope to see many of you again, but before I sit down, I would like to say that whatever I have done at Headquarters to help over the years—and I must admit I've always tried, sometimes I have felt I haven't quite succeeded, but there it is—but nothing I have done could have been done without the very able assistance of my welfare visitors. The welfare visitors come to your homes and it is through them that I hear all about your good news, your bad news and your sad news—and I would like to say that without their help I would certainly not be the happy recipient of your kindness today. And I know that when I leave you I will hand you over to Miss Penny Lord who will, I know, follow the traditions of St. Dunstan's in trying to help you in difficulties.

"We live in a world where we have gradually become numbers and the one thing I hope I shall carry away into my years of retirement is the great feeling that in St. Dunstan's you are definitely not numbers, you are all individual men and women, and on the staff we have many opportunities of appreciating your courage. And I think the suffering, the braveness and the courage of St. Dunstaners is an example not only to the staff, who have the pleasure of serving you, but also to the world outside.

"I would like to thank you again for nineteen years of very happy association among you all".

After lunch, a group played for dancing and there was a great deal of conversation among friends. Mrs. Bunt presented the prizes at the customary raffle and the company dispersed after tea. It was an excellent Reunion.

We congratulate Barbara Cookson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Cookson of Guildford, who has qualified as a State Registered Nurse.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From: Fred Harris, Colchester, Essex

I was interested in the article on ghosts and apparitions in the July *Review*, for I have my own personal experiences of these matters.

In the house where I lived as a small boy, a man had died of poison. One evening my mother asked me to go up to my bedroom to get something. "There is no-one in upstairs", she said. "They are all out, so you can leave your door open and the hall lamp will give you enough light". As I came out of my room, I heard heavy slow steps coming down the stairs in front of me. The steps came nearer and I flattened myself against my bedroom door to let this invisible man pass me, and as he did so I could hear his heavy breathing. He went down the stairs to the hall and went out of the front door, but the door did not open. I was terrified, and rushed down to my mother, but she tried to pacify me by saying I had only heard the people next door on their stairs—but I said no, for I had heard his steps and his breathing.

Some years later, a young married couple had taken those rooms where that man had died, and my mother was in the hall when the young woman called out to my mother, "A man came out of my back room and he passed you on his way out", but my mother said she did not see anyone. When the young woman described the man, my mother knew at once who she had seen.

Years passed on and I was now a St. Dunstan's poultry farmer. Another St. Dunstan's poultry farmer had died very suddenly and his widow could not get back to London fast enough. As I was looking for a place to open up a poultry farm, St. Dunstan's let me take over. One afternoon, I was having a nap in the armchair in the kitchen and my sister, who was spending a few days with my wife and I, was resting in the bedroom which also opened into the passage, and she said "Whatever were you doing in the passage this afternoon? It sounded as though you had got all Lockharts

elephants stomping up and down the passage".

When my daughter was old enough, we put her into the front bedroom to sleep. In the middle of the night, she came into our room screaming and crying with terror. We let her sleep with us for the rest of the night, but when this happened once or twice again, I decided that my daughter must sleep with her mother and I would sleep in that room for a while. I woke up suddenly and there was a most uncanny eerie and creepy feeling about the room, and then suddenly the door which was fastened, burst open. After a short while I got up and closed the door, but again it burst open.

Some years later, my daughter and I were expecting my wife home on the 6 o'clock bus and sitting on the step of a shed alongside the path from the front gate. I said "Your mother will be here any minute now", when there was a click at the gate and a young woman came quickly down the path. I jumped up to greet her, thinking it was my wife, but she walked past me and went on. Realising it could not be my wife, I followed. She suddenly vanished into thin air and I realised she was just an apparition.

One evening at 6 o'clock, my wife said to me "Open the door, there is a lady come". The window was by the side of the door, I opened it but no-one was there. Several times my wife when looking towards that window at 6 o'clock would see someone wearing a white cap like a hospital nurse or sister pass by the window and, if we opened the door, there was never anyone there. I lived in that spooky bungalow for 35 years until I retired from poultry keeping. I would have liked to have moved from the place, but the opportunity did not present itself.

Lots of people say ghosts and apparitions are all imagination, but when one has had personal experience of these things, one is left completely puzzled as to how it happens.

Hoping you will find my letter of interest.

## Welcome to St. Dunstan's



*On behalf of St. Dunstan's we welcome St. Dunstaners recently admitted to membership. The Review hopes they will settle down happily as members of our family.*

**Robert Atkins** of West Mersea, who joined St. Dunstan's in June. He served in the Army during the First World War, and is a widower with a grown up family.

**Major George Ewbank Swifte Briggs-Swifte** of County Kilkenny, Eire, who joined St. Dunstan's in May. He served for various periods in the British Army and also in the Royal Indian Army Service Corps, being finally discharged in 1948, and is married.

**Carl Burt** of Newcastle, Staffordshire, who joined St. Dunstan's in June. He served with the Royal Artillery from 1946 to 1948, and is a single man.

**John Philip Heyes** of London S.W.6, who joined St. Dunstan's in June. He served as a Private in the 2/15 London Regiment during the First World War and was wounded at Salonika. Since his

discharge from the Army, Mr. Heyes was employed in a clerical capacity, but he has been retired for some years. He is married and has a grown-up son.

**Alfred William Lockhart** of Dagenham, Essex, who joined St. Dunstan's in June. He served in the R.A.S.C. during the Second World War and was a Prisoner of War in Singapore. He was discharged in 1946 and has worked in industry until indifferent health made it necessary for him to give up his occupation. Mr. Lockhart is married and has a son and a daughter.

**Arthur Ernest Lowe** of Fareham, Hampshire, who joined St. Dunstan's in June. He served in the 8th Royal Warwickshire Territorials and later joined the RAF. Having served in the Middle East and Far East, he left the Services in 1966 with the rank of Sergeant. He is married and has a grown-up family.

**Frank Ernest Templeman** of Clwyd, who joined St. Dunstan's in July. He served with the Royal Signals from 1945 to 1948 and is married.

**Michael Woodcock** of Moordown, Bournemouth, who joined St. Dunstan's in June. He joined the RAF in 1953 and was invalided out in 1956. His recent occupation has been that of a Company Director in the Building Industry, and he is unmarried.

### MATRON RETIRES

Mrs. Jean Blackford, our Matron at Ian Fraser House since March 1963, has decided to retire at the end of September. Although she reached retirement age before the reconstruction of Ian Fraser House was completed, she agreed to continue in order to see the Home restored to normal activities. This has now been achieved with her valuable help.

The new Matron of Ian Fraser House will be Mrs. Mona Dunk, who will join the staff on 6th September, and will assume the duties of Matron on the 4th October. We wish her every success.

An appreciation of Mrs. Blackford's work in St. Dunstan's will appear in the October *Review*.

### NO SEPTEMBER REVIEW

As in previous years, we shall **NOT** be printing a September issue of the *Review*. St. Dunstaners should receive their copies of the October issue early in the month.

## BRIDGE NOTES

The second Bridge Drive of the year was held in the club rooms on Saturday, 26th June and the results were as follows:

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|-----|---|
| 1st | <b>Roy Armstrong</b><br><b>J. Armstrong</b> |
| 2nd | J. Lynch<br>Mrs. Lynch                      |
| 3rd | B. Allen<br>P. Woods                        |



*The members of St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society at Ian Fraser House.*

## St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society

by Norman Maries

Meetings of the St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society were held at Ovingdean, during the weekend of 2nd to 4th July. There is no doubt that the thirteen St. Dunstaners attending the various functions throughout the weekend, found them both interesting and informative.

Most members of the Society arrived at Ian Fraser House during the afternoon of Friday. After the evening meal an informal gathering took place in the Winter Gardens. Charles Bargery sent a message of "Bon Voyage", to his wife, in a friend's car in the car-park, at the front of the building—not what one may call a long distance contact, but it did prove that the equipment was in working order and Charles in good voice. Bill Shea arrived a little later, with his wife, having brought his transmitting equipment for all to share. Thanks Charles, and Bill, for your efforts, and unselfish co-operation. Bill's equipment was soon set up, and declared ready to amaze all listeners, on the Amateur Bands, throughout the world.

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Part of Saturday morning took the form of a General Meeting, and amongst the items discussed was the affiliation of this society to the Royal Navy Amateur Radio Society, The Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society, and the Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society. The routine business out of the way, we were able to greet Ralph Cathles G3NDF, who helps several blind amateurs, throughout the country, by sending them readings from various technical magazines, on cassette tape. On this occasion he was to record the afternoon lecture for members who were unable to attend, and any other blind amateur radio enthusiast. We were also pleased to welcome Con Scarrott, the local representative of the Radio Amateur Invalid and Bedfast Club. He was able to advise on the activities, and membership, of the R.A.I.B.C. Another welcome visitor, on Saturday, was Mr. David Castleton, of St. Dunstan's Public Relations Department, who is to design a new card to confirm the radio contacts of

future meetings at Ian Fraser House. We were sorry that neither our President, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, nor Mr. French, could join us, but we look forward to their presence at some future meeting.

On Saturday after lunch, we were individually introduced to the guest speaker, Mr. Louis Varney, C.Eng.: M.I.E.E., who has held an amateur Sound Transmitting Licence since 1927 with the call sign G5RV, has transmitted from some 50 countries, and in his professional capacity has been connected with many interesting developments in electronics and radio. The talk was about his design of an aerial system, which has received world-wide acclaim, and is known as the G5RV antenna. We thanked him for making the afternoon most interesting, irrespective of our technical abilities, and answering our questions in such detail. Mr. Varney stayed for a cup of tea, and for an appreciable time afterwards, talking to individuals.

### World-Wide Contacts

Saturday evening saw many contacts, with amateurs around the world, using the high-powered transmitter. Licensees (radio?) as far as the Isle of Wight were reached, using the low-powered transmitter, connected to an aerial only 19 inches long, positioned on the window ledge outside.

Sunday morning transmissions started before breakfast, and contacts with South America, South Africa, and a number of European countries were made, in spite of the early morning thunderstorm, which produced high levels of interference. Later contacts included a group from the Royal Navy Amateur Radio Society, and two stations specially set up for the bi-centenary of American independence. The last contact of the weekend was with G3VQ, Ken Thompson of Belfast, whose wife is none other than Ruth Thompson, St. Dunstan's Welfare Visitor in Northern Ireland.

We are looking forward to receiving cards sent to confirm contacts, and are indebted to Mrs. Audrey, and Miss Mary Gaygan, for taking the responsibility of the log of contacts for the weekend, and despatching the necessary cards on our behalf. Cards from the previous weekend had been mounted on boards, for all to see.

Our thanks to the Commandant, Matron, and staff, at Ian Fraser House, for their hospitality. Thanks also to Headquarters staff, for their help in making reservations, travel arrangements, and escorting those who had to travel via London.

Copies of the cassette recording, from the lecture, may be obtained from the Secretary, St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society: Mr. E. John, G3SEJ, 52 Broadway Avenue, Wallasey, Merseyside, L45 6TD. A blank C60 cassette should be enclosed.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society will be at Ian Fraser House, 24th-26th September 1976. We look forward to meeting, once again, and perhaps welcoming other St. Dunstaners who have shown an interest in amateur radio recently, together with absent friends from this occasion. Applications for accommodation should be made to Miss Bridger, at Headquarters, and not to the Secretary of the Radio Society. All St. Dunstaners, whatever their interest in radio or electronics, will be most welcome.

### FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

It is hoped that we will again be granted an allocation of tickets for the Afternoon and Evening Presentation of the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, 13th November. Any St. Dunstaner who has not previously had the opportunity of attending is invited to apply to Miss Bridger at Headquarters not later than Monday, 27th September, for inclusion in the ballot for tickets, indicating which Presentation he would prefer to attend.

Those St. Dunstaners allocated tickets who do not live within daily travelling distance of London will be assisted with fares and accommodation for one or two nights at St. Dunstan's expense and will be invited to join the St. Dunstan's contingent attending the Cenotaph Parade in Whitehall on Sunday, 14th November.

13



Ted Jinks in the standing long-jump.

"Putting" the medicine ball is Jerry Lynch.



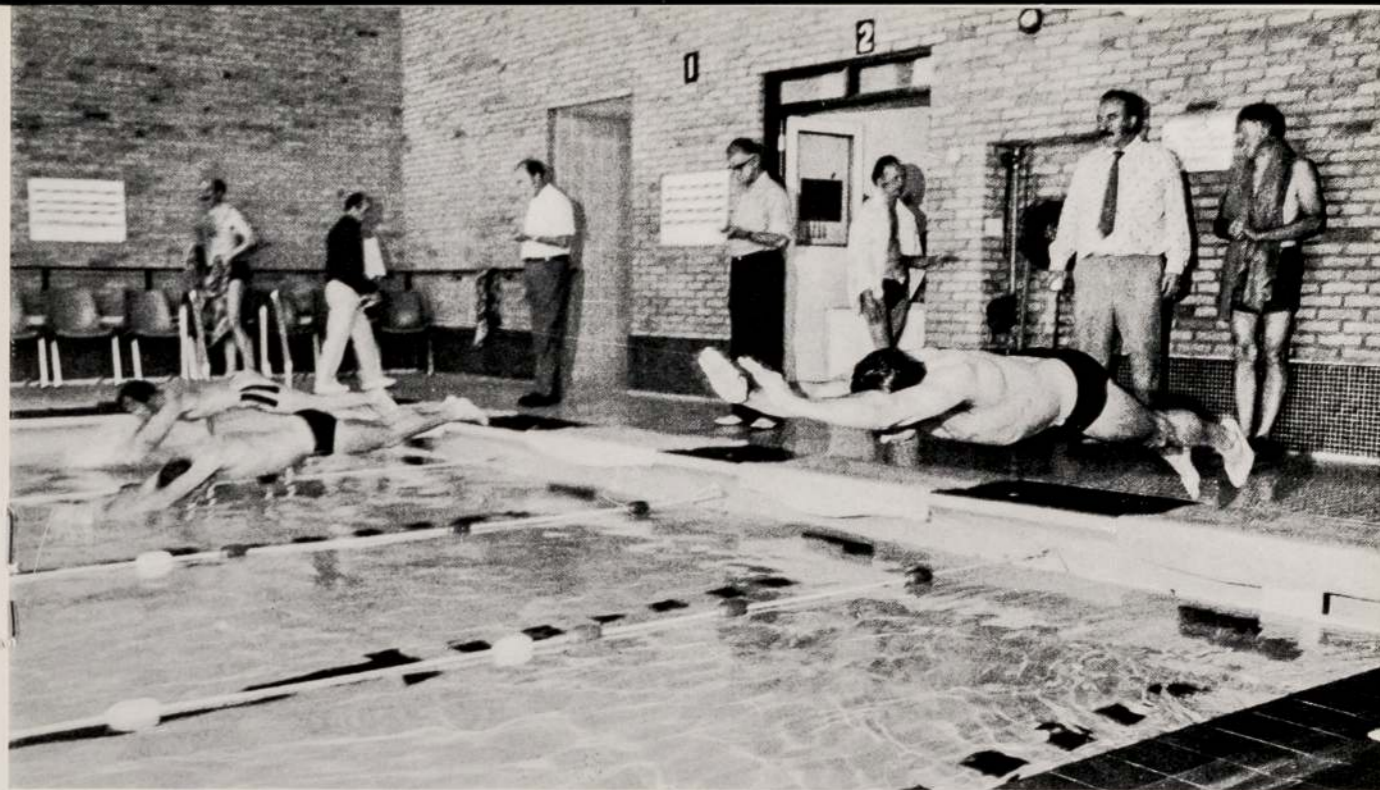
## IN THE ANNEXE IF WET

### St. DUNSTAN'S SPORTS 1976

In the middle of a summer drought that had brought dire warnings from Water Authorities in many parts of the country, we held St. Dunstan's Annual Sports Weekend. The walking was completed under lowering skies at Hove Park and by the time the coach returned to Ian Fraser House the rain was falling in earnest.

Jock Carnochan's carefully marked-out athletics field became sodden and slippery so that, even if the rain had stopped, competition would have been hazardous. The rain continued, and our Sports Officer made the decision that the sports should be brought indoors.

With masterly naval improvisation, full use was made of the ample covered space provided by the bowling rink—carpet rolled back—gymnasium, and the Annexe itself. The shot became a one-handed throw of a medicine ball, darts took the place of the javelin. There was a short sprint along the length of the bowling rink with sighted escort—mainly Mandy Carnochan, whose energy seemed inexhaustible—static cycle, rowing machine, skittles, long jump and an instrument of torture known as the abdominal board.



The start of one of the swimming heats.

It all added up to an afternoon of fun and interest for competitors and spectators alike despite the weather—and it was good to see our keener athletes swallowing their disappointment and entering into the spirit of things.

The team event was won by Young's Yetis with 40 points from Bell's Baboons with 30 points. Individually it was John Simpson (Totally Blind), Don Planner (Partially Sighted) and Bill Griffiths (Doubly Handicapped) who won the Victors Ludorum prizes.

It was good to see a new arrival at Ian Fraser House, Don Planner, among the awards—he naturally also carried off the best beginner prize, but the real star of the week-end was Barbara Bell, our only woman competitor, who took part in everything and acquitted herself very well indeed—many of her results comparing favourably with the male competitors. In the 2½ mile walk held at a new venue, Hove Park, which proved popular with our walkers, John Simpson led the way home for the Totally Blind, with a handicap time of 22 mins. 27 secs. He was the fastest walker on actual time 23 mins. 27 secs., 1 min. 48 secs. faster

than Paddy Cryan's actual time of 25 mins. 15 secs. Paddy won the P.S. section with a handicap time of 21 mins. 15 secs.

#### Swimming

There was nothing the weather could do on Sunday to dampen the swimming events in which Ray Peart showed that he is in fine form for the Disabled Olympics in Canada. His time of 24.8 secs. for the 2 lengths free style was 4.1 secs. better than the next man, Mike Tetley. While in the endurance event—10 lengths free style—he had a 53.1 sec. advantage over Mike. So it was Ray Peart, winner of the T.B. section, Alan Wortley, P.S., and Bill Griffiths, D.H.

On Sunday afternoon, Mr. Wills made the presentations to conclude an excellent sports week-end achieved despite the weather, and his suggestion that, as things had gone so well in our new quarters under cover, it might be possible to run a sports week-end during the winter months, was greeted with enthusiasm.

*Detailed results overleaf.*





Mr. Wills poses with "Young's Yetis" after presenting them with their tankards as team winners. The Yetis are (left to right) Ted Bunting, Mike Tetley, Jimmy Wright, Bob Young and Reg Palmer.

### SWIMMING RESULTS

Name	2 L	2 L	2 L	2 L	Plunge	Plates max. 40	Com- pulsory Dive	Volun- tary Dive	10 L Free Style	Total Points	Final Place
	Breast Stroke	Front Crawl	Back Stroke	Free Style							
<b>T.B.</b>											
M. Tetley	41.5	28.3	46.4	28.9	56' 0"	17	20	20	4.1.3	53	2nd
J. Simpson	51.4	62.3	88.5	60.2	36' 0"	6	19	21	6.25.5	27	6th
C. Stafford	46.5	45.6		50.4	26' 8"	3	13	19	5.4.7	15	8th
P. Spencer	39.1		52.2	40.2	39' 10"		19	18		30	4th
J. Humphrey	45.0			44.2	38' 4"	8	18	21	5.0.7	34	3rd
N. Perry	42.0		57.6		27' 4"		15	13	5.0.8	15	8th
J. Wright				60.6	40' 8"		21	20		24	7th
T. Parkinson	44.5	39.1			29' 10"		22	24		28	5th
<b>R. Peart</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>25.4</b>		<b>24.8</b>	<b>33' 0"</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3.8.2</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>P.S.</b>											
R. Palmer	56.4	49.9		48.3	17' 0"	3	14			11	6th
<b>A. Wortley</b>	<b>38.3</b>		<b>47.3</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>42' 9"</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4.5.8</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1st</b>
E. Bunting	44.8				40' 1"	17	21	15		24	2nd
J. Cope	42.6	37.2		36.0	31' 10"	15			5.36.0	24	2nd
E. Allchin	54.5	59.1		58.2	21' 9"	2	11	4	6.12.6	11	6th
R. Hall	56.6		44.8		38' 0"	8	18	18		16	4th
<b>D.H.</b>											
P. Stubbs	65.5		73.4		36' 0"		17	19		5	2nd
<b>W. Griffiths</b>	<b>55.4</b>		<b>64.6</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>45' 10"</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>Women</b>											
B. Bell (Miss)		50.5			43' 4"		16	20		8	1st

### 2 1/2 MILE WALK

Order of Finish	Handicap Time	Allowance	Actual Time
P. Cryan	21.15	4.00	25.15
J. Simpson	22.27	1.00	23.27
N. Perry	22.32	2.40	25.12
M. Tetley	22.49	2.00	24.49
R. Hall	23.14	3.00	26.14
D. Planner	23.30	2.00	25.30
E. Allchin	23.33	1.50	25.23
J. Lynch	23.35	2.50	26.25
R. Palmer	23.36	2.30	26.06
A. Wortley	23.46	2.30	26.16
C. Stafford	23.56	3.00	26.56
S. Tutton	23.56	2.30	26.26
J. Wright	24.14	4.00	28.14
R. Young	24.50	2.50	27.40
W. Griffiths	25.04	4.30	29.34
H. Cope	25.20	2.10	27.30
E. Jinks	25.47	2.30	28.17
L. Rea	27.58	4.30	32.28
Barbara Bell	28.32	4.30	33.02
J. O'Donnell	29.25	2.10	31.35

## Prize Card

### VICTORS LUDORUM FIELD SPORTS SECTION

T.B.	J. Simpson	91 points
P.S.	D. Planner	102 points
D.H.	W. Griffiths	34 points

### VETERAN (over 60)

C. Stafford	57 points	5 competitors
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### BEST BEGINNER

D. Planner	102 points	9 competitors
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### FIELD SPORTS TEAMS

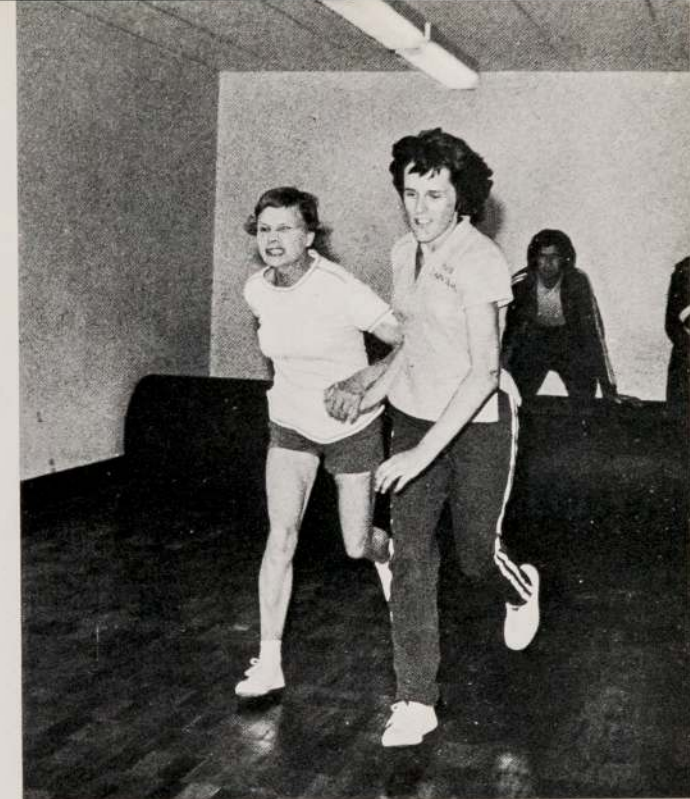
First	Young's Yetis	40 points
Second	Bell's Baboons	30 points
Third	Stubbs' Stallions	29 points
Fourth	Griffiths' Gorillas	27 points
Fifth	Pellington's Panthers	19 points

### 2 1/2 MILE WALK

T.B.	J. Simpson	Time: 22.27
P.S.	P. Cryan	Time: 21.15

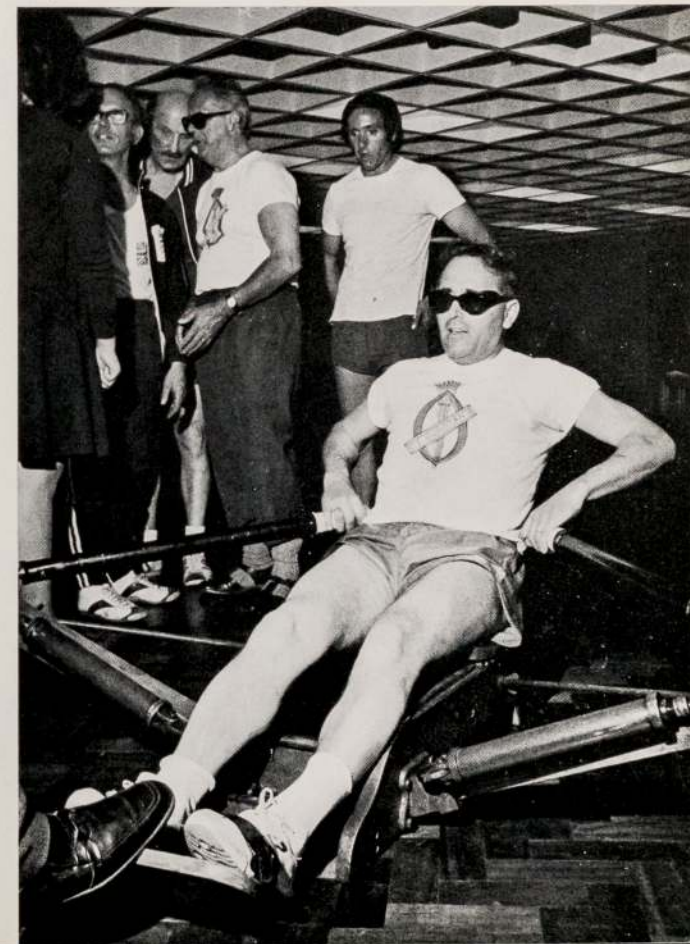
### SWIMMING EVENTS

T.B.	R. Peart	56 points
P.S.	A. Wortley	37 points
D.H.	W. Griffiths	15 points



A determined Barbara Bell competing in the sprint, guided by Mandy Carnochan.

Tony Parkinson on the rowing machine.





At "base" (left to right) Cliff Evans, John Simpson, Tom Lukes, Bill Shea, Ray Sheriff, Edward Quinn and Jock Carnochan.

## Another Welcome in the Hillsides

by Ray Sheriff

For the third successive year a select team from the Elusive Order of St. Dunstan's gathered together for the express purpose of conquering the summit of Cader Idris, a mountain in the Snowdonia range of North Wales. Height: 2,927 feet. The date for this venture: 11th to 14th June. Rendezvous: the Red Lion Hotel in the picturesque village of Dinas Mawddwy.

The participants and their wives arrived at the station with the strange sounding name—Machynlleth—late Friday afternoon, 11th June, and were met and welcomed by the organiser of this exercise, Mr. Bob Thomas. This fine ex-Royal Navy character instigated the idea that the blind should have the

opportunity, under expert supervision, to try their luck at mountaineering. The team this year was six strong: Bill Shea, John Simpson, Tom Luke, Edward Quinn, Ernest Patterson and myself. Of course, we were all kept in strict order by Jock Carnochan, the very model of tact and discretion.

We spent Friday evening in the Hotel bar getting acquainted with the rest of the party over a glass of beer. Of course the women did the talking, we just drank.

Unfortunately, Ernie Patterson had to return home for personal reasons on the following morning. Fortunately, he left for our use lolly to the sum of £10, subscribed for "Comfort for the Troops" by an American citizen, Mrs. R. Herzfold,

a friend of Ernie's. I guess it could be termed "American Aid"?

On Saturday, 12th June, the day scheduled for the climb, we awoke early, probably due to the heavy patter of rain on our bedroom window. It was quite obvious that our big boots would not touch Cader Idris that dull, misty day. After breakfast our leader, Bob Thomas, arrived to confirm this fact: climb cancelled, adverse weather conditions, low cloud, 500 feet.

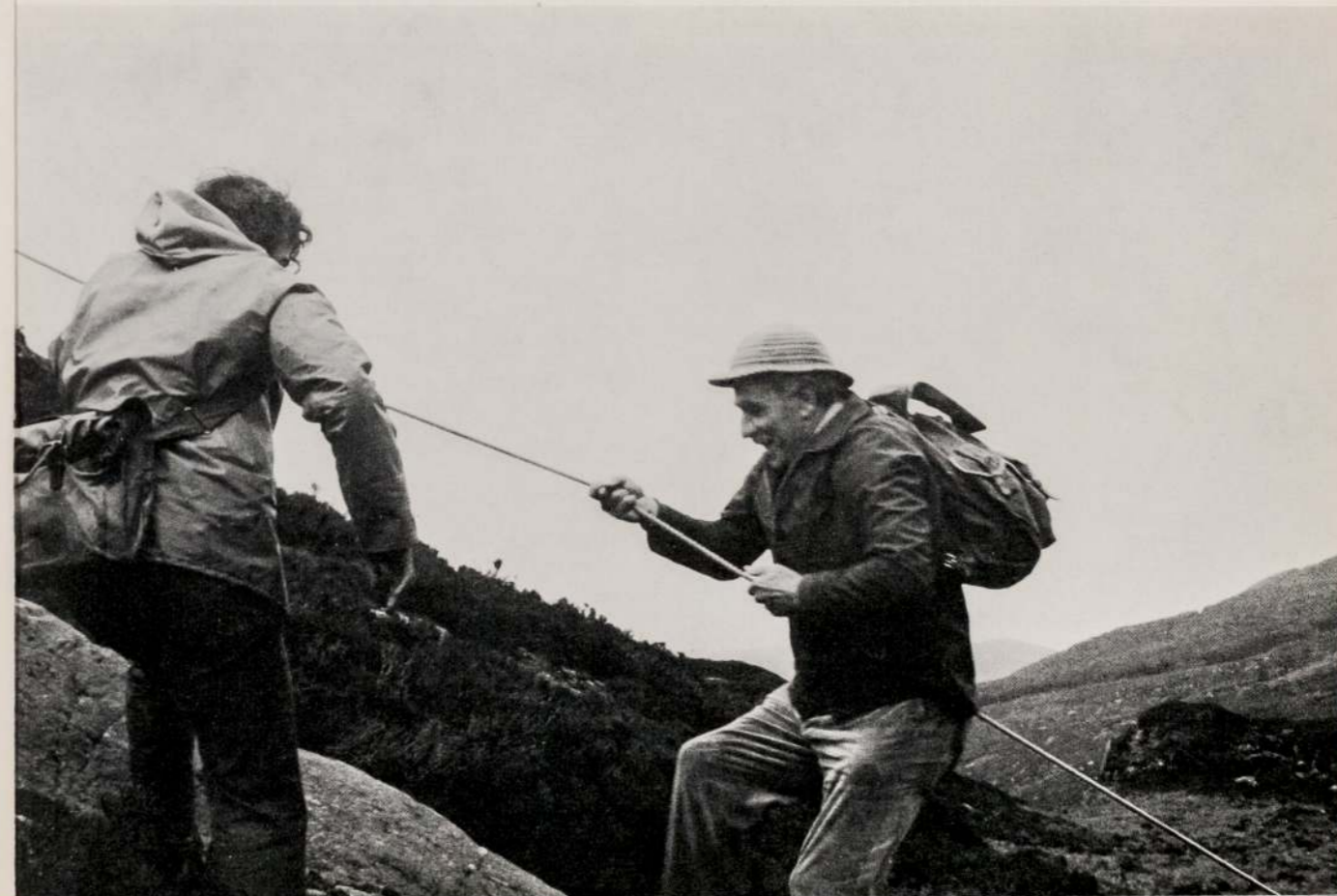
Naturally, our first reaction was disappointment, but we soon realised that we could not expect the leaders—Steve Farrow, Climb Master, John Bond, Deputy Leader, and voluntary escorts drawn from the Forestry Commission, Snowdonia National Park and the North Wales Police—to go ahead with the original plan. However, the organisers put their heads together and so deemed that we should not be deprived of a day's climbing, even though it proved of a lesser altitude.

So we donned our gear, grabbed our haversack rations and boarded the mini-

bus. In convoy with three landrovers we travelled about 10 miles to the lower slopes of Diffwys. Here we crossed the toll bridge and made for a halt three miles due North. Here we left the armour under camouflage and made for the track, which led ultimately to the open country and higher slopes. We very much enjoyed a scramble, with the aid of a rope, to a high point, an 80-foot outcrop of rock. At this point lunch was served. Weather conditions had not improved, still wet and misty. At this juncture, also, we were given an edifying talk by John Bond, an expert on the geology and landscape of the area—one thing I remember is that the greyish white metallic element of manganese was not too long ago mined in that area.

On the downward trek we enjoyed a climb of around 25 feet up an almost sheer rock face, and back to ground level. Of course, this was made simple and safe by having a rope tied round the waist. So endeth an enjoyable day's climbing. Thanks to my able escorts—Eric Williams, John Davenport and Gwyn Jones—I was

Edward Quinn has the assistance of a rope on this scramble.





*Safely roped, Ray Sheriff picks his way up an outcrop of rock.*

never allowed to put a foot wrong. In fact, they jumped smartly into action thinking I needed help, when I wished just to sit down. Guess I must look pretty decrepit! Incidentally, Eric Williams was an ex-RAF Bomber Pilot during the War, and we were able to converse on the subject of the old Whitley bomber, more commonly known as the "Black Coffin". I did my qualifying parachute jumps from this monstrosity.

On the journey back to the hotel, we suddenly halted at an Inn called George III. Nothing too strange about this fact, except perhaps that the time was already 3.45 p.m. However, the door was open and soon we had liquid refreshments to replenish lost energy. I understand this bonus was earned by Cliff Evans, ex-Police Constable. Marvellous the doors an ex-Cop. can open! We duly thanked the Landlord for allowing his arm to be twisted.

After dinner, we moved to the Bar, where we were entertained by a vast vocal rendering of Welsh songs, sung in the manner only the Welsh can sing. Of course, we all joined in the songs we

knew, for instance "We'll Keep a Welcome in the Hillsides". We all stood and joined the singing of the Welsh Anthem "Land of My Fathers".

On Sunday, 13th June, we were taken to the Maesgwyn Forest Centre, where Reg Wheeler, Head Forester (Recreation), and Eric Jones, Forest Ranger, awaited us. Both these characters were a fountain of knowledge concerning the trees and animals of the forest. We were told about the different types of conifers, how to identify them by smell, touch and number of needles etc.; thermal transfer of genes from one tree to another—all jolly clever stuff, and too much for my wooden block!

We also visited a thinning working site, where methods of felling, extraction by overhead cables and winches, and finally conversion into different specifications for despatching, were explained by Reg Wheeler, who excelled himself with his telling of this long and intricate process.

The programme for Sunday also included a visit to a disused gold mine: up until 40 years ago, gold was being mined in North Wales. We were taken into the

narrow, dank, eerie passages which lead to the open shafts where the rock ore was surfaced and brought to the outside workings for crushing procedure to extract gold. I didn't relish wandering these dismal passages, which made me feel rather claustrophobic, and I was glad to get out into the warm air.

Our next stop was the Forestry Commission H.Q. and Museum. This was a contrast to the drab mining area, and we were warmly welcomed by Jim Hamilton, the Big Chief of the Forestry. We enjoyed a super tea prepared by Mrs. Margaret Hamilton and Mrs. Rowena Thomas. Finally we moved to the museum, which is ideal for the blind, so much that can be touched—stuffed animals and birds, preserved local fauna and flora, and renovated rock-crushing machinery.

#### **Thank You Dinner**

As a small token of our appreciation, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas accepted an invitation to wine and dine with us for our last dinner at the Red Lion. John Simpson *continued overleaf.*



*At the Maesgwyn Forest Centre, Eric Jones shows John Simpson a bird of prey.*

*The party visiting a thinning working site on Sunday.*





### Record of Service

Cliff Hoyle of Chadderton, Oldham, worked for Hawker Siddeley Aviation as an Inspector of components for 31 years up to his retirement in March. This represents his entire working life after he was blinded while serving in Italy with the King's Liverpool Regiment during the Second World War. After training at Church Stretton, he joined the firm in September, 1945.

This Hawker - Siddeley photograph shows Cliff receiving his retirement gifts from the Group Inspection Manager, Mr. John Smallwood.

Cliff's personal record of service is outstanding—in conjunction with two other

### ANOTHER WELCOME—*continued*

proposed a toast of thanks on behalf of us all, and Bob and Rowena Thomas, in reply, toasted "The Ladies of St. Dunstan's".

We all sincerely trust that we shall have another chance to climb Cader Idris next June, and to meet once again such a helpful and friendly bunch of people.

Thanks to St. Dunstan's for making such a venture possible.

**Bill Shea** writes:

I was very disappointed, naturally, about the weather stopping us doing the climb, but all was not lost. The rest of the programme, the Red Lion, and the enthusiasm of Bob Thomas and his mates more than made up for a bit of bad weather.

Joan and I would like to say a big Thank you to everyone concerned in making the week-end so enjoyable.

## IT STRIKES ME

by Magog

St. Dunstaners, Bert Frost and John Mooney, it is probably unique. All three worked at Hawker-Siddeley and between them totalled no less than 80 years service—and, so far as we know, there is no other factory where three St. Dunstaners have served so long. Bert Frost was the first of the three to retire, but John Mooney is still there.



### Quite a Compliment

Among the British athletes taking part in the Olympic Games, Geoff Capes, holder of the British shot put record has been talking about keeping fit and training. Recently, the *Sunday Express* published an interview with Geoff Capes in which this quotation appeared: "He now has a blind physiotherapist, who he reckons to be the best in the world". The physiotherapist in question is none other than our **Bill Shea**, and that is quite a compliment.

## OVINGDEAN NOTES

It is difficult to believe that four weeks have passed since we bade you farewell with "Hasta la Vista". However, the vista has now hasted and so we bring you our June news hot from the presses—"hot" being the operative word. With commendable restraint we refrain from commenting on the weather, and merely say "COR!!"

### Derby Day

On June 2nd we set out for Epsom and the Derby, loaded to the gunwales with food, drink, ice-cream, coats in case it turned cold, sun-hats in case it turned tropical, macs and wellies just in case—oh, and quite a lot of people too. We rendezvoused with Tom Eales and Billy Rundle of the catering staff at the Surrey Yeoman (where a cooling glass of cider did not come amiss), and then off we went to the course, happily munching our way through our appetizing lunch-packs. Soon after our arrival, the Queen, lovely in pink, drove regally along the course, and the Pearly Kings and Queens, resplendent in purple plumes and thousands of pearl buttons, entertained with a knees-up. Gypsies offered us bunches of heather, or the prospect of a long and happy life—both at a price. The incessant click of camera shutters sounded like the opening bars of a tango, though the hoarse shouts of the bookies were less than romantic. The strawberries and cream were delicious and gave us much pleasure. The whole day was a wonderful kaleidoscope of colour, movement, excitement and noise—it had an atmosphere all its own. We believe there was some horse-racing too.

The Theatre Royal catered for a variety of tastes; *Equus*, by Peter Shaffer, was brilliantly clever, but the subject matter was distasteful—Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, starring Janet Suzman and Nigel Davenport, was filled with Russian gloom and despair. At the end of the month, the pendulum swung to the other extreme and the plays were lightweight and superficial—nothing wrong in that, but both *One of the Family* and *Some of my Best Friends are Husbands*—(no comment)—lacked wit and sparkle.

The twice-weekly drives continued to be popular, but it was sad to see the countryside looking so parched. Came the Sports Weekend, and—you've guessed it. It rained. We tried hard to convince ourselves that it was merely a heavy dew, but alas, the drizzle went steadily on. Fortunately, our Sports Officer had made alternative arrangements, and thanks in great part to his forethought a successful weekend resulted. It was followed by five days of fishing, when the sun blazed down—noses peeled and shoulders burned, but a splendid time was enjoyed.

### Peter Larsen

One of our favourite entertainers, Mr. Peter Larsen, visited us again, and had us swaying, tapping and hip-swinging to his compulsive music. We were also treated to a very enjoyable concert given by the "Harmony Express"—you may remember they started life as "Four Men in a Bar". Our final concert in the House during June was given by the Portsmouth Male Voice Choir; twenty five of them came to Brighton for the day, many of them accompanied by their wives, and they wound up their visit to the town by changing into evening dress and singing for us. On what must have been the hottest evening for many years, they threw modesty to the winds and discarded their dinner jackets. Between numbers they consumed gallons of lemonade, and the VAD staff had quite a problem preparing 100 ice-cream wafers in the space of minutes—it was so hot that the ices were melting as we prepared them. Our visitors gave us a most enjoyable evening, presenting a varied and well-balanced programme. One of their fine baritones sang that lovely old song "Leaning", which told of a faithful old dog, leaving his master for the Great Kennel in the Sky. There wasn't a dry eye in the house, but we love a spot of sentiment. A selection of hearty sea-shanties restored our equilibrium, and we yo-ho-ho-ed with a will. Our pleasure in this well-presented concert was expressed most sincerely by Eddie Allchin.

The following night was equally hot,

and we were profoundly grateful to Matron for allowing the VAD staff to wear their own summer dresses instead of uniform, to the dance. This happy state of affairs will continue while the almost-tropical weather lasts, and it is really rather nice to see colourful dresses around the House.

At our August Bank Holiday Dance, prizes will be awarded for the wittiest and most original costumes illustrating song titles.

Our St. Dunstaner Peter Jones, of Sheffield, has contributed a series of articles to the *New Beacon* on woodwork. These have now been reprinted as a collection under the title *Woodwork and the Visually Handicapped*. The publication is available in Braille (Cat. No. 41479), and any St. Dunstaner wishing to obtain a copy may do so at the concessionary price of 36p on application to Mrs. Lefrere, Men's Supplies at Headquarters.



Hilary Forster, well-known to our readers as a "dancing daughter" was married in April. This picture shows Hilary, with her father, Robert, arriving at St. John's Church, Moor Allerton, Leeds.

## CLUB NEWS

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

The winners of our weekly Dominoes matches during June were:

3rd June	1st	W. Miller
	2nd	C. Hancock
10th June	1st	W. Miller
	2nd	C. Hancock
17th June	1st	W. Miller
	2nd	C. Hancock
24th June	1st	W. Miller
	2nd	J. Majchrowicz

### MIDLAND

Since my last report we have had events take place within the Club: the first being our usual meeting in June which, although another quiet one owing to holidays and sickness among members, was still a very happy one. A few games of Dominoes were played and there was plenty of chatter as usual over one subject or another.

The tea for this meeting was prepared for us by Mrs. Olwyn Rea and we all thanked her for a lovely spread.

We are all very sorry that our old friend and very good member, Dennis Beddoes, has not been able to attend club meetings for some little time as he has been rather poorly of late, but I do know he is looking forward very much to joining us again as soon as he feels well enough. Everyone sends best wishes to you, Den.

### Symonds Yat

Our second event was our outing to Symonds Yat on Sunday, 4th July. It was a glorious day, a little too hot really, but I think that everyone enjoyed it. Most of us enjoyed a trip on the river, about the coolest spot.

We had a very nice lunch at the Garden Restaurant and then had the afternoon and early evening to do just as we liked.

DOUG CASHMORE  
Secretary

### BRIGHTON SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUB

Our monthly dance was held on 12th June and was well attended by Club members and St. Dunstaners on holiday. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening, and our next dance will be held on 14th August.

On Wednesday, 30th June, a trip was organised to the Congress Theatre, Eastbourne. After an enjoyable tea in the Winter Gardens and a stroll along the seafront, we saw an excellent show with Harry Secombe as the star. The ladies were impressed by the costumes and scenery and, to add to our pleasure, Mr. Secombe came to the coach and met everyone. How kind he is is legendary and when we learned that he had suffered a bad illness, we were very touched that he had made this extra effort to meet us. Bob Osborne, Chairman of Entertainments, thanked Mr. Secombe and Bob was assured that Harry will visit and entertain us at Ian Fraser House when his commitments permit.

Any Club member visiting Ian Fraser House wishing to participate in any future outings, please contact the Entertainments Committee.

BILL PHILLIPS

### Whist Aggregate Scores 16th June, 1976

#### Ladies

1st	Mrs. B. Griffiths	87
2nd	Mrs. E. M. Dodgson	85
3rd	Mrs. P. Lethbridge	83

#### Gentlemen

1st	W. Lethbridge	88
2nd	R. Bickley	84
3rd	C. Walters	82

### Dominoes Aggregate Results 9th June, 1976

1st	Mrs. B. Griffiths
2nd	Mrs. F. Pike
	Mrs. P. Padley
	Mr. T. Giles

### 7th July, 1976

1st	Mrs. C. Preedy
	Mrs. H. Webster
	Mr. R. Osborne
	Mr. W. Burnett

### BRIDGE SECTION

Our sixth pairs match was held on Saturday, 26th June. The winners were:

#### North-South

F. Griffiee and Mrs. E. Gover

#### East-West

Miss B. Simon and Mrs. Green

On the following Sunday, a match was played against the Saltdean Saturday Bridge Club. Although everyone enjoyed the game, the visitors, as expected, proved too good for the St. Dunstan's team.

WALTER LETHBRIDGE

## READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 312

### In the Absence of Mrs. Petersen

by Nigel Balchin

Read by Michael de Morgan

Reading Time 8 hours

Jim Petersen's wife, Sarah, is killed in an air crash in America. Shortly afterwards, in Paris, he meets Katerina Feldic who bears a striking resemblance to Sarah. To make the point he shows the girl her passport.

Katerina arrives at his hotel with a proposition. She wants him to take her, posing as his wife, on a visit to her native Yugoslavia in order to smuggle some family jewels out.

Against his better judgement Petersen agrees. The journey to Belgrade is uneventful and it seems as if the operation will be easy to accomplish.

But gradually his suspicions are aroused. What is behind the nightly disappearances of Katerina? And who is the mysterious man he has seen her with? And on reflection the jewels don't seem valuable enough to risk her returning to Yugoslavia, where she is allegedly on the police "wanted" list.

His suspicions are well-founded and Mr. Petersen is in for some nasty shocks.

The book is readable enough I suppose, but the plot is a bit thin in places and I kept getting the feeling I'd heard it all before.

## READING TIME

Continued

Cat. No. 184

### Where Eagles Dare

by Alistair Maclean

Read by David Broomfield

Reading Time 8½ hours

An all-action yarn and real vintage Maclean. Gestapo headquarters are situated in the *Schloss Adler*, high in the Bavarian mountains. It is an impregnable fortress, the only way in (and out) is by cable railway controlled from inside the castle.

There's a prisoner up there, an American general who knows all about Operation Overlord. If he spills the beans (and the Gestapo will undoubtedly see to it that he does) the Allied cause is lost. Ergo, he must be rescued.

Impossible, you might think. Well of course it's impossible! But to the indestructible Major John Smith and his hand-picked crew of dare-devils, the impossible takes just that bit longer.

They do get into the castle and they do bring out the American, leaving the *Schloss Adler* rather the worse for wear (earlier they burn down a railway station as a kind of preliminary canter).

Matters are a little complicated by the discovery that there are traitors in Major Smith's outfit and these have to be winkled out. At the end of the book there is a masterly "twist" which I defy any reader to foresee.

Action-packed, fast-moving, riveting stuff!

Cat. No. 1296

### Let's Look At Paris

by Patrick Pringle

Read by Robert Gladwell

Reading Time 5½ hours

This is not just another guide-book. The author has made a selection of a few of the many attractions of the French capital and dealt with them in some detail, together with a wealth of historical background. I learned more French history from this small book than ever I did at school!

We take a trip on a *bateau mouche*, visit the famous Flea Market, join in the July 14th celebrations. There is a graphic and moving account of the 1944 uprising and the subsequent liberation of Paris.

The book is generously besprinkled with off-beat facts (fascinating or completely useless, depending on your mood and temperament). There are no *gendarmes* in Paris (the local cop is *un agent de Police*). There are twenty-three cemeteries in Paris (one for dogs). And 40,000 trees. You can, if you wish, have dinner up a tree at the *Parc* (Swiss Family) *Robinson!* The obelisk in the middle of *La Place de Bastille* does *not* commemorate the Revolution. And, after the fall of the prison, whatever became of the keys?

This bright and cheerful little book won't perhaps take the place of the *Michelin*, but it would make a splendid companion to it.

Cat. No. 1350

### Inspector Ghote Breaks an Egg

by H. R. F. Keating

Read by Michael de Morgan

Reading Time 8 hours

Inspector Ghote of the Bombay C.I.D. gets a telephone call from The Eminent Figure. He is to investigate the mysterious death, fifteen years before, of the first wife of the Municipal Chairman of a small town.

Ghote soon discovers that the Chairman is a powerful man. Practically everybody is on his payroll. Even the local Holy Man is prepared to fast unto death unless the case is dropped.

Everywhere the inspector meets hostility, fear, evasion and deceit. He narrowly escapes serious injury at the hands of the Chairman's hired thugs. But he carries on doggedly, asking awkward questions, tracing witnesses, turning up odd scraps of information—and uncovering some surprising facts in the process.

Until at last, inspector Ghote cracks an egg—and the case.

An intriguing story of painstaking investigation, set against the unusual background of a small Indian town.

## FAMILY NEWS

### Marriages

*Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O'Reilly* of Blackburn are pleased to announce that their daughter, Kathleen, was married to Geoffrey Wolstenholme on Saturday, 19th June at Holy Souls Church, Blackburn.

*Mr. and Mrs. William Rowland* of Lambeth, London, are pleased to announce that their grand-daughter, Sally, was married to Stephen Lyons on 12th June at St. Lawrence Church, Morden, Surrey.

*Mr. and Mrs. George Salters* of Liverpool are pleased to announce that their son, Benjamin, was married to Miss Denise Parkes on 26th June.

*Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Smith* of Shefford, Bedfordshire, are pleased to announce that their daughter, Mary, was married to Mr. William Rock, at Biggleswade Registry Office on Saturday, 8th May.

### Silver Wedding

We congratulate *Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Knight* of Heslington, Yorkshire, who celebrated their Silver Wedding on 28th June, 1976.

### Grandparents

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. Henry Cope* of Newcastle - under - Lyme, on the birth of his first grandchild, a girl, Laurie Irene, born on 6th June to his daughter, Joy, and her husband.

*Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Dunkley* of Northampton, on the birth of a grandson, Oliver, in March to their daughter, Mavis, and her husband.

*Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Edmunds* of Mansfield, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Lauren, born on 12th April to their daughter, Andrea, and her husband.

*Mr. and Mrs. Peter Logan* of North Shields, on the birth of a grandson, Robert, to their daughter, Sonia, and her husband on 19th June.

*Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Ostle* of Cocker-mouth, Cumbria, on the birth of a grandson, Simon, to their son Michael and his wife on 12th May.

### Deaths

#### We offer our sincere sympathy to:

*Mr. and Mrs. George Bickley* of Peacehaven, on the recent death of Mrs. Bickley's mother.

*Mr. Charles Kirk* of Lancing, whose wife, Frances, died on 15th June.

*Mr. Edward Paris* of New Malden, Surrey, whose wife, Essie May, died on 16th June.

*Mr. Charles Pilgrim* of Saltdean, whose wife, Elsie Grace, died on 8th June.

*Mr. Joshua Williams* of Swansea, whose sister died in June.

## 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.

**Bertie Barnes, O.B.E., B.Sc.**

*Royal Engineers*

Bertie Barnes, of Willerby, E. Yorks., died at home on the 15th June, 1976, at the age of 82.

He was commissioned in the First World War and carried out special research work with the Royal Engineers, locating long range German guns by sound ranging. After the War he entered the Civil Service, finally becoming a Senior Inspector of Taxes (Advisory), Inland Revenue; he was awarded the O.B.E. in 1950. He had suffered from mustard gas during the War, his sight eventually failed and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1951, by which time he had taught himself Braille. He retired in 1958 and his wife died in 1971, since when he lived with members of his family. His health had deteriorated recently and he was nursed devotedly at home by his daughter and her family.

He leaves a daughter and a son, both married, and grandchildren.

# In Memory

*Continued*

## **John Charles Gwynne.** *Royal Engineers*

John Charles Gwynne of Kingsthorpe, Hereford, died on 10th June, at the age of 83.

He enlisted in 1915 with the Royal Engineers and served with them as a Sapper until 1919 when he became blind as the result of a mustard gas attack in Lille, France. He did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1974 and, although he did not have the best of health, we are happy that he was able to enjoy his garden which he had cultivated himself over the years.

Mr. Gwynne worked for many years in the Maintenance Section of the Guy's Hospital Estate, Kingsthorpe, before retiring at the age of 65.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Margaret Gwynne, and one son.

## **Albert Charles Lamper.** *Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve*

Albert Charles Lamper of Brighton, died on 2nd July, 1976 at the age of 70.

Mr. Lamper served as a Leading Aircraftman with the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1940 until his discharge in 1946 and was a prisoner-of-war in Java from 1941 until the end of the Second World War. Having suffered considerable deprivation as a P.O.W., he was discharged from the Services due to ill health but prior to and after his war service he worked for the Brighton Equitable Co-operative Society, by whom he was employed for a total of 37 years.

Regrettably, our St. Dunstaner had been in very poor health for some time but was on a convalescent stay at Pearson House at the time of his death, following an accident in his home.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Ivy Blanche Lamper, and one son.

## **Ernest Frank Lovejoy.** *Royal Navy*

Ernest Frank Lovejoy of Soberton, Southampton, died on 7th July, 1976 at the age of 55.

Prior to enlistment in 1939, Mr. Lovejoy worked as a shepherd for a few years and on joining the Royal Navy at the outbreak of the Second World War he served in H.M.S. Anthony.

As a result of an injury received during his War service, Mr. Lovejoy's health sadly deteriorated over the years and he was nursed devotedly by his wife. He was a frequent visitor to our Homes in Brighton, where he was affectionately known as "Ernie".

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Patricia Ellen Lovejoy, one son and two daughters.

## **Montague William Pearce.** *Queen's West Surreys*

Montague William Pearce of Basingstoke, Hampshire, died on 25th June, 1976 at the age of 86.

He served with the Queen's West Surreys during the First World War. Before enlisting he had been a gardener and after his discharge in 1919 he went to assist his father-in-law in running a farm where he worked until his retirement at the age of 66, but gardening remained his main hobby.

After the death of his wife in 1973, our St. Dunstaner was nursed devotedly by his elder daughter.

He leaves two daughters, Miss Kathleen Pearce and Mrs. Joan Whitcombe.

## **Alfred Olerenshaw.** *Machine Gun Corps*

Alfred Olerenshaw, of Altrincham, Cheshire, died at home on the 3rd July, 1976, at the age of 81.

He enlisted on the 29th August, 1914, was wounded at the Dardanelles and later commissioned, and served until 1920. He worked in industry and as a newsagent until the sight of his remaining eye failed; he came to St. Dunstan's in 1973. In recent years he had been in and out of hospital a good deal, but always cheerfully hoped for improvement. He had been home for a time when his condition deteriorated considerably just before his death.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Jessica Olerenshaw, married son and grandchildren.

## **Alexander Sterno.** *Merchant Navy*

Alexander Sterno of Birmingham, died on 6th June at the age of 87.

He served with the Merchant Navy from 1915 as a chief cook in British Troopships. He was invalided out when he became ill and his blindness developed as a result of this illness. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1919 and trained as a boot repairer, also making mats as a hobby.

Our St. Dunstaner worked for many years as a boot repairer, turning out a very high standard of workmanship and, through hard work and perseverance, he was eventually able to open a shop, finally retiring from this occupation at the age of 69, in 1958. During his years of retirement, Mr. Sterno enjoyed cultivating the garden, which was done most beautifully, being described by one member of our staff as "like a miniature park". He also corresponded, in several languages, with the many friends he had made during his extensive travels abroad.

Mr. Sterno was a widower, and leaves one son, Harry, and his family with whom our St. Dunstaner had lived for the past 14 years.