

St Dunstans Review December

St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

No. 680

DECEMBER 1976

10p MONTHLY

Message from the Chairman

We approach the end of another year of great activity both by St. Dunstaners and the organisation itself. Whilst St. Dunstaners in employment have contributed to the economic life of the country in many different ways, our Homes in Brighton have been kept busy with men and women on holiday or convalescence, with the training of new St. Dunstaners – some, unhappily, from Northern Ireland – with the care of those in permanent residence, and with a number of special conferences and reunions.

Our Headquarters staff in Old Marylebone Road have been active in all departments looking after the interests and well-being of St. Dunstaners and their families, organising the eleven regional reunions which we hold annually, and many other matters such as co-operating with our numerous friends outside who hold special events on our behalf. Among these, I think of the mountain climb in North Wales and the camps organised at H.M.S. Daedalus and at Warminster.

My wife joins me in wishing a very happy Christmas and New Year to all St. Dunstaners and their wives and families at home and overseas, St. Dunstaners' widows, our Council and staff, our voluntary helpers everywhere and those good friends who serve St. Dunstan's in so many different ways.

The Rev. F. Darrell Bunt, C.B., O.B.E., M.A.

The Council of St. Dunstan's, and I personally, are very sorry to lose the valuable help which we have had over the past twenty-five years from Mr. Darrell Bunt, who resigned in October.

During this quarter century, Mr. Bunt represented both the Royal Navy and the Church on our Council and, in his regular attendance, gave us much wise counsel.

Mr. Bunt studied theology at St. Chad's College, Durham and, after holding several appointments in England, he joined the Royal Navy as a Chaplain in 1930. He served as Padre in several ships at sea and also had a spell of duty ashore at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth as Assistant Chaplain of the Fleet, at H.M.S. Excellent, the Portsmouth Gunnery School, in H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth, and finally as Chaplain of the Fleet before he retired from the Royal Navy in 1960.

Presiding at many of our regional Reunions during the twenty-five years, from Blackpool in the North to Brighton in the South and Plymouth in the West, Mr. Bunt was always untiring in his efforts to meet all St. Dunstaners at the Reunion and their wives, and he has himself said how much he enjoyed these occasions.

We will certainly miss him on the Council, and I know St. Dunstaners everywhere will join us in wishing him a very happy retirement with his wife and daughter.

COVER PICTURE: One of the many breathtaking contemporary designs in Coventry Cathedral visited by women St. Dunstaners during their Reunion (see centre pages).

MR. G. P. OWENS

"Service" is a good old-fashioned word with an unselfish sound and a great deal of value in its meaning and it is one which comes to mind when one thinks of Pat Owens.

From boyhood until he was grievously wounded in 1945, he served in the Army and Police Force and then the Army again, with a fine record of achievement and promotion, and now he has retired after nearly thirty years of dedicated work as our Industrial Superintendent. The Council appreciates the responsibility he has carried and the problems he has faced on our behalf in the field of industrial employment. The staff at Headquarters and Brighton—and especially in his own happy Department—know his worth as a colleague, and most of all many of his fellow St. Dunstaners have benefited greatly from his wide knowledge, kindness and patience.

We are deeply grateful to Pat Owens for his service to St. Dunstan's and we wish him and his wife every possible happiness in their retirement.



Mr. Garnett-Orme makes the presentation to Pat Owens.

Jon Garnett-Orme

CHAIRMAN

Message from Lady Fraser

As I am not sending Christmas cards, I am asking the Editor to print a message from me to all St. Dunstaners and their families.

I send my love and every good wish for a Happy Christmas and New Year and shall be thinking of you all.

CHESS TEACH-IN

A Chess Teach-In will be held at Ian Fraser House over the weekend 11th/13th February next when instruction will be available to all. Applications for accommodation should be made to Miss Bridger at Headquarters.

CHESSMEN

Men's Supplies wish to apologise for delays in supplying chess sets, due to production difficulties at the R.N.I.B. Mrs. Lefrere would be very grateful if anyone who has a set of chessmen which they no longer require would please send it to her.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 1976

by Robert and Joyce Pringle

Sunday, November 14th, 1976, dawned on a cold, crisp day but it was warm in the sun. There had been a hard frost during the night but the sun came out to dry the ice crystals off the roofs.

Those of us attending the service at the Cenotaph met at Headquarters, where we were greeted by Mr. E. V. Stevens and given cups of tea by Ian and Nancy Dickson. We went by coach to Wellington Barracks, where we formed up and marched to the Cenotaph. The march and service went off without incident and we were complimented afterwards on the steadiness of the marching and the straightness of our ranks.

We were joined by Alex Nesbitt of Teignmouth, making his first visit to the Cenotaph as was Mr. Stubbs from Norwich. St. Dunstaners who were guinea pigs may have met Mr. Nesbitt at East Grinstead.

We went on to the Great Western Royal Hotel, where we were greeted by Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme. Among many other friends gathered here, we managed to get a word with Kath Riley of Daedalus fame, Ben Mills and Wiggy Bennett were also there.

After luncheon, the Chairman gave us the loyal toast and addressed us, saying "Remembrance Day consists of plain, simple things. We wear poppies, which are beautifully made by some of our fellow ex-Servicemen and women working with the Royal British Legion, and we lay

wreaths of them at War Memorials at city centres and village greens. All over the country men and women meet to march, to listen to noble words, to sing and pray together, and perhaps above all to stand in silence and remember. We have our own thoughts of loved ones and we share a common memory of countless ranks of people quite unknown to us but for ever valued by us for the gift of their service to our country. Today we remember and are thankful.

"As usual we have a good representative contingent from St. Dunstan's on parade and, with wives and escorts, we now number some 92. I welcome you all and thank you for coming from all over the country—in fact as far afield as Edinburgh and Shepherd's Bush!

Unfortunately, Lady Fraser cannot be with us today, but we know her thoughts have been with us this morning and she sends you all her love and best wishes.

On behalf of us all I thank Mr. Wills and Miss Bridger for today's general organisation and Mr. Stevens, and all those who helped us on the parade, as well as the hotel staff for giving us this excellent lunch."

Mr. Stevens then introduced Tom Hart, who proposed the vote of thanks. Other St. Dunstaners who spoke were Charlie Hancock, Bob Young and Randall Williams, and Bill Harris spoke on behalf of the escorts.

ST. DUNSTAN'S DAY, 1976

We would like to remind our readers that Sunday, 12th December, has been chosen as St. Dunstan's Day for 1976. Mr. Garnett-Orme gave us the date in his Message from the Chairman, published in the October *Review*, in the course of which he wrote the following words: "May St. Dunstan's Day, 1976, unite us all in thankful memory of the lives of our two great leaders."

Mr. Garnett-Orme suggests that, in addition to Sir Arthur Pearson and Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, we should remember all those St. Dunstaners who have passed on.

MR. W. RAYNER

Mr. W. Rayner, who was for many years responsible for St. Dunstan's shopkeepers and subsequently has been in charge of the Sales Department, has assumed the additional responsibilities previously undertaken by Mr. Owens.

MESSAGE FROM MISS PAT COLLINS

As I shall not be sending Christmas Cards this year the editor has very kindly allowed me space in which to wish all my St. Dunstaners friends a very happy Christmas. My thoughts are with you.

MR. ALEXANDER STERNO

The Review offers sincere apologies to his family and to our readers for certain inaccuracies in the obituary of our St. Dunstaner, Alexander Sterno, which we published in August. We are, therefore, glad to publish the undermentioned correction and other particulars sent to us by Mr. H. F. A. Sterno:

Firstly, and perhaps the most important, is that he never in his life lived in Birmingham! He only entered firstly, the Home of Thomas Pocklington, and was later admitted to Rubery Hill Hospital where he remained until the time of his death.

He joined St. Dunstan's in 1916 where he was trained as a boot and shoe repairer, learned mat-making, string-bag and hammock making, and passed both his Braille and typewriting tests with flying colours. He was presented with a gold watch-chain by Sir Arthur Pearson for the former, and a typewriter for the latter. He left St. Dunstan's late 1917, or early 1918, and started his business of boot-repairing and mat-making in Bath, in which city he lived for 41 years. During this time, he not only maintained a very sound business, which expanded at one time to two branch shops, but also reared a family of two sons.

In addition to his highly successful boot and shoe repairing business, he also received and executed orders for door mats (some with letters and diamonds), Sennit mats—and, among his proudest achievements, was to have supplied the Theatre Royal, Bath, and the Grand Pump Room, Bath, with large entrance/foyer mats. His clientele in all branches of his work included many City dignitaries, and his pride in his work knew no bounds, never accepting defeat.

His life, however, was not without its tragedies, losing a son and three wives during his lifetime, and suffering bombing during the Bath blitz.

He eventually retired, as recorded in the *Review*, at the age of 69 in 1958, and went to live in Southampton with his third wife but, within four and a half years she died, and after a very short time at St. Dunstan's, he came to live with us in Bath. We moved to Bishop's Cleeve in 1966 as a result of my promotion within my firm.

MR. G. P. OWENS WRITES:

May I write a few lines on my retirement to my fellow St. Dunstaners whom I have got to know so well during my thirty years service at Headquarters.

Many of us first met at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital and share memories of those days; there we were presented with a Brailled watch and became St. Dunstaners. Many were before us, others yet to come.

Being privileged to join the staff, I knew that for me each St. Dunstaner would be more vital than the establishment. But then, growing up together over the years, the one became synonymous with the other. At this juncture, may I pay a tribute to staff at all levels for their dedicated and loyal service to us all, whatever our difficulties.

If I have a regret, it is that I have not been able to meet and know every St. Dunstaner personally.

The department in which I served was ostensibly that of Employment. In practice this became a complete involvement with those others concerned in the business of daily living. You have all never ceased to both amaze and inspire me—for, regardless of handicap, you win through.

So many of you have contributed to a farewell present, I learn; may I acknowledge your generosity in next month's issue, when the presentation form will have been decided.

The remainder of the *In Memory* account is correct, except that never in his life was my father at all interested in gardening! It is true that our garden, here in Bishop's Cleeve, is like a "miniature park" but all the credit for this must go to my wife, Nina, who loves her garden.

In conclusion, I would most earnestly add that my dear father, who indeed was a most devoted father and very proud of the whole of his family, was also a most devoted and faithful St. Dunstaner, who was continually singing the praises of that organisation, and who looked forward to his many visits to Ovingdean and the local Reunions to meet up with his old comrades and chat about old times. Since living with us, my wife acted as his escort at the local Reunions every time, an enjoyable activity which she will now miss terribly.

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.

John Christopher Belton of Teignmouth, South Devon, who joined St. Dunstan's in October. He served in two World Wars—as a Deck Hand in the R.N.R. during the First World War and as Leading Seaman R.N. with the River Patrol during the Second World War. In civilian life, our new St. Dunstaner was a fisherman until his retirement at the age of 67. He is married and has three grown up children.

Leslie Alfred Bruton of Birmingham, who joined St. Dunstan's in November. He was commissioned and served in the

6th Worcesters throughout the First World War, and later was an engineer until his retirement. He is married with one son.

Edgar William Bull of Horsham, who joined St. Dunstan's in November. He served as a C/Sgt. in the Royal Marines. He was a regular, who served five years in Malta and served from 1929 until his discharge in 1945. Mr. Bull is employed as an off-licence manager for a well-known brewery. He is married with two grown up daughters.

Frederick William Clay of Colchester, joined St. Dunstan's in October. Mr. Clay served with the Durham County Light Infantry in the Second World War and is married with one grown up son.

Alfred Geoffrey Jacobs of Chelmsford, Essex, who joined St. Dunstan's in October. He served as a Private with the Royal Berkshire Regiment from 1939 until December 1947, and was wounded by a sniper's bullet in 1945. Mr. Jacobs is employed as a County Council audio typist.

ORANGE BADGE SCHEME by Mr. W. C. Weisblatt, LL.B., Legal Officer

This scheme, first mentioned in the May, 1975 *Review*, designed to help the blind and disabled to have better access to town centres was authorised by the Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) Regulations 1975 which altered and improved the scheme originally introduced in 1971 under the provisions of Section 21 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.

The benefits provided by the scheme are as follows:

- (a) Disabled drivers and passengers who display the orange badge on their vehicles are allowed to park for indefinite periods at places where time limits apply, and without payment at parking meters.
- (b) Badge holders are allowed to park for up to two hours on yellow lines, except where there is a ban on loading or unloading in force or in a bus lane.

Restrictions may apply where, for ex-

ample, road works are in progress or other special traffic conditions exist. Examples of these might be near a football ground on the day of a match or on the route of a procession. Furthermore, police officers and traffic wardens have special powers to request the removal of a vehicle which they consider likely to cause danger or an obstruction and this applies to badge holders as well as other motorists.

It is essential that the orange badge should be clearly displayed on the windscreen (and preferably on the rear window as well) and that the badge holder should be a passenger in the car when advantage is taken of these parking concessions.

Subject to the points made above, there are no restrictions on the purpose for which the vehicle is used and it is perfectly proper for use to be made of the orange badge when on a shopping expedition or on a social visit.

Visitors to Headquarters are warned that these concessions do not apply in most parts of Central London, although the Inner London Boroughs operate their own schemes for disabled people who live or work in their areas.



Thirty Years' Service

Bob Forster, of Leeds, has retired from his work as telephonist at Barclays Bank, Leeds headquarters, after thirty years' service. Bob, who is 56, is retiring early because of ill-health.

Presentations were made on Thursday, 30th September, in the Board Room when Bob received a stereo-record player and a cassette recorder, together with some classical L.P. records. His wife, Joy, who shared the occasion with him, received a bouquet.

After the speeches Bob was left in no doubt how much he has been appreciated in his work on the switchboard. "I shall miss very much the hundreds of people I have come to know by their voices", he said.

Academic Tradition

Tommy Ap Rhys' grandson, Christopher has been accepted at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he will read for a Science degree. He is following what has become a family tradition. Tommy himself graduated at Bangor, obtaining

his Arts Degree with first class honours after he had lost his sight in the First World War. His eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married and now teaching French at a comprehensive school in Abergavenny, was at Somerville College, Oxford, where she obtained the M.A. degree, and she has a son, Richard, at Aberystwyth and daughters Ann at Bradford and Helen at Reading. Ceridwen, Christopher's mother, a social worker, graduated at Bangor.

His son, Tommy, graduated at Bangor and took his Ph.D. at John Hopkins University, Baltimore. Tommy now works in the Naval Research Laboratory, Washington. His eldest daughter, Colette, took a degree in Agricultural Chemistry at Bangor, and now works for the University of Maryland. His second daughter, Anne, is studying law at Maryland—all of which leaves 16 years old Elaine, the youngest of the Ap Rhys family, something to live up to!

Guide Dog Speaker

Congratulations to **Tom Bice**, who is now a registered lecturer for the Guide Dogs Association.

BRIDGE NOTES

The last Individuals match of 1976 was played in the London Club Rooms on Saturday, 6th November, and the results were as follows:

R. Armstrong and W. Miller	67
F. Dickerson and B. Allen	66
P. Nuyens and J. Lynch	64
B. Evans and J. Majchrowicz	59
L. Douglass and H. Meleson	53

Therefore, the winner of the Gover Cup for 1976 is Mr. Bill Allen. The full year results (best five games from nine) are:

B. Allen	368
R. Armstrong	346
B. Evans	344
L. Douglass	341
F. Dickerson	336
J. Lynch	334
Miss V. Kemmish	331
P. Nuyens	329
H. Meleson	324
W. Miller	323
J. Majchrowicz	305
R. Goding	303

IT STRIKES ME

by Magog

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Alf Bradley, Northwood Hills, Middlesex

Is there room for just one more before the ghost train puffs its way quietly into the waste paper basket?

I believe that the subject of sighting apparitions is just the tiniest tip of a much deeper dimension. Human society and culture the world over has never been completely secular. This surely is because the personality of man is threefold—body, soul and spirit. In many walks of life people testify to this: in conversation sometimes, when one wants to speak of things which are outside human control and, by no means least, in entertainments. We have our phantoms, our invisible men, our draculas, and, for at least a decade, we've been bombarded by various things from Mars, and much else all in the name of science fiction.

Man reaches out and responds to this realm, but he has the inbuilt bias always to make for the unnatural instead of the supernatural. We are happy to discuss and argue about the foggy nightie which disappeared through the garden wall but, when one brings up the issues of truthfulness and belief, might we not look away from this blind spot to something more authoritative?

The great hand book itself declares that we see through a glass darkly, but at least *we do see!* From end to end, it contains information and examples of those who saw visions, those who supposed that they saw a ghost, those who saw portents and signs and wonders. The whole structure of human kind would seem to be dependent on exercising itself in these things for its completeness. Also it tells of two camps in conflict among the principalities and powers, one for eternal profit, the other for loss.

Surely it is *intended* that we feel something, or see something, or can communicate. To be too far away is to have the tiny, rusty clockwork toy, when infinite power is available. All we see is the player going for the early bath, instead of seeing the match and knowing who is playing and what the score is, or what the trophy is. I'm quite prepared to believe that there is

a sort of 'overspill' of these powers of the air, and that folks do see and hear something, but it's all a bit meaningless unless you get involved.

One comforting thought is that when you consult the handbook, if you find you are going in the wrong direction, according to the timetable, you can still change trains. There's no such thing as a non-traveller. If mystical things alarm you, don't be freight, join the crew.

From: Leslie Webber, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

I feel that the following incident may amuse your readers. The five year old son of one of my physiotherapist colleagues has, for some time, been very concerned about my not being able to see. A short time ago, he came in during the morning with his mother and stood by me at the desk. Very seriously he said to me "What did happen to your eye?". I replied that my injuries were caused by a bomb during the war. After much thought, he turned to me again and enquired "Were you a Goody or a Baddy?" I replied that I hoped I was a Goody, but that, at least, I was on our side.

MEMORIAL SERVICE JOE SWALES, M.B.E., M.C.

Joe Swales' many friends will like to know that the Rotary Club of Middlesbrough held a Service of Remembrance for him on the 2nd November. The announcement said that this was 'at the request of a great many friends and associates' and this was confirmed by the large crowd present at the Avenue Methodist Church. St. Dunstaner Alan Milne was prevented from attending by his teaching duties at Durham University, but his wife kindly drove over and represented everyone at St. Dunstan's.

Anita Milne writes: "It was a simple and moving Service. I shall always remember the wide range of people from the many spheres in which Joe was active. The address was given by an old family friend who stressed the wonderful contribution Joe had made to the life of the community."



This photograph of St. Dunstaner, Raymond Hazan, using the Optacon illustrated Richard Dufton's paper and was featured on St. Dunstan's stand at Naidex '76.

NAIDEX '76

Richard Dufton, St. Dunstan's Director of Research, presented a paper on Technical and Sensory Aids for Employment for the Blind at the National Aids for the Disabled Conference on 11th November.

In the exhibition associated with the conference, Naidex '76, which ran from 9th to 12th November, St. Dunstan's stand showed some of modern technology's efforts to provide substitutes for sight.

Exhibits included the Talking Calculator, a normal pocket calculator which, as well as displaying its numerals visually, speaks its answers using a vocabulary of twenty-four numerals and words; the Optacon reading device; the Binaural Sensor, or sonic spectacles, and an Audio-comparator.

Other exhibits demonstrated the general work of the organisation for the rehabilitation and welfare of St. Dunstaners, including those with handicaps additional to blindness.

Stand personnel during the five days of the exhibition were Mrs. Lilian Brown, David Castleton, Norman French and Len Wiggins of St. Dunstan's staff and John Ford of Sensory Aid Systems.

ST. DUNSTAN'S BRIDGE CLUB

The Annual Congress will take place at Ian Fraser House from 5th to 7th February, 1977. Will those interested please contact Miss E. M. Bridger at Headquarters who will be making the necessary bookings for the weekend. Further details will be circulated to those who have notified us of their wish to take part.

MRS. SAVILLE

We have heard from Leonard Howell of the death, on October 10th at the age of 88, of Mrs. Saville. Many First World War St. Dunstaners, who remember her as a Braille teacher during 1916-17, will be very sorry to hear this.



Walter Thornton with the Degas dancer.

Blind Date at the Tate

by Walter Thornton

There was a young barmaid of Sale,
On her breasts had the prices of ale,
For the sake of the blind,
She had her behind,
With the same information in Braille.

Hardly the sort of thing to connect with an exhibition at the world-famous Tate Gallery! Hardly the sort of thing for 'St. Dunstan's Review' for that matter! But this slightly dubious limerick illustrates the vital fact that the hands are the eyes of the blind. Recognition of this is the *raison d'être* of the Exhibition of Sculpture for the Blind, mounted at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, from the 3rd November to 12th December.

Although the Tate Gallery has for some years met requests from blind individuals and groups for special visiting arrangements, this is the first time that a major exhibition of this kind has been staged in this country. The decision to hold it was as brave as it was unique. It cut right across the long tradition of "Do Not Touch", whilst taking full account of the Gallery's duty to conserve the nation's

treasures. It recognised the need to protect the exhibits and those handling them, from possible damage.

The exhibition is made up of some twenty items, valued at about £350,000. The organisers describe the venture as an attempt to make the facilities of the Tate available to a wider public. In quite different terms, one could say that they have spared no effort to achieve, in Sir Arthur Pearson's phrase, "Victory over Blindness".

Every care has been taken to give the blind visitor the greatest possible capacity to appreciate the exhibition without having to rely on others, which must surely be unique in such an exhibition. Meticulous preparation has gone into the literature, available in Braille and in ink-print, which comprises: a catalogue, with excellent explanatory notes by Terry Measham, the assistant keeper; directions from the main London termini to the Tate; a map indicating the facilities of the Gallery and the route from the entrance to the exhibition; coffee bar menu, with prices; informative labels in front of each sculpture. In addition, the route to the

exhibition from the entrance is indicated by a rubber pathway, which changes to a mat before each exhibit.

Almost all the sculptures are by people whose names are household words. They have been arranged in a progression from the more naturalistic to the more abstract. Almost all are from the permanent collection, but some special items have been loaned by Henry Moore, who has taken a particularly active interest in the venture, supporting his own view that sculptures are made to be handled.

There is a sitting area preceding the exhibition, where the catalogue can be studied. Visitors are requested to remove rings and other jewellery before handling the sculptures. To protect the latter against the corrosive effects of perspiration, facilities are provided for the washing of hands and subsequent dusting with talcum powder. The lighting is subdued in order to encourage all, sighted and blind alike, to appreciate the sculptures by feeling them.

So much for the major nuts and bolts of an exhibition which has been planned as carefully as a military operation. What of the reactions of those for whom the exhibition is intended? If the writer's experience is any criterion, the organisers have every reason for complete satisfaction.

This visit to the Tate was a very different matter from all those other museums and art galleries visited since the war. One continued these visits, even though each was accompanied by a strong sense of frustration and inadequacy. With all due respect to the sighted guides who were assiduous and persevering in their verbal commentary, each visit has been rather like picking up a few crumbs from the rich man's table. By contrast, the visit to the Tate was a complete and varied experience. It was not a matter of having to make do with a few crumbs. It was the enjoyment of a completely unrestricted banquet.

The first exhibit, the aperitif if you like, was a lifesize female nude, a goddess, *Venus Wearing a Necklace*, by Aristide Maillol. The "hors d'oeuvres" could be regarded as being made up of the four small bronzes by Edgar Degas, without wishing to pursue the analogy of the feast any further, Jacob Epstein's *Female*

Figure and Barbara Hepworth's *Menhirs* were as smooth to the touch as any long-matured port to the palate.

The experience of exploring each sculpture carefully and minutely, appreciating the different textures, and sensing the skill with which each sculpture has released the form from within the material,—as, for example, in the granular texture of Henry Moore's elemental earth mother *Recumbent Figure*—was not only a joy in itself, but remains as a continuing joy. Happily, the vividness of the impression resulting from the careful feeling of the sculptures persists. The mental pictures which the experience conjured up still "float upon the inward eye". The elegance and balance of Degas' *Dancer Putting on her Stocking*; the liquid lines of Henry Moore's *Composition*; the arithmetical lines of Malcolm Hughes' specially commissioned *Abstract*; they stay in the mind, as do the other exhibits in this pioneering project for the blind and partially sighted, which will assuredly lead to others—and to other developments.

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 531

When the Gates Shut

by Joanna Kelly

Read by Denise Asserson

Reading Time 7¼ hours

The writer was the Governor of Holloway for many years, and this is a closely-detailed record of life, for inmates and staff, in a closed prison.

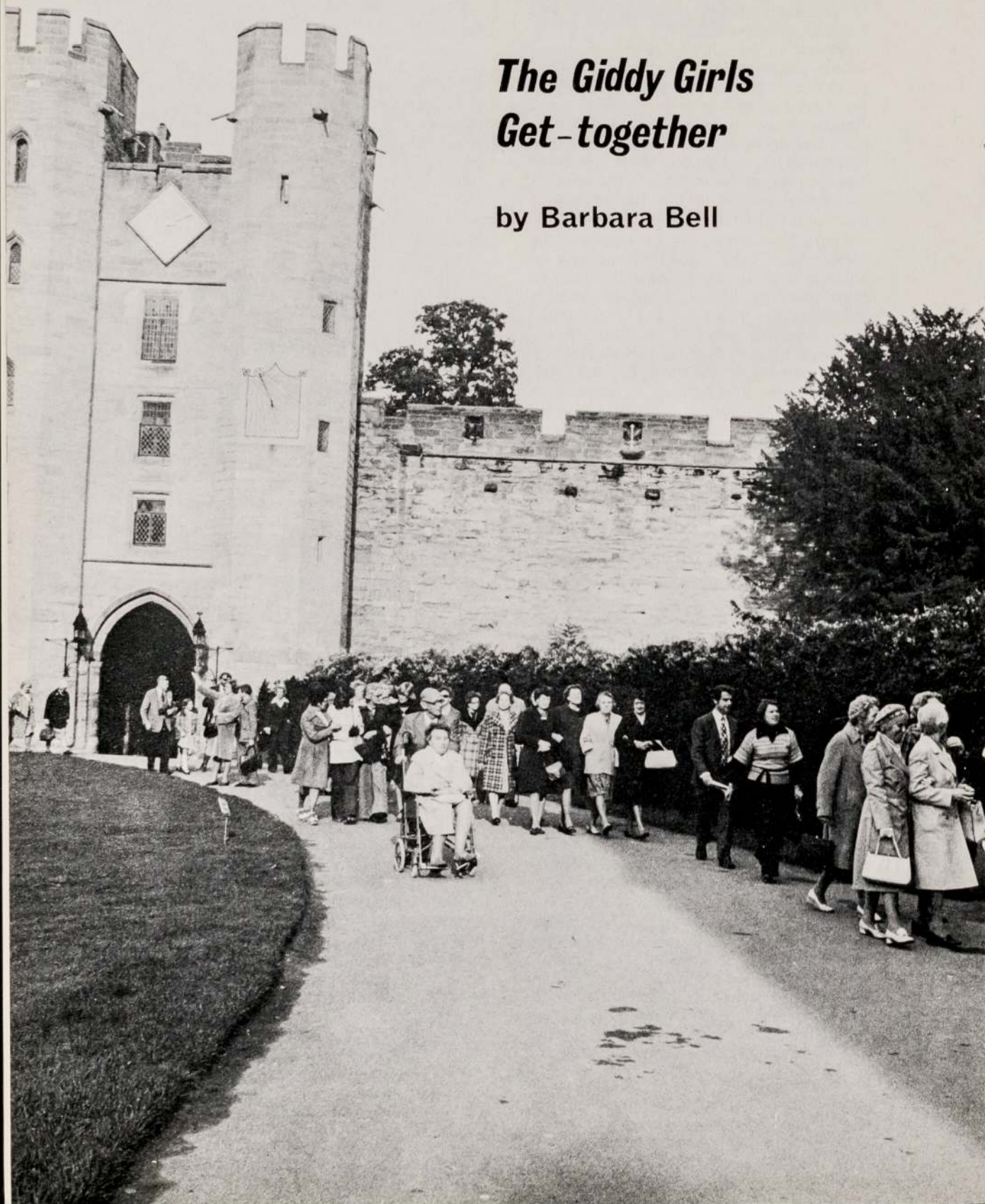
It is by definition a somewhat sombre book, dealing as it does with human beings deprived of liberty, but there are one or two light touches here and there.

There are some surprises too—like the fact that vegetarians are catered for, and the prison population has an official food-taster—the Governor!

This will certainly be a minority choice among readers, but if you are curious to learn how *this* other half lives, it will make interesting reading—and explode quite a few widely held misconceptions.

The Giddy Girls Get-together

by Barbara Bell



When we St. Dunstan's girls converged on the Manor Hotel, Meriden, Warwickshire on Friday, October 15th for our Reunion, we wondered what the weekend had in store for us. After having three previous meetings of this kind we should have known, that St. Dunstan's would come up trumps, as always, with a weekend of excellent wining, dining and interesting expeditions. The tone of the proceedings was set by the afternoon tea we had in the Arden Room, which was at our disposal for the whole weekend—delectable sandwiches, gorgeous gateaux and succulent eclairs. I didn't allow myself to indulge too freely, however, with dinner in view in only two hours' time. This we had informally in the restaurant with Mr. Wills and the welfare staff, Miss Mosley, Miss Lord, Miss Newbold and Miss Meyer, who were with us for the whole weekend, arranging everything for our convenience and pleasure. During the evening Eileen Williams played a recording she had made of the presentation we had made to Mrs. Dolly Highcock when, to our great regret, she left Wing 2 at Ovingdean. After a very pleasant evening spent in talking and drinking a little, of course, and serenaded later on by Beryl and Gwen, as we had hoped, we retired to our luxurious rooms to prepare for the next day's activities.

On Saturday morning after breakfast, we boarded the coach and were off and

away to Coventry Cathedral for a guided tour round that unique building. Our guide gave us a talk first and after that we wandered round, looking at and, in some cases, touching the unusual features of this modern, industrial church, the main theme of which is the triumph over conflict. We were able to get a first-rate idea of the lay-out of the building as the Cathedral authorities provided raised ground-plans of the whole area, especially for blind people to feel. Fortunately, it was a bright morning and the light was shining through the glowing colours of the five remarkable stained glass windows on the eastern side, reflected on the floor that was black marble but is now grey through the passage of countless thousands of feet since it was laid. Later, when the sun had moved round, it would shine in through the matching stained glass windows on the west side of the nave.

Indefatigable Escorts

Our guide was always with us to answer questions, and we kept our indefatigable escorts busy describing the many interesting, symbolic features of this most unusual Cathedral. I am jolly lucky in that the friend who goes with me on these occasions is an excellent commentator and has earned herself the nickname of the second "Audrey Russell". Before walking along the road to the De Vere Hotel for lunch, we

The girls at Warwick Castle.





The Coventry Cathedral guide, Mr. D. Franklin, indicates a point of interest to Barbara Bell on the tactile plan.

just had time to visit the remains of the old Cathedral, facing east and west across the south end of the new one. Here I felt more of the peaceful, aloof reverence which we expect in our old Cathedrals than in the new one we had just left, where the atmosphere was more full of life and activity and where one didn't feel the need to speak in an undertone. Rather to my surprise, I found this visit to Coventry Cathedral the most inspiring and stimulating of the whole weekend.

After an excellent lunch, we boarded the coach again en route for Warwick Castle, closely followed by the *Review* camera in the expert hands of Mr. David Castleton whom we are always delighted to have with us. On arrival at the Castle, we tramped through the State apartments renewing our acquaintance with many historical facts and learning many new ones. In the course of our tour our guide



Eileen Williams feels one of the figures etched in the glass screen at the entrance to Coventry Cathedral.

explained the derivations of three terms in common usage in our everyday language, which will now be built into my store of general knowledge for evermore. The first on was "to die in harness" which arose from the fact that the term for a suit of armour was a "harness". Secondly, when he was describing some leather wine containers to us, he said they each held eight pints and if one drank more than that one had had one or more "over the eight". The third was "a good Guy" arising from the fact that one of the Earls of Warwick was a particularly fine man and became known as "the good Guy", which was his name.

I had three regrets about this visit. Firstly, I did not realise until later that it was possible to feel a wood carving by Grinling Gibbons in the last room we went into as some did; secondly, I would have liked to visit the torture chamber as I

rather fancied handling a thumb screw and examining the rack, though I had no desire to try it out; and, thirdly, I did want to record a peacock. However, the only one we saw was a very mangy-looking bird in the middle of the moult and not feeling at all communicative. He did not even drop the one tail feather he had left for me to bring home as a memento of my trip round Warwick Castle. After this, we had tea before driving back to the hotel to relax before changing for the dinner dance and cabaret in the evening. This provided us with another splendid meal and some good dancing for those who wished to indulge their liking for this form of activity. Later in the evening, our ears were assaulted by the over-amplified voice of a lady who treated us to a selection of pop songs which many people enjoyed, I'm sure.

Blenheim Palace

On the second day of our tightly-packed schedule, we set off for Woodstock and Blenheim Palace. As this was a longer drive, we arrived at Woodstock in time for lunch at the Punch Bowl where we were joined by Mr. and Mrs. Ion Garnett-Orme, who gave us the pleasure of their company for the rest of the day. Before lunch, Beryl and her friend, and I with mine, just had time to nip round the corner to the famous and very old and picturesque Bear Hotel for a quick one. After lunch we drove to the Palace for yet another interest-packed tour. Here I found another carving by Grinling Gibbons, in stone, but quite out of reach, thirty feet high up on the wall of the Great Hall.

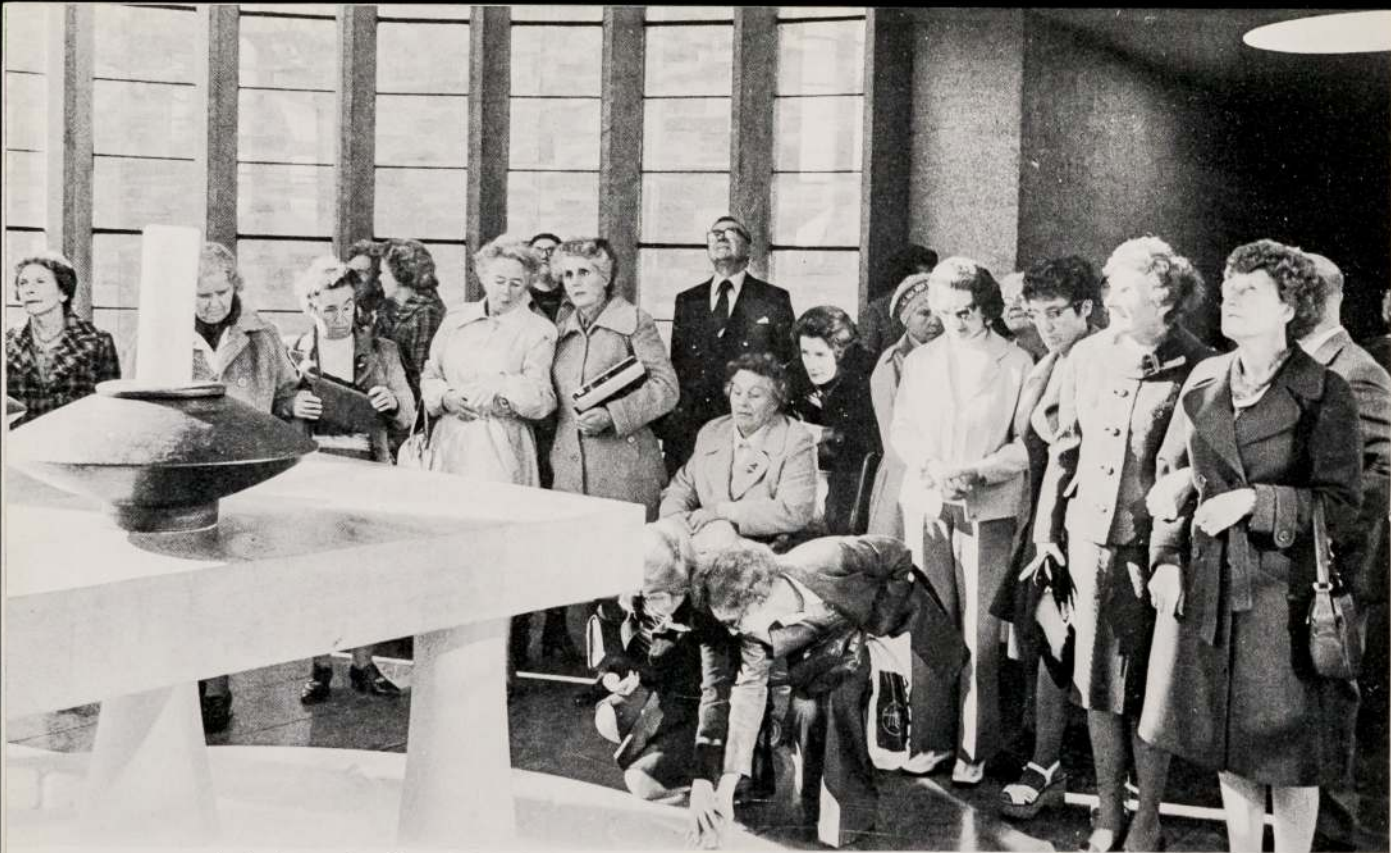
Our guide was charming and most helpful, in that she spoke very clearly and slowly for the benefit of those who were recording her commentary. With our redoubtable escorts explaining things of interest as we went, we toured the spectacular Great Hall Dining-room and Long Library with the other state apartments. I felt very sympathetic towards the four old retainers who kept it all so spotlessly clean especially when it came to dusting the books in the *very* Long Library, which were only protected by open metal grills. We had time, after the tour, to visit the souvenir shop and take a look at the impressive water gardens which were laid out rather like those of Versailles. Pools,



Elsie Aldred discovers one of the many modern works of art in Coventry Cathedral.

Getting to know a Warwick Castle peacock.





In the impressive Chapel of Christ the Servant in Coventry Cathedral.

bounded by clipped box hedges, obviously with fountains which were not playing, arranged in terraces forming the shape of the Fleur-de-Lys. This was, after all, the present of a grateful nation to the Duke of Marlborough after his victory at the Battle of Blenheim. After tea at the Punch Bowl, we drove back to Meriden to dress for our own formal reception and dinner party.

Refreshed and clad in our glad-rags, we were received by Mr. and Mrs. Garnett-Orme and consumed yet another very superior meal after which, in his speech, Mr. Garnett-Orme said some very flattering and complimentary things about us which did our morale a whole lot of good. He gave us messages of good wishes from Lady Fraser, Matron Blackford, Thelma, Jane, Una and Miss Farrow, and mentioned the fact that he had seen several of us at the service of dedication in Westminster Abbey the previous Thursday.

We were glad to have with us for dinner that night Mrs. Pickford, formerly Miss Helen Clarry who was a V.A.D. at Church Stretton and in London during the war

and now lives near Stratford. I think she was glad to meet old friends again after so long.

Tokens of our gratitude for the weekend were presented to Mr. Wills by Eileen Williams and to the other welfare staff by Blodwyn Simon, and I had the privilege of presenting a flower arrangement to Mrs. Garnett-Orme.

Then—the high-spot of the evening, of course—Gwen got up to propose the toast of St. Dunstan's. Ostentatiously, she donned a pair of large spectacles and unrolled a scroll from which she proceeded to "read" her speech. Needless to say, she told several stories in her typical Gwen-like manner and had us roaring with laughter. Nevertheless, in spite of the hilarity, the message of sincere thanks to St. Dunstan's from us came through, loud and clear, and the formal part of the evening was rounded off suitably by Beryl and Gwen who sang *Drink to Me Only*. We duly followed this advice for the rest of the evening, and I understand a number of wan faces passed through Headquarters "the morning after" on their way home.

A Monarch's Farewell

by Raymond Vowles

During one's lifetime incidents occur which, although lasting perhaps a few minutes and seeming trivial, implant themselves in one's memory so that they are never entirely forgotten. Such an incident happened to me 40 years ago this December.

After many months of unemployment, I was pleased to receive a directive from the then Ministry of Labour instructing me to proceed to H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth, where there was a vacancy for me at my trade as a fitter and turner. In the dockyard it was customary for two fitters to work together, my companion at the time being Bill Leaman, an ex-E.R.A. and a veteran of World War One. Bill was over thirty years my senior.

H.M.S. Fury

We worked on many destroyers, cruisers etc., and, in December 1936, were detailed to go aboard H.M.S. *Fury* and make good the diesel section of the diesel-dynamo auxiliary lighting system. Unaware of events to follow, we carried on as normal, clocking out at 5 p.m. On this particular day, I had just arrived at my lodgings when a messenger called with a note instructing me to return to the ship and, if necessary, work right through the night until the job was completed. Arriving back at the dockyard, I found Bill, who had had similar instructions, waiting for me. As we approached the ship, we were surprised to see her ablaze with light and a full head of steam.

Donning our overalls, we set to once again, visited at periodic intervals by a Lieut.-Commander, the Chief E.R.A., and the Chief Stoker, enquiring how much longer we would be. Just after midnight, we were supplied with steaming hot mugs of ship's cocoa, and sandwiches as thick as the proverbial doorstep. Some hours later, the work being completed, we gave a hearty rattle on the bulkhead, a pre-arranged signal that we had now finished. Down the hatchway came the Chief E.R.A. and the Chief Stoker.

To our relief, the engine was started up with no problems. It was left running for

about half an hour, then switched off. We were complimented and then told, in no uncertain tones, to collect up our tools and get ashore as quickly as possible. Stepping on deck we were surprised to hear the sound of marching footsteps and then, forming up on each side of the gangway, was a Guard of Honour—I cannot remember if it was a Naval or Marine guard. With toolbags slung from our shoulders in approved dockyard fashion, we descended the gangway, being met at the foot by the ship's Master-at-Arms who instructed us to stay at the side of the gangway and not move until the ship had sailed.

Some ten or fifteen minutes elapsed when the guard presented arms and emerging from a large Daimler limousine stepped King Edward VIII. He wore a long grey overcoat buttoned up to the chin, and on his head a black or dark blue bowler. As he stepped on to the gangway, he turned, smiled at us, lifted his hat and said "Good morning". Bill, in true military style, stood stiffly at attention, thumbs down the crease of his overalls, and replied "Good morning, your Majesty"—whilst I, being so surprised, could only mumble some kind of greeting.

The King Embarks

The King was piped aboard with due ceremony, and mounted the gangway. He was met at the head by various officers and I watched him disappear aft, probably to the Wardroom. Within minutes the gangway was lifted, the guard marched off and H.M.S. *Fury* slipped quietly away from the dockside and was lost from sight in the mist. Bill and I clocked out and went our separate ways home. Once home I stumbled into bed, tired and weary. I woke up some time in the afternoon and there on the kitchen table was a special edition of the local newspaper, bearing banner headlines EDWARD VIII ABDICATES and, below, a short account of how the King, driving down to Portsmouth, had boarded the *Fury* and sailed for an undisclosed destination in France.

It was only then that I realised that I had

A MONARCH'S FAREWELL *continued*

witnessed an historic event. Some days later, Bill and I were invited to go aboard the *Fury* which had then returned to base, and read a letter which was pinned on the notice board on the fo'c'sle deck. It was addressed to the officers, ship's company and civilian workers, thanking them for the efficiency and rapidity in getting the ship ready for sea. It was signed in the former King's own handwriting "Edward P". Somebody, somewhere has that letter and I would be very interested to know of its whereabouts.

Now, at the age of 64, I may be the last civilian alive to whom King Edward VIII spoke on the morning following his abdication.

OVINGDEAN NOTES

Just an minute, while we shake the rain-drops from our plastic hoods, and kick off our wellies, and we'll tell you about the recent happenings here. Incidentally one of our good resolutions, made last January 1st was to refrain from mentioning the weather in the notes; alas! we stand convicted of resolution breaking. But this year really has been quite something, weatherwise, hasn't it? And it ain't over yet!

After the delightfully exhausting Handless Reunion, we had a nice quiet week. Somehow, it left us feeling decidedly underwhelmed and longing for some excitements. Fortunately along came Col. Shoolbred and Miss Seeley with the splendid artistes they had engaged for the Not Forgotten Association concert, and we all had a highly entertaining evening. Michael Wakeham and his wife, Margaret Smith, sang romantic duets extremely well—Margaret looking very dishy in a clinging shocking pink dress (No, No! the *colour* was shocking pink). Although kept busy with concerts and appearances for the BBC, Michael also teaches singing, and has promised to bring some of his students to sing for us. We shall look forward to it. Mr. Gordon Glen's supple fingers whizzed up and down his piano-accordion to good effect, and his entertaining act received warm applause. Miss Rhoda Small then ap-

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS— CONCESSIONARY FARES

Readers may be interested to have this reminder of air travel concessions published in the *Review* in September, 1964. British Airways allow the provision of concessionary tickets for blind passengers travelling on domestic flights within the U.K. accompanied by an escort.

Tickets can be supplied at half-price to both blind person and escort provided the blind person is travelling on business, for a medical appointment, or for an interview in connection with employment.

It is necessary to produce a certificate to show that the journey is being made for one of these purposes which must be signed by an approved authority such as St. Dunstan's.

peared in a lovely emerald green chiffon gown, which quite demoralized the V.A.D. staff—we have to admit that our usual little navy-blue number lost out on the glamour-stakes. Rhoda moved among the St. Dunstaners, urging them in her lovely warm voice to Come and Gather Lilacs in the Spring, but as it was mid-October, there were no takers. (We did detect some wishful thinking here and there). Vince and Rita Starr entertained us with comedy, song and some very gifted trumpet playing. Rita was a very feminine blonde, and it was totally unexpected when she performed so well as a trumpeter. The accompanist throughout was Miss Elsie Taylor, who has been coming to Ovingdean with the Not Forgotten concert artistes for many years. She is a first-class accompanist, and a very nice person—we are always delighted to welcome her. Col. Shoolbred gave a short speech, and Ted Frearson replied, giving the artistes and the Association our warm thanks for a really happy evening.

Our last venture to the Races this year was to the Brighton Course; the rain poured relentlessly down all afternoon, and if there was any justice (which there isn't), we would all have caught pneumonia (which we didn't).

We were very sad to say goodbye to two of our V.A.D. staff—in their different

ways, Mrs. Dolly Highcock and Mrs. Dinah Lamb will be much missed by both St. Dunstaners and staff. Both of them take our good wishes with them.

Unfortunately, the weather during the Fishing Weekend was most uncooperative for the first couple of days, but our Sports Officer arranged bowling matches and other manly pursuits to occupy the intrepid fishermen, and judging by the noise and hearty laughter, it was a great success.

Entertainments in the House during the month were record programmes presented by Mr. Les Harris and V.A.D's. Mrs Exley and Miss Briant; and an excellent musical entertainment given by some new friends from Worthing—Mr. A. Barber, who played the piano, Miss J. Cowley, who had a lovely soprano voice, and a first-class bass singer. We hope that they will visit us again.

At the time of writing, Christmas arrangements are forging ahead, and we shall be delighted to welcome local St. Dunstaners, their wives, and escorts, to those entertainments to be held in the House. Those already arranged are as follows:

Thursday December 23rd—7.30 p.m.—Concert in the Lounge given by a local choir.

Friday, December 24th—3.00-4.00 p.m. "Merrily on High"—a light-hearted entertainment for Christmas presented by The Arena Players in the Winter Garden.

7.15-9.45 p.m.—Old Time Music Hall presented by The South Coast Entertainers and Master of Ceremonies Mr. S. Emons. Hot dogs, mince pies and a drop of good cheer will be served in the interval.

Christmas Night—7.45 p.m. in the Lounge—For one performance only! Commandant and Matron star in a broad comedy, "Crystal Clear".

Monday, December 27th (Boxing Day) 8.00-11.00—Dance in the Lounge with buffet and bar. (NOT fancy dress). Late coach to Brighton.

New Year's Eve—8.00 p.m.-12.15 a.m. Fancy Dress Party and Dance. Judging after Parade at 8.30 p.m. Buffet and bar. Late coach to Brighton.

Sunday, January 2nd—7.30 p.m. in the Winter Garden—Mr. Tom Eales presents "Stereo Mixture".

Monday, January 3rd—8.00 p.m.—Dance in the Lounge.

There will be NO DANCE on Monday 20th December.

And now we will creep quietly away and prepare for the festivities by stoking up on the Phyllosan and the Wincarnis.

Happy Christmas!

THE BRITISH SKI CLUB FOR THE DISABLED

by Jimmy Wright

On 28th July I attended a meeting of the British Ski Club for the Disabled which was held at the Royal Norwegian Embassy. Quite apart from a most enjoyable evening, which included a buffet and wine, I was pleased to have an opportunity of meeting some of the members of the club and to learn something of the problems which have to be overcome as I have never taken part in snow sports. We were entertained to a showing of the film which had been produced by Thames Television, entitled *Just To Have Taken Part*, and which was televised on February 26th, in which three blind chaps took part for the first time in the first Winter Olympic Games for the Disabled in Sweden.

The three chaps depicted in the television film had learnt to ski on artificial ski slopes in this country and the competitions in Sweden were their first introduction to the real stuff, so to speak, and the fact that, although they didn't carry off any medals, they did at least finish the course, was quite something.

Between forty and fifty visually handicapped men and women throughout the U.K. belong to the Club and any St. Dunstaner, whether or not he has already taken part in snow sports, would be very welcome, I was told by both the Chairman, Mr. Hubert Sturges, who is himself Swiss trained in the art of teaching ski-ing to the disabled, and the Secretary of the Club, Mr. David Adams, who is also a skier.

Instruction and training is held during the winter season at various suitable artificial ski slopes throughout the

country, including two cross-country tracks at Aldershot and Hill End (Edinburgh). Over the years the Club has developed some expertise in arranging annual trips to ski abroad and these are organised as follows:

Beitostolen, Norway—this is normally held the last week in March (dates confirmed in January by organisers), and consists of a week's concentrated instruction in cross-country ski-ing and participation in competitive events. Accommodation is in a comfortable hotel and the cost includes full board and travel. Instruction is free, equipment hire is additional although the club is building up its own stock of cross-country equipment which is available for use by members. The cost this year (1976) was £120 (without grants).

Les Diablerets, Switzerland—ten days of down-hill ski-ing with qualified instruction at this picturesque resort in the Swiss Alps. Accommodation is in a comfortable hostel situated in the resort and the group is under the leadership of the Club's Chairman. The cost is similar to the Norwegian trip except that it is for a longer period and includes full board and travel.

The annual membership fee is £2 (from 1 October to 30 September) and any further information can be obtained from the Secretary who will be pleased to talk to any prospective member. Please write to **Mr. David Adams at 38 Mountside, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 2DP, or telephone 01-863 5852.**

SPORTS ROUND-UP 1976

by **Jock Carnochan**

1976 was a good year for St. Dunstan's sportsmen. Our Ski-ing course at Bodertal Austria, produced potential competitive skiers who, at the end of the course, competed favourably with their European counterparts. Ski-ing is becoming more and more popular with the visually handicapped, and Jimmy Wright's report gives more detail of the aims of the British Skiing Association for the Disabled.

Our ski-ing was followed by the trials at Stoke Mandeville to select the British Disabled Olympics Squad to go to

Toronto, Canada. Again St. Dunstan's sportsmen were well represented at these trials, with two of our sportsmen being selected. We can share with the other disabled members of that team the pride of being one of the best teams to have competed internationally since the inception of B.S.A.D.

Our Sea Angling expeditions started with the April four days fishing from Newhaven with eighteen anglers participating each day. Some fair catches were made in favourable weather.

Disastrous Weather

The 1976 Annual Sports Weekend was disastrous from a weather point of view, the only weekend throughout the long hot summer that we had to have a rain storm. However, it proved to be a blessing in disguise as it gave us a chance to evaluate what we could do with our new indoor facilities in the Annexe. With a little bit of ingenuity, an entertaining day transpired—so much so that it was decided that another indoor meeting should take place in the winter. Unfortunately, because of lack of support, this had to be cancelled. The reason for this probably was that there were too many events taking place in such a short space of time. Constructive suggestions from our sportsmen as to the possible timing in the winter for this indoor sports event, would be welcome.

Following our sports weekend, a very enjoyable five days sea angling was enhanced by the beautiful weather with eighteen anglers taking part each day. A St. Dunstan's record was set that will take a bit of beating, a 45 pound Conger Eel caught by Daniel McGoohan.

The next event was the senior multi-disabled games at Stoke Mandeville, an event we have always taken part in with a large team. This year the games became inter-regional and, as our athletes are now scattered round in their regions, many did not attend. Of the four who did, one won the best all-round field events trophy, and one the first ever archery contest for the visually handicapped.

The last sea angling session was not so eventful due to very unsettled October weather, with gales cancelling two of the four days, and the remaining two days, being a bit choppy, provided some ground bait for the fish we didn't catch?

Finally, at the time of going to press, an entry of twelve totally blind and eight partially sighted bowlers will shortly be attending the 1976 Annual Indoor Bowls Championships.

During all the preceding events we have quietly, at least the first half of the year, been experimenting with archery, which is proving very successful and is now an added recreation for St. Dunstaners visiting Ian Fraser House, with a steady build-up of very keen archers. It is hoped that by the summer of 1977 we shall have our first St. Dunstan's archery competition.

Sport and recreation plays a very important part in the rehabilitation of the visually handicapped, and the social side of sport is as attractive as the physical.

Finally, congratulations to all St. Dunstan's sportsmen who have supported and

taken part throughout the year, not forgetting our many voluntary helpers and officials. A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all.

Provisional Sports Dates for 1977

March 5th-6th

B.S.A.D. (Stoke Mandeville) Swimming Gala.

June 4th

Metro Blind Sports Club, Open Athletics Games, East London Stadium.

June 13th-18th

National Stoke Mandeville Games.

July 24th-30th

International Stoke Mandeville Games

September 17th-18th

B.S.A.D. Senior Multi-Disabled Games, plus our own annual sports in June date to be finalised.

CLUB NEWS

MIDLAND

Our Annual General Meeting was held during our October meeting but, as there were no changes on the committee, this did not take long. One or two new ideas were put forward regarding dominoes in particular: we are to do away with the doubles competition and run a competition for all club attendants. This means that St. Dunstaners and their wives and escorts will go into the draw and play against each other. There have been many difficulties in the running of the doubles competition, and this should make it easier. This particular meeting was quite a good one, but we are still trying to finish the doubles competition for this year.

The tea was arranged for us by Mrs. Joan Cashmore, all home made cakes etc., once again a lovely spread, for which we all thanked her in our usual manner.

We shall be making changes in catering arrangements as from November. Instead of one of the ladies doing each meeting on her own, each lady will bring something towards the tea each month, and they will discuss between themselves just what they are to bring for each meeting.

We are all sorry to be losing another member, this time it is Laurie Rea. He and his family are moving to Manchester.

Laurie has been a good member for two or three years now, and we shall be sorry not to see him at our meetings. We all wish him and Olwyn, also their two daughters, all the very best in their new home, and we look forward to seeing them whenever they visit Birmingham in the future.

On behalf of all the Midland Club members and their wives, may I wish all St. Dunstaners wherever they may be, also all the staff, a very happy Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year.

DOUG CASHMORE
Secretary

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

The winners of our weekly Dominoes matches during October were:

7th October	1st	M. Sheehan
	2nd	R. Armstrong
		J. Majchrowicz
14th October	1st	M. Sheehan
	2nd	W. Miller
21st October	1st	J. Majchrowicz
	2nd	R. Armstrong
28th October	1st	J. Majchrowicz
	2nd	C. Hancock
		W. Miller

CLUB NEWS *continued*

STEVENAGE VISIT

On Sunday, 31st October, members of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club together with wives and friends paid their second visit to Stevenage. The venue of this event was again the splendid Sports Centre of the British Aircraft Corporation. We are grateful to John Hancock, son of our St. Dunstan's Charles and Gladys Hancock, for arranging this fixture when, once again, we were the guests of Mr. C. M. Calver, the chairman of Stevenage Bridge Club.

In all, we numbered sixteen players, four of whom spent the afternoon in a friendly game of Dominoes. This left twelve players to represent St. Dunstan's at Bridge. It was decided to hold a pairs competition with the St. Dunstan's pairs playing the North-South hands. During the contest, the St. Dunstan's pairs met in friendly rivalry all the Stevenage players, with some new faces, including Ken Hancock, grandson of Charles and Gladys. About 5 o'clock, we stopped for high tea, which was a splendid buffet full of good things to please all palates.

The end of the match coincided with the opening of the Bar, and shortly after 7 o'clock we adjourned for a drink and a friendly word with the Stevenage players. Here we were again welcomed by the chairman of the Stevenage Bridge Club, Mr. C. M. Calver, and his charming wife and, after his speech, he announced the results of the contest, which were as follows:

- 1st Mr. and Mrs. H. Meleson**
2nd Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Evans
3rd W. Allen and R. Armstrong

Roy Armstrong, in his reply for St. Dunstan's, said how much we had all enjoyed the day and expressed our thanks to all those who had made our visit possible.

May I say in conclusion, on behalf of all taking part from St. Dunstan's, how grateful we are to those four car drivers who made the journey possible, namely Ian Dickson, Barry Chow, Mrs. Meleson and Mrs. Sheehan.

ROBERT EVANS

BRIGHTON SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUB

The first Annual General Meeting of the Brighton Club was held at Ian Fraser House on Thursday, 7th October, 1976. The President, Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, took the chair. Mr. Ted Frearson was unanimously re-elected Chairman and Mr. Bob Osborne was elected Vice-Chairman by an overwhelming majority. Mr. Kenneth Dew, the Club Treasurer was warm in his praise for the magnificent work of section committees and congratulated them all in contributing just over 50% of the running expenses by their initiative and hard work.

A resolution calling for the Club's management and finance to follow the lines of the London Club was defeated by 26 votes to 3.

Faith and praise were again given by our Banker/Treasurer on the management and financial results of a year's running.

Thanks were accorded to St. Dunstan's Headquarters and Commandant, for their support and for the use of exceptional premises and facilities. Warmest tributes were paid to wives and sighted helpers, without whom the Club would not function.

BOWLING CLUB REPORT

The Bowling Club cups and trophies for the outdoor and indoor aggregate competitions will be presented at the Christmas Dance.

We are looking forward to a very active indoor season at Ian Fraser House. We shall be playing and entertaining our first visitors of the season, Hove & Kingsway Bowling Club, on Friday the 12th November.

There are a few people in the Brighton Area who are no longer playing bowls but have in their possession bowls which belong to the Brighton Club, we would be most grateful if these people would return them to Ian Fraser House.

TED FREARSON
Chairman & Captain

BRIDGE SECTION

Our ninth pairs match took place on 17th October. The winners were:

North-South

T. Gaiger and H. Barker

East-West

W. Lethbridge and Mrs. R. Green

We played our final individual on 30th October and the winners were:

W. Burnett and F. Griffiee 71

Best Five results from a possible nine matches played are as follows:

A. Dodgson	352
R. Fullard	350
W. Lethbridge	343
J. Padley	338
F. Griffiee	333
W. Phillips	331
W. Burnett	330
C. Walters	327
A. Smith	323
M. Clements	321
Miss B. Simon	319
P. McCormack	319
W. Scott	303
R. Bickley	288

On Sunday, 7th November, we were pleased to welcome once again a team of eight girls from Roedean School for a friendly game of rubber bridge. A most enjoyable afternoon.

WALTER LETHBRIDGE

ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Two dances have been held since the A.G.M., one on the 9th October and the other on the 6th November, when we were pleased to welcome Members of the Chess Club. During the evening I was pleased to introduce, with the help of our popular M.C., Mr. Alf Garstang, the St. Dunstan's Saunter. I can assure you there were several surprised faces when I called upon certain Members to take the floor as the St. Dunstan's Formation Team. At one point I thought I was at a Rugby match but in the end all went well with friends and guests joining in the fun. I must thank all the lads and lassies for being such good sports.

We now have the winners of the Sir Arthur Pearson Tournaments as follows:

WHIST AGGREGATE

Men

1st A. Dodgson	Score	661
2nd C. Walters	"	654
3rd W. Phillips	"	644
4th W. Lethbridge	"	642

Ladies

1st Mrs. H. Smith	Score	681
2nd Mrs. P. Lethbridge	"	677
3rd Mrs. B. Griffiths	"	671

DOMINOES—FIVE'S & THREE'S

Men

Winner T. Giles
Runner-up D. Brett
Beaten T. Mugan
Semi-finalists J. Padley

Ladies

Winner Mrs. J. Aldridge
Runner-up Mrs. B. Griffiths
Beaten Mrs. M. Inman
Semi-finalists Mrs. H. Webster

DARTS

Men

Winner F. Griffiee
Runner-up W. Phillips
Beaten B. Aldridge
Semi-finalists W. Burnett

Ladies

Winner Mrs. E. M. Dodgson
Runner-up Mrs. C. Preedy
Beaten Mrs. M. Brett
Semi-finalists Mrs. J. Osborne

CRIBBAGE

Men

Winner H. Preedy
Runner-up C. Walters
Beaten W. Phillips
Semi-finalists F. Griffiee

Ladies

Winner Mrs. J. Osborne
Runner-up Mrs. J. Aldridge
Beaten Mrs. M. Claydon
Semi-finalists Mrs. M. Inman

DOMINO AGGREGATE

Men

1st T. Frearson
Equal 2nd B. Bickley
H. Preedy
Equal 3rd W. Burnett
R. Osborne

Ladies

1st Mrs. E. Mudge
2nd Mrs. C. Preedy
Equal 3rd Mrs. B. Griffiths
Mrs. P. Padley

BOB OSBORNE *Chairman*

ST. DUNSTAN'S AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

The next Amateur Radio Weekend at Ian Fraser House will be held on 28/30th January, 1977, and it is hoped that all members will be able to attend.

Any other St. Dunstaners interested in Radio are also most welcome.

The A.G.M. of the Society will be held during the morning of Saturday, 29th January, during the course of which the election of Officers for the coming year will take place.

Any items for inclusion on the Agenda should be sent to Ted John (Secretary).

Will all those wishing to attend please make arrangements direct with Miss Bridger at Headquarters.

Details of the programme will be forwarded to members in due course.

MRS. AVIS SPURWAY

Mrs. Spurway's many friends should watch out for the programme in the new series 'Family Portrait' to be televised on 2nd December at 9.50 p.m. on BBC-2.



William, son of St. Dunstan Ernie Cookson, of Merrow, Guildford, Surrey, has graduated from the University of Sussex. He read experimental psychology and gained the B.Sc. degree second class with honours.

FAMILY NEWS

Marriage

Many congratulations to our St. Dunstaner, *William Butler Riley*, of Brighton, who was married on 9th October to *Marjorie Edith Seaton*. We wish them every happiness.

Silver Wedding

We warmly congratulate *Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tybinski*, of Ipswich, who celebrated their Silver Wedding on 25th August.

Grandchildren

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bradley, of Northwood Hills, Middlesex, on the birth of their fifth grandchild, a girl, *Esther May*, born on 13th October to their youngest daughter, *Joan*, and her husband, *David*.

Mr. and Mrs. James Brown of Nun-eaton, on the birth of a grand-daughter, *Eleanor Clare Nichole*, born on 2nd September to their daughter, *Cheryl*, and her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Earnshaw of Tarleton, on the birth of a grandson, *Mark Anthony*, born on 12th August to their son *Ian*, and his wife, *Marianne*.

Examination and Career Successes

We warmly congratulate:

Christopher Franklin, son of *Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Franklin* of Edmonton, who has been made Apprentice of the Year at the Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield.

Ursula Tybinski, daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tybinski* of Ipswich, who has passed her Higher National Diploma in Applied Biology at Leicester Polytechnic.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mr. Alfred Mead of Rothwell, whose mother died on 12th October.

Mr. Albert Stroud of Crawley, whose brother, *William Stroud*, died on 13th May at the age of 67.

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.

Frederick William Brookes 8th Devons

Frederick William Brookes of Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, died in hospital on 3rd November, aged 78.

Mr. Brookes served as a Lance Corporal in the 8th Devons from September, 1915 and was wounded in Italy in 1918 suffering injuries which caused the loss of one eye and damage to the other but nevertheless, after his War service and prior to the failure of his remaining sight, he was actively employed with the Midlands Electricity Board until he reached retirement age. He came to St. Dunstan's in July, 1973.

He leaves a widow, *Mrs. Emily Brookes*, a son and daughter and their families.

Leonard Joseph Eyre Sherwood Foresters and Machine Gun Corps

Leonard Joseph Eyre of Burton-on-Trent, died on 23rd October, aged 86.

Mr. Eyre saw active service during the First World War as a Private, first with the Sherwood Foresters and then the Machine Gun Corps. He enlisted in 1916 and was wounded in Belgium after the Battle of Ypres and discharged from the Army in 1919. He worked for many years on the land as a hay-trusser, finally retiring at the age of 66. He came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1974 and was with us at Pearson House from the end of 1975 until June this year, when he returned home.

He leaves a daughter and sons.

Alfred Foster Royal Irish Fusiliers

Alfred Foster of Clogher, Co. Tyrone, died in York City Hospital on 22nd October, aged 79.

Mr. Foster served as a Private with the Royal Irish Fusiliers from November, 1914, to October, 1918, and after losing his sight he came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1932. Having worked on the land prior to his war service, *Mr. Foster* chose to undertake training in poultry keeping and he later became a successful general farmer. His wife died in 1939, having suffered poor health for some

MESSAGE FROM MRS. DELANEY

Mrs. Jimmy Delaney of Bridgwater, wishes to thank all her friends in St. Dunstan's who wrote to her and who sent floral tributes, which were of great comfort to her at this sad time.

years, and when later *Mr. Foster* married again, he and his family continued their farming activities despite suffering a serious setback when their house was destroyed by fire in 1947. *Mr. Foster* retired in 1963. *Mrs. Foster's* health had failed considerably and she passed away three years later. Following this, our St. Dunstaner made his permanent home with his daughter *Elizabeth* and her family in Clogher, but he paid frequent visits to another daughter *Gladys* and her family in York. It was while staying with the latter that he was taken ill and was admitted to hospital two weeks before his death.

He leaves two daughters, *Mrs. Elizabeth Crawford* and *Mrs. Gladys Coleman*, and their families.

John Halsall King's Liverpool Regiment

John Halsall of Bramhall, Cheshire, died on 4th November, aged 82. He was staying at Ian Fraser House at the time.

He served as a Private with the King's Liverpool Regiment from September, 1914 until 1919. He suffered the loss of one eye as a result of mustard gas poisoning in 1918 but nevertheless was able to work as a gardener for Southport Corporation until his remaining sight failed and he came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1949. His garden and greenhouse then became his hobby occupation and with his long experience in horticulture he usually had excellent results with his tomatoes and bedding plants. Another keen interest for him was singing and he enjoyed taking some lessons to improve his voice. He also served for a time as a member of the Southport Blind Welfare Committee. In 1973 *Mr. and Mrs. Halsall* went to live in Bramhall with their daughter and son-in-law, *Mr. and Mrs. Perry*. *Mrs. Halsall* passed away in January, 1975. Our St. Dunstaner's death came after the onset of an illness which developed following a fall he was unfortunate enough to have shortly after going to Brighton for his autumn holiday.

He leaves two daughters, *Mrs. Janet Perry* and *Mrs. Margaret Yates*, and their families.

Michael Hunka *Polish Army*

Michael Hunka of Holt, Norfolk, died on 29th September, aged 70.

Mr. Hunka served as a Private in the Polish Army for more than 20 years. He was wounded in 1944 and discharged from Service shortly afterwards. He worked for many years as a gardener at the King George V Hospital, Liphook until his retirement at the age of 62 in 1968. Mr. Hunka came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1970 and he married in 1972. He and his wife settled first in Saltdean and then moved to Holt, Norfolk in October, 1975. Our St. Dunstaner enjoyed looking after his garden and greenhouse and also took an interest in woodwork.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Winifred Hunka.

Lionel James Nuzum *Allied Translator and Interpreter Section*

Lionel Nuzum, of Melbourne, Australia, died on the 5th February, 1976, at the age of 86.

Having previously worked at the Embassy in Japan, he was commissioned and served in the Second World War with the Allied Translator and Interpreter Section. He lost one eye in 1942 and subsequently lost the sight of his other eye and became a St. Dunstaner in Australia.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Renée Nuzum.

Frederick W. Rodwell *1st Herts. Regiment*

Frederick W. Rodwell of Tring, died whilst on holiday at a Brighton hotel on 12th October, at the age of 78.

He served as a Private in the 1st Herts. Regiment during the First World War and was wounded at Givenchy, subsequently being admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1930.

After a period of training, during which Mr. Rodwell successfully mastered Braille and type-writing, he acquired a guest-house from where he ran a tea-room and ultimately a club and restaurant, with the assistance of his wife, Emmie, who died in 1973. After his retirement in 1955, he continued as Managing Director of the family mineral-waters business, retaining an active interest in the company.

Mr. Rodwell was an enthusiastic cricket supporter and, in fact, was closely concerned with his local cricket club, for which he raised funds. He derived much pleasure from his talking book and radio and, despite severe arthritis, our St. Dunstaner's cheerful disposition endeared him to all members of the staff both at Headquarters and Ian Fraser House, where last August he thoroughly enjoyed his first holiday at our Home.

He leaves an only son, Mr. William F. Rodwell, a daughter-in-law, grandson and grand-daughter.

Sidney Cyril Tarry, O.B.E. *11th Royal Fusiliers*

Sidney Cyril Tarry died on 27th October, at Pearson House where he was spending a period of convalescence following an operation. He was approaching his 87th birthday and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1915. He and his wife celebrated their Diamond Wedding in March of this year.

Mr. Tarry served as a Sergeant in the 11th Royal Fusiliers during the First World War, and was wounded on the Somme in November, 1915.

Until 1975, Mr. Tarry was continuing with his profession as a Physiotherapist and travelling to London three days a week to attend to his patients. In earlier years, he managed to combine a part-time hospital appointment with a busy practice of his own and still found time to undertake a considerable amount of work for the community, and for blind people in particular. Until comparatively recently, he was actively engaged in a number of activities locally in the Wandsworth area of London—Pensions Committee, British Legion, Druids, Darby and Joan Club, Meals on Wheels and Labour Exchange Council. In 1950 and 1951, he was elected Alderman on Wandsworth Council and in 1964 was elected President of the local British Legion. His services to the community, and particularly the disabled, were recognised in 1953 with the award of the M.B.E. and in 1963 when he was awarded the O.B.E.

Mr. Tarry was an outstanding example of a St. Dunstaner who, despite disability, continued to lead a full, useful and active life. He regularly attended our Reunions and Physiotherapy Conferences (even though retired), and will be greatly missed by his many colleagues and friends, the staff at Headquarters and Matrons and staff of our Brighton Homes.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Edith Tarry, and a son and two daughters.

Ralph Walsh *A.S.C.-R.A.S.C.*

Ralph Walsh of Whitefield, Manchester, died on 12th September, aged 91.

Mr. Walsh served as a Private with the A.S.C.—R.A.S.C. from 1916 until 1918. He suffered mustard gas poisoning and shell shock in 1917 but even so, after his war service he was able for many years to operate a small taxi business and he finally retired from this in 1962, when he was 78 years of age. Even though he did not enjoy the best of health, he shared a happy and contented life with his wife Lucy, who is herself blind, and their very devoted daughter, Mrs. Eileen Yeomans.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Lucy Walsh, a daughter and two sons.