

St Dunstons
REVIEW
JULY 1977



Message from the Chairman

**Lieutenant-Commander R. C. B. Buckley, G.M.,
Former Public Relations Officer of St. Dunstan's**

Readers of the *Review* will have been deeply grieved to read last month's brief announcement of Robin Buckley's death on the 23rd May.

He had a fine record as a Naval Officer, a St. Dunstaner and a member of our Headquarters staff. I and many others recall with gratitude the tremendous help he gave us with his good advice and wide understanding of St. Dunstan's and public relations, both at home and abroad.

On behalf of all at St. Dunstan's, my wife and myself, I send our deepest sympathy to his widow, Pauline, and all the family.

The Queen's Birthday Honours List

Two St. Dunstaners names appeared in the Queen's Birthday Honours List published on June 11th: R. D. (Bertie) McConnell and Bill Griffiths.

It is always a matter of pleasure and pride when our St. Dunstaners are honoured in this way and I extend my congratulations to them both.

Bertie McConnell has been made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) for services to local government and efforts for the promotion of good community relations. He has been active as a moderate local politician for more than 20 years and a member of the national legislature at Stormont since 1969. This has been an eventful year for him as he has just completed his year of office as Mayor of North Down and has been elected Alderman, and only last month retained his seat on the Council of North Down having increased his first preference vote by 50%.

The many hundreds of friends Bill Griffiths has made through his work as a speaker for St. Dunstan's in the North of England as well as those of us in St. Dunstan's will be pleased to have seen his name in the Honours List. Bill has been made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.) for service to the disabled. As a St. Dunstaner who lost his hands as well as sight in the 2nd World War, Bill must be especially proud of this honour. He has earned his award through his example in overcoming his double handicap not only as a speaker and singer but as a sportsman.

COVER PICTURE: *On the last lap of the ascent of Cader Idris, Eric Rowe follows the rope up a rock cleft.*

The Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal

Among the best kept surprises of the celebrations marking the twenty-fifth year of the reign of our Patron, H.M. Queen Elizabeth, were the awards of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal. None of the recipients knew of their honours until the medals arrived by post on or soon after June 8th.

Three of the 30,000 medals were received by people who have served St. Dunstan's. They are Mrs. Ruth Thompson, our Welfare Visitor in Northern Ireland, Mr. Peter Matthews, our Estates Manager, and Dr. John O'Hara, our Medical Officer in Brighton until his recent retirement.

One of the criteria was that the medal should be awarded to those who have given service at least throughout the Queen's reign and all of our recipients fulfil this qualification.

Mrs. Thompson has served our St. Dunstaners in Ireland since 1943, and for a period also helped our Appeals Department by organising efforts there. We particularly appreciate the way she has carried on her welfare work through the recent troubles.

Peter Matthews, who was blinded in the Second World War, took up his work for St. Dunstan's in 1945. To him fell the task of building up the Settlement Department to deal with the problems of finding homes for hundreds of St. Dunstaners completing their training and returning to everyday life and work. In 1951, he was appointed Estate Manager and he is still directing this important area of St. Dunstan's services.

Last, but by no means least, Dr. John O'Hara, who is held in such great affection by St. Dunstaners who have valued his help and friendship since 1950, when he joined St. Dunstan's.

I know that all St. Dunstaners will join me in congratulating all three on this well deserved honour and expressing our pleasure that their service to St. Dunstan's has been recognised in this Silver Jubilee Year.

Jon Lamont-Dune

BRIDGE INSTRUCTION WEEK-END

As already announced in the March *Review* under "Events at Ian Fraser House in 1977", the Bridge Instruction week-end will take place on the 10th and 11th December. It will be run by Mr. Geof Connell, assisted by his wife and Mrs. A. Field. Will those members wishing to attend please contact Miss Bridger.

TACTILE EXHIBITION

A "Tactile Exhibition" is to be held at The Centre for the Handicapped, Cocks Crescent, off Blagdon Road, New Malden, Surrey, from 16th July till 24th July 1977.

The exhibition will be open daily (including Sunday) from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. Admission will be free and it is hoped that sighted as well as visually handicapped people will visit the exhibition.

DR. JOHN O'HARA

Mr. C. D. Wills has kindly agreed to act as Treasurer for a presentation fund for Dr. O'Hara. His friends among St. Dunstaners and staff who wish to subscribe are asked to send their contributions to Mr. Wills at Headquarters.

ROBIN BUCKLEY

It has been suggested that St. Dunstaners and friends of Lieutenant Commander Buckley might wish to contribute to a Memorial Fund which will be used to make a presentation to the new Guide Dog Training Centre at Wokingham. Mr. C. D. Wills has kindly consented to act as Treasurer and donations should be sent to him at Headquarters.

Gardening Supplement

Edited by D. F. Robinson

St. Dunstan's Review

No. 376, July 1977

The gardens should be in their best period with plenty of colour in the greenhouse, borders and amongst pot plants in the house. Short term vegetables will be showing their worth by supplying most of the things for Kitchen table particularly the salads.

Where you have had some failures with seedlings don't be afraid to put in a few more especially in the flower line as some good late summer weather will give good results and a few saved for putting in pots for colour in the house.

Take off all those faded flower heads in order to stop seeds forming and so stopping further flowering. Trim all plants to make them neat after strong gales or torrential rains as these two items of weather tend to create havoc amongst all plants particularly those tall ones which were not staked early enough.

Weeds are still coming up even in the best looked after gardens so get to work and keep the hoes going regularly plus adding a fertiliser when the soil is damp to give those hard working flowers and vegetables a bit of a boost.

Pests and diseases will also be on the rampage so use the sprayers and dusters regularly but do ensure the item you use is suitable for the plants and leave vegetables for about a week before using. Wash all applicators thoroughly after use and also your hands just in case of accidents.

I visited the Chelsea flower show as usual but didn't see anything really new or sensational. There were some very good stands of flowers not only from the large growers but from some of the City garden departments. Prices as usual have gone up to a very high level especially the plants, and one thinks all the more that it is better to grow from seed and perhaps come up with some unusual colours of flower or leaf. It is also so much more fun to raise from seed either under glass or outdoors.

As I write this, summer is only starting to show itself after a very poor spring with lots of wet and very strong cold winds

which have set back nearly everything so we'll all have late crops but perhaps a bit better in quantity and quality.

Vegetables

Keep the watering up to high level in dry spells, but don't do this in the mid part of the day, rather in the late afternoon or evening, as water on leaves will act as a magnifier and cause scorching. Some liquid feed watered in at root level will help to increase quality of crops and put some goodness back into the earth, as those hungry vegetables take all the food up via the roots.

Clean up all those beds or rows which have completed their usefulness and sow some more seeds such as Cabbage, Lettuce, Radish, Onions, and in the warmer areas even Carrots can be used for a crop just before the Hard frosts come along; I've done it myself, so know it works alright.

Give the potatoes a final earthing up where necessary and those early sown carrots will be given a final boost with a mulch of compost.

See that all the sticks and strings for the runner Beans are in place and good condition as the plants will be really starting to climb.

Outdoor Tomatoes and Marrows will be setting good fruit so give ample water and feed regularly. Stop all side shoots on Tomatoes and don't let too many tomatoes form or you may have small size fruit. In very dry conditions a little spraying over the plants will help fertilisation take place more evenly.

As with other parts of the garden keep the weeds at bay by regular hoeing.

Fruit

Thin out fruit on overcrowded trees and all those new wispy growths, particularly in the centre and at the top, should be cut out.

See to the training of those dwarf and espalier trees which have recently been put in and don't let much in the way of fruit set this year.

Pick all soft fruits as they ripen before the birds get amongst those tempting morsels. Strawberries can be layered, but don't take more than one or two from each adult plant.

Lawn

Keep the mower going regularly but don't cut too often in dry conditions. Use a good deal of water when the ground has dried out, a little fertiliser at the same time will help to give the grass body. Trim off all the edges to make a good show and stop some of that long grass getting into the edges of the flower borders.

Flowers

Most items whether annuals or perennials will be growing well now with a good show of colour.

A little general fertiliser added to the soil in a powder or pellet form during showery spells will give them all a boost. Those shrubs which have given of their best or others waiting for the Autumn and Winter to flower will get a build-up from these fertilisers.

Cut away all dead heads to stop seeding unless one has one or two plants which you wish to propagate by seeding and perhaps get some different colours owing to cross pollination by bees and other insects.

See that all those tall plants are well staked to stop the winds creating havoc and destroying all one's hard work of the last few months.

Use a hose to water the garden and don't just give a drop, let the water fall for several minutes on each patch so that the moisture will penetrate several inches and really get down to those deep roots.

Plant out the rest of those seedlings and any plants kept in a reserve corner for filling up those gaps made by earlier failures. Don't forget to plant a little deeper than when taken up and press in solidly and then water thoroughly.

Hardy biennials and perennials can be sown now ready for the borders next season.

Don't be afraid to cut back any trees, shrubs, and those tall growing perennials, as it will make them bushier and not so much in your way when working outside and they may also get in the way of washing and more work for your wife.

Greenhouse

A fairly busy time here with lots of watering needed both in the pots and on the floor to keep the moisture in the air during those hot sunny days.

Tomatoes will need a feed at every watering plus in some cases trace elements which can be purchased in packets to give plants some of the extra items such as Boron, Iron, Magnesium etc. These items are needed much more by all pot plants since their growing compost is a made up one.

Pale leaf colour or striping may give you an indication of lack of trace elements.

All other pot plants will need watering and feeding regularly but in most cases it is better to keep them a little on the dry side rather than overdoing the water.

Plants which are growing vigorously may need a transfer to a larger pot, but knock it out of the present container to ensure the roots are a bit tight round the sides of the compost before moving.

Stocks, Pinks, Calceolarias can be sown now for Spring flowering and a pinch of the Schizanthus seed in pots will give good colour in the greenhouse during the dull days of Autumn and early winter. Thin out seedlings if germination has been on the high side.

Stake all those tall growing items such as Carnations and Chrysanthemums. Pick off all dead heads from those pot plants to promote further colour.

Use pesticides and fungicides every so often either in the shape of sprays or smoke cones.

Give a bit of air by opening doors and windows in very hot weather but do close at night.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER ROBIN BUCKLEY

Sadly, within a month, it fell to our Chairman, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, to give another Funeral Address, this time for Lieutenant Commander Robin Buckley, G.M., whose death on May 23rd, was briefly announced in our June issue. The full text of Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme's remarks at the Service at Mortlake Crematorium on May 26th is below.

The coffin was covered with the White Ensign and at the Committal the Naval Hymn 'Eternal Father Strong to Save' was played on the organ. The congregation, which filled the Chapel, also sang 'Abide with Me'. As well as his family

The Chairman's Address

Lt. Commander Robin Buckley dedicated himself to whatever task he undertook and combined this with a high sense of responsibility. He brought both these qualities to his two professional lives—25 years as an officer in the Royal Navy and 22 years as Appeals Organiser, later Public Relations Officer, for St. Dunstan's.

He entered the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, in 1925. At the outbreak of war he was serving in H.M.S. York, responsible for electrics and all weapons used below the surface of the sea. It was in this capacity in 1941 that it fell to him to dismantle a then unknown type of Italian explosive motor-boat. He was wounded and blinded by an explosion during the last stages of this work and was awarded the George Medal.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1942, and after training he returned to the Royal Navy to serve for a further twelve years as the only totally blind uniformed officer in the service, a notable recognition of his value to his country.

In 1954 he joined the staff of St. Dunstan's and was Appeals Organiser before becoming Public Relations Officer, a post which he held until his recent retirement.

To both his careers Robin brought his keen sense of duty and that personal bravery which enabled him to tackle a new enemy weapon or the problems of blindness.

and friends, St. Dunstaners and Staff, there were representatives from the Royal Navy, The Royal National Institute for the Blind and The Royal British Legion. Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme represented Lady Fraser of Lonsdale, Colonel Sir Michael Ansell our Vice-Chairman and other Members of St. Dunstan's Council, Lieutenant-Commander Odell, R.N. represented H.M.S. Vernon and the 1925 term at R.N.C. Dartmouth was represented by Captain Peter Fanshawe, R.N. Mr. Eric Boulter, Director General, and Mr. Trevor Davies, Public Relations Officer for the Royal National Institute for the Blind attended.

He was justly proud of the success of St. Dunstan's Appeal under his direction and later as our Public Relations Officer, he showed great talent when dealing with our Annual Report and our monthly *Review*, both of which he edited.

Robin was keenly interested in mobility for the blind and played no small part in encouraging the study of this problem. He was a guide dogman and cherished the affection of his dogs, Amber and Deana.

As spokesman for St. Dunstan's he appeared on radio and television, taking controversy in his stride. He travelled abroad as our representative to the United States, Canada, South Africa and Europe, while at home he always maintained our friendship with R.N.I.B. and other blind and ex-service organisations.

At the time of his death he was President of the European War Blinded Association.

His colleagues and most particularly the staff of his department remember his loyalty and his reliability. He was invariably courteous and considerate and every ready to stand up for what he believed to be right.

All his friends, at home and abroad, mourn his death and offer their deepest sympathy to Pauline and the family.

We remember Robin as first and foremost, a naval officer who inherited and upheld the finest possible tradition of discipline and courage.

PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES

In addressing the Annual Meeting of BLESMA, the Secretary of State for Social Services referred to war pensions being increased in November, and he made an announcement in Parliament on the 25th May about the increased benefits.

The basic 100% disability pension, at present in the sum of £25.00, will go up to £28.60 a week, and there are to be corresponding increases in those allowances which are to be raised.

For the war widow who is under 65 years of age, her basic pension is to go up to £22.70 from the present rate of

£19.80. Age allowances are to be increased to £2.20 a week for the widow aged between 65 and 70 years, and for the widow aged over 70 years the allowance is to be increased to £4.40 a week.

The October issue of the *Review* will contain a supplement carrying more detailed information but, in the meantime, should St. Dunstaners have any enquiries, would they please address them to Mr. L. A. Slade, our Pensions Officer at Headquarters.

Two examples of the proposed revised payments are set out below:

<i>Employable</i>	<i>Totally Blind</i>	
	<i>Present</i>	<i>New</i>
	£	£
Basic Pensions	25.00	28.60
Attendance Allowance	10.00	11.40
Comforts Allowance	4.30	4.90
Wife's Allowance	0.50	0.50
Child's Allowance	0.38	0.38
	£40.18	£45.78

<i>Unemployable</i>	<i>Totally Blind</i>	
	<i>Present</i>	<i>New</i>
	£	£
Basic Pension	25.00	28.60
Attendance Allowance	10.00	11.40
Comforts Allowance	4.30	4.90
Unemployability Supplement	16.30	18.60
Wife's Allowance	9.70	11.00
Allowance for First Child	6.83	7.78
Invalidity Allowance	1.00	1.15
	£73.00	£83.00

STOKE MANDEVILLE SENIOR MULTI-DISABLED GAMES 17, 18th SEPTEMBER 1977

Previously, St. Dunstan's has been well represented. Rules obliging competitor to belong to a region, prevented us competing as a team. However, St. Dunstan's has been able to join the Sussex region, and this will now enable us to take part once more as a team. It is appreciated that there will be St. Dunstaners who wish to compete with clubs in their own region, but would those wishing to participate in

the St. Dunstan's team please contact the Sports Officer as soon as possible.

CORRECTION

In the account, last month, of the funeral of Mr. Douglas Lloyds at Worthing Crematorium on May 6th, the names of two St. Dunstaners attending were omitted. They were Mr. Walter Thornton, who was representing the National Mobility Centre, and Mr. G. P. Owens. We extend our apologies to them and to our readers.

REUNIONS

NEWCASTLE

The reunion 'Tour of Britain' reached its most northerly point in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on May 12th. A company of 62 gathered at the Royal Station Hotel for lunch under the chairmanship of Mr. Michael Delmar-Morgan, the Honorary Treasurer of St. Dunstan's. 26 St. Dunstaners were there with their wives or escorts, 8 from the First World War and 18 from the Second or later campaigns.

Welcoming them on behalf of the Council of St. Dunstan's, Mr. Delmar-Morgan said that this was his first visit to Newcastle. He felt that his limelight had been taken by President Jimmy Carter, who had just visited the North-East but, "Even had I known, it would not have deterred me in any way from coming here today".

Mr. Delmar-Morgan had a special word of welcome for William Pindar, of Peterlee, who was attending his first reunion. He also apologised for the fact that Mrs. Delmar-Morgan was unable to be present.

Twenty-five Eventful Years

Referring to the Silver Jubilee, he said that the last twenty-five years had been eventful ones for St. Dunstan's. "Conflicts in this period have been plentiful: there has been Korea, Suez, Viet Nam, the Middle East, Northern Ireland . . . Many lives have been lost and many races, colours and creeds have been fighting for freedom. Over the same number of years many St. Dunstaners who have fought for this freedom have now passed on. After their service years they led constructive existences and in every case have won the most important battle of their lives—the achievement of living with their handicap".

There could be no better example of this than Lord Fraser himself, said Mr. Delmar-Morgan, and he linked our late Chairman with the name of Mr. Douglas Lloyds, "Both these men spent their lives wholly for the service of St. Dunstan's. It is fitting that Mr. Lloyds' final act for



Herbert Scaife, vocalist, at the Newcastle Reunion

St. Dunstan's, after he retired, was the organisation of the Memorial Service to Lord Fraser at Westminster Abbey".

Mr. Delmar-Morgan paid tribute to the staff for dedicated service: "Whilst there is fighting and whilst there is the remotest possibility of another conflict, St. Dunstan's very reason for existing will never terminate. I salute you all—those who administer the organisation and those who maintain the excellent reputation of St. Dunstan's".

Mr. Wills then rose to give some of the news of St. Dunstan's since the last reunion in Newcastle. He referred to the number of staff retiring after long service and the changes that would follow. New people meant new ideas, he said, and these were important if St. Dunstan's was to keep up to date and in step with the Welfare State.

He mentioned some of the ways in which the organisation was tackling the problem of inflation and then turned to the question of retirement for St. Dunstaners. Much thought was being given to a scheme for hobby training and he was hopeful of receiving ideas and suggestions from St. Dunstaners.

The speeches were concluded by Wilfred Knight, of York, who proposed the vote of thanks from St. Dunstaners. Nowadays we recognised the importance of a back-up service for any activity he said, "We are fortunate at St. Dunstan's, we have the finest back-up service imaginable".

Wilfred asked Mr. Delmar-Morgan to pass on thanks to St. Dunstan's Council and said he wished to record, "Our best wishes to our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen".

After expressing thanks to St. Dunstan's staff, particularly Mrs. Ward, Welfare Visitor responsible for the arrangement of the reunion, and Miss Skinner, who assisted, Wilfred Knight mentioned the hotel staff and echoed Mr. Delmar-Morgan's welcome for William Pindar on behalf of all St. Dunstaners.

After lunch Cecil Strain and his Music played for dancing and accompanied singers, Herbert Scaife, of York and John Black, of Cramlington, two St. Dunstaners who enjoyed singing for their tea.

SHEFFIELD

Major M. E. M. Sandys, J.P. Member of Council welcomed the 113 guests at the Grosvenor Hotel, on 14th May. After extending greetings from the Council, Major Sandys went on to thank the members of Staff for all their hard work. He was pleased to welcome to the reunion, 10 First World War St. Dunstaners, 40 Second War, and 1 post war with their wives or escorts. He referred to the all-pervading problem of inflation on those who are least able to mitigate its effects. He referred particularly to the impression this would have on St. Dunstan's funds and what they can achieve.

Bert Ward replied on behalf of St. Dunstaners present. He paid tribute to the Council for the way in which they were handling the 'affairs of state' during these troubled times of inflation. "I would like to say how much we have enjoyed ourselves here this afternoon. For this we thank our welfare visitor Miss Kathleen Broughton and the hotel staff". We are all fully aware of the splendid help enjoyed by all St. Dunstaners through the protective

'Auld Lang Syne' at the conclusion of the Sheffield Reunion.



REUNIONS—continued

umbrella extended over us throughout the years. This help is always forthcoming in time of need and stress. However, I think the greatest privilege of being a St. Dunstaner is the association and example given by our St. Dunstaner friends. Bert went on to pay tribute to the cheerful way some of the doubly handicapped colleagues tackled life. This had been an inspiration to him. "It is an association of zest, enterprise and cheerfulness that is the spirit of St. Dunstan's". Bert hoped that the attitude displayed with such fortitude by those of the 1914-18 war, maintained by those of the Second World War would be sustained by those of the 'third generation'. "So long as this spirit is maintained, then St. Dunstan's will continue to survive and prosper".

At the conclusion of the speeches, Marjorie Ball presented a bouquet to Mrs. Sandys on behalf of the St. Dunstaners at the reunion. The afternoon continued with dancing, tea and the prize draw.

IPSWICH

Ipswich lies at the confluence of two rivers, the Stour and the Orwell. The former flows through Dedham Mill, immortalised by the brush of Constable. Six World War I and seventeen World War II St. Dunstaners gathered at the Copdock Hotel on the 26th May. Air Vice Marshall Sir Douglas Morris, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., welcomed the guests and their wives and escorts. After extending greetings from the Council and especially Lady Fraser, Sir Douglas went on to mention the 'Third Generation' who were coming through and there happened to be three new arrivals, though from the first and second generation, Messrs. Atkins, Collins and Williamson, all from the Colchester area. "I hope this will be the first of many occasions, and that they will make many friends and acquaintances amongst the other St. Dunstaners". Sir Douglas went on to describe how he had commanded an Air Defence Headquarters not far from Ipswich. As well as defending London, they had had to defend a dyke breached during heavy flooding.

Bill Slade spoke on behalf of the gathering in thanking St. Dunstan's for the opportunity of getting together.

Bill spoke most warmly of Dr. O'Hara and Matron Blackford, and cordially welcomed Matron Johnson, the Welfare Visitor responsible was Mrs. D. Adkins.

BIRMINGHAM

The heat outside was reminiscent of last summer, but happily it was an air-conditioned hall at the Albany Hotel which welcomed the 106 St. Dunstaners and guests. Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, representing the Council, addressed the 6 World War I, 37 World War II and 5 post war St. Dunstaners. Sir Michael knows the area well. "I was here when my father was killed during the First World War commanding his regiment, which my son is taking over this September". The principal concern at the present time is with retirement. "As you become older, it becomes more difficult to be fully occupied. I always break my day into three parts; one is work, two is exercise and the third is relaxation. I find relaxation in knitting and furniture polishing, and I am sure many St. Dunstaners wives would be very pleased if their husband helped polish furniture and windows!".

"My relaxation and exercise is gardening and horticulture. I have recently become very involved in 'Gardening for the Blind'. I know lots of St. Dunstaners are keen gardeners. I hope that next year or the year after, we, and I do not just mean St. Dunstaners, can have a stand at Chelsea, and we shall be satisfied with nothing less than a gold medal". Sir Mike referred to the gardening cassettes which are described elsewhere in the *Review*.

Finally, Colonel Ansell thanked Mr. Wills and his Staff for encouraging St. Dunstaners to do things. "As long as we go on 'doing things' and don't sit back, I can assure you that St. Dunstan's is doing its job. This makes us, to my mind, a very high class regiment".

Mr. Wills welcomed those attending their first reunion; Mr. Bruton of Birmingham, Mr. Cooper of Telford, Mr. Tallett of Coventry, Mr. Messenger of Oldbury. Bob Croyman concluded the speeches by proposing a vote of thanks on behalf of the gathering, to thanking the Council, Staff, and hotel management. A lively dance floor rounded off a satisfying reunion arranged by Miss I. Newbold.

KEMP TOWN NOTES

June 6th and here at Pearson House we were all prepared for the Jubilee Celebrations. The Union Jack was proudly flying from the flagpole and our other exterior decorations made our frontage look truly "Shipshape and Bristol fashion".

Our plans for that evening had been to hold a Grand Barbecue outside on the Winter Garden patio at 7 p.m. Alas, our prayers for a balmy June evening were not granted but, undaunted, we held our party in a festooned Winter Garden instead.

To the accompaniment of background music we commenced with a Jubilee Hat Parade—what a wonderful and varied assortment of hats there were thanks to so many of the Staff, ranging from a complete model of Windsor Castle, a very effective busby of crêpe paper, various silver coronets, caps of red, white and blue, to a marvellous top hat made from a paper carrier bag in Union Jack design! Our judge—Miss Lucas—had a very difficult task in awarding the prizes.

This was followed by the highlight of the evening, barbecued "tit-bits" made into real specialities by the addition of Matron's special Bermuda Barbecue Sauce, which tickled our palates for the delicious fruit cup and ices which followed.

The evening was rounded off, when the music changed tempo, which got some feet tapping and others of us dancing.

Finally a vote of thanks was given to Matron (and applauded by all present) for such a super party.

Jubilee morning, before lunch, saw us assembled in the Winter Garden and a loyal toast was drunk to Her Majesty, followed by a traditional turkey lunch. The evening at 7 p.m. saw us again in the Winter Garden for a musical concert presented by our St. Dunstaner, William Jack, in his own inimitable style. Bill was surrounded by six formidable pieces of Hi-Fi stereophonic equipment, with which he produced the sweetest music of great variety, combining this with a real musical chat show. Miss Jeffery read to us an

interesting account of the visit of Her Majesty, together with the Duke of Edinburgh, to Ian Fraser House in July 1962.

Our refreshments during the interval were highly appreciated.

For everyone here these two evenings will long be remembered as a true celebration in honour of our Queen's Silver Jubilee.

TALKBACK

"For the first time in 30 years, I have read the *Review* from cover to cover, and not just what my wife thinks I want to read"; a frequent comment made by the handless St. Dunstaners who were the instigators of the *Talking Review*. Back in November, Stephen Jack, a professional reader with the Talking Book Service, and a member of St. Dunstan's, offered his services, which were eagerly accepted. "Only Stephen Jack could have brought it off." "Stephen Jack has a very pleasant voice which is easy to listen to", are some of the comments of our test group.

Preparing the master cassette can become quite involved. Both Editor and reader have to prepare text and photograph captions, which may sound very different when read aloud. Originally a commercial firm was employed to make the copies, so any over-running of time could be adjusted. Now we use a Talking Newspaper group at far lower cost, and so must get it right first time. This means purchasing the right cassette, since they are to be recycled through a high speed copier. Plastic wallets, labels, the postal system, tape recorders, and microphones must all be carefully weighed up. We hope the end result is an action packed, smooth running, clear talking C90 cassette.

All you have to do to receive one, is to send your name and address to Editor or Welfare visitor. Cassettes and wallets are provided, and do not replace your Braille or print *Review*. The important part of the system is to send the wallet back, for without it, we cannot send out the new issue.

A final comment: "I think it's a great idea which will save the wives a lot of reading".

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 878

With My Knives I Know I'm Good
by Julian Rathbone

Read by Robert Gladwell
Reading Time 7½ hours

Aziz is a juggler and knife-thrower with a USSR troupe. Ethnically Turkish, he longs to own a small piece of ground where he can grow things—an impossible dream under Soviet law.

While appearing in Athens he is approached by a mysterious stranger who offers him the chance of defection and escape to Turkey, where he can start life anew as a peasant farmer.

But it soon becomes apparent that Aziz is merely the carefully selected pawn in a highly dangerous game of international politics. While visiting the Temple of Bacchus at Balbek he sees a man shot to death. The victim is very well known to him and he realises that he might very well be the next target.

Soon he is on the run, hunted by both KGB and CIA killers, but help arrives from unexpected quarters. After many hairbreadth escapes, Aziz finally gets to Turkey, his "little bit of good land"—and a most unlikely partner.

A cut above the usual cloak-and-dagger stuff and very well worth reading.

Cat. No. 1980

Colditz, The German Story
by Reinhold Eggert

Translated by Howard Gee
Read by Anthony Parker
Reading Time 11¼ hours

Much has been written about the exploits of those who tried so hard to get out of Colditz Castle. This is the other side of the coin, the story of the men who tried equally hard to keep them in.

The officer-prisoners were extremely well treated (and well fed), punishment for escape attempts was very light, so the inmates had little to lose by 'having a go'. Tunnelling was very popular (though not particularly successful) and by the end of the war the Castle had been virtually honeycombed by the efforts of the human moles.

P.O.W.s tried to get out concealed in laundry-baskets, in loads of rubbish, in civilian clothing 'borrowed' from workmen and dressed in homemade German uniforms. Some got clean away, the majority were soon brought back to cool their wandering heels in the cells for a few days.

Would be escapers were usually supplied with good tools, German money and 'authentic' official passes. These were obtained by bribery. The prisoners, particularly the British, had more food and cigarettes than they knew what to do with and one supposes the hungry guards were only human!

On the whole the book is written with quite a light touch. It is all about an absorbing game of 'tag' played between teams of grown men.

Like war itself, perhaps it doesn't make much sense, but it does make very interesting reading.

Cat. No. 1227

Hall of Mirrors
by John Rowan Wilson
Read by Eric Gillett
Reading Time 15¾ hours

Sir Thomas Gilling, senior Court physician, has been the subject of a defamatory article in a medical journal, written by Professor David Line, eminent surgeon. A very famous public figure has died while under Sir Thomas's care, after the physician had refused the offer of a diagnostic machine developed by Line's assistants. The article shows the elderly Gilling as an old-fashioned obstructive reactionary.

The physician has no alternative but to sue for libel. Line is adamant in his refusal to retract and the case finally comes to court.

The court scenes are brilliantly done. It is fascinating to be a front-seat spectator in an action full of drama and splendid rhetoric, with distinguished 'silks' in full flow, learned expert witness, and a far from obvious climax.

I just can't fault this book: It is stylish, full of action (and good English) and the interest is sustained right to the end.

Amateur Radio Week-end

On the 20th May the St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society met at Ian Fraser House for the second time this year, for what was to be a highly successful weekend. A committee meeting was held on the Friday evening when unfortunately one member was absent, namely Norman Maries. This was to have been his first attendance as a committee member and we look forward to him being with us next time. On the Saturday morning a general meeting was held for all the operators and short wave listeners and we were particularly pleased to welcome two new members—Ernie Cookson of Guildford and Ron Freer of Dawlish. It was good to have you with us and we look forward to a Q.S.O. with you 'ere too long. Ted John, our Secretary, gave us an excellent account of all that had happened since the A.G.M. and news

READING TIME

—continued

Cat. No. 886

The Captain's Table
by Richard Gordon

Read by Andrew Timothy
Reading Time 5½ hours

William Ebbs, gauche, forty-two, and a confirmed bachelor, has been captain of a rusty, battered old tramp-steamer for a number of years. Then quite suddenly, in an emergency, he is given command of a luxury passenger-ship bound for Australia. The Company chairman points out to William very forcibly that he is very much on probation and should anything go wrong on this trip, it's back to the leaky old tub for him.

In a bright salt-breezy tale in the best Gordon tradition, quite a number of things do go wrong. Catastrophe follows catastrophe as the luckless and ham-fisted William gets deeper and deeper into very deep trouble.

But like all good fairy tales, this one has a happy ending and William finishes the voyage not merely unscathed but with a couple of very useful trump cards in his hand.

that we now have a room available for any equipment we get and a discussion and vote took place on the choice of such apparatus.

Radio Communications

Well done Ted, and Bill Shea, our Chairman, on all your endeavours on behalf of the members. After lunch we were treated to a very interesting lecture by Mr. Ron Ham, who spoke about radio communications of the past, present and future. We are all aware of the quality of Ron's talks and appreciate the time and interest he gives to our club. We were also pleased to meet the R.A.F. cadets he brought along, also Mr. Alan Baker.

It was a pleasure too to welcome Louis Varney G5 RV and Ralph Cathles G3 NDF. Ralph always makes a first class job of recording Ron Ham's lecture on to tape and within a few days a copy of this tape was in circulation to members. A wonderful service to us all and one greatly appreciated by the boys.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at Ovingdean on October 14th-16th. The speaker will be announced later. We do ask that all members and anyone interested who is hoping to attend to get in touch with Miss Bridger at headquarters to book their accommodation as soon as possible. This really is important. I do want to stress that any St. Dunstaner who wishes to join us will find a cordial welcome awaiting him—so do come along and make yourselves known.

Braille RAE Manual

The Royal National Institute for the Blind has announced that, subject to sufficient orders being received, it intends to publish the RAE Manual in Braille. The publication will be in four volumes, price £4 per volume. At the concessionary rate, the price to St. Dunstaners will be only £1.60 for all four volumes. Subject to books being printed, six sets have been ordered and any Radio Amateur interested should contact Ted John, Secretary, 52, Broadway Avenue, Wallasey, Cheshire.

TOM GAYGAN G4 AFV



Mr. and Mrs. Payne pose with his retirement gifts.

RETIREMENT OF MR. W. PAYNE

"A man of absolute integrity, honest, cheerful and obliging". So spoke Mr. Wills on the retirement of Mr. William Payne, Chief Cashier for 25 of the 28 years he served at Headquarters. As he said at his farewell party, "Mr. Wills made the biggest gamble of his life when he said to me, 'start Monday'".

That the gamble paid off was proved by the crowded Club Room at Headquarters when members of the staff gathered to wish Mr. and Mrs. Payne well in retirement. Always ever ready to go to great trouble to help his colleagues, he also handled the cash side of the *Review* Derby Sweepstake for St. Dunstaners.

Mr. Payne is well-known as a staunch member of the Salvation Army and he will be remembered as a Christian who con-

stantly endeavours to live up to his ideals in his everyday life.

GARDENERS

Despite the fact that *The Gardener* magazine has had to be discontinued, St. Dunstaners need not despair as a Cassette Library will be taking its place. The tapes will cover a wide range of subjects such as vegetable growing, soft fruits, roses, gardening month by month and pruning.

Anyone interested in receiving these tapes, therefore, should send their name and address to:

Mrs. Lefrere
(Mens Supplies)
191 Old Marylebone Road
London NW1 5QN

Physiotherapy Conference 1977

by Alan Wortley

May sunshine kissed the almost completed Black Rock Marina and poured through the windows of magnificent Ian Fraser House as the 1977 Physiotherapy Conference was started.

On the morning of Saturday, May 8th, as a light South Westerly Winter Garden breeze ruffled the hair of our Chairman Ted Bunting, he welcomed the President of St. Dunstan's, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme and all members to the A.G.M. He echoed the feelings of all members by saying how pleasing it is that our President takes such a kindly interest in the St. Dunstan's Physiotherapists.

Forty two members were present at the Conference: there were thirty two apologies for absence. They missed a cracking weekend.

Our Chairman flowed through the business prior to the first guest speaker, highlighting points for discussion and provoking comment. It was nice to see our friend and helper Jock Steele still ship-shape and in good trim and of course all other First World War members.

Physical Medicine Specialist, Dr. Celia Westrop, talked to us about rehabilitation; a subject about which she has long experience. Most pleasing, was her continuity concept, seeing the patient right from injury and rehabilitation, to gainful employment.

After lunch Mrs. Oakley, M.C.S.P., lectured to an interested gathering on ultra sound therapy. Mrs. Oakley certainly knew her subject and uses ultra sound to advantage at her Clinic at Hornchurch in Essex.

After freshening up yet again in the great swimming pool (thanks to lifesavers Jock and John) we enjoyed a most magnificent dinner.

Lord Porchester friend of our very own Bob Evans, suggested that our Chairman could easily make a living as a comedian if he gave up physiotherapy. Committee Vice Chairman Alan Wortley, lucky as usual, dined between two charming ladies American born and bred Lady Porchester, wife of our honoured guest and Mrs. Garnett-Orme, wife of our President. The dancing was great this year; the floor

being well used. It seemed to have been a good idea to invite other St. Dunstaners and their escorts to come and join in with the after dinner wining and dancing.

In chapel on the morning of the Sabbath those present were lucky enough to hear our Chairman give a flowing oratory that would have done credit to Billy Graham.

Bob Lloyd had done lots of homework on the procuring of appointment books of all shapes and sizes and members were put in the picture during lively discussion before Conference was wound up.

Heartfelt welcome to our new Matron, Yorkshire girl Miss Johnson and good wishes from all members to departing Matron Blackford, may she have a happy retirement.

The Conference concluded with a manipulation course. The members who did attend found it very constructive and helpful. I think there is more manipulative talent harnessed in our four willing teachers than anywhere else in the Country...

Thanks again to Commandant and all the Staff at Ovingdean who work hard to make the Conference a success. Of course none of it would take place without all the hard work put in by Mr. Priestly. How many of us in our daily work take comfort knowing he is always at the other end of a phone should anything go wrong...

Well, cheerio chaps, thank you for supporting Conference and lets look forward to the next one.

JUBILEE THANKSGIVING SERVICE

St. Dunstaners may have listened either on television or radio to the Thanksgiving Service held in St. Paul's Cathedral on 7th June. The Queen and members of the Royal Family had driven from Buckingham Palace to attend the Service. A spectacular television shot from the dome of St. Paul's showed the congregation looking like a mosaic with the aisle and nave forming a cross in its midst. Amongst the brilliantly coloured mosaic, representing St. Dunstan's was Member of Council Dr. D. G. Hopewell, M.A., LL.B. (Cantab), Hon. LL.D. (Leeds).



Top teams. The Pony Track team, St. Dunstaners and escorts: The leader, Steve Farrow is second left in the front row. St. Dunstaners are Eric Rowe, Eric Bradshaw, Ray Sheriff, Ray Hazan and Bill Griffiths.

SIX MEN ON A CHAIR

The Cader Idris Expedition May 1977 by Raymond Hazan

Hundreds of millions of years ago, Cader Idris, Welsh for The Giant's Chair, was a valley on the Southern flank of a mountain as high as Mount Everest; Snowdon was a valley on the northern flank, at least, so one theory goes, and it's not just a tall Welsh story. Gradually the centre eroded away, leaving the peaks as we know them today. Submarine volcanic rocks dating back some 400 million years litter the lower slopes. Luckily, none of these mind shattering facts put off our team of intrepid foot sloggers. With a policeman to keep us on the move, a doctor to ease our ills, 2 physios to ease our aches, Forestry Commission experts to ease our minds, a Public Relations team and a mobility expert, the team was complete.

Mr. Bob Thomas of the Forestry Commission was the organiser of the weekend, the fourth of its kind. By the time he

arrived from the local station with Ray and Edith Sheriff the road party was already lending atmosphere to the bar of the Red Lion. Eric Bradshaw and son Andrew had driven from Northampton, Eric Rowe and son Martin from Minehead, David Castleton, Ray Hazan and Dr. Don Shelley had picked up Bill Griffiths in Rugby and Scotch on the rocks (Carnochan on Beachy Head) completed the party with Tom and Peggy Lukes joining in on the Saturday only. We owe grateful thanks to the landlord, Mr. Chris Rowlands and his wife for the warm reception and excellent hospitality. Any benefit obtained from the exercise was soon dissipated by the excellent fare.

To quell the butterflies in our stomachs on Saturday morning, we all packed away a large fried breakfast. We walked out into brilliant sunshine, the heat of which was



The Fox's Path team: The leader, Bob Thomas is seated in front with Arthur Rowlands and Tom Lukes, standing with their escorts.

relieved only by the wind, a merciful blessing as it turned out. Bob drove at what felt like breakneck speed along twisting roads until we arrived at the base of the mountain where we were to meet up with our escorts. These marvellous people had given up a Cup Final to help us discover new muscles and the wondrous feats of Mother nature. Most were from the Forestry Commission and had interesting tales to tell. Bob Thomas led the team which escorted Arthur Rowlands a local policeman blinded on duty, and Tom Lukes up Fox's Path, a slightly shorter, but much steeper path to the top for more experienced climbers. They succeeded in fine form.

The remainder, under the leadership of Steve Farrow, puffed, joked, and slipped up the Pony track, worn to the point of erosion by many thousands of pairs of feet. Nobody misjudged the stepping stones across the stream at the beginning of the approach march, so all started off with dry feet. The initial slope consisted

These boots were made for walking; but their owner, Ray Hazan, needs a rest on the way down!





The Pony Track group tackling the lower slopes.

of grass steps where we were overtaken by a group of school children going like the proverbial clappers. Comments from our group were remarkably suppressed, perhaps it was conservation of energy we had in mind, or was it wise old age?

This led to our first talk from John Bond about the mountain, its formation and points of geological interest. The next stretch was up patches of loose scree, which meant one step up and two back; 'walk backwards, then', suggested one old lag. It was at these points one was grateful for the two escorts at either elbow. An unsteady foothold can be very unbalancing to put it mildly.

A 300 ft steep section was surmounted with the aid of a rope belayed to the top. We were uncertain as to whether Bill Griffiths walked this section on his knees as a penance or because of the steepness. The remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ mile saw us traversing round the side of a saddle, the pommel of which was the summit. We crossed a bog on the way, which, believe it or not, had

still not recovered from last year's drought. There were no complaints from the party, though.

Nor did anyone seem to notice the 1000 ft sheer drop into a lake which ran within yards of our path. Our final attack on the summit was up a 60 ft crack in the rock, again overcome with the help of a fixed rope. And thus, $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours after setting out, our mini Everest was conquered.

The view this time was far more rewarding. The sand shoals in the Barmouth estuary could be made out, though the green pastures of Ireland were invisible due to the heat haze. Eric Rowe had toiled up the slopes with his portable amateur shortwave radio and was rewarded with contacts in Warrington and Harlech amongst others. Only the Devil's Dyke prevented him joining the Amateur Radio weekend at Ian Fraser House. At 2 o'clock, rucksacks empty and stomachs filled we set off for the return. It could have been the force of gravity or it could have been the Cup Final, but we were



Above: The going was tougher for the men on the Fox's Path.

Below: Ray Hazan uses the rope on the first scramble.





Ex-paratrooper Ray Sheriff shows his head for heights on a forestry observation platform

Bill Griffiths uses his lip to feel a pine needle held by Reg Wheeler



back at the car park by four. A most satisfying and successful climb, and many thanks to the guides and escorts.

Our lungs full to the brim with fresh air were a sturdy asset for the music night held every Saturday evening in the Red Lion. With piano-organ, conductor and full Welsh choir, the evening echoed to the luxuriant harmony of hymns and ballads culminating in us all standing for the Welsh national anthem. This preempted bird watching tales of pied fly catchers which became fried pie catchers and other shaggy dog stories, until the final dawn chorus.

Forest Tour

Our tour of the Forestry Commission on Sunday was so interesting, that even the muzziest of heads was cleared at the drop of a pine needle. Mr. Reg Wheeler explained how the 26 square miles of Coedy-Brenin, "Forest of the King", had been renamed in honour of the King's Silver Jubilee in 1935. We learned how forest ants 'farmed' the green aphid fly to milk them of the sugar they converted from the sap of the Douglas fir. Branches, which up till then had been non-descript, became 2, 3 or 5 needle pines, larches or spruce. We learned of tree felling, genetics and how to choose the best place to plant trees.

We felt as though we had been transported in time when we sat on a grassy bank by a waterfall, the sunlight dappled by the trees with, at our backs, an old gold mine and its associated workings. We had time to contemplate what drove men to hack away at 2 tons of rocky quartz to produce one single ounce of gold. And finally, after a home made tea cooked by Mrs. Rowena Thomas and Mrs. Margaret Hamilton, wife of the Chief Forester, to marvel once more at the flora and fauna of the area in the Forestry Commission Centre.

We were delighted to be able to entertain Mr. and Mrs. Bob Thomas to dinner that evening. The enticement and beauty of the land they love so much had been met and their hospitality warmly appreciated. There are still 50 miles of forest paths to explore; perhaps some of our readers will be tempted to join such an expedition in the future.



The St. Dunstan's class of '77 receiving forestry tuition from Reg Wheeler.

As an old transport man, Bill Griffiths runs the rule over the cab of a mammoth piece of forestry equipment.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Mrs. J. Blackford, Rottingdean

I did a five mile sponsored "Beating of Ovingdean Parish Bounds" for the Ovingdean Church Organ Fund on Saturday, 21st May. I should like to thank all the St. Dunstaners and staff of Ian Fraser House who sponsored me. I feel sure that they would like to know that their efforts and my aching feet contributed £47.15. Many thanks to you all.

From: Dick Doyle, Redhill

Thank you very much for sending me the April *Review*. I shall look forward to receiving copies again, having many fond memories of St. D's. My father, Mickey Doyle, was a 14-15 War St. Dunstaner and my mother, Edith Doyle (*nee* Whatley) was a V.A.D. We lived for many years after the First War in Manchester Street and then later in Worthing.

As children my sister and I practically grew up in Regents Park and got to know many of the local St. Dunstaners including Lord and Lady Fraser. Tommy Milligan was a great favourite and I believe he may now be based at Brighton, so intend to look him up during the summer.

I am a member of BLESMA and often feel it was my early contact with St. Dunstaners which taught me to make light of a disability.

From: Mrs. N. Lloyds, Pulborough, Sussex

May I, through the *Review*, say how grateful my sons and I are for the kindness shown to us by St. Dunstaners, members of the Staff and retired Staff, and many others connected with St. Dunstan's, following the death of my husband.

The expressions of gratitude for my husband's work, and sympathy for us from so many people have helped us immensely.

From: The Reverend Andrew Nugee, Lechlade

The description of the ski-ing holiday in Norway has filled me with almost speechless admiration.

It was at Lenzerheide, Canton Grisons,

in January, 1911, that I first buckled on a pair of skis, by the way we called them shees in those days. I was a schoolboy with a pair of reasonably good eyes. It was all very amateurish in those days. No instructors, no made up ski runs. We just went to the village shops and hired a pair of skis and sticks to suit our height and strapped them on to our boots and set off hoping for the best. Some of us had read a book about ski-ing by that father of English ski-ing, but otherwise we depended on the hints of those who had been at the game before us, and also on the light of nature, which in my case was pretty dim. I had a companion who was a real expert, that is to say he had been out there a week longer than I had. I soon found out how easy it was to cross the tips of those long unwieldy planks of wood which were strapped to my feet, and down I went. It was on the level in deep soft snow by the roadside and as I wallowed there all my friend could do was to stand and look on, laughing at my struggles to get up. I thought I was there until the Spring thaw came. At last I did rise unsteadily to a more or less upright posture and so went to join the others.

Within a few days we were out all day climbing up to this or that view point and pitting the slopes with the graves we dug by our tosses on the run down. What fun it was. But as I have said that was alright if you had a pair of good eyes, but how the St. Dunstan's skiers with no sight at all could dare to commit themselves to that downhill rush, not knowing what it might lead to—well I take my hat off to all of those daring young men, not on a flying trapeze, but on a pair of fibreglass skis. Good luck to you all.

From: J. E. Roston, Weybridge, Surrey

To all St. Dunstaners who knew him, the sudden death of Robin Buckley must have come as a great shock. Having had the privilege of his personal friendship for many years, I would like to pay tribute to the important and effective work he had achieved not only on behalf of his fellow St. Dunstaners but also in respect of the larger world of the blind outside.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

—continued

One remembers, for instance, the stand he made against the refusal of a London Transport conductor to allow him and his guide dog to board a bus. The resultant inquiry by London Transport was to the benefit of all blind persons.

Because of his untimely passing, it is a matter of great regret that, following his retirement at the end of 1976, his long and extensive experience in all that pertains to the welfare not only for St. Dunstaners but of the blind at large can no longer be given practical expression. At least, we have his example to remember and sustain.

From: The Reverend William Treglown, Cheltenham

Philip Wood writes in the June *Review* about the 2,000 titles available in the Talking Book Library as if readers were "spoilt for choice", but to sighted readers this number would seem almost no choice at all. The smallest unit in a County Library service is the van which travels round to villages. In Gloucestershire a van carries 2,000 books—but on its next visit in a fortnight's time the stock would consist of 2,000 different books. People borrowing from a Branch Library would, of course, be able to choose from a far greater number every time they go.

No doubt it would be quite impossible for the Talking Book Library to rival even a local Branch Library in the number of books available; all the more reason why readers should have some say in the choice of titles.

JUBILEE SPORTS

The Queen's 25 years were celebrated not only at the bar and banqueting table, but on the sports fields as well. And where there is a tape to be breasted, you will find a St. Dunstaner. The Metro Sports Club for the Visually Handicapped laid on a very successfully organised meeting at the East London Sports Stadium on Saturday 4th June. Henry Cooper formally opened the meeting in which over 70 competitors took part, 10% St. Dunstaners. The main challenge seemed to be age, but this did not prevent Mike Tetley winning the 3000

metre walk, and the Bill Harris Trophy that went with it. This was a particularly pleasing win because of the close association between Bill Harris and St. Dunstan's over the past 54 years. Congratulations to Tony Parkinson who won the javelin event and was runner up in the shot put. Bill Griffiths, Johnny Cope, Paddy Cryan, Jimmy Wright and Stan Tutton took home a souvenir medallion.

Bowls

Our sportsmen were again in action the next day, at a more leisurely pace outside the Royal Albert Hall in Hyde Park. The tournament, again, solely for the blind, was organised by BATS, a social and sports society for the blind, disabled, old age pensioners and convicts. The rain ceased just as play was about to start perhaps in answer to a prayer by Lord Soper, and opening ceremony by Mr. Alf Morris, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Disabled, who presented some bowling prizes during a visit to Ovingdean 2 years ago. Our two teams of 4 were ably assisted by their wives or escorts. Jack Boorman led Tommy Mugan Jim Padley and Dickie Brett in the one team while Bob Osborne skippered the South team of Arthur Carter, Tony Parkinson and Harry Preedy. Both teams lost by 12-9 and 13-8 respectively. An excellent tea was provided, and disappointment 'washed' away by the pint on the way home, so concluding a most pleasant day.

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

The Derby Sweepstake again proved very popular this year. There were twenty-two runners and the pay-out was as follows:

1st Prize <i>The Minstrel</i>	W. G. Morris, Bournemouth Ticket No. 1171 £291.12
2nd Prize <i>Hot Grove</i>	A. Hobson, Hastings Ticket No. 1599 £116.44
3rd Prize <i>Blushing Groom</i>	W. C. Taplin, Southwick Ticket No. 0714 £58.22

All those holding a ticket for the remaining nineteen horses received the sum of £6.13.

STREET PARTY

By Phillip Wood

It is just six weeks since we decided to have a Jubilee Street Party. We did everything properly. We had a democratically constituted committee, consisting of everybody who could fight their way into whichever house the meeting was being held. We had a Chairman, a Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer, who proved to be a financial wizard with a rare nose for a bargain. We held raffles, collected from the families at the rate of 50 pence per child and all the food was to be donated. Each child would receive a commemorative mug and a Silver Jubilee Crown. We thought of everything—save the weather.

Five-a-side Football

Morning, and the games began in very deadly earnest with a ladies' five-a-side football match. One side were very nattily attired in borrowed soccer strip of yellow and black stripes. Their opponents were more casually dressed in motley gear. The games went on for some time, men versus men, ladies against ladies, with a Grand Final between the victorious teams of both sexes. The girls won. Miraculously the referee emerged unscathed. During his ordeal it is doubtful if an insurance company of any standing would have accepted his premium. The ladies armed with enthusiasm rather than skill were not averse to using each other or the ref in the temporary absence of the ball. The fans were very well behaved. True, there were frequent requests for the sending-off of practically everybody on the field, and there were some dark allusions to the ref's competence and integrity. But not a square inch of turf was removed, not a single policeman assaulted—it was all very lighthearted.

No Losers

In the meantime, the children were enjoying their own sports. Everyone received a prize, there were no losers at our Jubilee Party. While all this was in process it rained relentlessly, however at the appointed time of 3.30 there was the children's fancy dress parade. Forty odd of them, all looking stunning—and not

one duplication. Cameras clicked like chattering teeth—perhaps some of the noise was from chattering teeth!

Tea-time and the tastefully decorated tables were carefully and expertly laid. Came a gale and the paper plates and everything not screwed down blew away. The helpers merely gritted their teeth, remembered Dunkirk and carried on with a mixture of sublime optimism and true British sado-masochism. Although we had a room laid on in case of inclement weather, nobody was prepared to admit that the weather was inclement enough to warrant such a defeatist move. The children took their places at the tables. It immediately began to rain stair-roads. A large van and the residents' cars were standing by to transport the party, lock stock and barrel, to the comfortable shelter of the hired room. Everyone shrugged off the very idea that a torrential rainstorm, floating sandwiches and water-logged jellies constituted sufficiently valid reasons for chickening out. After all these children were British. The umbrella-bearers stepped forward smartly. Tables, children and goodies disappeared immediately beneath a beetle-black canopy. When at last the rain eased off for a bit, the umbrellas were lifted. The kids were still there. The food had gone.

Home-brewed Ales

The Loyal Toast brought the 'official' celebrations to a close. But the festivities had just begun. For weeks the men had been nurturing and cossetting their home-brewed ales and their Nuit St. George type wines, and the off-licence was handy just in case they happened to run out of tonsil varnish. There was enough food to feed an army and there was music. The focal point was the house on the corner, whose residents had supplied the day-long music and in whose garage was situated the do-it-yourself alcoholics paradise.

Came the dawn and the reckoning. The revellers are still alive but some are just a touch fragile. But everybody, children and adults alike, speak with one voice, "We had a marvellous time!"

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON

ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

After the general excitement of Jubilee Day, 62 Members—including several from various parts of the Country—attended a Party at Ian Fraser House on Wednesday the 8th June. After the Loyal Toast everyone was pleasantly surprised when they were presented with a Jubilee Crown in a case as a small memento of this wonderful day. 3 days later we held our Monthly Dance which proved to be a very happy occasion. We were delighted to welcome Dr. John O'Hara and his charming wife as our Guests of honour. He was greeted with a standing ovation from all the St. Dunstaners, their families and friends who were present. As Chairman of this Section, it gave me personal pleasure, especially when it was announced that he was to be made an Honorary Member of the Brighton Club and we all hope that he will visit us when time permits. Dr. John and Mrs. O'Hara then acted as Judges for our Fancy Dress Parade, which was a most difficult task in view of the excellent variety of ideas. Prizes were awarded to:

Mrs. M. Brett	Coster Wife
Mrs. M. Bingham	Gypsy Jubi Lee
Mrs. W. Smith	Jubilee Baby
Dickie Brett	Coster
Jimmy Morrish	The Sheik
Joe Langley	Gypsy's Warning

Our next Dance will be held on the 9th July, 1977.

WHIST AGGREGATE

22nd May

Ladies

1st Mrs. J. McCormack	89
2nd Mrs. P. Lethbridge	85
3rd Mrs. W. Smith	82

Gentlemen

1st W. Burnett	84
2nd T. Giles	82
3rd J. Kennedy	81

8th June

Ladies

1st Mrs. S. Meleson	90
2nd Mrs. L. Evans	87
3rd Mrs. H. Webster	86
Booby Mrs. P. Burnett	

Gentlemen

1st Mr. J. Boorman	87
2nd W. Phillips	83
R. Evans	83

BOB OSBORNE

FISHING SECTION

Due to strong gale force winds a whole week of Ian Fraser House fishing and two trips of ours were cancelled.

After consulting the Captain of our boat and time tables for the best tides we finally had two trips in May. The first trip wasn't especially good fishing weather, the winds were still strong enough to keep us under the cliffs, but we caught a few flatties and other small fish and it was good to be out again.

On our second trip we had a new member Bernard Blacker (and of course better weather). Everyone who knows Blackie must know how the boat rocked, not from the rough seas but with laughter. Welcome to the Club Blackie.

We were most upset just before the last trip to hear that Jim Morrish, one of our faithful fishermen was rushed into hospital. It was a very worrying time for his wife and friends both fishing and Club members, but we are pleased to say Jim is back again, taking it steady for a time but grand to have you back Jim.

BILL PHILLIPS

BOWLING CLUB REPORT

On Friday the 13th May, Saltdean Bowling Club were entertained at Ian Fraser House to a match followed by a tea, which was provided by the Bowlers' wives. Mrs. Dacre was in the Chair, and gave a very interesting talk on the work of St. Dunstan's.

We are now well into the outdoor season and have many engagements along the South Coast, which we are all looking forward to.

At the Jubilee Party, prizes for the indoor bowling were presented by the Commandant and were as follows: Winner — R. Osborne. Runner-up — R. Brett. 3rd Prize — W. Burnett.

I would like to thank Harry Preedy for running Bowls Section so well during my absence.

TED FREARSON

BRIDGE SECTION

On Sunday 15th May our fifth Pairs Competition was held. The winners were:

North-South

W. Lethbridge and Mr. R. Goodlad
69.4

East-West

R. Fullard and Mrs. V. McPherson
63.2

The following Sunday we welcomed a team of eight players from Whiteways Bridge Club. A friendly match, that all taking part enjoyed. At half time St. Dunstan's were in the lead but in the second half Whiteways did enough to snatch victory by a narrow margin.

On Saturday the 28th May we held our sixth Individual competition. The result was as follows:

W. Phillips and W. Lethbridge 73
F. Griffee and C. Walters 68
W. Burnett and R. Fullard 56
J. Padley and P. McCormack 49

WALTER LETHBRIDGE

THE JUBILEE PARTY

What a party it was! The Jubilee Party will be remembered by the members as long as there is a St. Dunstan's Club. First of all there was whist or dominoes, as is usual on Wednesday afternoons, and then we were asked to seat ourselves at tables for the party proper. Very much time must have been given by the Committee and members in the decorative Jubilee layout and in the preparation of the delicacies in abundance. The Commandant, Matron Johnson and Miss Ramshaw were present as Grace was said by the Club Chairman, Ted Frearson, at the outset and when everyone was almost replete a huge gâteau, beautifully decorated in colours and favours for the occasion, was formally cut by Miss Ramshaw and pieces passed around together with sherry to drink the Loyal Toast. Special thanks are due to Nancy Phillips, Joan Osborne and Winnie Smith for their wholehearted efforts.

The presentation of the Bowls Trophies was made by the Commandant to Bob Osborne, Dicky Brett and Billy Burnett.

When the table had been cleared away dancing was held to the superb playing on his electric organ by Bill Claydon. Then the company were entertained by songs from Bob and Joan Osborne, Winston Holmes and Peter McCormack.

As I live some distance away I am, unfortunately, an infrequent visitor to the Club, but I would like to say how pleased I was to partake in the Jubilee Party and so be able to write this small appreciation of the proceedings.

MARGARET BINGHAM

LONDON

Because of the Spring Bank Holiday arrangements the Individual competition due to be played on June 4th was brought forward one week and the results were as follows:

28th May
1st H. Meleson and P. Nuyens 72
2nd V. Kemmish and M. Tybinski 68
3rd B. Miller and B. Evans 63
4th B. Allen and J. Huk 63
5th R. Armstrong and J. Majchrowicz 57
6th F. Dickerson and R. Stanners 55

After five matches of the London Individual Championship the positions are:

	Played	Points
M. Tybinski	5	344
W. Allen	5	342
J. Majchrowicz	5	290
F. Dickerson	5	273
R. Armstrong	4	271
W. Miller	4	259
R. Evans	4	251
R. Stanners	4	244
J. Huk	4	239
H. Meleson	4	239
P. Nuyens	3	210
J. Carney	3	201
V. Kemmish	3	198
L. Douglass	3	192
A. Caldwell	1	64
R. Goding	1	64
J. Lynch	1	42

Will members attending the London Bridge Club please alter their fixture card as the Christmas Bridge Drive will now take place on Saturday, 17th December 1977.

P. NUYENS
Hon. Bridge Secretary

BRIDGE NOTES

The Annual Match of the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club v the London Masters was held on Saturday 11th June at Headquarters. We had a good turn out, five teams of four players. Congratulations and well done to our team of:

A. Caldwell, P. Nuyens, R. Armstrong, Vi Delaney

The team who finished second was:

Vera Kemmish, L. Douglass, J. Huk, B. Miller

The Masters winning team was:

R. Sharples, J. Sharples, L. Young, W. Pencharz

Our sincere thanks to Geoff Connell who directed the match.

FAMILY NEWS

Marriage

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Parish of Norwich, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Margaret, to Brendan Beirne on 20th December, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Cathedral, Norwich.

Ruby Weddings

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Squire Brooks of Welwyn Garden City, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on 19th June.

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stafford of Kings Langley, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on 12th June.

Grandchildren

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. William Carr of High Wycombe, on the birth of a granddaughter, Ruth, born on 13th May to their son Billy and his wife, their second child.

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Evans of Newbury on the birth of their first grand-daughter,

JURY SUMMONSES

If any St. Dunstaner is served with a Summons to serve as a Juror and by reason of his pensionable disability does not wish to serve or does not feel able to do so, would he or she please forward the Summons and accompanying documents to me at the earliest opportunity. The address is: Legal Officer, St. Dunstan's, 191 Old Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5QN.

I shall then write to the Court concerned in an endeavour to have the St. Dunstaner excused from service. It is generally possible to achieve this but it is important that Headquarters be notified as soon as possible. Exemption can also sometimes be obtained for a wife or other relative who is responsible for the care of a seriously disabled person.

W. C. WEISBLATT
Legal Officer

Sarah, born on May 29th to David and Margaret of Nottingham.

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Moore of Oxhey, on the birth of twin grand-daughters, Karin and Danielle, born on 21st March to their son Michael and his wife.

Mrs. Clara Nolan, widow of John Nolan of Acton, on the birth of a grandson, Ramon John, born on 13th April, to her son John and his wife, Kathleen.

Mr. James Rowlands of Bebington, on the birth of his 31st great grandchild in May.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Shea of Brampton, on the birth of a grandson, James William Francis, born on 10th May to their daughter Jane and her husband, Robert.

Examinations and Career Successes

We warmly congratulate

Mr. Harry Boseley of Wallasey, whose daughter, Mrs. Senga Berriman, has been elected Chairman of the Wallasey Ladies' Circle in this important Jubilee year.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mr. Guy Bilcliff of Sutton Coldfield, whose eldest brother died on 28th March, aged 69, and also his sister-in-law who died four weeks later.

Mr. James Percy Brown of Houghton-le-Spring, whose sister died at the end of April, aged 85.

Mr. John Edward Cooper of Rhuddlan, whose mother died earlier this year, aged 84, while Mr. Cooper was on holiday in Australia.

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.

**Lieutenant-Commander
Robin Cecil Burton Buckley, G.M.**
Royal Navy

Commander Robin Buckley, of Barnes, S.W. 13, died at home on the 23rd May, 1977, at the age of 65 years.

He had a distinguished career in the Royal Navy and during the Second World War was awarded the George Medal. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1942, but continued as a Serving Officer until 1954, when he joined St. Dunstan's staff. He was Appeals Organiser before becoming Public Relations Officer, a post he held until his recent retirement.

He leaves a widow, two sons and two daughters and their families.

The Chairman's appreciation of Robin Buckley appears on another page.

Alfred James Codling *Northants Regiment*
Alfred James Codling of Worthing, Sussex, died on 22nd May, aged 80.

Mr. Codling was a Private in the Northants Regiment in which he enlisted in 1915. He was wounded at Messines Ridge in 1916, but was not discharged until Easter 1919. Mr. Codling was admitted to St. Dunstan's in May 1976.

Although he suffered the loss of one eye as a result of his war service, Mr. Codling was able to continue with his occupation as a jobbing gardener until the age of 66, when unfortunately failing sight in the other eye forced him to retire.

During his year as a St. Dunstaner, Mr. Codling spent two enjoyable holidays at Ian Fraser House. Whilst there he undertook some

Mrs. Elizabeth Lomas of Walthamstow, London, widow of our St. Dunstaner *John Lomas*, whose eldest son John died on 22nd November, 1976.

Mr. David Owen of Liverpool, whose daughter, Mrs. Hughes, died on 16th May.

Mr. George Rignall of Ilford, whose wife, Eileen, died on 20th May, aged 52.

Mrs. John Simpson, wife of St. Dunstaner, *John Simpson*, of Brighton, whose mother died on 1st May.

hobby training at his own request and as our oldest hobby trainee endeared himself to all members of the staff who were delighted with his progress and eagerness to learn.

Mr. Codling leaves a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Norah Codling, and a stepson, Mr. W. Clarke of Bournemouth, to whom we extend our sincere condolences.

Frederick Crabtree *Royal Air Force*
Frederick Crabtree, of Scarborough, died on the 6th June at Pearson House, aged 83.

Mr. Crabtree enlisted in April 1916 and served as Second Air Mechanic in the Royal Air Force. He was wounded in France in February 1918 and discharged from the Services the following April. He came to St. Dunstan's in August 1920.

After completing his training with us, Mr. Crabtree chose poultry keeping as his occupation and he worked at this very successfully, in addition to doing some mat making, until 1929, when he ventured into shop keeping for a few years. In 1942 he went into factory work to help the war effort and he continued in this occupation until 1947, when obliged to give up for health reasons. In his retirement he enjoyed looking after his garden.

Unfortunately Mr. Crabtree suffered a severe deterioration in health three years ago and he had lived at Pearson House since early in 1975. Mrs. Crabtree travelled very frequently from their family home in Scarborough to stay with her married daughter in the south in order to visit her husband in Brighton.

He leaves his widow, Clarice, their daughter, Pamela, and son Paul, and their families.

In Memory *continued*

Ernest Daniels *21st County of London Regiment*

Ernest Daniels, of Norwich, died at Pearson House on the 5th May, aged 81.

Mr. Daniels enlisted in September 1915, and served as a Rifleman with the 21st County of London Regiment. He was wounded at Ypres in May 1917, being discharged from the Army in June and coming to St. Dunstan's in September that year. He trained in boot repairing and netting and returned to his home in Norwich in February 1919. In later years Mr. Daniels also took up wool rug work and kept a few poultry.

Twice widowed, Mr. Daniels became a permanent resident with us at Brighton in 1963. He leaves his sister, Mrs. Phyllis Payne.

Percival Pescott Jones *6th Tank Corps*

P. P. "Jonah" Jones, of Sutton Coldfield, died at Pearson House on the 20th May, 1977, at the age of 78 years.

He was commissioned and served in the First World War, losing his sight in 1918. He trained at St. Dunstan's and for some time did hobby joinery and also ran a tailoring business; he married in 1923. He later trained in physiotherapy and practised in Liverpool for many years. His first wife died in 1950 and he married again in 1952. He retired in 1964 and subsequently moved to Crowborough for a time and then to Sutton Coldfield. His health had deteriorated very seriously in the last year and he was looked after devotedly by his wife at home until he was admitted to Pearson House, where she was able to visit him constantly.

He leaves a widow, and two sons, a daughter and seven grandchildren.

William John Mingard *Royal Artillery*

William John Mingard, of Cleethorpes, died on 14th May, aged 56.

Mr. Mingard enlisted in April 1941 and served as a Gunner with the Royal Artillery. He was injured while serving in North Africa in 1943, but remained in military service until August 1946. When he became a St. Dunstaner in November 1974, Mr. Mingard was already working as a Plater's Mate at the Humber Graving Dock and he was able to continue with his job until he became ill last December. Sadly he did not recover his health.

He leaves his widow, Jessie, and their son John and his family.

Reginald William Springell *Royal Corps of Signals*

Reginald William Springell, of Castleford, died on 13th May at Pearson House, aged 55.

Mr. Springell was enlisted in April 1942, and served as a Private in the Royal Corps of Signals until March 1947. It was not until January 1975 that he joined St. Dunstan's, by which time he was unfortunately in poor health. He was staying at Pearson House for a short holiday when he passed away.

He leaves his widow, Olive and their two sons, John and Alan, and their families.

William Gerald Roy Ward *Sarawak Defence Force*

W. G. Roy Ward, of St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, died at Pearson House on the 15th May, 1977, at the age of 73 years.

He was a Rubber Regulation Officer in the Malay States and Borneo, was commissioned in the Sarawak Defence Force and was a prisoner of the Japanese for four years. He became a St. Dunstaner in 1946, studied horticulture at Reading University and ran a market garden at Maidenhead. His wife was ill for a long time and died in 1964. By that time they had moved to St. Leonards-on-Sea and were keeping an hotel, but he subsequently retired completely. He was always interested in helping others and devoted much time to work for his Church and the Samaritans. He married again in 1972. His health was always difficult and in recent years deteriorated very seriously, but he faced all his suffering with great courage and was cared for devotedly by his wife when he was at home between spells in hospital and at Ian Fraser House and Pearson House.

He leaves a widow, and two sons and their families.

Frederick Welch *Dorsetshire Regiment*

Frederick Welch, of Dudley, died on 20th May at Pearson House, aged 55.

Mr. Welch served as a Private with the 4th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, from September 1940 until March 1944. He became a St. Dunstaner in April 1944. Having worked as an Iron Moulder prior to his war service, Mr. Welch was trained for industrial employment and followed this occupation for some years while his health permitted. He became a permanent resident with us at Brighton in August 1974.

He leaves his sister, Mrs. Eggington, and other members of the family.



On the approach to Cader Idris Ray Sheriff and his escort cross a small stream.