

St Dunstons
REVIEW
APRIL 1977



St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

No. 684

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10p MONTHLY

Message from the Chairman

Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee

To commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's Silver Jubilee this year, St. Dunstan's is presenting a specially designed copper bowl to each St. Dunstaner.

Richard Dufton has liaised for St. Dunstan's with the manufacturers of the "Peerage" range of products and he tells me that the design incorporates a nickel bronze plaque with a right-hand profile of Her Majesty. The size of a crown piece, this inscribed plaque is mounted on the outside of the bowl and a full-sized reproduction of St. Dunstan's lapel badge is mounted opposite.

The 22 oz. circular bowl is 10" across and 4" high including the base. The bright silver effect of the cast plaque and badge, together with the polished copper surface of the bowl, will be preserved by the clear hard stove lacquering, making polishing unnecessary. A note about the care of the bowl will be included in every parcel.

It is hoped that parcels will be received by St. Dunstaners at home and overseas during May.

At our Reunions this year, we shall have a souvenir Silver Jubilee menu card with a portrait of the Queen. Each St. Dunstaner will also receive a souvenir crown-piece. Those who are unable to attend Reunions will receive their crown-pieces from their Visitors in due course.

It is anticipated that the occasion of the Silver Jubilee will be marked at the Brighton Homes in conjunction with local celebrations. I am also sure many of you will be taking part in festivities in your own districts and I hope you and your families will have a very happy time. We have so much to celebrate in the achievements of Her Majesty's reign and her wonderful personal service to us all.

Miss Eleanor Goole

Readers of the *Review* will have been grieved to hear of the death on the 16th February of Miss Eleanor Goole. Since I was not fortunate enough to have known her myself, I have asked Dr. D. G. Hopewell, a senior member of our Council and a very old friend of Lord and Lady Fraser and Miss Goole, to write an appreciation for us all. Other comments by St. Dunstaners follow later in the *Review*.

Jon Earnest-Dance

COVER PICTURE: *Martin McCrorie using the long cane to get around Ovingdean. See Third Generation on centre pages.*

MISS ELEANOR GOOLE

Dr. Donald G. Hopewell, M.A., LL.B. (Cantab). Hon. LL.D. (Leeds) writes:

"Of such as she was, there be few on earth ;
Of such as she is, there are few in heaven ;
And life is all the sweeter that she lived,
And all she loved more lovely for her sake :
And death is all the brighter that she died ;
And heaven is all the happier that she's there".

Gerald Massey

At the end of March, 1915, the sixteen residents of the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Hostel in the Bayswater Road moved into their new quarters in Regent's Park in the house whose name "St. Dunstan's" became that of the society of which they were the earliest members. Six months later, a young Englishwoman, Miss Eleanor Guglielmo, whose paternal forbears were of Italian stock, was appointed as Personal Private Secretary to Sir Arthur Pearson who, feeling that her Italian-sounding name might be difficult for English ears and tongues, agreed with her that she should be called "Goole"; and as "Miss Goole" or "Goolie", she served at St. Dunstan's for forty years until her retirement on the 29th October, 1955.

Having come to St. Dunstan's so soon after its foundation, she, like its Chairman, knew every St. Dunstaner who came to Regent's Park for training; and when, on Sir Arthur's death in 1923, she became Secretary to his successor, Captain Ian Fraser, she was able to bring with her all the experience and knowledge that she had acquired with Sir Arthur. And as Sir Ian, like Sir Arthur, personally knew every St. Dunstaner, so she too came to have the same knowledge which she stored in her phenomenally retentive memory, to be brought out whenever it was required.

To her, every St. Dunstaner was an individual, whose character and circumstances she knew, whose special needs she understood, and to whom she extended a warm and tactful sympathy. For those men not of English birth who had fought for and been blinded in our common cause, she felt a deep sympathy and to them she showed great kindness and understanding. But among her many interests were the physiotherapists. Sir

Ian had early realised the potentialities of physiotherapy as a field for the skill of the blind, and, with him, she studied deeply the situation and fought with him for recognition of blind physiotherapists and for the better training necessary for their success, which led to the high esteem in which St. Dunstan's physiotherapists are held. It was to them, though by no means only to them, that she addressed her wonderful long letters. Night after night she would be at her typewriter—sometimes until midnight—typing those interesting and cheery accounts of all the news they wished to hear; and those letters must be regarded as very precious by those who have preserved them.

She was a woman of impressive appearance, with a beautifully modelled head of classical fineness, admirably set off by her short hair. She seemed always to have time for everyone and for discussion on all subjects. Her knowledge was great, her vision broad and her sympathy deep. Her standards were high and her loyalty and devotion without limit. Her interests were varied and included music, literature and the theatre. Her holidays she liked to spend in remote and rather lonely places. In retirement she sought fresh work, helping to run a bookshop, developing cottages in South Devon, and finding much pleasure in local interests there, until her last years brought frustrating illness.

St. Dunstan's has throughout its existence had many devoted workers, but none has left a pleasanter or more lovable memory than "Goolie" with her forty years of unflagging and generous service to the society.

The Rev. Andrew Nugee writes:

Miss Goole—some of us have memories of her going back over sixty years, and what was she to us then? She was a self-effacing figure always in the background, never pushing herself forward, but always there, watching, waiting, remembering. We thought of her more as Sir Arthur's personal private secretary with perhaps

MISS ELEANOR GOOLE

—continued

little to do with us trainees, but she was watching us all the time, and grew to know us and our little—and not so little—idiosyncracies; waiting for any opportunity which opened up before her to extend a helping hand; and remembering—yes, there was no need for a computer bank, if such a thing had been invented then, with Miss Goole, and even if one did not meet her for months or years on end she never forgot.

Of course she was Miss Goole in those far off days—all very formal, no Christian names, no nicknames—but it did not take many years of knowing her to drop into the familiar 'Goolie', by which name she became so well-known to men of both Wars. The Second World War brought her more exacting responsibilities with all the new trainees coming along and, though she was not a permanent resident at Church Stretton, she came frequently for weekends with the Chairman and Lady Fraser. Her care and concern was not only for St. D.'s as an organisation but with the individual St. Dunstaners who came within her sphere. Goolie—we who knew her are thankful for her care for us, and are glad to know that those last long years of disability are now over for her, and that she has passed into that life where just rewards for faithful service are given.

W. T. 'Ginger' Scott writes:

The St. Dunstan's Physiotherapy Advisory Committee has reason to express gratitude for the devoted services of Eleanor Goole.

Miss Goole came to St. Dunstan's at a time when the idea of massage was being developed as a profession for St. Dunstaners by Sir Arthur Pearson. Lord Fraser, continuing this work, appreciated her capabilities as his personal secretary and she also acted as Secretary for the P.A.C. for many years. At that time, there was the relationship to be made with the medical profession; there was the problem of ethical rules to be considered with the doctors and the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics; and apparatus was being introduced for treatment. The proof of her work was shown in the establishment of our physiotherapists in private practice. Then came State Registration and the Second World War.

All this time, Miss Goole tackled every problem with Lord Fraser and our Committee.

It is with pride that we can look back to our achievements and recall Miss Goole's share in them.

Funeral Service

Miss Goole's cremation service in Torquay on the 22nd February was attended by many members of her family and numerous friends. Flowers were sent on behalf of all at St. Dunstan's and we were personally represented by a group of Goolie's old friends: Mrs. Isobel Preston, widow of Geoff Preston, represented Lady Fraser; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Matthews, St. Dunstaners generally; Mrs. Lilian Channing, widow of First World War physiotherapist Fred Channing, St. Dunstan's physiotherapists; and Miss P. M. Barnard, staff past and present.

Several St. Dunstaners and others have expressed the wish to contribute to some form of memorial to Goolie. Local friends in the Dartmouth and Kingswear Society, which was one of her chief interests in her retirement, have told us that an area of the coast at the mouth of the river has recently been acquired by the National Trust and it is hoped it will soon be open to the public. It is suggested that an inscribed bench might be erected there and this would form a permanent link with St. Dunstan's.

Mr. C. D. Wills has kindly agreed to act as treasurer for this fund and any readers who would like to contribute are invited to send their subscriptions to him at Headquarters.

JUBILEE REVIEW

It is hoped to publish a Jubilee Review in June. Would any St. Dunstaners who have been either directly or indirectly involved, or has knowledge of any Royal visit to St. Dunstan's, or any anecdote involving Royalty and St. Dunstan's, please write or contact the Editor.

METRO CLUB SPORTS DAY

Would all St. Dunstaners who have entered for the METRO sports please contact Jock Carnochan, not later than April 15th, with regard to arranging transport and accommodation.



Bob Young, who is seen in "It's Ability That Counts", at the start of the walking race at Lee-on-Solent. Also in the picture are: Billy Miller, Bill Harris, Charles Stafford and Ben Mills.

IT'S ABILITY THAT COUNTS

Noon on Good Friday, 8th April, on Independent Television will surely be compulsive viewing for all past, present and future aficionados of sport. This will be the first small screen showing of a film produced by Jimmy Wright. Half the profits from the TV version, which is now in the film libraries in rehabilitation centres in the USA, Canada, Australia and South Africa, will go to the British Sports Association for the Disabled.

The film, "It's Ability That Counts", starts with a foreword by H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. It is a specially edited version for TV of a film that concerns competition sport for the multi-disabled and which was produced for the British Sports Association for the Disabled.

Sequences were shot at a number of schools for the disabled, where emphasis is placed on sport.

A very wide range of both indoor and outdoor sports that are enjoyed by the disabled, and for which there are internationally agreed rules covering four categories of disability, namely—Blind, Paralysed, Amputee and Cerebral Palsied, are included.

Competitors are seen participating in both National and International Sports Competitions at Stoke Mandeville Sports Stadium for the Disabled.

Great Britain is one of some thirty countries throughout the world that are members of the International Sports Organisation for the Disabled, of which Sir Ludwig Guttmann is President.

Some of the wheelchair sports include, a wheelchair race, table-tennis, archery, fencing, discus, and a friendly basketball match between a team from U.S.A. and Britain. Amputees are seen swimming and playing volleyball. The blind, including St. Dunstan's athletes, are seen doing gymnastics, playing bowls, football, and taking part in a road walking race.

Interspersed with the commentary, which is spoken by Gordon Honeycombe, are sync-sound sequences showing competitors receiving instruction, and giving their reasons for taking part in sports activities.

Sir Ludwig Guttmann makes a brief appearance with a few words to conclude the film, which lasts for just under half an hour.

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 17.

The Story of Ireland

by Brian Inglis.

Read by David Geary

Reading Time 9 hours

This was published in 1956 and is therefore sadly and tragically out-of-date.

"The history of Ireland is the history of England in relation to Ireland, and it will always be to England's shame." This was said, very many years ago, by Lord Shelbourne. And he was an Englishman.

Prior to reading this book I would have considered it virtually impossible for any writer to give unbiased and objective assessment of the Irish story. Inglis, in spite of, or perhaps because of his own Anglo-Irish background, comes very close indeed to doing just this.

In his stylish, sometimes elegant prose he deals succinctly and unemotionally with the salient points of eight centuries of Irish history, culture and politics. He makes no judgments, apportions no blame. He lets the facts speak for themselves.

And the result? Well, each one will read into this book whatever his background, nationality (and yes, his prejudices) may dictate.

Cat. No. 918

The Devil's Advocate

by Morris West

Read by Michael Aspel

Reading Time 11½ hours

Monsignor Meredith, an English priest, working in the Vatican archives, is suffering from inoperable stomach cancer. He has months only to live.

Meanwhile, in a poverty-stricken village in the *Mezzo Giorno* there is increasing demand for the canonisation of Giacomo Nerone, executed by the partisans fifteen years before.

Cardinal Marrotta asks the dying priest to act as Devil's Advocate. He hopes it will give some point and purpose to the

last months of the Englishman's life. He is a cold and intensely lonely man who may yet find fulfillment among the poor, the ignorant and the dispossessed.

Meredith does find warmth and friendship, but also intrigue, conspiracy and concealment concerning the life and times of Giacomo Nerone.

Eventually he comes to the truth—not only about the mysterious stranger, but more importantly, the truth about himself.

A beautifully written sensitive and compelling book on a most unusual theme.

Cat. No. 510

Starch of Aprons

by Claire Raynor

Read by Gretel Davis

Reading Time 8 hours

This is a tale of hospital politics, jealousies and downright skullduggery at "The Royal".

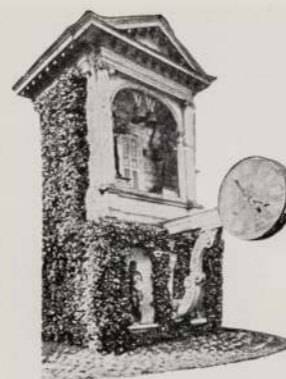
The old Matron, after twenty years of placid non-interference, has retired. Her successor, Elizabeth Manson, is young and attractive. The senior nursing staff wonder anxiously just how clean will the new broom sweep.

She organises a discussion group for the Sisters in which they can talk freely about their problems and relationships, both professional and personal.

These meetings are used by Sister Dolly East to further her own malicious ends. An unsuccessful candidate for the Matronship, she is jealous and bitterly resentful of the younger woman. Dolly's waspish tongue and skillful innuendo soon produce the desired results. Reputations are in shreds, there is an attempted suicide and Elizabeth Manson is disgraced.

The book is interesting enough, although some of the situations are rather clumsily contrived and I found Sister Dolly just a bit too bad to be true.

The bedroom antics are rather more than explicit, so this is not for Auntie Mabel and the kids.



From Gore, New Zealand

As an 80th birthday present in July, 1975, **Andrew Johnston** had his story written up by a Minister of his church. The pamphlet bears the St. Dunstan's crest and is called 'Light in Darkness'. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston have spent some 38 years as evangelists touring round New Zealand.

READING TIME

—continued

Cat. No. 615

Force 10 from Navarone

by Alistair Maclean

Read by Michael de Morgan

Reading Time 9¾ hours

Having just demolished the guns of Navarone, our three heroes are looking forward to a well-earned rest. But their tyrant boss has other plans for them.

It is absolutely vital that the Germans be fooled into believing that a massive Allied attack is to be mounted at point "A" whereas of course it will be made at point "B".

To this end the intrepid trio are parachuted into Yugoslavia to link up with the partisans. There follows the usual violent fun and games, culminating in the obligatory devastating explosion in which a fair slice of the German army is rendered considerably the worse for wear.

It's very much the mixture as before, but splendidly executed with the Maclean genius for sustaining interest and excitement right to the very last paragraph.

IT STRIKES ME

by Magog

Thanks Cabbie

We are grateful to Mrs. Constance Smith, widow of our late St. Dunstan, **John Smith** of Birmingham, for the following newspaper cutting. It reminded her of a similar happening many years ago when she brought John to London. Mrs. M. Warner of Birmingham writes: "As a member of the British Red Cross Society, I escorted a blind man from Birmingham to London. At Euston we took a taxi and, on arrival at St. Dunstan's, the driver very quietly declined the fare. I felt my thanks very inadequate in return for such a generous gesture".

The Hills are Alive

Love of the hills has greatly enriched the life of **Sydney Scroggie** who hails from Kirkton of Strathmartine by Dundee. He talked about this love, blindness and his philosophy of life during a 20 minute interview on Radio 4 Scotland last October. Some quotable remarks were repeated in an end of year programme featuring the pick of Scottish broadcasting in 1977.

Sydney writes that at the time of the repeat, "I was on a 3040 ft. summit; deep snow, blue sky, sunshine and frosty air. I took a box out of my rucksack and put it into the gloved hands of my two companions. 'Have a St. Dunstan's chocolate', I said, 'they will give us the strength to get down again.'" Now we know the answer to the riddle of the phantom grey man who roams the slopes of Ben Macdhui.



H.R.H. Princess Anne chats with Bill Griffiths—photo Universal Pictorial Press.

It's a Warm Wind that Blows Bill Some Good

Our Northern speaker, **Bill Griffiths**, had some distinguished listeners amongst an audience he addressed in London on 3rd March. The occasion was the Sportsmen's Night held at the Players Theatre. H.R.H. Princess Anne was the guest of honour together with Alfred Marks, Mary Peters, boxing commentator Harry Carpenter, David Wilkie, sports Minister Dennis Howell and others. They helped to raise £5000 for the Sunshine Homes.

Bill was asked to speak on behalf of disabled sportsmen, being a previous winner of the award, Handicapped Sportsman of the Year. He told of the sports he practised and the gadgets that enabled him to do them, discus, javelin, shot, running, walking, swimming and diving; a most useful gadget was his toilet which with the jab of a heel gave him warm water and then warm air. "It's absolutely wonderful". This brought the house down.

Later, Bill was privileged in meeting

Princess Anne. He told her how he had visited her brother's home at Chevening in Kent. "Ah, have you," retorted Princess Anne, "you have done more than me. I haven't been there yet, ; all I've done is fly over it."

Brookie Goes Solo

Rank Radio International said goodbye recently to a long and faithful member, **Squire Brooks**. In 1948 Brookie started work as a mechanical inspector for Murphy Radio, who were later taken over by Rank. Most of the hospitals and homes in the Welwyn Garden City area are familiar with his voice and guitar. Due to ill health, he has to limit his performances to the occasional Rotary Club engagement, and gone is the well-known figure from the diving board at the local baths. Brookie will now concentrate on listening to his new music centre presented to him by the Rank Organisation together with a cheque and an enormous card bearing the signatures of scores of colleagues.

Third Extension

On March 10th, just ten days after we published the article "An Extension of Life" in the March *Review*, **David Purches** received his third kidney transplant. When I visited him in St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, on the 14th, he was already up and about again, although not permitted to leave the ward. The new kidney is functioning well and David is full of plans for future activities free from his twice weekly dialysis. "I feel fine", he said, "I just can't believe it has gone so well".

Day by Day

Christians in the St. Dunstan's community will be interested to know that **Mrs. Dorothy King**, who provided my anecdote last month about her late husband and Sir Arthur Pearson—that was in 1917, of course not 1977 as our printer made it!—is the compiler of a series of devotional readings. Under the general title "Day by Day with the Love of God", the first volume was published in 1975, the second in 1976 and the third will appear later this year. The three books will provide a scripture reading with comments and a prayer for every day of the year.

In the foreword to Volume One, "Thou Shalt Love . . .", Patience Strong writes of Mrs. King, "she has within her the secret of perennial youth, for she is in



"I feel fine"—David Purches.

love with everybody, a whirl wind of energy . . . one who not only preaches but practises the first commandment . . . Her book is a treasure; a book to keep and a book to give." "Day by Day with the Love of God" is published by Denholm House Press, Nutfield, Surrey, at 75p each volume.

Long Service

Congratulations to Michael J. Oliver of West Wickham who completed 25 years as an audio typist with Messrs. Willcock and Babcock Limited (Bailey Meters), of Croydon, on the 25th February.

ESCORTS AT CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 1977

The Chelsea Flower Show open days are on the 18th, 19th and 20th May this year. As last time, guide dogs will be looked after by an attendant, and escorts provided for owners, or any blind visitor without escorts. Arrangements for escorts, which should be made as soon as possible, and

enquiries should be addressed to: John Cowell, Esq., Secretary, The Royal Horticultural Society, P.O. Box 313, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE.

Tactile Exhibition

An exhibition of tactile interest to both blind and sighted is being planned by the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames Social Services Department. Anyone interested in submitting work or offering help towards this exhibition being held mid-July, should contact the following address as soon as possible: Miss Susan Hill-Brown, Centre for the Handicapped, Cocks Crescent, Off Blagdon Road, New Malden, Surrey. Telephone: 949 1955.



Archery is a sport Martin has taken up since coming to St. Dunstan's.

Most St. Dunstaners lost their sight in the two World Wars, but there is a third generation: a growing number of men wounded in the so-called years of peace. One of these is 21-year-old Martin McCrorie. Martin started training at Ian Fraser House last September and perhaps makes an interesting comparison with thirty years ago. The second of four children, Martin was born and bred in Belfast. He attended Secondary School until the age of 16. "I used to do an awful lot of sports and was a scout and member of the Air Training Corps". Before he had left school, he had twice flown over to Lincoln in an R.A.F. Chipmunk. "The pilot would take off and then hand over to us. I'm still here as you can see."

Martin was one of the first participants in the early stages of police cadets for the Royal Ulster Constabulary. He had to pass a stiff board before being sent, together with ten colleagues, to the Metropolitan Police Cadet College at Hendon in London. There followed a vigorous year

of training for the police. "Most of the time was divided between academic work and physical activities. We did nearly every sport you can think of, such as adventure training, judo, boxing, swimming, and so on. About ten per cent of the time was spent on police work, i.e. basic knowledge, getting to know the law. Cadets join the R.U.C. at 18 and, since I was only 17½ when I got home, I had six months to fill in."

Martin spent that six months doing social work through the police. "We took over wards in multiple sclerosis homes and mental homes. Since I was a sportsman, I used to enjoy bringing them to the gym, and especially helping the physios. I felt all this really benefited both old and young alike. I even went to a couple of schools for blind children". When asked if this had been any help in retrospect, Martin replied that they were only children, and he treated each as an individual case.

Just before his 18th birthday, Martin caused quite a stir by being one of the

THE THIRD GENERATION

Martin McCrorie talking to Raymond Hazan



Learning Braille under Phil Duffee's instruction

first police cadets to actually go out patrolling the streets. "I was continually being stopped and asked who or what I was. My uniform was a regular R.U.C. uniform but with a red band round the hat and with 'R.U.C. Cadet' written on the shoulder. "I wasn't too apprehensive when out in uniform because we were kept in the non-troubled areas, and we were used to being in uniform in London, though the situation was obviously not the same."

Final Training Course

A week before he was eighteen, Martin embarked upon his final 14-week training course at the police college in Inniskillen, from whence he would pass out a fully-fledged R.U.C. constable. There were further driving courses, visits to stations and special duties in Belfast until that glorious day in January, 1974, when a proud family watched their son inspected

and march past at the final passing out parade.

Martin's first and only posting was just twelve miles from Inniskillen to a station right on the border at Belcoo. "Thirty yards away was the border, and just beyond that we could see right into the Garda station. I had two main tasks: firstly, mobile patrols. These we carried out in landrovers, police cars or army helicopters. And secondly, because we were so near the border, security was obviously strict. So I spent quite a bit of time in observation posts. In this station you had to be a bit of everything really; there being only a sergeant and seven. We were drivers, guards, special branch, etc. There were only one or two minor incidents while I was there. An army land-rover was ambushed, the nearest shot coming within thirty yards of the vehicle—not much cause for alarm. In another case, we actually went and helped the Garda south of the border during a bomb scare. Since all you had to do was hop, skip and

jump to be over the border, it was very difficult to catch anyone". Two and a half years of long stints were brought to an abrupt end on 15th May, 1976.

Explosion

At first light, a sergeant, two reserve constables and Martin carried out a follow-up operation after the station had been ambushed the preceding night. They were given the go-ahead to search the firing position by a sniffer dog team. The bomb was linked to a pressure plate underneath a clip of ammunition. Martin was about eighteen inches away from the explosion which killed his three companions.

During his three and a half month convalescence, Martin lived with the semi-hope that he would have at least the

partial use of one eye. This idea was scotched just before he came over to England with his parents on 5th September. "The first week I was sitting around quite a bit, but I didn't mind, I was getting used to the place. For two days, I was almost too frightened to speak. The following Monday, I started on mobility, which I enjoy, and I found typing OK. I spent three hours typing my first letter home, to get it absolutely right, to discover there was no ribbon in the machine.

Braille

Two weeks later, I started Braille. When Mark Kingsnorth showed me a page and since I had no idea what it was all about, I said to him, 'I can't find it, there are all these bumps all over the page'. 'That's the Braille', he said. Now I have finished the

At the Chess Congress Martin is seen playing against Vi Delaney.



From bow to rifle—Martin makes use of the sports facilities at Ian Fraser House.

standard course and it's a matter of getting my reading speed up."

Martin has set himself up well on the hobby side of life. As a schoolboy he was mad keen on chess. He took part as a 10-year old in the Ulster championships. Getting back into the game was not as hard as he thought, which he proved by his success at the St. Dunstan's Annual Chess Congress last November. Martin is one of the pioneers in the Ian Fraser House Archery team. "I was really surprised when I heard they did archery. Now I have my own bow. We formed a team and challenged the local police—we gave them a good hiding. We hope to form a club team to take on outsiders. Talking of the local police, they look after me very well. I often go down to their social club and talk shop."

Looking back over his past six months in Brighton, Martin says he would like to see a little more done for the younger trainees in the field of entertainment,

especially over the weekends, and in the field of everyday living. "I would like there to be a kitchen in the training wing where I could cook my own meals. I think we should make our own beds and clean our own rooms."

Big Decision

And where is all this leading to? Martin hopes to go in for social work, possibly as a Probation Officer. A big decision he has made is that he will stay on the mainland. "They are not really geared for the blind at home in Ireland, and the opportunities are far greater here in England. And his attitude to life? "I try to carry on now more or less as I used to, apart from obvious things such as driving. I like to crack jokes and show others that we are quite normal people. Have you heard the one about the Irishman, Welshman and Englishman...?"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: George Brooks, Saltdean, Sussex

I read the story about David Purches' great courage and spirit written and portrayed so very vividly by David Castleton.

If I were not a St. Dunstaner, if I didn't know David Purches, and if I wasn't reading the *Braille Review* I would have thought I was listening to an episode from a best seller thriller. The picture was so very real that I could see everything that took place in the room where that terrible struggle for life took place, I can still see so clearly David Purches clutching just two "threads" which meant, if he let go, certain death. I can, to a certain extent, live through all those terrible thoughts that went through his mind of what he must do, he must hang on to the two "threads" and somehow get to that phone to summon help. As I read this story I was just about sitting on the edge of my chair and nearly falling off it, then, suddenly relaxing as Maxine, David's wife, came to the rescue. The great courage and spirit shown by David Purches during those terrifying moments will, without a shadow of doubt, win in the end. His outlook on life, his cheerfulness, as well as being a very nice fella, must bring success with his next operation.

Thanking you for giving us this story of a brave and very courageous St. Dunstaner, David Purches. My wife and myself send him and Maxine our very good and sincere wishes for the future.

From: George Fallowfield, Worthing, Sussex

I very much enjoyed reading "As I Remember" (February Review) and feel other old chaps will have done too. The mention of Bill Tovell reminded me of the first sports I took part in. Bill had said he would tap my shoulder for the start of the sprint race and this he did and off I went and I must have been about halfway down the track then Bill remembered I could not hear the whistle that was blown ten yards before the end, so he called to an orderly to stop me and this poor chap was

in the act of ducking under the wire when my left knee hit his head. I went over too cutting my arm on the wire just as Burley reached me and he went over also.

I thought this would put a stop to my sports but we are all given a fair chance in St. Dunstan's, so I got another chance.

From Frederick Harriss of Lexden, Colchester, Essex

It was while I was training at St. Dunstan's in Regent's Park, that the stall holders and costermongers of White Conduit Street, decided to show their heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

As our coaches approached, I heard long and loud cheering. I was told there were poles and bunting lining the route, and on asking if Royalty had arrived, was informed that all this was for us. We reached the source of the cheering; along one side were stalls, sitting on them were the tiny tots. The little girls were wearing their best Sunday frocks, with big ribbons and bows in their hair. They, together with people lining the pavement and upstairs windows, were waving Union Jacks and cheering their heads off. We went on to the Town Hall, where we were met by the Mayor in his robes of office complete with gold chain. We were seated at tables and found in front of us plates of ham, tomatoes and salad, and don't forget food rationing was on. Later, there was tea and cakes. Beside each plate lay a packet of cigarettes and a metal cigarette-case containing a Queen Victoria five shilling piece. The VAD's received a large box of chocolates each. We were entertained by several of the top music-hall artists, and afterwards the carpets were rolled back for dancing. The stallholders had gone to great lengths to look after us at a time when men and materials were in short supply. The people of White Conduit Street may not have been millionaires, but they had hearts of gold. The sad thing is, the street and surrounding locality was reduced to dust and rubble in the Second World War. I wonder if there are any other St. Dunstaners who were on that same outing in 1916?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

—continued

From: Ray Sheriff, Gloucester

I attend a swimming session at our local pool at least once a week. Obviously, at my time of life, this venture is completely non-competitive. I cover distances of around a mile using a slowish front crawl. I love long distance swimming; the longer the better. I was keen on this aspect of swimming in my childhood, so why not carry on in my second childhood! To back this claim, I hold an ASA certificate stating the achievement of one-and-a-quarter miles covered in 68 minutes.

In January, I decided to enter the old bulk in the schoolboy exploits of the ASA Proficiency Survival Test. On January 17th I gained the Bronze Medal, and on February 4th, the Silver. For the latter, I had to wear light clothing, dive from at least 10 ft., swim 100 yards in under 4 minutes, tread water, and swim 880 yards amongst other things.

Welcome to St. Dunstan's



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

William Carpenter of Worcester, who joined St. Dunstan's in February. Mr. Carpenter served in the Shropshire Yeomanry and Shropshire Dragoons as a Regular Soldier between the Wars. He is married with a grown-up family.

Geoffrey Cock of Leeds, who was re-admitted to St. Dunstan's in February. Mr. Cock served in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War and is married.

John Egerton of Manchester, who joined St. Dunstan's in February this year. Mr. Egerton served in the Lancashire Fusiliers during the First World War. He is married with a grown up son.

Stewart Edwin Harris of Redhill, Surrey, who joined St. Dunstan's in February. He was commissioned and served as a navigator in the R.A.F. in the Second World War and was a Prisoner of War. He is a business man, who has been very much involved in the oil industry. He is married with a grown-up family.

Joe Messenger of Warley, who joined St. Dunstan's in February. Mr. Messenger served in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War as a Regular Soldier. He is married with two grown-up sons.

REQUEST FOR ARCHIVE MATERIAL

A collection of original material from the Great War of 1914-18 is being set up at Sunderland Polytechnic. The availability of such material will enormously enrich the research being carried out by students into the Great War. The purpose of the archives is to preserve permanently personal experiences of the 1914-18 war in order that this important aspect of British, Commonwealth and European heritage shall never be lost. Anybody wishing to assist should send their contributions to: Peter Liddle, Esq., Sunderland Polytechnic, 1914-18 Archives, St. Mary's Building, Chester Road, Sunderland SR1 3SD.

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

The Closing Date of the Derby Sweepstake is Wednesday, 18th May.

Tickets are 20p each, and are limited solely to St. Dunstaners or St. Dunstan's trainees.

Each application must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

The name and full address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, should be sent, with the stamped addressed envelope, to the Editor, D.S.S. Dept., *St. Dunstan's Review*, P.O. Box 58, 191 Old Marylebone Road, London NW1 5QN.

The Draw will take place at the London Club on the evening of Thursday 26th May. All those drawing a horse will be notified.

OVINGDEAN NOTES

Somewhat to our surprise, the Escort Office survived the Bridge Congress and the Chess Instructional Weekend without too many traumas. However, our eyebrows rose in amazement when we learned that the Post Office is losing money on its telephone service; we were under the distinct impression that our hotline alone was keeping the whole thing going. It was unfortunate that there were so many last-minute withdrawals by our splendid markers, due to illness and other unforeseen circumstances. In some desperation, on the Saturday evening, we telephoned the Headmaster of Brighton College, who, whilst anxious to help, held out little hope. As he said, bridge was not one of their particular interests, and the boys would be in Chapel on Sunday; "but there may be one or two bridge-playing infidels." Sadly, there were not, but we managed. The broadcast "live" on Radio Brighton, by the Captain of the London Bridge Club, Roy Armstrong, aroused a considerable amount of local interest, and we received several enquiries from people anxious to help. Whilst showing one potential marker over the Winter Garden, we glanced out of the window, and were rewarded by the sight of a hang-glider sailing happily by. We judged him to be about 50 yards out to sea, and he travelled as far as the Marina, turned, and came back past Ovingdean and on to who-knows-where? What a lovely feeling of freedom a hang-glider must have!

Good Friends

We have so many good friends around Brighton, who give so generously of their time and effort. Two of these are Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Robinson, of Ovingdean, who cheerfully agree to walk, dance and play-read whenever we ask them. It therefore gave us great pleasure to hear Mr. Robinson reading the lesson in Chapel one Sunday morning—we hope it made both him and his wife feel part of the family. On the last Sunday in the month, they both took part, together with another old friend, Miss Eve King, in a play-reading; Mr. Robinson was suffering from the

after-effects of a heavy cold, and we were indebted to him for being such a good trouper.

Another play-reading was given during February by the Nucleus Theatre Group, who presented *Night Must Fall* by Emlyn Williams. The Winter Garden was filling up in a most satisfactory way by 7.20 p.m., but the readers were conspicuous by their absence. Ten glasses of lemonade stood dejectedly facing the audience, ownerless, and Escort Sister's spirits became somewhat low. Wild ideas of reading all ten parts single-handed were thankfully abandoned when our guests arrived, nonchalantly unaware of the nailbiting neurosis they had induced. It was an excellent reading, and the very talented young man who played the murderer, Danny, filled us with pleasurable alarm.

Archery

Archery continues to attract much interest, and so many St. Dunstaners wish to take part that the Rifle Range is now too small to accommodate them. So every week sees an enthusiastic group (is it a quiver of archers?) gathered in the Annexe for instruction and practice. Mr. Laurie Austin, our transport "chief", and his fellow-instructors have certainly "scored a gold". Matron cheerfully (and bravely) offered to stand with an apple on her head, but withdrew the offer with some alarm when she was invited to substitute a grape. Even Matron's faith has limits . . .

A replica of the bronze relief which is part of the Memorial to the late Lord Fraser at Westminster Abbey has been mounted on the wall in the Entrance Hall of Ian Fraser House. The tablet, with the fine profile in bronze, looks most impressive. The rail immediately underneath the plaque is curved, making its location simple to find. It will be a constant reminder of all that Lord Fraser represented.

Next month, we have a date with Mr. Michael Hayes to "Leap Into Spring!" Can't wait!!

Forthcoming Events

Local St. Dunstaners, their wives and escorts, are warmly invited to Ian Fraser House for the following:

Sunday, April 3rd, 7.30 p.m.

The Young Optimists Concert Party.

Sunday, April 10th (Easter Day) 7.30 p.m.

"Silver Wedding"—

A Comedy presented by Guest Readers and Staff.

Monday, April 11th (Easter Monday) 8 p.m.-11 p.m.

Dance

Easter Bonnets Parade at 8.30 p.m.—judged by TV Actress Miss Jean Anderson. Buffet and Bar.

Sunday, April 24th, 7.30 p.m.

John Mann Entertains at the Hammond Organ.

BRIDGE NOTES

The first two games in the Gover Cup Competition (Individuals) resulted as follows:

The game played on 12th February:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| W. Allen and B. Miller | 72 |
| R. Armstrong and R. Evans | 68 |
| J. Huk and Scorer | 66 |
| L. Douglass and R. Goding | 64 |
| M. Tybinski and H. Meleson | 64 |
| F. Dickerson and J. Majchrowicz | 44 |

The game played on 5th March:

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| R. Armstrong and M. Tybinski | 85 |
| J. Carney and P. Nuyens | 72 |
| W. Allen and J. Majchrowicz | 66 |
| B. Miller and R. Stanners | 64 |
| L. Douglass and R. Evans | 63 |
| F. Dickerson and J. Lynch | 42 |

We held our first Bridge Drive of the year on Saturday 12th March, and once again Paul Nuyens led the way.

1st P. Nuyens and Molly Byrne

2nd A. Caldwell and Sheila Lyons

3rd J. Lynch and Pat Lynch

Instead of a lowest score for 4th prize the Captain, Roy Armstrong, decided on a parity score which went to:

4th F. Dickerson and S. Lightening

The prizes were presented by Mrs. Postley (it was her Birthday) one of our very dear partners for the lads.

Amateur Radio Week-end

Mr. Ron Ham, F.R.A.S. has very kindly consented to be our speaker at the meeting on Saturday, 21st May at Ian Fraser House. His talk will be on "Satellites". Ron has been with us on previous occasions and he goes to great trouble to ensure that all present can appreciate his subject by virtue of his practical demonstration.

Those interested are asked to make their arrangements direct with Miss Bridger at Headquarters.

TED JOHN

OBITUARIES

MRS. F. ESTHERBY, née Clark

We learned with regret of the death on the 1st March, of Miss "Nobbie" Clark, an ex-member of Headquarters Staff, who worked in the Secretarial and Industrial Departments from 1934 to 1946.

She will be particularly remembered by many retired members of staff and we extend our sympathy to her husband and friends.

C. D. WILLS

MISS NELLIE GOUGH

We regret to announce the death on the 10th February 1977, of Miss Nellie Gough, who became associated with St. Dunstan's in Regents Park in 1918 and joined the Welfare Staff in 1924, visiting St. Dunstaners in the Midlands for many years.

After her retirement she continued to keep in touch with St. Dunstaners in the area through the Birmingham Club and the Birmingham Reunion, which she attended regularly until seven or eight years ago when her sight began to fail. She became a registered blind person about eighteen months before her death.

Miss Gough was well known to many World War I St. Dunstaners who benefited from her devoted services, and those who are left will join especially in our expression of sincere sympathy to her sister, Mrs. Colin Spencer, who wrote to me informing me of her sister's death.

C. D. WILLS

CLUB NEWS

LONDON

Our Dominoes matches this year have been few and far between, the results are as follows:

- 21st January
1st M. Sheehan
2nd R. Armstrong
B. Miller
J. Majchrowicz
- 17th February
1st B. Miller
2nd R. Armstrong
- 24th February
1st C. Hancock
2nd M. Sheehan
- 3rd March
1st C. Hancock
2nd B. Miller
J. Majchrowicz
- 10th March
1st C. Hancock
J. Majchrowicz

MIDLAND

For some months now our club meetings have been rather erratically attended, but our February meeting had a very good attendance and I only hope that it will continue.

We were able to get on quite well with our domino competitions and the new idea is working very well.

We were all very pleased indeed to see Dennis Beddoes at the club again, he has been rather poorly for some months but certainly seems to be getting back to his old self once again.

Our new member, Alec Rimmer was not able to attend owing to sickness, but I am sure this is only a temporary set back and we shall see him and his wife at the next meeting.

Tea was prepared once again for us by our good ladies and it was another lovely spread as usual, we all thanked them in our usual manner.

We were all sorry to hear that Mrs. Ivy Southall, the widow of our late club member, Stan, had been in hospital and we all wish her God's Speed in a quick recovery.

Due to Easter Sunday falling on the second Sunday in April our next meeting will be brought forward one week, this means that the meeting will be on Sunday, 3rd April.

DOUG CASHMORE

BRIGHTON

BOWLING SECTION

Worthing Indoor Bowls Club have been host to St. Dunstan's Bowlers for the past 12 years, so on February 11th we were able for the first time to invite them to Ian Fraser House for a bowls match. Their President Mr. Vickers did us the honour of bringing along a strong team, and although perhaps they did not pull out all the stops, the match was a very interesting and enjoyable one. Once again our ladies provided a fine tea, this was followed later by a little beverage, and everybody agreed that the day had been a success. I would like to congratulate both Mrs. P. Jones (Secretary) and Mrs. P. Burnett (Treasurer) for the good work they are doing for the Section arranging fixtures, coaches, etc., and also keeping our finances in good order. (Thank you Ladies).

We are pleased to hear that our Captain, Mr. Ted Frearson, is making steady progress after his operation and all members join me in wishing him a speedy return to full fitness.

HARRY PREEDY

FISHING SECTION

Another good day's fishing on the Pices was enjoyed on Friday 25th February. Luckily from the weather that had "blown" the weeks previous, the wind had blown itself out and it was an ideal fishing day, weather wise and fishing also, because everyone "caught" and there were plenty of happy smiles at the end of a very healthy happy day.

We hope to include some new fishermen in our expeditions in the near future so all will be as at the moment, very well indeed for the fishermen and fishing club.

BILL PHILLIPS

CLUB NEWS

—continued

ENTERTAINMENTS SECTION

During the past month we have been pleased to welcome 3 new Members to our Club, as the old saying goes "the more the merrier". Plans are going ahead for activities during the summer months and our first outing is to the Royal Horticultural Gardens at Wisley on the 15th June. The cost of £2.50p. includes the coach fare, entrance fee to the Gardens and an excellent meal afterwards, should any Member be interested will they please contact me at Brighton 32115.

Our February Dance was again well supported and our April Dance on the 9th falls on Easter Saturday, and we are hoping everyone will join in the Easter Bonnet Parade—your thinking caps on for funny as well as pretty hats—fantastic prizes will be given!!!

WHIST AGGREGATE

Ladies

- 1st Mrs. P. Burnett
2nd Mrs. H. Webster
3rd Mrs. P. Lethbridge

Gentlemen

- 1st W. Lethbridge
2nd J. Kennedy
3rd W. Burnett

DOMINOES AGGREGATE

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------|---|
| 1st T. Mугan | Score | 6 |
| S. Pike | " | 6 |
| Mrs. J. Osborne | " | 6 |

BOB OSBORNE

BRIDGE SECTION

The second Pairs match was held on the 20th February. The winners were:

North-South

W. Lethbridge and Mr. Goodlad

East-West

M. Clements and Dr. Goodlad

The third Individual was held on the 26th February. Results as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| C. Walters and W. Phillips | 69 |
| M. Clements and Partner | 64 |
| A. Dodgson and R. Fullard | 64 |
| P. McCormack and W. Lethbridge | 63 |
| F. Griffee and N. Burnett | 61 |
| J. Padley and A. Smith | 57 |

On Saturday March 5th a visit was made to Seaford Golf Club to play a match against their Bridge Section. A most enjoyable afternoon with a win for the St. Dunstan's team.

WALTER LETHBRIDGE

FAMILY NEWS

Marriages

Mr. Leslie Rogers of Alton, Hampshire, is pleased to announce that his grandson, Anthony Coles, was married to Belinda Sharp, of Dovercourt, on 26th February, at St. Nicholas Church.

Silver Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Cookson of Guildford, who celebrated their Silver Wedding on 31st March.

Diamond Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Laban David Williams of Knowle, near Bristol, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 26th February.

Births

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Davis of Stratford on Avon, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Katherine Jane, born on 12th January to their son Nicholas and his wife Pamela.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Foster of Farnham, Surrey, on the birth of another grand-child, Tamara Dawn, born on 4th February to their eldest son Melvyn and his wife Maureen.

Mr. and Mrs. Islwyn Hughes of Telford, on the birth of their fourth child, Andrew Vaughan, born on 4th February.

Mrs. Ann Hermitage of Northfleet, Kent, on the birth of a great-grandson, Jeremy Mark, born on 15th February to her only grand-daughter, Lynda Margaret, and her husband, Stewart Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. John Claude Mosley of Solihull, on the birth of their first grand-child, Emma Jane, on the 2nd November to their daughter Jane.

FAMILY NEWS

Births—continued

Mr. and Mrs. George Roake of London, on the birth of their grandson, Simon Giles, born on 25th February to his son Brian and his wife.

Mr. William Rowland of Lambeth, on the birth of his great grandchild, Amanda, born on 31st January.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Saywell of Leamington Spa, on the birth of their grandson Stephen, born on 10th October to their daughter Pamela.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Slee of Penrith, on the birth of their first grandchild, Darrell, born last November to their son Maurice and his wife Ann.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Emerson of Clacton-on-Sea, whose daughter, Margaret, died on 24th November.

Mr. Frederick Harley of Elstow, Bedford, whose wife, Mrs. Eva Rhoda Harley, died on 13th February.

Mr. Stanley Hoblyn of Plymouth, whose wife, Edith, died on the 16th February at the age of 81. They had been married for over fifty years.

Mr. William Marley of Washington, Tyne and Wear, whose wife, Mrs. Lily Elizabeth Marley, died on 12th February.

Mr. Patrick Murphy of Wishaw, whose mother died in February.

Mr. Isaac Ostle of Cockermouth, Cumbria, whose brother died on the 4th February at the age of 66.

Mr. Cecil Paddick of East Barnet, whose mother died on 21st August at the age of 86.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Simpson of Doncaster, whose son, John, died on the 5th March.

Mrs. Sadie Stokes of Bury, whose mother died on the 28th February after a short illness.

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.

Alec Charles Cook 8th Lincoln Regiment

Alec Charles Cook of Ferndown, Dorset, died on 12th February, aged 82.

Mr. Cooke joined the 8th Lincolnshire Regiment at the outset of World War 1 and served until 1918 when he was wounded. Despite severe disability from Mustard Gas Keratitis, Mr. Cook undertook Telephony training after admission to St. Dunstan's in 1934 and worked until his retirement in 1960. Prior to the war, he had been a casualty attendant in a hospital. In his younger years he was a keen gardener and greenhouse man and a prolific tomato-grower.

Our St. Dunstaner's first wife died in 1966 when he became a permanent resident in our Brighton Homes. Whilst at Pearson House, he met V.A.D., Mrs. Amy Taylor, whom he subsequently married after setting up his own home again in Wimborne, Dorset.

Although together for a comparatively few number of years, Mrs. Cook remained constantly

at her husband's side and nursed him devotedly through deteriorating health, until the end.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Amy Cook, and two daughters of his first marriage, Mrs. Cresswell and Mrs. Redman.

George Richard Croydon Army Cyclist Corps

George Richard Croydon of Ilford died on 8th March at Pearson House, aged 85.

Mr. Croydon served as a Private with the Army Cyclist Corps throughout the 1st World War until his discharge in April 1919, due to injuries from Mustard Gas, although he was not admitted to St. Dunstan's until September 1950.

In civilian life, Mr. Croydon has been a skilled carpenter, and with a little refresher training after admission, he was able to continue making various items for our Stores until quite recently, despite advancing years.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Lilian Croydon, and their nephew, Mr. Lawton.