

St Dunstans Review March 1977



St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

No. 683

MARCH 1977

10p MONTHLY

Royal Jubilee Greeting

Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme sent a telegram of greeting to Her Majesty The Queen on her Silver Jubilee. The text of his telegram and Her Majesty's reply appear below:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN BUCKINGHAM PALACE: ON BEHALF OF BLINDED EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH I SEND YOUR MAJESTY LOYAL GREETINGS ON THIS 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR ACCESSION.

February 4th, 1977

ION GARNETT-ORME
CHAIRMAN, ST. DUNSTAN'S

I THANK YOU AND THE BLINDED EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH MOST SINCERELY FOR YOUR KIND MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF MY SILVER JUBILEE

February 8th, 1977

ELIZABETH R

MESSAGES OF THANKS

Mr. and Mrs. Garnett-Orme are very grateful for all the beautiful Christmas cards sent them by St. Dunstaners, widows and other friends. They much appreciate their messages and good wishes from all over the world.

Lady Fraser has had great pleasure from all the lovely Christmas cards which she has received from her old friends in St. Dunstan's both in the United Kingdom and overseas. She sends her thanks and very best wishes.

From the Chairman's Postbag

Mr. Garnett-Orme has had a considerable number of letters from widows just recently and he has told the *Review* how much he has enjoyed hearing from the ladies, several of whom have been in their eighties and even nineties. Typical interesting comments include:

"I am nearly eighty-five and am pleased to say that I am able to keep my little home going I have two sons, both married, and they often come to see me".

"I've still got Sir Arthur's last letter that was written to my husband with the Christmas gift of 1921".

and from a daughter writing about her mother:

"... will be ninety-five next June and keeps remarkably well. She gets about the house actively and has no trouble at all going up and downstairs. Fortunately her sight is good and she is always fully occupied with knitting and reading. She takes an interest in everyday affairs, her two great grandsons and some T.V. programmes. I am lucky. She never complains and helps in the home wherever she can."

(The Editor is also very pleased to hear that several widows have said how much they enjoy reading the *Review*—thank you, ladies!).

COVER PICTURE: David Purches at his telephone switchboard see: "An Extension of Life" on centre pages.

Derby Sweepstake 1977

Applications are once again invited from St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees for tickets in the *St. Dunstan's Review* Derby Sweepstake. The attention of everyone is drawn to the rule that **every application for tickets made in the British Isles must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.**

Tickets are 20p each, and applications for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on **Wednesday, 18th May.** Each application must bear the name and full address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and **with a stamped addressed envelope enclosed,** must be sent to the Editor, D.S.S. Dept., *St. Dunstan's Review*, P.O. Box 58, 191 Old Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5QN.

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and

crossed. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered.

Tickets will be issued consecutively, and are limited to twenty-five.

The total money subscribed, less the cost of printing and expenses, will be distributed as follows:

50 per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse.

20 per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse.

10 per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse.

20 per cent to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

No prize won in the Sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

The Draw will take place in the London Club on the evening of Thursday, 26th May, the race being run on 1st June.

CADER IDRIS 1977

Once again Mr. Bob Thomas has very kindly offered to organise a climb up Cader Idris in Wales. The event will take place from Friday 20th to Monday 23rd May. Climbers and their wives will be accommodated in a local hotel, and escorts for the walk will be provided. Anyone interested should write to the *Review*. The final selection will be made on the basis of fitness and previous participation, with priority being given to first-timers.

H.M.S. Daedalus

Once more the Royal Navy has most generously invited a party of St. Dunstaners to spend a week at H.M.S. Daedalus at Lee on Solent. This year the camp will begin on Friday, 12th August and finish on the morning of Saturday, 20th August.

The camp fee will be £7.

Will all those wishing to be considered for a place at camp should please contact Elspeth Grant, (Flat 1), 7, Craven Hill, London, W2. Telephone number after 6 p.m. 01-262 2723 by Saturday, 21st May at the latest.

HOBBY COURSES

It would be fair to say that the "mini" course covering the use of woodworking tools at Headquarters for interested St. Dunstaners has been very successful and it has been suggested that perhaps other short hobby courses should be available for those who would like to learn something other than woodwork or as well as woodwork. St. Dunstaners wishing to attend such courses would, of course, be accommodated at the Broadhurst Gardens Hostel with their wives. What do you think about this? Any practical suggestions? The Editor would be delighted to hear from St. Dunstaners who might be interested in learning a new leisure occupation, and even more delighted to hear of the hobbies, crafts and other recreational pursuits already followed. Write to the Editor of the *Review*, at 191, Old Marylebone Road, NW1 5QN, by typewriter, in Braille, or on tape - even a telephone call.

If there is a good response to this suggestion then we will see what can be done. Any positive ideas will be welcome and given full consideration in making our plans.

Reunions 1977

All Reunions to be held at 12.15 p.m. for 12.45 p.m.

Date	Reunion	Hotel
Saturday, 19th March	Southampton Mrs. Lyall	Polygon
Saturday, 2nd April	Brighton Miss Stewart Miss Blebta	Metropole
Saturday, 23rd April	Bristol Miss Meyer Miss Newbold	Grand Atlantic, Weston-s-Mare
Saturday, 7th May	London (Kent & Surrey) Miss Stewart Miss Blebta	Waldorf
Thursday, 12th May	Newcastle Mrs. Ward Miss Skinner	Royal Station
Saturday, 14th May	Sheffield Miss Broughton Miss Newbold	Grosvenor House
Thursday, 26th May	Ipswich Mrs. Adkins	Copdock
Saturday, 28th May	Birmingham Miss Newbold Miss Broughton	Albany
Thursday, 7th July	Liverpool Mrs. Ballantyne Miss Broughton	Adelphi
Saturday, 9th July	Manchester Mrs. Ballantyne Miss Broughton	Midland
Saturday, 16th July	London (Central) Miss Davis Miss Newbold	Russell

ARTHUR NEEDHAM

Those St. Dunstaners who knew him will be sorry to learn, as were the staff here at Headquarters, that Arthur Needham died on 22nd January, 1977. Arthur, as he was known to the staff, worked in the Maintenance Department until his retirement in 1970 after twenty-three years of service. Not only the staff at Headquarters but many St. Dunstaners will have reason to remember Arthur's friendly and helpful disposition especially when they had "bits and pieces" which were in need of repair.

EVENTS AT IAN FRASER HOUSE IN 1977

APRIL

8th/11th inc. Easter Bank Holiday Weekend
25th/29th inc. Fishing Weekend (1)

MAY

6th 9th inc. Physiotherapy Conference
21/22nd inc. Ham Radio Weekend (2)

JUNE

6th/7th inc. Spring Bank Holiday and Silver Jubilee Holiday
18th/19th inc. Sports Weekend
20th/24th inc. Fishing Weekend (2)
25th/26th inc. Archery Competition

JULY

"Sussex Racing Fixtures" —inc. Goodwood

AUGUST

8th/12th inc. Fishing Weekend (3)
27th/29th inc. Bank Holiday Weekend

SEPTEMBER

14th/20th inc. Handless Reunion
19th/23rd inc. Fishing Weekend (4)
29th Sept./ 4th Oct. inc. Deaf Reunion

OCTOBER

15th/16th inc. Ham Radio Weekend (3)
29th/30th inc. Indoor Sports Weekend (if numbers warrant)
31st October/ 4th Nov. inc. Bowls Week

DECEMBER

3rd/4th inc. Chess Congress
10th/11th inc. Bridge Instruction Weekend

We would like to express our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Needham and her family in their sad loss.

Mr. D. E. Neale represented St. Dunstan's at the funeral.

MISS E. GOOLE

Readers of the *Review* will be sorry to hear that Miss E. Goole died in a nursing home in Paignton, Devon, on Wednesday, 16th February. An appreciation will be published next month.

BRITISH RAIL TRAVEL CONCESSIONS

Your attention is drawn to the following forms of cheap travel available on British Rail of which all St. Dunstaners should take advantage.

Mid-Week Economy Tickets

Available for one month. Must be purchased one week before travelling day for the price of a single fare for the return journey. Similar pre-paid tickets are available for Week-end Travel at a discount of 25%. (Mid-week travel is much less crowded than week-end).

Concessions for Senior Citizens

£6 Rail Card

Valid between the 1st April and the 31st March. Obtainable by completion of an Application Form at the Ticket Office on the production of the Pension Book.

FISHING FROM IAN FRASER HOUSE

During 1976 approximately 40 St. Dunstaners have been booking for fishing trips as part of the Ian Fraser House entertainment programme, and consequently some had to be disappointed particularly when weather conditions, ballots for places, etc. resulted in one day's fishing out of four.

We have therefore amended the arrangements for 1977 as follows, and hope they will provide better facilities all round.

Four separate periods annually of five days each, i.e. Monday to Friday inclusive. The periods to be Spring (April 25th-29th), Summer (5 days after the Sports, i.e. 20th-24th June) and Summer (August 8th-12th), and Autumn (September 19th-23rd).

Bookings will either be for one week, Saturday to Saturday, or one week as part of a longer holiday.

Each applicant to be limited to one Spring or Autumn week, plus one Summer week.

Beds will be limited to 24 for each week. Applications should be addressed to Mr. Carnochan only at Ian Fraser House, giving first and second choice of periods. Allocation will then be made, and travel arrangements will be completed by Miss Bridger.

Enables Ordinary (or Away Day) Tickets to be purchased at half adult price for travel at any time.

£3 Away-Day Card

Similar to £6 Card but limited to purchase of Away Day Tickets at half adult price.

It is obviously advantageous for St. Dunstaners travelling to and from Brighton to do so during the mid-week periods when trains are much less crowded than at week-ends. If undertaking the journey several times a year, and unable to travel mid-week, the £6 Rail Card is well worth purchasing to the mutual advantage of the St. Dunstaner and St. Dunstan's. A Grant of £3 towards the cost will therefore be given to any St. Dunstaners purchasing this ticket annually on the 1st April.

C. D. WILLS

DOUG CASHMORE

Mr. Doug Cashmore of Bromsgrove always keeps two days of his annual holiday to sell poppies for the Austin Branch of the Royal British Legion. His total collection was £348 plus the Silver Cup, a shield and a bottle of whisky. This collection resulted from activities throughout the year, the largest percentage coming during Poppy week.

Welcome to St. Dunstan's



On behalf of St. Dunstan's we welcome a St. Dunstaner recently admitted to membership. The Review hopes he will settle down happily as a member of our family.

Thomas George Wood of Tonbridge, Kent, who joined St. Dunstan's in February. Mr. Wood served as a Private with the 13th County of London Regiment during the 1st World War and was gassed at Opie Wood in 1918. He is a married man.



Chairman of the Amateurs, Bill Shea, is interviewed by professional broadcaster, Frank Hennig.

RADIO AMATEURS' FIRST A.G.M.

By Raymond Hazan

Contrary to what other BR passengers may have believed, the first Annual General Meeting of the St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society was not held on the 3 p.m. London to Brighton. The railway carriage was full of talk on trap dipoles, speech compressors and resistance that had been encountered, the latter not being confined to radio work. The weekend started on the evening of Friday 28th January with a committee meeting, and the setting up of two base stations thanks to Stan, Norman and Bill who brought their own rigs down.

21 Members attended the first Annual General Meeting on Saturday morning. The Society were very pleased to welcome their President, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme and two Honorary Life Members, David Castleton and Norman French. The Chairman, Bill Shea and Secretary and Treasurer Ted John, who were both re-elected to a second year in office, had encouraging reports of the Society's first year in existence. At each weekend meeting, membership had increased by

3 or 4. At this trend, said the Secretary, in a year's time, the Society could take over Ian Fraser House complete. A full list of members with call signs appears below. George Cole and Tommy Gaygan were re-elected on to the Committee to be joined by a new Member, Norman Maries.

St. Dunstaner Miss Louise Farrow was elected Honorary Life Member. It was proposed to send Miss Farrow, a nonagenarian, whose birthday is in February, some flowers and a morse key. Tribute was paid to Mr. E. W. Wardrop G3MOW who died in December last year. Wally, though not a St. Dunstaner was known to many amateur radio enthusiasts. His friends are donating to the Society a trophy in his memory. How this cup will be awarded will be decided later.

Man Eating Spider

A large, splendid lunch will normally send you to sleep even in Brighton, but the talk in the afternoon was so amusing and interesting, that slumber was far from

our minds. Frank Hennig is well known on BBC Sound and Television. His amateur radio days go back to when he obtained his licence G3GSW in 1937. After the War, spent in the Royal Signals he went into the BBC talking about 'Hams' on a childrens' programme. This has led to his own World Radio Club programme on the World Service of the BBC and listened to an estimated 107 million fans. In the interim came interviews with singing siamese cat, a man who eats spiders to show his niece how harmless they are—"The big, black ones taste of almonds and tend to be bony", a dog who smoked cigarettes but not in front of the TV camera, and the case of the ancient Greek Amphora vase cast to the floor 30 seconds before going live on camera.

Most interesting were the anecdotes on the gardener Fred Streeter who died recently at the age of 98. For 10 years Frank interviewed him on radio every Saturday morning. "I'll do the talking", said Fred, "you chip in when you feel like it": the perfect interviewee. Frank Hennig then interviewed the more experienced members to find out how they got into radio and how they go about tuning, log keeping, etc.

Italian Job

In order to illustrate the sort of situations in which Ham may find themselves was a letter read to us by Ted John. He received this as a result of local publicity about him. "Dear Mr. John, I hear you have a ham radio. I wonder if you could get a contact with my daughter in Italy. She and her friend are on a camping site in a Landrover although they may have sold

Dancing Success

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Glover who have recently obtained their Silver Medal for Old Time and Sequence Dancing. They are now working towards getting the Gold Medal.

Gardening Success

Mrs. Marie Inman, wife of our St. Dunstaner Bernard Inman of Saltdean, Sussex, has won the Saltdean Community Association President's Plaque for the best show of vegetables in 1976.

it by now. She has just sprained her ankle and broken a toe; it would be interesting if you could talk with her. I have been trying to get hold of a ham man for a while now". Watch out, lads!

The next meetings of the society are being planned for the weekends of 21/22 May and 15/16 October. Our thanks to Commandant, Matron and all the Staff at Ian Fraser House.

New Members Mike Tetley, Tony Parkinson, Walter Davies.

Members and Call Signs

P. C. Bargery	G3OTB
G. Cole	G4AWI
D. W. Davies	SWL
T. Gaygan	G4AFV
R. Haslam	SWL
R. L. Hazan	SWL
S. Heys	SWL
R. Hyett	SWL
J. Inness	G4AJP
F. Jeanmonod	G3JYT
E. C. John	G3SEJ
H. Macrae	SWL
N. Maries	G4FHP
C. Mills	SWL
J. Padley	G3NHJ
C. D. Parker	G3XTV
T. N. Parkinson	SWL
J. F. Proctor	G3JFP
E. Quinn	SWL
C. G. Rentowl	SWL
A. R. Reynolds	G3VRI
E. Rowe	G3ULX
W. F. Shea	G4AUJ
D. Sutherland	G4DJI
M. R. M. Tetley	SWL

ROYAL TOURNAMENT AND TROOPING THE COLOUR

It is anticipated that we may be allocated tickets again this year for the Trooping the Colour Ceremony on Saturday, 11th June in the morning and the Private View of the Royal Tournament on Wednesday, 14th July in the afternoon.

Any St. Dunstaners who would like to apply for tickets should contact Miss Bridger by Monday, 18th April, 1977.

C. D. WILLS

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 514

Goldfinger

by Ian Fleming

Read by Duncan Carse

Reading Time 9½ hours

James Bond is enjoying a well-earned holiday in Miami, having just killed off a rather unpleasant Mexican drug-peddler.

But there's no rest for the wicked-hunter and very soon he crosses swords with the formidable Auric Goldfinger. He's a multimillionaire who cheats at canasta—the cad! (Later he tries to cheat Bond at golf but the resourceful 007 wins the game—and a lot of money—by the simple expedient of cheating back, so to speak).

Mr. Goldfinger is a dedicated gold-collector and it very soon transpires that he's not too fussy whose gold he collects. And since the stuff will eventually find its way to those nasty Russians, somebody has to put a stop to Mr. G's nefarious activities.

And who better to do that than our James, I can hear you asking. He faces death many times of course, from a circular saw (nasty!), karate chops, bullets and strangulation. Naturally he wins out in the end. The baddies are effectively (and messily) disposed of, leaving the world a sweeter cleaner place for nice people like you and me.

It's all very much larger than life as one might expect, in fact, it's preposterous! It's outrageous!

And very entertaining!

Cat. No. 222

Towards the End of the Morning

by Michael Frayn

Read by John Richmond

Reading Time 8 hours

This is a bright and breezy tale about the three occupants of one small office on a London daily paper.

John Dyson is nominally in charge. He is a self-important man with highly developed illusions of grandeur. He lives in a crumbling Victorian house with his wife Janny and two repulsive children

and his anti-social neighbours throw beer-cans over his back garden wall. He constantly complains of overwork but never seems to do very much.

Bob Bell, however, does a little work—in whatever time he can spare from trying to unravel his complicated love-life.

The third member of the trio is Old Eddie Moulton who spends his working day fast asleep in his chair.

Eventually he dies at his desk—a fact which escapes the notice of his two colleagues for quite some time.

Old Eddie's replacement is one Erskine Morris, a laconic whiz-kid fresh down from Cambridge. He proves to be a live-wire entrepreneur with skilful fingers in many pies. And Dyson likes him not one little bit . . .

The book is peopled with a great variety of splendidly-bizarre characters, like the boozy crowd of journalists who gather for lunchtime drinks in "The Gates of Jerusalem", and the Editor, a shadowy figure in a shabby raincoat who would dearly love to fire the revolting Pictures Editor, but hasn't the nerve, and Erskine's girlfriend, the delectable model who suffers cruelly with bad feet!

A very funny book full of wit and gentle satire. I felt quite a sense of loss when it ended.

Cat. No. 1342

The Edgware Road

by Montague Haltrecht

Read by Philip Treleven

Reading Time 7¾ hours

Manny Levy has come a long way since the days when, as a poor immigrant, he made cheap dresses in his little back room in the East End of London. Now he owns a factory and showrooms and lives with Pearl and the children in the Promised Land of Edgware. All the houses are large and imposing and all his neighbours wealthy and Jewish.

But the children are not turning out like nice Jewish children should. First it was Brenda with her outrageous ideas about becoming an artist. But now she has

settled down and married a "nice Jewish boy" with money and prospects of more to come.

Geoffrey has managed to scrape into Oxford but is making no headway. Privately his tutor thinks he is a fool and wasting his time and his father's money.

But Lucille is the real problem. At eighteen she is sullenly uncommunicative, defying parental authority and ancient Jewish custom that she should make a "good" (arranged) marriage.

Tensions and conflict culminate in a violent quarrel while the family are on holiday in Spain. Lucille declares she will not marry anybody and accuses her parents of having "a ghetto mentality" and of refusing to recognise even the existence of another world outside their own narrow racial community.

She will run away and make her own life. But can she? She has no money of her own, no training. The only role for which she has been prepared as "a nice Jewish girl" is marriage. Will she therefore be forced by circumstances to return to the ghetto she has learned to hate and despise.

What could have been a fine book was marred for me by the inclusion of too many caricatures in place of flesh and blood characters. All the Jewish adults are presented as obese, vulgar, ostentatious and money-grubbing and seem more like figures from Nazi propaganda than real people in a serious novel.

Mrs. Audrey Buchanan is very kindly organising another dance at the Community Centre in Titchfield on Saturday, 19th March, in aid of funds for the annual camp at H.M.S. Daedalus. The dance begins at 8 p.m. and we would like as many St. Dunstaners and their wives to attend as possible.

Helen Keller Re-honoured

As of 1st January 1977, the American Foundation for Overseas Blind has been renamed Helen Keller International Incorporated. Like our late Chairman, Lord Fraser, Helen Keller was the guiding force behind the Foundation for 53 years from 1915 until her death in 1968.

KEEPING YOU 'IN TOUCH'

De-Magnetiser for Cassette Recordings

A simple method for cleaning the record/playback heads in cassette recorders is being made available to blind people at a concession price. The device is the Ampex 220 head demagnetiser/cleaner, which looks like a cassette and is no more complicated to operate. Studio Tape, the U.K. distributors for Ampex International have made these devices available to visually and physically handicapped people through the Foundation for Audio Research and Services for Blind People. The Foundation advises that the record/playback heads in cassette recorders should be cleaned after every 30 hours use to prevent deterioration of performance, as the heads may get slightly magnetised and particles of oxide collect in them through constant use. Requests for the device, which costs £2.20 including postage and packing, should be sent to the Foundation at 12 Netley Dell, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 2TF; orders must be accompanied by a declaration that the person placing the order is registered as visually or physically handicapped.

Cassette for Gardeners

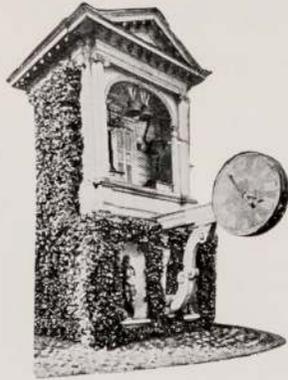
A tape recording of advice on vegetable growing and other general gardening topics has been compiled from articles originally published in the 'Garden News' magazine. A copy of this tape can be obtained by sending a C90 cassette and a stamped, addressed envelope together with the request to Mr. Charles Cadwell, MBE, Tape Recording Service for the Blind, 48 Fairfax Road, Farnborough, Hants. GU14 8JP.

Reprinted from BBC "In Touch" Bulletin, January 1977.

LADY BUCKMASTER

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lady Buckmaster (1st January 1898-22nd December 1976) was held at St. Michael's Church, Chester Square, on Wednesday, 19th January.

Our St. Dunstaner Esmond Knight gave the address and St. Dunstan's was represented by Richard Dufton.



IT STRIKES ME

by Magog

Keeping Watch

We are most grateful to Mrs. Dorothy King of Frinton on Sea for sending this delightful anecdote involving Sir Arthur Pearson and her late husband, **Fred King**.

During a hospital visit in London in 1977, Sir Arthur admonished Fred; "The nurses tell me you are being awkward". "Well, it's like this", replied Fred, "On asking the time, I am told it is ten o'clock. Two or three hours later when I ask again, I'm told it is five past ten". Without hesitation Sir Arthur drew out his watch and pressed it into Fred's hand.

The watch was Fred's treasured possession until the day he died when it was handed over to his grandson.

Danger at the Door

A very unpleasant experience happened to **Jimmy Voss** of Yeovil, Somerset at the end of January. "I was expecting the electrician, so when the doorbell went, I opened up, to be punched in the face and knocked to the ground by two youths". His warning to them of a heart condition and that they could find themselves on a murder charge "fair put the wind up them", though their treatment of Jimmy was anything but gentle. He was kicked and tied to a chair. While one stood guard the other ransacked the bureau, taking money. The youths left saying they would telephone for an ambulance, which they did not do. Jimmy managed to free himself, and was about to dial 999 when a friend arrived.

Fortunately, the youths, who had been cleaning windows in the street that week, were picked up the next morning and

confessed. They now face serious charges of robbery with assault. We are happy to report that Jimmy, though nursing some bad bruises, is in fine fettle. "I want to warn St. Dunstaners", he said, "of the danger of opening up without first checking who it is, even when you are expecting someone in particular".

Queen's Guides

A proud grandfather, **Tom O'Connor** of Birmingham and a proud father, **Fred Barratt** of Haverfordwest, Wales, both have good news on the Queen's Guide front. Tom sent us a clipping showing his grand-daughter Janet receiving the Queen's Guide Badge and Certificate from the Assistant Divisional Commissioner for Guides. At the same time Fred praises the patient energy and hard work that his daughter Olwen has put into gaining the award; well done the girls.

Shop Assistance

A scheme being set up in the Wirral, Cheshire is described to us by **Ernest Patterson**. All shops in the area are being circulated and asked to give special assistance to any handicapped customers wearing a lapel badge indicating their visual limitations, and a register of shops participating in the scheme is being compiled. Everyone will wish success to this interesting experiment which should prove very helpful to blind shoppers and we confidently expect that many more people will now be able to tell the difference between a well known brand of margarine and butter.

BRIDGE AT ST. DUNSTAN'S OVER FIVE DECADES

Random reminiscences of a privileged Palooka/Kibbitzer*

by Jack Armstrong

I was fortunate enough to be introduced to St. Dunstan's in the mid 1920's, when allowed to play "solo" in the company (with one exception) of a quartette of sassenach practical jokers. The exception was the host "King Robert the Young" and the venue his "digs" at St. Johns Wood. We had many amusing hectic and exciting sessions, as could be anticipated with the remainder of the company, comprising the inimitable Drummer Downs, Reg Coles and Micky Burran.

There was a gradual migration to the Headquarters at Regents Park where we were first initiated into the mysteries of "Auction Bridge".

Frequent bridge drives, at which sighted partners were present, continued to be held at Park Crescent and similar enjoyable functions are still held at present H.Q.'s

The real advance came, however, in the pre 1936 era, after a world famous Austrian International bridge-player, Dr. Paul Stern (exiled by the Nazis) introduced his system of bidding known all over the world as the "Vienna" convention, and, in company with the late lamented Alf Fields, instilled this system into the ever growing ranks of St. Dunstan's bridge players. (It is interesting to note that the present day team of sophisticated "Acolites" have changed systems).

After the formation of the London Bridge Club, I had the pleasure in Drummer Down's period as Hon. Sec. of acting as his general factotum, including the recording of minutes of the A.G.M's for many adventurous years.

The next milestone came when the thriving Ilkley St. Dunstan's committee organised an annual bridge congress for St. Dunstan's. This continued for no less than 21 consecutive years, increasing every year in size and importance and, from a comparatively small beginning, eventually became "a must" in the calendar of bridge enthusiasts.

I was privileged to act as escort to the St. Dunstan's team for the whole of those 21 years, during which time successive Presidents of the English Bridge Union

had honoured the congress by attending, including the present President, Reg. Corwen.

Many universally known tournament directors, including the doyen of them all, Harold Franklin, came every year and practically every world wide personality in English Bridge attended, including Terence Reese, Tony Priday (bridge correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*), lady internationals Rixi Marcus and Mrs. Oldroy and a legion of others.

And so to Harrogate, to continue the epic hospitality which has ensued continuously since the last war and coincided with the arrival of Alf Field and his department of the Civil Service.

This means that considerable parties of St. Dunstaners have enjoyed annually for upwards of 30 years the heart warming welcomes and enjoyable bridge which is always associated with Yorkshire.

Impact

And so to the present. Inspired by the experience, drive, ability and initiative of Paul Nuyens, ably assisted by expert teachers; with congresses brilliantly organised by tournament directors of the calibre of Geoff Connell, Alf Fields and many others, the contemporary players have excelled the achievement, even of the "old school"; at present in competition with the London "masters"; in prestigious bridge leagues in London Business Houses and in Sussex clubs; they have made their impact on the whole of the sighted bridge world

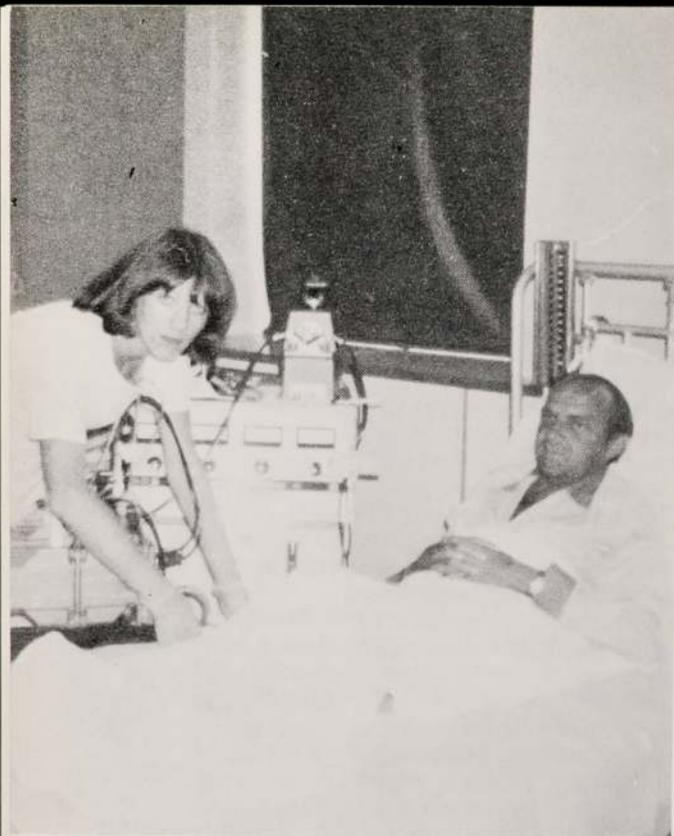
I speak, of course, mainly for London but I am aware of the tremendous strides made in Brighton and for all I know throughout the country.

I cannot conclude without reference to the ladies, particularly Vi, Blodwyn and Vera, a trio whose playing abilities are rivalled only by their charming personalities.

Here's wishing St. Dunstan's bridge many happy future successes.

*Palooka—a beginner, non-expert.

*Kibbitzer—an enthusiastic spectator.



Because of the sterile conditions, photographs in the Kidney Unit are rare. This one, taken by a member of the hospital staff, shows David on the dialysis machine.

David and Maxine at St. Mary's Hospital.



An Extension of Life

by David Castleton

Imagine one Sunday morning you are alone in the house and through a serious accident the femoral artery and vein in your thigh are severed. By holding one in each hand you are able to stop the flow of blood but you need to telephone for help by dialling 999. Add to this the fact that you are almost totally blind, only able to discern outlines against the light and you have the ingredients of a nightmare. But this is not a situation invented by Alfred Hitchcock—it happened to David Purches.

In 1968 David joined St. Dunstan's, having lost his sight due to kidney failure after service with the Royal Navy. Since then he has had two kidney transplants and about a year ago the second transplant began to fail due to rejection after six years. Now he travels to St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington in London twice a week to spend eight hours on a dialysis machine in the Kidney Unit. It took ten months for the process of rejection to bring about total failure.

"I just spent that ten months in and out of hospital going downhill all the time. They knew then it was not going to work any more. They were going to have to get

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Finishing the sprint in the sports at the Daedalus Camp.

me ready for a machine; and that's when the problems really started".

David explained how, normally, a patient has a link, made between a main artery and a vein to create a fistula in a wrist, through which he is joined to the artificial kidney machine or dialysis unit. In his case his arteries and veins, hardened by the use of steroids to suppress rejection after his transplants, could not be linked in this way at the wrists nor at the ankles. The final answer was a Thomas Shunt: Two pieces of dacron tubing joined to the femoral artery and vein in his right thigh and passing beneath the skin to a point about a foot below the thigh. When not in use the Shunt is bridged by a teflon connector through which David's blood passes. It was this connection which failed that Sunday morning—but let David tell it in his own words:

"What happened was that this connector had on it what they call an injection site, a piece of plastic that's put in so that they can inject into it and this just came apart. What I had was in one hand an artery and in the other a vein. If I let go of either they pumped. I have clamps

which I have to have with me all the time. These were in my jacket pocket in the hall and this happened in the lounge—I had to get to the hall. I was panicky straight away. I could feel all this blood, I could smell—I don't know if you've ever smelt blood but it's like fish, it's a terrible smell.

"I got into the hall holding them; I had to let go of one to get my hand in my pocket and I did at least have the sense not to let go of the arterial side. For some stupid reason I went into the inside pocket and I knew damn well they weren't in there. Not finding them, I thought I've got to grab this quick because the blood was just pouring. I thought I must dial 999, I still had not found the clamps—you don't think straight at this sort of time—I went into the dining room and got the receiver off the telephone with my mouth. Then I realised I couldn't dial. I tried to bite the end of the veinous side trying to pinch it with my teeth to leave my hand free to dial. The taste of blood isn't very pleasant so I gave that up.

"I went back into the hall, let go of the vein side and this time found my clamps. But I kept them in a polythene bag and by

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this time my hands and arms and my face were covered in blood. As luck would have it I dropped the bag and the clamps came out. I scrummaged about on the floor, found them and was able to clamp both vein and artery. Then I could dial".

By that time, in just 3 or 4 desperate minutes, David had lost some 2½ to 3 pints of blood. Fortunately, his wife, Maxine, arrived home to help him reconnect the shunt before blood clotting added further problems to the crisis. When the ambulance arrived he was in shock and knew little more until he regained consciousness in the recovery ward.

Hard Facts of Life

To David this is just one of the hard facts of his life he has to face. His greatest concern is for Maxine, "It's the ones around you who suffer really, not you". Next time, he says, he will know better, "Like an idiot I panicked, undid all the wrapping and as soon as I'd done that it went—poom! Now next time I wouldn't do that, I would get my clamps first. Now I've got a pair that I wear round my neck anyway".

Because of his blindness David must travel from his home at Colney in Hertfordshire to St. Mary's Hospital for his twice weekly dialysis. Sighted patients in some cases are equipped with a machine at home, but for David, unable to read the dials or watch for air bubbles or clots in the blood, this is impossible. "I think it's a big difference if you can have a machine at home. You lead a perfectly normal life, go on at night and work a normal five day week".

Trained at St. Dunstan's as a telephonist, David now works at Birklands, a Hertfordshire Education Authority business management centre. His employers have been very understanding and at present he is working part-time: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. On Tuesdays and Fridays he is at St. Mary's. He leaves home at about 9 a.m. and returns at about 8 o'clock in the evening. For Maxine, who drives him, this means two round trips each time—about 160 miles a week.

"The unit usually expects me for about half-past ten. They'll have my machine

ready, warmed up and primed—the dialysis fluid that removes the impurities is at body temperature. They couple me up, it only takes about 15 minutes to do this, and away you go. You just stick it out for eight hours".

"The first two hours are O.K. you might get a slight variation in temperatures of the fluid, not body temperatures. One thing, on a cold day the lines carrying your blood are lying on the floor and it does affect you. I've had rigors on a machine. That unit can be 82° and you still have heating pads and blankets. You get nausea and headaches, well, I did at first but I don't now get headaches. The worst part is the machine accepting you and your body accepting the machine. You can't go on that machine and feel well for the whole eight hours, and they say the more ill you are when you come off the better dialysis you've had".

So, twice a week David knows he is going to be made to feel unwell and that this will continue into the next day. Without this treatment he could not live unless he has a third kidney transplant. With a new kidney he will be spared the problems of the dialysis machine and the dangers of his 'shunt'. He also looks towards the positive effects a transplant will have on his life, because he knows from the experience of his successful second transplant, what such an operation can mean.

Never Again

"I know after my first transplant I said to Maxine, 'I'll never go through that again, no way'. But the second time it was like having a tooth out. Nothing to it at all. It was so simple, I knew what to expect".

"Everyone gets a rejection episode in the first four weeks. You've got to have that before you are released from hospital. Your body naturally will reject it just as, if you get a splinter, it festers. This is only the body rejecting the foreign body and so it rejects the kidney. They control this through steroids. This lowers the body's natural fight against the kidney, and then it will be accepted. I had that in the March, and I was back at St. Dunstan's in Brighton and in training".

"I went back into training and finished the full 18 months' course. I learned

telephony which I had wanted to do all along and St. Dunstan's got the job I am in now. That eighteen months was fantastic really. Apart from the job, it was marvellous to meet the people there, I learned so much. It made my problems seem quite small compared with other peoples' problems. Let's face it there is always someone worse off than you. They made me accept—forget my own problems".

"We did a lot of concert work. I'd never been one for that sort of thing, but as the opportunities were there, I had a go. We did a show based on South Pacific, that was a real stage production. We had a lot of lines to learn—it wasn't just singing. We really sort of précied the whole story of South Pacific into a two hour show and it was really hard work."

Never Tired

The rehearsals for shows and concerts were a useful outlet, David found, after the intricacies of Braille and the other demands of training. "Sometimes they would say, 'Are you overdoing it?' but I was told, do what you feel you can do and if you feel it is too much, stop. That was it, I never felt tired. We used to go out and do shows for blind communities and things like that. I got to the stage where I was willing to give up a week-end at home to go back and do a show".

There was a lot of fun to be had in those training days, "Perhaps it was a bit childish—a sort of second youth," says David, "There was the mystery of the purple fountain. Nobody ever knew how it happened but this is the story. With another St. Dunstaner I decided the fountain needed a face lift and the night before the end of term we crept out at midnight with two purple Drummer dyes and some Stergene, which will froth in cold water. Next day we were off home but I'm told that the fountain was a beautiful haze of purple froth. Now I have unravelled the mystery, but I'm sure I'll be forgiven as no damage was done".

David was finding out what it was like to live again and then came St. Dunstan's annual sports: "I only put my name down for a laugh. I was obviously unfit to do things like three mile walks, straight away without training but I enjoyed it and I felt



Undercoating a door is possible for David because he can paint up to the edges. He leaves the top coat to Maxine or his son, Kevin.

On stage at Ian Fraser House.





With Fred Duff, veteran sighted escort of St. Dunstan's walkers, in the City of London Walk.

better for this day's sport. So I thought I'll train and see what I can do".

It was not a wish to live this renewed life to the full says David, "I didn't say I've got a second chance, get everything out of it. Subconsciously, perhaps, but I hadn't said to myself live for today. I was never in sports and why I changed I just can't explain. The walking side of it I really enjoyed. At work I worked out a ¼ mile circuit which I could walk on my own and I used to do 5 or 6 miles in my dinner hour and really enjoy it".

Naval Camp

There was sport at the Naval Camp at Lee-on-Solent. "The second time I went I trained for it and it worked out. I did well in the swimming and got a nice prize for that. In the field events there was a lot of competition—men fitter than me—but we tried and we really enjoyed it. I was lucky

again, the centre got me a javelin, a shot and a discus. We already had a swimming pool there so I really had everything going for me for training, and I got myself really fit. In the summer I would swim and in the winter I would walk."

City Walk

David competed in the City of London Walk, in St. Dunstan's club events and other meetings, "I think of all the sport walking was my favourite. I think its because the training is more enjoyable than the race. I used to love training. With the walking and the swimming, they were a real smashing lot of people you met and all with handicaps greater than you. The friendship was a bond between you. There's no question in my mind, as soon as I can get another transplant I'm going back to walking".

Gardening is another absorbing activity for David, and he still manages to get out in his garden now. "I've got 150 feet of garden, and I have a greenhouse. When I wasn't training that's where I was, in the garden. I used to grow vegetables and everything".

Third Transplant

David's full work in the garden and at Birklands College will not be possible again without the third transplant he awaits. "I lost a hell of a lot of weight and had a lot of surgery, so the priority was brought down a bit. They'd like me to put on a bit of weight first, and be a bit better in myself".

So he is one among 11,000 people waiting for transplants. Anyone can offer his kidneys for use after death simply by filling in a card obtainable from a doctor or even from the local chemist and thus open the way to a full and active life to someone in David's position. He is waiting for a third time, and I wondered if he felt it to have been a failure so far: "No, a success, a definite success, even though the kidney has failed now. Because I know now what I can have again having had that six years of full, active life. It's a shame we can't get back to them what they've done, those donors, to give us an extension of life".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Fred Barratt, Haverfordwest, Dyfed

My brother is a chef at an American base and has been for many years. An officer came to him and asked him to make a birthday cake and put on it in icing "Happy Birthday Father".

The cake was made and iced and whether it was the smallness of the cake or the big letters he put "Happy Birthday" around the top half circle of the cake, but he found insufficient room to put the word "Father". Not being dismayed, he solved the problem by putting the word "Dad" instead of "Father".

MALCOLM BRYCE

In 1954 Malcolm Bryce came to this country from Down Under to train as a physiotherapist. He writes from his native Australia of his retirement at the age of 65 describing his past achievements and future intentions:

"I have been officially retired from my post of Deputy Senior Physiotherapist at the Department of Social Security at their Rehabilitation Centre in Brisbane. A post I have held for 22 years. I specialised in the treatment of polio victims, and then took on sole responsibility for treating quadraplegics and paraplegics. I lectured on this subject to students from Queensland University. The Australian Physiotherapist Association honoured me a few years ago with the title of Consultant in Rehabilitation, which gives one a specialist rank."

At a recent retirement party he was presented with some wine, whisky and sherry glasses, as well as a coffee table, and because of his love for gardening, some indoor and outdoor potted plants.

"I am kept very busy in retirement, my principal interest being the Queensland Training Centre for the Blind which started a couple of years after my return home. I am Vice-President and Chairman of two sub-committees. It is based on the training I received at St. Dunstan's and has State and Federal Government recognition. Each month I attend the Queensland Advisory Committee which is responsible to Cabinet and ultimately,

The table was laid and the cake was called for. The officer went red and my brother looked in awe at the honoured guest at the table who looked and read the birthday greeting—a priest!

Steve Blake of Chertsey writes of his success, in the winning bowls team of the North West Surrey League and the Arthur Gunner Cup. His most enjoyable week of the '76 season was taking part in the St. Dunstan's Indoor Bowls Championships. May the '77 season be even better.

Parliament. I am on the Executive of the Queensland Blinded Soldiers Association, and am the first Life Member in Australia of the Rats of Tobruk Association."

Malcolm further adds that he intends to keep up some locum work, and ends by saying, "I would like to officially thank St. Dunstan's for sponsoring me on the course and for all they have done for me. This has meant so much to both me and my family. It has given me the incentive to train other blind people as I have been trained. My life sure changed when I arrived over there!"

Yorkshire Post's New Year's Honour Nomination

The *Yorkshire Evening Post* is running a contest every year to find those who have most contributed to the community. There are four £250 cash prizes to be won. Nominated by his neighbour is Ernie Russell of Leeds. Ernie's name was put forward for his work on the switchboard at the Civic Buildings Division, Leeds, his 35 years with the British Legion, and for his election as President of the Leeds branch of NALGO. His wife Rosita comes in for much praise by Ernie. He waits anxiously to hear the results.

Mr. William Orange of Leeds retired on the 21st January after twenty-seven years service with the Remploy factory in Leeds. He was presented with a cheque and an engraved wallet.



Blodwyn Simon and Bruce Ingrey, who had a very successful congress.

BRIDGE CONGRESS 1977

Forty-eight St. Dunstaners were straining at their leashes well before the start of the first tournament of the 1977 Bridge Congress. As an innovation this year, and in order to have the benefit of Mr. Geoff Connell's tournament direction, the programme began at 7.15 p.m. on Friday with the Bridge Drive for the Drummer Downs Cup instead of holding this event on the Monday.

Beginners' Sessions

As on many previous occasions, however, Mrs. Connell, along with Mrs. Field, kindly undertook to help the half dozen beginners with sessions in the Braille library. Mr. Medcraft, who is always so helpful during these congresses, acted as an under-study to Mr. Geoff Connell whose commitments in the future may not allow him to direct the 1978 Congress. Every room in Ian Fraser House and bars in local pubs resounded to phrases such

as, "And then my partner left me in it..." or, "If only I had stopped in 3 'No Trumps' instead of looking for a slam!" Other non-programmed games went on to 2 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Connell had said how important it was to us that St. Dunstan's were able to provide volunteers, local markers, many of whom were old friends. It was obvious that Mrs. Williams, the St. Dunstan's Entertainments Officer, had put in a few score telephone calls to ensure that their offer of help was utilised during the week-end. Everybody who participated in this Bridge Congress will, no doubt, have his or her own personal recollection which brings a smile to their lips. My own story is the one about the marker who was asked to deal for the boys at his table; after the deal, one player found he had 9 cards in front of him, the other 3 had 10... the remaining 13 cards were still safely tucked away in one of the slots on the bridge board.

We were very grateful to Matron Blackford and Commandant who saw to it that mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks enabled us to enjoy a welcome cup of tea and coffee. Saturday 5th February was the day on which we were grouped into teams of 4 for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Cup. In the afternoon, we played as pairs for the Alf Field Memorial Cup. That same evening with the Commandant in the chair, we had our Annual General Meeting and those St. Dunstaners who for various reasons were unable to attend the Congress will be pleased to hear that Mr. Roy Armstrong was again elected captain. Roy asked St. Dunstan's to make available the new rules as laid down by the E.B.U. These together with the notes on bridge instruction, as produced by Mr. Connell last year, will be copied in print, Braille or possibly Talking Book cassette.

Individual Finals

On Sunday 6th February after an early breakfast, the finals for the best individuals in the Lord Fraser Cup took place whilst those eliminated took part in a friendly Bridge Drive. Resuming on Sunday afternoon, there was another Bridge Drive which had us so engrossed that we failed to notice the wind and rain slashing against the windows of Ian Fraser House. This meant that when we ventured out in the evening we were totally caught out by the inclement weather.

We had, however, ensured that our grateful thanks and some small tokens of our appreciation for their efforts was made to all the organisers and helpers for this successful weekend, this took the form of a presentation on the close of Sunday afternoon. Our captain expressed our gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Connell, Mrs. Field, Mr. Medcraft, Matron and Commandant and all St. Dunstan's staff including Miss Bridger at H.Q. who in their various ways contributed to the success of the Congress.

Originally it had not been thought possible to continue the Congress beyond the third day. We were able to enjoy taking part on the Monday in two more bridge drives before the end of the programme.



Matron Blackford presents the Alf Field Memorial Cup to Paul Nuyens, who won it in partnership with Alan Caldwell.

ST. DUNSTAN'S BRIDGE CONGRESS 1977

Detailed results:

Drummer Downs Cup	J. Whitcombe J. Padley
Sir Arthur Pearson Cup (Pairs)	Miss B. Simon B. Ingrey
Sir Arthur Pearson Cup (Foursomes)	W. Allen R. Freer R. Giffard F. Griffiee
Lord Fraser Cup (Individuals)	M. Tybinski
Alf Field Memorial Cup	A. Caldwell P. Nuyens
Gover Cup—LONDON	W. Allen
Gover Cup—BRIGHTON 1st Bridge Drive	A. Dodgson R. Armstrong Mrs. V. Delaney
2nd Bridge Drive	R. Freer J. Majchrowicz
3rd Bridge Drive	R. Evans R. Giffard

BOB FULLARD

OVINGDEAN NOTES

Did you make any good resolutions this year? We made only one, which was not to make any good resolutions—it is so demoralizing to find out that self-discipline is not one's strong point!

On New Year's Day, Dr. O'Hara talked to us in the Lounge before lunch asking us to show tolerance and good-will towards each other in these difficult times, and pointing out how fortunate St. Dunstaners are to have the security and ever-present help of the organisation behind them. Following sherry with Commandant, Matron and Dr. John, the New Year's meal was very much enjoyed.

That evening, we held a Dominoes Tournament, the joint winners being Sam Worthington and Cyril Eighteen with 5 games. As five players won four games each, a draw was held for the 3rd prize, and it was won by Bob Bickley. The following night, Mr. Tom Eales delighted us once again with a presentation of *Sounds in Stereo* in the Winter Garden. Shirley Bassey gave her all in "I, Who Have Nothing", and the feminine element in the audience became misty-eyed when the voice of Jack Jones dripped honey all over "Autumn Leaves". Unfortunately, during this romantic interlude, an elderly St. Dunstaner sneezed with rather more enthusiasm than discretion; a top set skidded across the floor, and Romance was dead, but DEAD!

Icy conditions

At the Theatre Royal, the Christmas show, *Pinocchio*, went on—and on. During the last week of January, the theatre was closed for redecoration. Sadly, our Drive to the Brown Owls at Coldwaltham had to be cancelled, owing to dangerously icy conditions on the road; there was considerable disappointment, as it is one of our most popular ports of call around Sussex. However, we were able to go two weeks later, when the sun shone benignly on us. *Tuesday at the Dome* attracted a goodly number of St. Dunstaners, and we had several entertainments in the House. The Venturas

Concert Party entertained us with a varied programme, and V.A.D. Mrs. Catt's choice of records one Sunday evening was warmly applauded.

The Rottingdean Drama Group, who have given so generously of their time to us over the years, brought a reading of *Flarepath*, by Terence Rattigan, which was very well presented, and gave a great deal of enjoyment. Mr. Doug. Turner and Mrs. Rosemary Robinson came one evening to entertain us—Doug. sings popular songs both old and new, and Rosemary is a most gifted pianist and accompanist. The weather that evening was quite dreadful, with storm-force winds and lashing rain, but bless their kind hearts, they came up to Ovingdean, despite suffering bad colds. The smell of eucalyptus quite drowned the combined efforts of Chanel No. 5 and Players No. 10. Doug. and Rosemary gradually encouraged the bashful ones to join in and sing, and Ted Hirst blossomed forth as a counter-tenor, which isn't bad at 80 plus! Well done, Ted!

Naughty Ditty

On the last Sunday in the month, our old friend Mr. Michael Hayes had arranged to come and play us a selection from his vast collection of records. At 7.30 p.m. he had not arrived. At 7.35 p.m. Escort Sister felt she should do something vital and dynamic, like grabbing an armful of discs and getting on with it. Needless to say, the audience was very free with the witty repartee, and following a number sung by Ivan Rebroff, the Russian with an incredible range from alto to bass, the disc jockey was informed that she had performed the song very well. She retaliated by playing a naughty ditty by Paddy Roberts, and so honour was satisfied on both sides.

The month ended on a cheerful note with a gathering of the Radio Hams, who seem to be past-masters in the art of enjoying themselves. Next month sees the Bridge Congress and the Chess Instructional weekend. See you then—if we survive!

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON

BRIDGE SECTION

On the 9th January we held our first Pairs Competition. The winners were:

North-South

W. Lethbridge and R. Goodlad 59.6

East-West

F. Griffiee and Mrs. R. Green 61.7

The first Individual was held on the 15th January with the following results:

R. Fullard and C. Walters 78

J. Padley and W. Phillips 69

A. Dodgson and M. Clements 66

A. Smith and partner 62

F. Griffiee and P. McCormack 52

W. Lethbridge and W. Burnett 51

Our Second Individual held on the 29th January resulted:

F. Griffiee and W. Lethbridge 70

C. Walters and M. Clements 68

R. Bickley and P. McCormack 60

J. Padley and W. Burnett 57

A. Smith and R. Fullard 56

WALTER LETHBRIDGE

BOWLING SECTION

It gives us great pleasure to welcome three new bowlers as members of the Bowling Section, Jimmy Morrish, Tony Parkinson and Harold Smith, and we wish them all the best of luck in their bowling activities.

The competition for the Ansell Cup is in full swing, and to date the standard of bowling has been very high, so we are looking forward to a close finish to this competition.

We are entertaining the Worthing Indoor Bowling Club to a Bowls Match at Ian Fraser House on Friday, 11th February. Details and results of this match will be in the *Review* next month.

We are sorry to hear that our Captain, Ted Frearson, has gone into hospital for an operation, and we wish him a full and speedy recovery, and hope it will not be long before he is back with us again, bowling his bowls right on the Jack.

HARRY PREEDY

ENTERTAINMENTS SECTION

Although we have had our share of bad weather, we were very pleased to see 62 Members and Friends at our Dance on the 8th January and this is very encouraging to the Committee. Mr. and Mrs. Peter McCormack made refreshments which proved very popular—more please!! The next Dance is on the 12th March.

Our Wednesday meetings are well supported and last week it gave us great pleasure to welcome Members from various parts of the country. We hope that any Member visiting Brighton will come to the Club any Wednesday afternoon at 2.30 p.m. and join us in our various activities.

WHIST AGGREGATE

Ladies

1st Mrs. J. Aldridge
Mrs. A. McCormack

2nd H. Smith

Gentlemen

1st T. Giles

2nd F. Griffiee

3rd A. Dodgson

DOMINOES AGGREGATE

1st	R. Bickley	Score	6
	E. Frearson	"	6
2nd	Mr. B. Griffiths	"	5
	Mrs. J. Aldridge	"	5
	Mrs. F. Pike	"	5

BOB OSBORNE

MIDLAND

Our first meeting of 1977 was held on Sunday 9th January, it was rather quiet but most January meetings are. This is often due to bad weather conditions, this year the weather was kind to us and so most of our members attended the meeting.

We were very pleased indeed to welcome a new member, Alex Rimmer, who came along with his wife. Alex is very keen on bowls, and he raised a

CLUB NEWS—continued

certain amount of interest within the club. He and his wife have just moved into the Birmingham area from West-super-Mare, and he told us how he played a big part in bowls with the local blind in that area. I hope that we can start this sport in our club during the spring and summer this year. I am at the moment trying to find facilities and help in the Birmingham area so that this may be done.

We all hope that Alex and his wife will continue to come along to our club meetings.

The domino competition got under way and we have commenced to use our new scoring idea, running the competition on a type of league basis. This should work out very well after the teething troubles are over. As each member will have to play each other member during the year we should eventually get a real champion.

All the ladies worked together once more to arrange tea for us, we were a little worried at first over the bread as the baker arrived late, "Sorry Con", but all turned out O.K.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, 13th March, commencing at approximately 3 p.m. at the Royal British Legion H.Q., Thorp Street, Birmingham.

DOUG CASHMORE

LONDON

Mystery Tour

This is to remind St. Dunstaners living in the London area of the Mystery Tour on 7th April. The cost is £2.50 per head. Would those wishing to take part, please send money with their application to Paul Nuyens at Headquarters. Please make cheques payable to St. Dunstan's.

We, the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club, are greatly saddened at the tragic news of the sudden death of Stan Horstead, who for many years, has brought his team, Waltham Forest to Headquarters. He also regularly attended our bridge drives, when he was always ready to give a

helping hand. His recent success at our Christmas bridge drive, when he appeared so well and happy, has greatly increased our feeling of shock at the tragic news.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife, Marjory, and family. We, too, will greatly miss him.

PAUL NUYENS

EAST SUSSEX CASSETTE

Reg Page has launched a very interesting Tape Magazine on a C. 90 cassette.

This is of high standard with Stories, Topics, Gardening, News, Views, Music, and sprinkled with comedy.

Any St. Dunstaners wishing to take this magazine; please contact: Reg Page, "The Lilacs", Back Lane, Cross-in-Hand, TN21 OND, E. Sussex.

FAMILY NEWS

Marriages

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Craddock of Warrington, are pleased to announce that their son, Alan, was married on 4th January, to Patricia Beardsmore.

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Springell of Castleford, Yorkshire, are pleased to announce that their son Alan, was married on 16th October, to Miss Catherine Yoe, at Pontefract Register Office.

Births

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Blake of Chertsey, Surrey, on the birth of their first grandson, Jason Richard, born on 12th December to their only son, Brian, and his wife, Ann.

Mr. and Mrs. William Russell Crombie of Epsom, Surrey, on the birth of a second grand-daughter, Laura Anne, born on 29th January, to their daughter Dawn and son-in-law, Colin McAlpine.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hazan of London, on the birth of their second son born on 13th February.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Josey of Windsor, on the birth of a third grandchild, Nichola, on the 13th November.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lawson of Stretton, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Shirley, born on November 19th, to their daughter Sylvia.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Leggett of Bangor, Co. Down, on the birth of triplets, all girls, born on 15th September, to their daughter Eva and her husband Albert McLoughlin. Sadly, one died but the remaining babies, Amanda Elizabeth and Leann are both doing well.

Mr. Francis White of Bedford, on the birth of a great grandchild, a girl, Ester Holly, born on 28th December, to his only grand-daughter Linda Bull and her husband. Mr. White now has one great grand-daughter and two great grandsons.

In Memory

It is with great regret we have to record the deaths of the following St. Dunstaners and we offer our deepest sympathy to their widows, families and friends.

William John Henry Clamp *Royal Air Force*
William John Henry Clamp of Milton Keynes, died on 12th January, aged 87.

Mr. Clamp enlisted in May 1917 and served as an Aircraftsman in the R.A.F. until July 1919. He came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1923 and trained in mat making and boot repairing, and it was in the latter occupation that he established himself. He adapted his home to suit his business, selling new footwear, leather goods and sundries, as well as undertaking repairs, and he proved himself most capable in his trade. Although he did not enjoy the best of health, Mr. Clamp continued with his business until 1947 and even after retiring from this he was able, for a while, to enjoy a little rug making to keep himself occupied.

Unfortunately, Mr. Clamp's health deteriorated so much that he became almost completely housebound, although he and Mrs. Clamp were able to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in September 1971 by attending a small party given for them by their family.

Our St. Dunstaner bore his illness over the years with great courage and fortitude and was nursed at home with every devotion by his wife Eva.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Eva Clamp and their three sons and a daughter.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mrs. William Burnett of Maidstone, the wife of our St. Dunstaner, whose eldest brother died at the age of 56.

Mr. Bartholomew Culley of Caterham, whose wife, Olive Eugene, died on 23rd January at the age of 70. Our sympathy is also extended to his two sons and two daughters and all members of the family.

Mrs. Olive Hopkins of Devon, widow of our St. Dunstaner, whose father died at Christmas at the age of 79.

Mr. Frederick Jones of Northfield, Birmingham, whose father died on 11th January at the age of 90.

Mr. Alexander McLeod of Luton, whose father died on 2nd January.

In Memory *continued*

Lieut.-Commander A. R. Ellis *Royal Navy*

Tony Ellis, of Merriott, Somerset, died on the 7th February, 1977, at the age of 52.

He entered Dartmouth as a boy and spent nearly 30 years in the Navy, serving at home and overseas. His sight ultimately failed and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1967. After training at Ovingdean, he took up an appointment with the R.N.I.B. in Hampshire, but ill health unfortunately soon forced him to give up work. In 1969, he had a book published called "Under Scott's Command—Lashly's Antarctic Diaries", a most interesting account, which he edited. As his condition deteriorated, he became a permanent resident at Northgate House and Pearson House where, in spite of his ill health, he always remained cheerful and uncomplaining and tried to take an interest in what was going on around him.

He leaves a widow, married son and a daughter

Albert Victor Platt *Royal Artillery*

Albert Victor Platt of Huddersfield, died on 16th January, aged 73.

Mr. Platt served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery from June, 1941, to October, 1944. After being invalided out of the Army he received treatment for defective vision and did not come to St. Dunstan's until April, 1959. Until two years earlier he had been able to work as a wool spinner and when failing eye sight obliged him to give up his work, Mr. Platt took some instruction in basket making in order to have a hobby to do whenever he wished.

During the past year Mr. Platt had not enjoyed very good health and he had been admitted to hospital during November.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Annie Platt, and a daughter.

Horace Reeve *Norfolk Regiment*

Horace "Don" Reeve of Richmond, died on 27th January, aged 44.

"Don" Reeve was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1953 having served as a Private in the Norfolk Regiment from 1950 until 1952. He unfortunately contracted an illness which necessitated admission to the Star & Garter Homes, and Mr. Reeve was, in fact, a resident there at the time of admission to St. Dunstan's and remained in their care until his health gave cause for concern and he went into hospital at the beginning of January.

Prior to enlistment, our St. Dunstaner had been a tailor by trade. Despite severe disability over the years, he remained cheerful and loved music,

but his great happiness was provided by his parents and sister who visited continuously.

He leaves his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Reeve, and his sister, Miss Jean Reeve.

John Smith *Royal Engineers*

John Smith, of Mytchett, Surrey, died on 25th January in Pearson House following his recent discharge from hospital, aged 87.

Mr. Smith served as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers from 1916 until he was discharged in 1919. During the First World War, our St. Dunstaner was attached to a Searchlight Unit in Italy and was instrumental in inventing a light that could be rotated and angled by remote control and he always felt this was the forerunner of this type of searchlight used throughout World War II. Mr. Smith who joined St. Dunstan's in 1966 was a retired Public Health Inspector.

Over recent years our St. Dunstaner's health sadly deteriorated but nevertheless he always looked forward to periods of convalescence at Ian Fraser House and Pearson House.

He leaves his widow, Mrs. Alice Marian Smith and his only child, Mr. Leslie J. Smith.

Samuel Wilfred Taylor *2nd West Yorks Regiment*

Samuel Wilfred Taylor of Shepshed, near Loughborough, died on 2nd February, aged 77.

Mr. Taylor enlisted in April, 1917 and served as a Private with the 2nd West Yorks Regiment. He was wounded at Amiens in April, 1918 and came to St. Dunstan's in the July, being discharged from the Army in August, 1918. He took training with us in basket-making and poultry-keeping but soon after returning to his home he concentrated his efforts mainly on pig and poultry-keeping. In 1926 Mr. Taylor branched out into general farming and in spite of the hard work which it entailed, and the adversities he had to overcome from time to time, he derived much pleasure and satisfaction from it. He was very happy when his son, who had taken a course of study at an agricultural college, joined him in working the farm.

Our St. Dunstaner suffered an illness in 1964 which meant that he had to restrict his activities to some extent but nevertheless, he continued to look after some of the stock himself and remained very much involved in the general management of the farm.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Harriet Taylor, and their children, Patrick and Josephine, and their families.