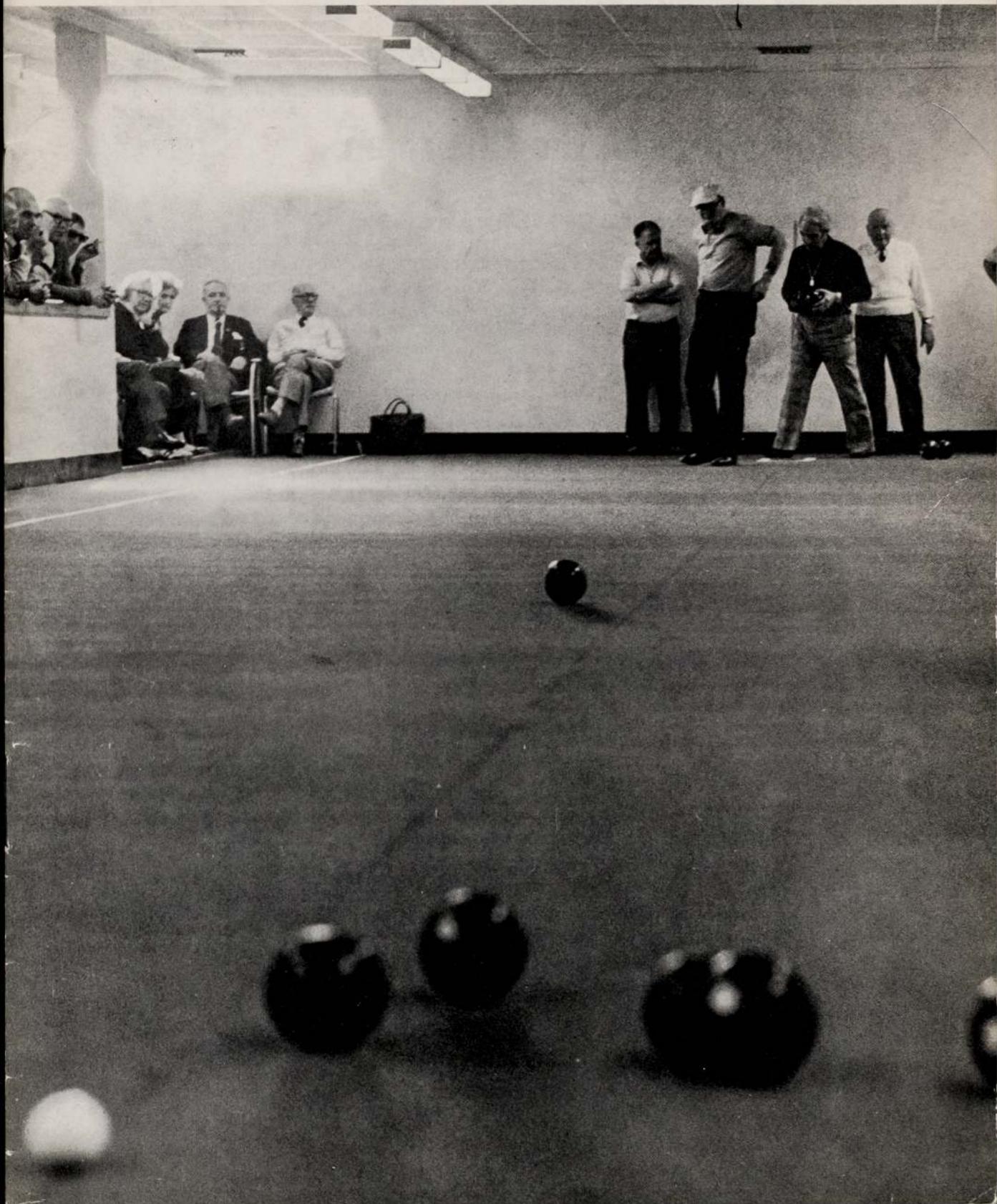


# St Dunstons Review January 1977



## Message from the Chairman

Lieutenant-Commander R. C. B. Buckley, G.M.

This country has a traditional pride in the Royal Navy and rightly so. As an island nation we have naturally looked to the sea for defence, communications, food and a great deal that forms our way of life and the Navy has been our strength and often an example to the world.

Lieutenant-Commander R. C. B. Buckley, G.M., our Public Relations Officer who has just retired at the end of the year, entered Dartmouth as a Cadet and the Senior Service was to be his life for some twenty-nine years. Before the Second World War he served all over the world and from 1939 onwards he was with the Home Fleet and then, after a long voyage round the Cape of Good Hope, his ship stayed in the Mediterranean. It was in Crete in 1941 that he was responsible for dismantling a new type of Italian explosive motorboat and, as he worked on the last firing mechanism, an explosion blinded him; he was awarded the George Medal. After treatment in South Africa and training at St. Dunstan's in Church Stretton, Robin Buckley returned to Service life, becoming the first blind man to be retained in the Royal Navy. He worked as an instructor in underwater weapons and electrics and later, after the war, he became the Command's Schools Liaison Officer until he retired.

This is the story of a successful Service career and, when he joined St. Dunstan's staff in 1954, Robin brought with him the qualities of his earlier years. Reliability, cool judgment, caring for others, a certain distinction in his bearing, which blindness could not touch, were the characteristics of our official representative to the outside world. He travelled at home and abroad, he met people, he spoke on the air, he became President of the European War-Blinded Association, and he edited scores of excellent *Reviews* and wrote our Annual Reports, with the sighted help in their composition of his assistant and friend, David Castleton. Lord Fraser over many years and I more recently have valued Robin's comments on anything which was to appear in print – writing this is one of the few occasions when I cannot ask for his useful opinion!

COVER PICTURE: *The Indoor Bowls Championships in progress at Ian Fraser House.*

There is always something distinguished about a "naval man" and St. Dunstan's is proud and grateful to have had Robin Buckley's fine services for so many years. St. Dunstaners may be additionally proud that they have been so well represented by one of their own number.

On behalf of the Council and everyone at St. Dunstan's, I offer Robin and his wife all our very best wishes in his retirement.

Jon Earnatt-Dune

CHAIRMAN

### ALAMEIN REUNION

I recently wrote to Lt. General Sir Brian Horrocks on behalf of those St. Dunstaners who attended the above Reunion each year, and have received the following reply:

"Thank you so much for your letter from the St. Dunstaners. It warmed my heart that they should ask you to write, because I got to know them very well in the old days and looked forward to our evenings together at the Alamein Reunions.

I remember one terrible occasion when, I believe, the Reunion was held in the Albert Hall and I got a frantic message that one of the St. Dunstaners was not allowed in by the manager because of his dog. I was simply furious, rushed down to the entrance and, by the time I and the St. Dunstaner had finished with the manager, he was very sorry for himself, and the dog came in and enjoyed the performance, as they always did.

I cannot obviously thank them, but I wonder whether you could insert some little paragraph in St. Dunstan's Journal, so that they will know how much I appreciated their message?

Again, thank you very much—alas, during the last Alamein Reunion ever to be held I was in bed, recovering from an operation. I am now, however, much better and on my feet again."

It will be remembered that Sir Brian was a Member of our Council for a number of years, and often presided at our Reunions.

I know that all St. Dunstaners will be pleased that he has recovered from his recent operation, and will join in wishing him good health in future.

C. D. WILLS

### MR. REGINALD WHITE

After 40 years continuous service, Mr. White retired on the 26th November, and all the St. Dunstaners who have had dealings with the Homecrafts Department during this time, will no doubt want to wish Mr. White a happy retirement.

Mr. White first came to St. Dunstan's in 1926 when it was in Regents Park and stayed until 1930. After a break, he rejoined on the 10th February, 1936, to do various jobs in the Home Industries Department at Raglan Street. During the war years he deputised for the late Mr. Stanley Hall who went into the Army, and afterwards he did clerical work in the Boot Department until 1952, when he was transferred to the Netting Department.

Mr. and Mrs. White are hoping to visit South Africa in the Spring to see their three grand-children, but meantime all at Headquarters join in wishing Mr. White the best of health and happiness in his retirement.

### MESSAGE FROM PHYLLIS ROGERS

At the time of my retirement I had not decided how best to utilise the very generous contributions St. Dunstaners had kindly sent to my presentation fund. I now feel that my St. Dunstaner friends may like to know that I have had my small workshop rebuilt, enlarged and suitably equipped so that the hundred and one odd jobs I used to have to do in a confined space can now be worked upon in comfort and greater safety. It is a joy to spend hours in my new workshop and I am truly grateful to you all.

My renewed thanks and good wishes to you all for a happy New Year.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**From: Bert Wood, Hutton, Essex**  
Being a believer and having a great interest in the unknown, I found Fred Harriss' ghostly experiences quite remarkable. I have, to my knowledge, never had any such experience happen to myself but, in recent years, have spoken with those who have and have had read to me the accounts of many other sane-minded people, and so you can see I never scoff at such happenings like others do.

A few weeks ago the *Evening News* ran a series of stories sent in by readers and some of these people were well-known, one of them being Michael Bentine. As you may know, his son was killed in an air crash and the small plane was found some considerable time after. One night long before this happened and in troubled sleep, the father was visited by his dead son who said the plane would be found in a forest after the leaves had fallen. This, strangely enough, was the case.

A young woman sits next to me at my place of work, and she has told me of a strange happening in the house of a friend. The friend's house is in Dagenham, Essex, and they moved there just a few months ago. Four steps up, a square platform and the rest of the staircase goes up at an angle: the platform is the trouble spot, for there is an icy coldness there at all times. A Paraffin heater was placed in the corner with the heat full on and made not the slightest difference, although the stairs above and below the spot were quite warm. When all is quiet, the occupants say they hear an occasional creaking sound and, as you can imagine, they are finding it nervewracking and they cling tight to the bannisters when they pass the spot.

My lady workmate was invited to go and stand in the corner so that they could get her reactions. She told me that she had never felt so cold or scared in her life, her teeth chattered with the intense cold and her eyebrows and lashes seemed as if they were being brushed with ice. Needless to say, she bade her friends a fond farewell and beat a hasty retreat, after all who needs a friend with that in the house?

The local council were asked to search in their records for anything that could have happened in the house, but nothing was found, so they went a long way back into the records of local history. Soon a couple of men appeared armed with tape measures and started to measure the ground around and up to the house. The answer to the searching and measuring came just the other day, and I must say it followed my own line of thinking. It was found that in the year 1610 a hangman's gallows had been erected on the spot where the house is and many poor souls were hanged there. This, they believe, is why the cold spot never moves and is accompanied by occasional creaking, no doubt made by the weight of a body swinging on the rope—not a very nice thing to have hanging about on one's staircase. The tenants are to be rehoused soon.

I wonder if George Fallowfield believes in the Holy Ghost, and he forgot to mention whether or not the train was a fast or slow one.

### ST. DUNSTANS BRIDGE CONGRESS 4th-6th February, 1977

Further to the notice in the December *Review*, owing to the unavailability of Mr. Geoff Connell to stay on the Monday, the Congress will start on Friday evening, 4th February, at 7.45 p.m. with the Drummer Downs Cup competition.

Transport will be laid on for those coming from London and beyond to meet the 4 p.m. train from Victoria, arriving at Brighton at 4.55 p.m. Supper will be at 6 p.m. and, for those arriving later, a meal will be kept provided notice is given.

Will those who have already paired up for the Pairs Competition please let Miss Bridger know the name of their partner when booking in for the weekend.

Details regarding the Congress will be circulated to those who have advised their intention to take part. It would also be appreciated if notification could be given at the same time as to whether they will leave Ian Fraser House on Sunday Evening the 6th, or Monday the 7th, so that transport arrangements may be made.

A special programme for Monday is laid on. Details will be sent to those interested.

The Committee will endeavour to pair up those without a partner.

### EX-P.O.W.'s REUNION

Twelve St. Dunstaners and two members of the Scottish National Institution for the War-Blinded were the guests of Lord and Lady Normanby for Dinner at the Cafe Royal in London, on 20th November.

These were all ex-prisoners-of-war who were members of Lord Normanby's St. Dunstan's unit in a German P.O.W. camp.

Other guests were our Chairman and Mrs. Ion Garnett-Orme, Mr. and Mrs. K. Mountcastle, Mr. E. Nash-Larkham and Mr. C. D. Wills, St. Dunstan's Secretary.

Many reminiscences of the days in Haina Kloster were exchanged. Lord Normanby's initiative was met with co-operation from the German authorities and through the Red Cross crates of equipment from St. Dunstan's were received. Blinded prisoners were brought together in the camp and so one of the most unusual branches of St. Dunstan's flourished.

The school carried on until 1943, when the blinded prisoners were repatriated. Although several sighted staff stayed on, there were never again so many blinded prisoners, around 30, together in the camp again.

### Vic's team still winning

Vic Davies of Braunton, Devon, is still adding to his collection of trophies earned by his team of Labrador retrievers. Bess, a nine year old bitch, won the Veteran Test in June and in September was successful again in an open event, also winning the cup for the best Labrador in the event. Rita, another of Vic's dogs, came fourth.

### Frederick Clay

We apologise to Frederick Clay, whom we welcomed to St. Dunstan's in our December issue by naming his regiment incorrectly. Mr. Clay served with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry from 1929 until 1945, and was wounded at Dunkirk in 1940. From 1945 until 1961, he served in the Royal Military Police.

### Mr. John A. Abrahams

Those St. Dunstaners who were placed in factories after the Second World War, will be very sorry to learn of the death of Mr. Abrahams on the 14th November, at the age of 75 years. On leaving school Mr. Abrahams joined the National Institute for the Blind in 1915, with whom he worked for 25 years. This experience proved of great value when, after working as an Engineer during the War in the Radar Section of Messrs. E.M.I., he joined St. Dunstan's in August 1945, and became one of the Industrial Department's team concerned with the placement of men in factories all over the country. He retired in April 1966, having spent virtually all his working life in the service of the blind. We offer our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Abrahams.

### DEATH RAILWAY

St. Dunstaner Maurice Searchfield of Blackpool, has been revisiting places where he served during the Second World War. In some ways, it could not be called a sentimental journey because his two week tour took him to Bangkok and Singapore and included visits to the River Kwai and the notorious death railway where Maurice worked as a prisoner.

"It was a most interesting trip," he told me, "Most of the railway has been taken over by the jungle but we rode along a short section and over the viaduct." Fourteen ex-P.O.W.'s travelled in the party. They found the war cemetery at Kanchanaburi in excellent condition and also visited a camp at Chungkai, preserved as a war memorial by the Thais. "That camp still smelt of death," said Maurice, "Even after so many years."

Maurice's wife, Ethel, described the scenes to him, "I wouldn't say she ever thought I was putting one over on her—but she saw for herself what it had been like. I managed to get one of the pins from the railway, a bit of sleeper and a piece of the bamboo we used to carry water. I wish we could have made the trip earlier, it was interesting to see how it has changed."

Maurice was with the Royal Corps of Signals when Singapore fell. He fought as a guerilla behind enemy lines until he was wounded and forced to surrender. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1974.



Mr. Rayner (centre) watches the deciding match in the Advanced Section—Roman Donald versus George Hudson.

## Chess Congress

by Dave Thomas

We had a good turn out of chess enthusiasts for our annual congress held at Ian Fraser House from Friday 5th to Sunday 7th November. At our opening session on Friday evening, Matron introduced to us two new friends, Mr. J. Horrocks, a blind player of international status, and Mr. W. Rayner from Headquarters, who is an excellent player. Mr. Horrocks and Mr. Rayner, who were ably assisted by Miss Daphne Garland, had agreed to adjudicate whenever necessary and to give advice and help to anyone who needed it. As usual, we were divided into three groups:

**Beginners**—Miss V. Kemmish, Miss B. Simon, P. McCormack, M. Tybinski.

**Improvers**—Mrs. V. Delaney, R. Barrett, M. McCrorie, J. Padley, C. Rentowl.

**Advanced**—D. Clarke, R. Donald, G. Hudson, R. Preece, D. Thomas.

Our deaf blind St. Dunstan, Wally Thomas, was also present. Mr. Horrocks gave Wally some individual instruction and we hope he may join in the congress proper next year.

Play began in earnest on Saturday morning, and some ding dong battles ensued. Winners of the three sections were as follows:

### Beginners

1st **M. Tybinski** 3 points  
2nd Miss V. Kemmish 2 points

### Improvers

1st **M. McCrorie** 5 points  
2nd Mrs. V. Delaney 3½ points

### Advanced

1st **R. Donald** 4½ points  
2nd G. Hudson 4 points

On behalf of everyone at the congress, I would like to congratulate all the winners and runners up, especially M. Tybinski and M. McCrorie, who both gained maximum points in their sections.

Mrs. J. Horrocks kindly presented the trophies to the winners and runners up, then Dave Clarke made a short speech of thanks on our behalf to all those who had made it such an enjoyable weekend. Vi Delaney and George Hudson presented small tokens of our appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Horrocks, Mr. Rayner and Miss Garland. Matron and Mrs. Williams, as usual, did a vast amount of running around making certain that everything ran smoothly, and I would like to thank them and the other staff at Ovingdean most sincerely.

A chess instruction weekend will be held at Ian Fraser House from 11th to 13th

February, 1977. It should be most interesting and anyone wishing to attend will be most welcome.

### Deciding Game

The game which proved to be the decider in the Advanced Section was in Round 2:

	Donald (white)	Hudson (black)
1.	P-Q4	P-Q4
2.	P-K3	N-KB3
3.	B-Q3	N-QB3
4.	N-Q2	P-K4
5.	N-KB3	P-K5
6.	N x KP	P x N
7.	B-B4	P x N
8.	Q x P	Q-K2
9.	O-O	Q-K5
10.	Q x Q	N x Q
11.	P-KB3	N-B3
12.	P-QB3	B-Q3
13.	P-K4	B-K2
14.	P-K5	QN-R4
15.	B-Q3	N-Q4
16.	B-Q2	N-QB3
17.	P-QR3	N-R4
18.	P-QB4	N-N6
19.	QR-Q1	N x B
20.	R x N	N-K6
21.	R-K1	N-B4
22.	P-Q5	O-O
23.	P-QN4	P-QN3
24.	P-KN4	N-Q5
25.	B-K4	B-KN4
26.	R x N	KR-K1
27.	P-O6	B-B5
28.	B x R	B x KP
29.	R/4-K4	B-Q5 ch
30.	K-N2	R x R
31.	R x R	Resigns

### A Tribute to a Good Friend

It was with sadness that chess enthusiasts at our recent congress at Ian Fraser House learned from Matron that, owing to advancing years and the poor health of his wife, our old friend and tutor for so many years, Mr. Bonham had reluctantly decided that he would not be able to attend our future congresses.

Every St. Dunstaner who has ever taken an interest in chess knows what a great debt we owe to Mr. Bonham and the hours of pleasure he has given us all.

This short tribute is to assure him that as long as chess is played at St. Dunstan's the name Bonham will never be forgotten.



Mrs. J. Horrocks presents Trophies to Roman Donald and Martin McCrorie, winners of the Advanced and Improvers sections.





Bob Osborne concentrates during the singles final in which he narrowly defeated Ted Frearson.

A measure is needed to sort out the winning shot in this very good "end"!

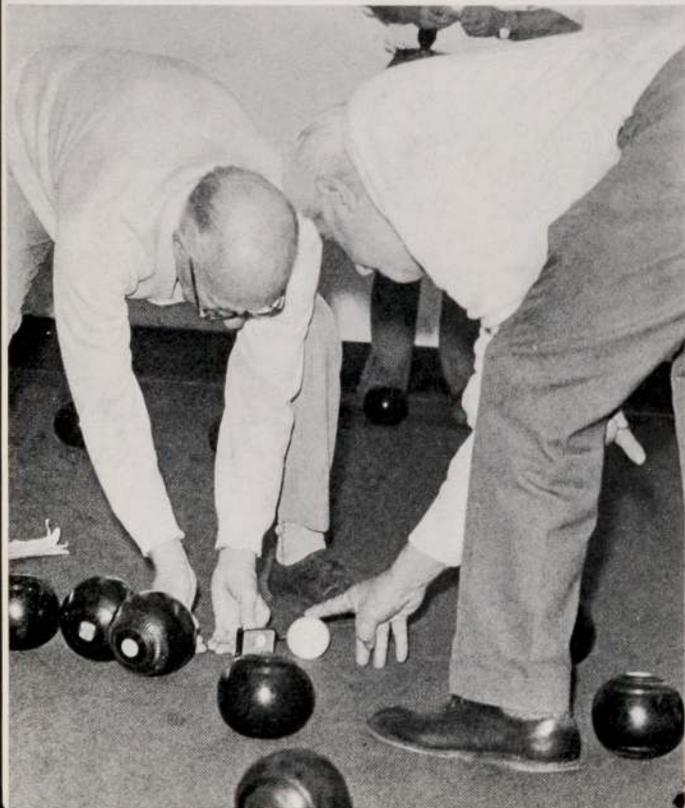


Some of the finalists and semi-finalists pose with the sighted officials.



Commandant Fawcett presents the Garnett-Orme Trophy to Bob Osborne and Jack Boorman.

Tony Parkinson jumps for joy at his winning shot.



## Indoor Bowls Championships

A full report of the Indoor Bowls Championships from Jock Carnochan will appear next month—in the meantime, we publish these photographs and the round by round results.

### CLASS "A" SINGLES

1st Round	2nd Round	Semi Final	Final
Bye	Parkinson 11	Parkinson 7	Osborne 10
Bye	Stubbs 9	Osborne 11	
Morrish 10	Morrish 3	Preedy 7	Osborne
Brett 7	Osborne 14		
Padley 6	Burnett 4	Frearson 7	Osborne
Osborne 9	Preedy 18		
Haslam 7	Mugan 8	Frearson 11	Frearson 7
Burnett 15	Frearson 10		
Cookson 2			
Preedy 14			
Waters 3			
Mugan 14			
Quinn 4			
Frearson 14			

### CLASS "A" PAIRS

Bye	Mugan 6	Mugan 11	Mugan Morrish
Wheeler 6	Morrish 3		
Padley 5	Cookson 2	Parkinson 7	Mugan Morrish
Stubbs 5	Padley 2		
Brett 11	Parkinson 5	Quinn 7	Mugan Morrish
Parkinson 11	Quinn 3		
Quinn 3	Osborne 3	Carter 6	Golding Carter
Burnett 3	Osborne 3		
Osborne 11	Waters 11	Blake 6	Golding Carter
Waters 11	Frearson 1		
Frearson 1	Preedy 1	Blake 6	Golding Carter
Preedy 1	Haslam 1		
Haslam 1			

### CLASS "B" SINGLES

1st Round	2nd Round	Semi Final	Final
Bye	Smith 4	Robinson 16	Robinson 4
Bye	Robinson 26	Cope 3	
Bye	Forshaw 9	Boorman 11	Boorman
Bye	Cope 12		
Pellington 10	Pellington 8	Boorman 11	Boorman
Morris 8	Boorman 22		
Boorman 22	Boorman 11	Boorman 8	Boorman
Hodgson 0	Hodgson 0		
Blake 15	Blake 9	Blake 6	Boorman 8
Golding 5	Carter 5		
Palmer 8			
Carter 9			

### CLASS "B" PAIRS

Bye	Hodgson 6	Hodgson 4	Golding Carter
	Forshaw 5		
Bye	Smith 5	Golding 6	Golding Carter
	Boorman 5		
Robinson 6	Robinson 2	Carter 8	Golding Carter
Blake 4	Blake 2		
Palmer 4			
Cope 6			
Golding 6			
Pellington 4			
Morris 4			



## READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 1766

**Three White Swans**

by Stuart Cloete

Read by David Strong

Reading Time 9½ hours

This is a collection of short stories the settings of which range from the Far East to England, from America to Africa. The characters differ as widely, hillbillies from Kentucky, "bungalow-girls" from Malaya.

However they might differ, all the stories have one common theme, the interaction of human emotions, the cause and effect of love and hate, of jealousy and envy.

The stories do differ in quality and range from the merely tolerable to the quite brilliant. Indeed, they might almost have been written by different people.

However, the outstandingly good ones more than make up for the rest.

Cat. No. 1289

**Number Nine**

by A. P. Herbert

Read by Gabriel Woolf

Reading Time 8½ hours

Hambone Hall, the ancestral home of Admiral the Earl of Carraway and Stoke, has been taken over by the Civil Service and His Lordship consigned to The Lodge. In consequence the Admiral does not like the Civil Service one little bit. He likes even less their resident psychologist, the sinister Dr. Maple whose "trick-cyclist parlour games" have ruined his son and blighted his career.

His second son Anthony, a Naval Officer, meets by chance an old friend and ship-mate, Stanley Bass, on his way to Hambone Hall for a four-day Aptitude Test. On their way down Stanley injures a leg in a car accident and is taken to The Lodge to recuperate.

Anthony gets a brilliant idea. Why not take Stanley's place on the course? Once inside the enemy camp he might just get the opportunity to toss a king-sized spanner into the nasty Civil Service works and with a bit of luck manage to do something quite ungentlemanly about the odious Dr. Maple.

His arrival at the Hall as Stanley Bass is unchallenged and he sets to work, ably assisted by the Admiral and the delectable Miss Peach Merrydew. Things start to move . . .

This is an uproariously funny book, full of the most outrageous situations in which anything can happen—and always does. It is liberally peppered with typical Herbert sly digs at the Establishment.

A splendid romp of a book and one not to be missed.

Cat. No. 94

**The Jail Diary of Albie Sachs**

by Albie Sachs

Read by Michael de Morgan

Reading Time 12¾ hours

The author, a white Capetown barrister, was arrested and imprisoned under the Ninety Day Law, which allows the police to detain anyone without trial for this period.

He was lodged in the local police station in a small cell, without bed or other furniture. He was allowed neither books nor writing materials and was kept strictly incommunicado.

He was never physically ill-treated and his food was good and plentiful. He became friendly with some of his guards, who called him "Mr. Sachs" and sought his advice on points of law.

He was constantly interrogated by Special Branch officers. At all times he refused to answer any questions, demanding that he be charged with some offence and put on open trial.

At the end of ninety days he was "liberated"—and immediately re-arrested and re-turned to solitary confinement. After a total of 168 days he was finally set free.

In the circumstances, perhaps, the book is surprisingly objective. Sachs deals simply and very graphically with his thoughts, his fears of mental breakdown under the strain of solitary confinement and enforced total inactivity and his determination not to be broken by it.

Apart from being, obviously, a man of courage and tenacity, Sachs shows himself to be a writer of no mean ability.

## Welcome to St. Dunstan's



**Joseph Cooper** of Telford, Shropshire, who joined St. Dunstan's in November. Mr. Cooper served as a Private in the East Yorkshire Regiment during the First World War. He is a widower and lives with his daughter and son-in-law.

**Hubert Thornton Lofthouse** of Wimbledon, S.W.20, who joined St. Dunstan's in November. He was commissioned and served with the R.N.V.R. in the Second World War. He is a Chartered Electrical Engineer and has been a Company Director. He is married with a son and a daughter.

**Percy Edmund Robins** of Salisbury, Wiltshire, who joined St. Dunstan's in

*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.*

December. He was commissioned and served with the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment in the First World War and later worked as a steelworks representative until he retired; he was also a keen amateur conjurer. He is married with one daughter and grandchildren.

**James Rowlands** of Wirral, Cheshire, who came to St. Dunstan's in October. He served as a Lance Corporal with the 1st Cheshire Royal Engineers during the First World War. Mr. Rowlands is a widower and lives with his daughter and son-in-law and has one other daughter and two sons. He also has 23 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren.

## OVINGDEAN NOTES

As we mentioned last month, in order to fire on all cylinders during the festive season, we decided to go to work on a Wincarnis. However, it seems there is no future in drinking on an empty head, so it's back to the Lucozade.

Accounts of the highly successful Chess and Bridge Weekends will be found elsewhere in this issue. They were both very much enjoyed by those taking part. We extended a warm welcome to a new Chess Director, Mr. Jack Horrocks, and to his wife and her friendly and affectionate guide dog, Susie, while at the same time missing our well-loved friend Mr. Bonham. It was a great pleasure to welcome Mr. Rayner from Headquarters, whose cheerful help was invaluable.

Regarding the more physical pursuits, Shooting, Archery and Bowling continue to grow in popularity, and it is a joy to see the pleasure that St. Dunstaners derive from them. The Bowls Tournament at the end of November was enormously successful, the high standard of play being quite remarkable. There was a great deal of excitement during the close-fought matches, and breaths were bated to an alarming degree.

The weekly Drives continue, come wind, rain and tempest. Mr. and Mrs. Lyndhurst, who run Tylden House, near Horsham, have again most generously invited us to a Christmas tea on 21st December which, by the time you read these notes, will be but a tasty memory.

The Dome Variety has, for some time, been confined to one performance per month—during November, the show incorporated items from the following evening's bill, which was *The Gang Show*. The result was something of a marathon, lasting for three hours, but it seems to have been enjoyed. However, much greater was the enjoyment given by 25 members of the Music & Drama section of the Brighton Co-op Social Club—a most unwieldy title for a delightful company of people with talent and generous hearts. They brought us *A Tribute to Music-Hall*, singing all the old songs (and cracking all the hoary jokes) with great zest. The excellent "Chairman" encouraged—indeed, bullied—us into joining our dulcet tones to theirs, which we did with great alacrity. There was a great rapport between artistes and audience, which made a happy evening.

The record programmes given by V.A.D.'s Mrs. J. Exley and Miss N. Scally were varied and enjoyable, as were those given by those old friends of ours, Mr. Michael Hayes and Mr. Les Harris. Both of them have once more been kind and generous enough to visit us over the Christmas period to entertain us.

November ended most happily with an outing to Newhaven Labour Club, whose members invited a goodly number of St. Dunstaners to sample their hospitality. From all accounts, it was—as they say up North—"a reet good do".

Next month, we shall report on the Christmas gaieties, and in the meantime, may we wish you good health and contentment in the New Year.

## METRO OPEN GAMES

June 1977

As mentioned by Jock Carnochan in last month's *Review*, the London based Metropolitan Sports and Social Club for the Visually Handicapped, which comprises blind and partially sighted members, has arranged, under the Chairmanship of Mike Brace, a sports day which will take place on Saturday 4th June 1977 at the East London stadium, Burdett Road, Mile End, E.3.

## CLUB NEWS

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

The Committee would like to send their best wishes for 1977 to all those living in the Greater London area.

Following the successful Mystery Tour held last June, preliminary notice is now given of a Mystery Country Outing planned for Thursday, 7th April (the day before Good Friday). A coach will be leaving Headquarters at 9.30 a.m., returning to H.Q. by 6 p.m. This will enable anybody wishing to go to Brighton for Easter to leave Victoria in reasonable time that evening.

As before, the party will be limited to 20 St. Dunstaners and their wives or escorts (making 40 in all). Further details will be given in the next *Review*.

The Metro Sports Club, which is self-supporting, is affiliated to the British Sports Association for the Disabled, and included in the programme is a 3,000 metres walk, with St. Dunstan's walkers very much in mind.

The following is a list of events: For totally blind men and women: 100 metres sprint; 60 metres sprint; high jump, long jump, shot, discus, javelin, and for men only, 3 kilometres walk.

For partially blind men and women: 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres, high jump, long jump, shot, discus, javelin, and for men only, 1 mile run, 3 kilometres walk and triple jump.

All events will be held under A.A.A. rules and A.A.A. officials will be present at the meeting.

Metro hope to play host to blind competitors from many parts of the U.K. and hope that as many St. Dunstaners as possible will take part, bearing in mind that St. Dunstan's were the pioneers of sport as far back as World War I.

The East London stadium is situated five minutes walk from Mile End District and Central Lines Underground Station and anyone wishing to take part should write (enclosing a s.a.e.) for details to: Roy Smith, 51 Westfields, Railway Side, Barnes, London S.W.13.—NOT to Jock Carnochan.

### Dominoes

The Thursday evening Dominoes matches held in the London Club Rooms during November resulted as follows:

4th November	1st	J. Majchrowicz
	2nd	R. Armstrong
18th November	1st	C. Hancock
		W. Miller
25th November	1st	C. Hancock
		W. Miller
		R. Armstrong

### MIDLAND

Considering that the membership of this club is getting rather low due to the lack of support from St. Dunstaners in this area, our meeting held on Sunday, 7th November, was very good.

All our competitions are now completed and we look forward to our

Christmas meeting when the prizes will be presented to the lucky lads.

It was decided at this meeting that a new form of competition should begin next year—and so, instead of our usual knock-out competitions, we shall run a type of league. This method will also be adopted in place of the doubles matches.

Our new method of catering was quite a success and a very lovely tea was arranged for us by all our wives and escorts.

During the poppy period at the Austin branch of the Royal British Legion, a number of our club members and their wives, friends and escorts have thoroughly enjoyed an evening's dancing. We have many invitations to branches of the Royal British Legion, but this is the one where we hold our Christmas dinners and have made many friends.

DOUG CASHMORE  
Secretary

### BRIGHTON SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUB

#### ENTERTAINMENTS SECTION

What a wonderful evening we spent at our Christmas dance held on the 11th December last. 110 members and friends were pleased to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton, Councillor and Mrs. Best, who kindly presented the cups and trophies to the winners of the Sir Arthur Pearson Tournament (as reported in last month's *Review*).

We were also delighted to have with us Sir Michael Ansell's daughter, Mrs. Sarah Evans, and her husband, who presented a beautiful trophy which is to be known as the Ansell Cup, to the Chairman and Captain of the Bowling Section, Ted Frearson.

Also present were our Club's President, Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, Miss Ramshaw, Commandant and Mrs. Fawcett. Amongst our guests were the committee of the Royal British Legion, Hassocks, who have entertained us so well during the past year.

The committee's wives prepared a buffet and, after the fantastic raffle, everyone joined in the dancing to the music of the Compact Three. A great deal

of praise must be given to Alf Garstang for the hard work he put into the evening as our M.C. My sincere thanks to everyone concerned who helped to make this dance such a happy occasion.

BOB OSBORNE

### BRIDGE SECTION

Our final pairs match was held on 21st November. The winners were:

North-South

B. Ingrey and Mrs. Gover

East-West

Miss B. Simon and Mrs. Barker

R. Fullard and Mrs. McPherson

### The Dacre Trophy

This magnificent rose bowl has been presented by Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre to be competed for annually by St. Dunstaners taking part in the pairs matches. The winner of the pairs competition will be the St. Dunstaner with the highest percentage score from five of a possible ten matches played with any partner.

The final result of the pairs competition for 1976:

R. Fullard	292.3
Miss B. Simon	291.4
J. Padley	278.7
W. Scott	271.2
F. Griffee	269.9
B. Ingrey	268.0
P. McCormack	266.3
A. Dodgson	261.4
A. Smith	259.5
C. Walters	255.4
W. Lethbridge	250.5
M. Clemments	240.3
W. Phillips	236.9

Congratulations to Bob Fullard for being the first to win the Dacre Trophy.

On 27th November, a friendly match was held against the bridge section of Seaford Golf Club—resulting in a narrow victory for St. Dunstan's.

A fitting climax to the end of the year was the Christmas Drive held on 4th December. 34 players took part and Miss Alison kindly presented the prizes. The winners were:

W. Lethbridge and Mrs. Lethbridge  
B. Ingrey and Mrs. Gover  
F. Griffee and Mrs. Green

WALTER LETHBRIDGE

## BOWLING CLUB REPORT

The following prizes for Bowling were presented at the Christmas Dance:

### Outdoor Aggregate

- 1st T. Kirk
- 2nd R. Osborne
- 3rd T. Frearson
- 4th T. Muga

### Indoor Aggregate

- 1st R. Osborne
- 2nd W. Claydon
- 3rd T. Frearson
- 4th H. Preedy

We entertained Field Place Bowling Club to a match on the 7th December, followed by a tea, after tea Mr. F. Quadlin presented us with a cup to be played for annually by the Brighton St. Dunstons Bowling Club. After tea we entertained the visitors to a social evening.

I would like to compliment all the bowlers who took part in the St. Dunstons Bowling Tournament. The standard of bowling was excellent.

*TED FREARSON  
Chairman and Captain*

## FISHING SECTION

It was a very pleasant day weatherwise for our monthly fishing trip on 19th November, and our members had a very rewarding trip. Everyone caught fish, mostly dabs and Channel whiting—very acceptable to the wives with the current

## FAMILY NEWS

### Marriages

Many congratulations to our St. Dunstaner, *William Mathew Jones*, of Brighton, who was married on 4th November to *Eve Judith Hampshire*. We wish them every happiness.

*Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coupland* of Hessele, are pleased to announce that their youngest daughter, *Jean*, was married to *Mr. Trevor Percival* on 25th September at All Saints Church, Hessele.

*Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Henry Jacobs* of Wallasey, are pleased to announce that their son, *Peter*, was married to *Margaret Carter* at Marlowe Road United Reform Church, Wallasey.

fish prices. This is always a happy social gathering for the men, and more so when they bring back a catch. When we have sorted out the dates for next year, they will be printed in the *Review*.

All our fishermen will be sorry that *Alf and Edna Dodgson*, who have run this section for over a year, have had to resign because of *Alf's* illness. We all wish them both a speedy recovery and thank them most sincerely for their hard work and devotion to the needs of their section. It could never be run better and with more thought. Thank you both.

*BILL PHILLIPS*

### BBC Man for Amateur Radio Weekend

*Frank Hennig*, well-known BBC broadcaster, will be the speaker at the Amateur Radio Weekend at *Ian Fraser House* 28th/30th January, 1977. He will talk about his experiences with the BBC and as an amateur—his call sign is G3SWN.

The Society's A.G.M. will take place during the morning of Saturday, 29th January, when Officers for the coming year will be elected. Any items for inclusion on the Agenda should be sent to *Ted John* (Secretary).

St. Dunstaners interested in Radio will be most welcome at the weekend. All those wishing to attend should make arrangements, please, direct, with *Miss Bridger* at Headquarters.

*Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Tutton* of Hounslow, are pleased to announce that their daughter, *Jeanette*, was married to *Michael John Hackett* on 4th September at St. Paul's Church, Hounslow.

### Silver Weddings

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. Walter Durrant* of Norwich, who celebrated their Silver Wedding on 3rd November.

*Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Hodder* of Hull, who celebrated their Silver Wedding on 10th November.

*Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Jones* of Chorltonville, Manchester, who celebrated their Silver Wedding on 8th September.

### Ruby Wedding

Many congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Parker* of Grantham, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on 21st November.

### Diamond Wedding

We warmly congratulate *Mr. and Mrs. John Arthur Bocking* of Morecambe, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 25th November.

### Births

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bosley* of Wallasey, on the birth of their third grandchild, a girl, *Emma Jane*, born on 7th October to their son, *Brian*, and his wife, *Ann*.

*Mr. and Mrs. Dickie Brett* of Lancing, Sussex, on the birth of their first grandchild, a boy, *Daniel Stuart*, born on 4th November to their son, *David*, and his wife, *Susan*.

*Mr. Winston Holmes* of Hove, on the birth of his second grandchild, a girl, *Ellen Rachel*, born on 28th October to his only son, *David*, and his wife.

*Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Linacre* of Wallasey, on the birth of their fifth grandchild, a boy, *Richard*, born on 9th October to their son *Ray* and his wife, *Linda*.

*Mr. and Mrs. Alan Mitchell* of Congleton, on the birth of their son, *Steven Alan*, on 30th November.

*Mr. and Mrs. John Albert Morton* of High Wycombe, on the birth of their first grandson, *Gavin John*, born on 25th October to their only son, *Edward*, and his wife.

*Mr. and Mrs. George Edward Porter* of Saltdean, on the birth of a great-granddaughter, *Samantha Jane*, born on 13th November to their grand-daughter, *Susanne* and her husband, *Terry*.

*Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Webber* of Tewkesbury, on the birth of their first grandchild, a boy, *Richard George Hallam*, born on 8th August to their son, *Peter*, and his wife, *Jane*.

### Deaths

#### We offer our sincere sympathy to:

*Mrs. Emily McClarnan* of Poulton-le-Fylde, whose mother died on 15th November.

*Mr. James Thomas Morrish* of Peacehaven, on the recent death of his brother-in-law.

## 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.

### Major Thomas Frederick Basson, M.B.E. Royal Army Ordnance Corps

*Tom Basson*, of Cheltenham, Glos., died on the 19th November, 1976, at the age of 61.

He was a Regular Officer, who retired from the Army in 1969 on completion of 38½ years' service. His sight subsequently deteriorated and he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1971. In recent years his health was not good and he led a quiet family life. He had been admitted to hospital for a possible operation, when he unexpectedly collapsed and died.

He leaves a widow, two sons and two daughters, all married, and grandchildren.

### Claude Frederick Beard Army Catering Corps

*Claude Frederick Beard* of Hove, died on 27th November, aged 60.

Our St. Dunstaner had been a baker and confectioner in civilian life and enlisted in the Army Catering Corps as a Private in 1941 and was discharged in 1945, having served in Italy during the Second World War.

After admission to St. Dunstan's in 1950, *Mr. Beard* successfully learned basket work but, due to failing health, he was ultimately confined to a wheelchair and was admitted a few years ago to *Pearson House*, where he remained until his death.

He leaves a widow, *Mrs. Sylvia Beard*, three daughters and grandchildren.

**John Michael Orpen Barstow, M.A. 1st Bn.  
Royal Irish Fusiliers**

Michael Barstow, of Shipton Oliffe, Cheltenham, Glos., died on the 27th November, 1976, at the age of 68.

He was a Territorial, who was commissioned and served in the Second World War until he was blinded in Tunisia in 1943. He had qualified as a Solicitor some years before the war and, after training at St. Dunstan's he returned to his profession in London, first as a partner in a firm and then in the Civil Service. For some time he was a member of the Council of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. He retired in 1973 and he and his wife moved to Gloucestershire, where he thoroughly enjoyed country life. In November, he and his wife and one daughter went on holiday to Hong Kong, where he was taken seriously ill and had an emergency operation; he rallied for a time but his condition deteriorated again and he died in hospital.

He leaves a widow, five daughters and grandchildren.

**George Thomas Hermitage Royal Fusiliers**

George Thomas Hermitage of Northfleet, died on 1st December, aged 79.

He served as a Private in the Royal Fusiliers during the First World War, from 1916 until his discharge in 1919. He was injured in 1918 and, as a result, was ultimately admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1961.

Following his discharge from the Army, Mr. Hermitage was able to continue with his occupation as a Milk Roundsman until 1959 when his failing sight forced him to give up work. During the past two years, our St. Dunstaner has made frequent visits to Pearson House. He and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding in August, 1975.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Ann Elizabeth Hermitage, a daughter, Mrs. Webb, and a granddaughter, Mrs. Stewart Washington, who was brought up by Mr. and Mrs. Hermitage from an early age.

**Frank Heyes Merchant Navy and Royal Navy**

Frank Heyes of St. Helens, Lancashire, died at Pearson House on 9th November, aged 83, only a few weeks after the sudden death of Alice, his third wife.

Mr. Heyes was a man who had devoted much of his life to the service of his country. From an early age he had a great passion for the sea and would relate to his family how he had run away from home to join a ship. Our records indicate that he served in the Merchant Navy from 1911, transferred to the Royal Navy from 1914 to 1918 and, from his family, we understand that he rejoined the merchant fleet again between the two World Wars, returning to the Royal Navy

again in 1939. He often recalled how he and his shipmates had the unpleasant experience of being torpedoed on more than one occasion. He first suffered failing sight while serving abroad in 1917 but overcame this and even after his discharge from the service, he worked in the Civil Service for a few years.

His sight finally failed in the later years of his life and he came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1965, by which time he was retired but he still enjoyed keeping in touch with his seafaring contacts by visiting the Seamen's Club in Liverpool. He also enjoyed the company of his fellow St. Dunstaners at our Liverpool Reunions and at Brighton, where he had frequent holidays with us.

He leaves the children of his first marriage, a son, Mr. Frank Heyes, and a daughter, Mrs. Ethel Burke.

**Harry Hocking Royal Artillery**

Harry Hocking of Rossendale, Lancashire, died on 12th November, aged 65.

Mr. Hocking enlisted in June, 1941 as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery but had served only 6 months when loss of sight necessitated his discharge from the Army in December, 1941. It meant a great deal to him that he was able to take training with St. Dunstan's as a telephonist and then return to work in this capacity with the firm by whom he had been employed for a number of years prior to his War service.

Mr. Hocking gave excellent service on his switchboard and in the reception work he combined with this. He was a well-known figure to the travellers calling at the firm, popular amongst his colleagues and most highly thought of by his management. When he retired last May he had completed 48 years service with the Bacup Shoe Company.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Hannah Hocking, and a daughter, Dorothy, and her family.

**John Stephens 9th Royal Welsh Fusiliers**

David John Montagu Stephens of Ferryside, South Wales, died on the 26th November, 1976, at the age of 89.

He was commissioned and served in the First World War, was blinded and came to St. Dunstan's. He returned to Wales in 1919 and kept poultry and goats. He and his wife soon became involved in local affairs and he continued with his active interest in the Royal British Legion, both County and local branches, throughout his life. His wife died some years ago, but he stayed in his old home with his only daughter, Mrs. Nest Swift, living there or nearby. In recent months he had become more and more frail and increasingly relied on her devoted care until he died peacefully at home.