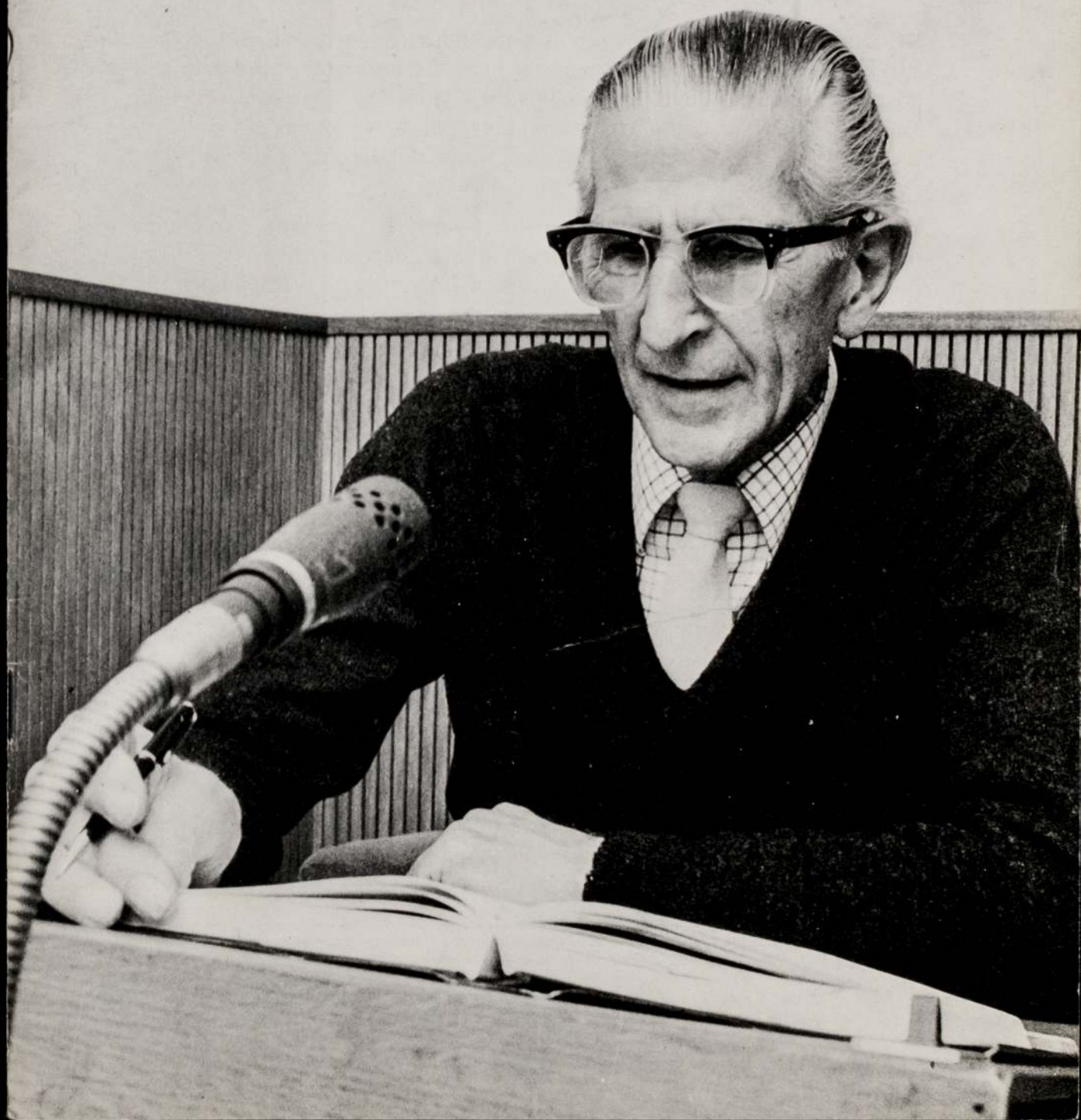


**St DUNSTANS  
REVIEW  
OCTOBER 1977**



## Message from the Chairman

### St. Dunstan's and the Royal National Institute for the Blind

After eighteen years' service as one of St. Dunstan's two representatives on the Executive Council of the R.N.I.B., Lady Fraser recently resigned. Their Chairman and Council expressed the greatest admiration and gratitude for her work for the blind and immediately appointed her as one of their Vice-Presidents.

Readers will be pleased to know that Mr. R. Dufton, who is of course a member of our Council and himself a St. Dunstaner, has taken Lady Fraser's place on the R.N.I.B. Council and I am sure he will maintain our longstanding comradeship.

### St. Dunstan's and the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded

Mr. J. G. Osborne, O.B.E., has for some eighteen years represented the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded on our Council, but he has recently resigned on reaching the age of 81 years. We are most grateful for his co-operation and help and are delighted to welcome his successor, Mr. T. C. W. Sturrock, C.A., with whom we shall be able to continue our friendly contact "north of the border".

### The Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal

I wrote in the July and August *Reviews* about the award of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal to certain St. Dunstaners and staff and I have recently been delighted to hear of yet another medal, this time in Australia. Colin Johnston, our Second War St. Dunstaner physiotherapist, has been presented with the medal for his service as President of St. Dunstan's, Australia. This award will have given great pleasure to Australian St. Dunstaners and now I send Colin many congratulations on behalf of all his friends in this country and throughout St. Dunstan's.

**COVER PICTURE:** *One of the Talking Book Service's most famous readers, Alvar Lidell. See "Track One Begins Immediately" on centre pages.*

### Lord Adrian of Cambridge

In 1944, Lord Fraser asked Lord Adrian, O.M., (then Professor Adrian), the eminent physiologist, to be Chairman of a Committee which was to look into the possibilities of ways for the blind to read ordinary printed matter or use some instrument to help mobility. Another field of research was in connection with the talking book and great progress was made in designing the first talking book cassette on magnetic tape.

Lord Adrian has recently died and St. Dunstan's remembers with gratitude his considerable contribution to research which has meant so much to the blind.

### Mrs. Avis Spurway, M.B.E.

All her many friends have been delighted to hear of Mrs. Spurway's excellent recovery from her recent operation. We send her our love and very best wishes.

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## RETIREMENT

### Mr. W. R. RAYNER, Head of Industrial Department, retires

Friday, 30th July, saw yet another staff retirement. When Wally Rayner left the Army in July 1946, he came to see Mr. Matthews about a temporary job. "I then had the opportunity to look after some chaps who were in business, and I found this was just up my street." Of the 120 St. Dunstaners who were set up in their own businesses, it was Mr. Rayner, mostly, who helped get them going. When stock-taking time came around again, it was he who went to assist.

In June 1970, Mr. Rayner took over the Homecraft and Stores Department and, on Mr. G. P. Owens' retirement, the Industrial Department. Mr. Rayner paid a grand tribute to all the members of his Department who had backed him up. He promised to think of St. Dunstan's as he snuggled up warmly in bed with the continental quilt presented to him, along with other gifts from staff at Headquarters.

Mr. Rayner is not being let off scot free, in that he has generously agreed to continue helping the remaining 12 or so shopkeepers at stock-taking time. Those interested in chess will benefit from his expertise at Weekend Tournaments and

on taped notes, which are currently being prepared. When you think about it, Mr. Rayner has done nearly one year's service for every chess piece on the board.

Mr. Rayner has received a gift of a suitably inscribed set of chessmen from the Council of St. Dunstan's, in recognition of his long service, which was presented to him by Mr. Garnett-Orme on 28th September.

### MATRON, IAN FRASER HOUSE

On completion of the probationary period of six months in her appointment at Ian Fraser House, Miss Margaret Johnson has decided not to continue in the post and has tendered her resignation from the 30th September, 1977.

We offer her our good wishes in her future career.

C. D. WILLS

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St. Dunstaners will be pleased to learn that our Assistant Public Relations Officer, Ray Hazan, has been invited to join the Council of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, and has accepted.

## NEW £1 NOTE

In 1975, the Bank of England consulted St. Dunstan's and the R.N.I.B. about the size of a new one pound note. The new issue is to be made at the beginning of next year. The new note will be smaller than the existing one and will measure  $2\frac{5}{8}$ " by  $5\frac{5}{8}$ ", about the size of the old ten shilling note.

The note is a continuation of the series bearing the Queen's portrait on the front and a famous British historical personage on the back. Prominent figures featured on the 5, 10 and 20 pound notes are Wellington, Florence Nightingale and Shakespeare, respectively. The new note, which is green in colour, and whose

## 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.*

**George Ernest Jeffery** of Reading who joined St. Dunstan's on 22nd July. Mr. Jeffery served as a Private in the Northants. Regiment before going to the South Lancs. Regiment, then finally to the Labour Corps. In civilian life, Mr. Jeffery was an Area Manager of a firm of Painting Contractors until he retired at the age of 68 years. He is a widower and has an adult twin son and daughter.

**Albert Robinson** of Leamington Spa who joined St. Dunstan's in July. Mr. Robinson served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery during the First World War. He has one son and two daughters.

**George John Robinson** of Polegate who joined St. Dunstan's on 22nd July. Mr. Robinson served with the Straits Settlement Volunteer Force as a Private in the Second World War, and was a Prisoner of War. He is married with one daughter.

innovation is the printing of the serial number once only, features the scientist, Sir Isaac Newton, who died 250 years ago, in 1727. Perhaps with the way inflation is going and the falling value of the pound, this may be the last note and in the future we shall see the £1 coin.

## HEADQUARTERS APPOINTMENTS

On the 1st August, 1977, our Research Engineer since 1947, Mr. Norman French, was appointed head of the newly constituted Employment, Research and Hobbies Department. Mr. French will be assisted in his post by Miss Pat Saunders. We congratulate them and wish them success with the new department.

**Ernest Scutt** of Chatham who became a St. Dunstaner in July. Mr. Scutt joined the R.A.F. in 1926, served for some 19 years and was commissioned during the Second World War. He is married with one married daughter.

**Edward Frederick Watson** of Barrow-in-Furness who joined St. Dunstan's on 29th July. Mr. Watson served in the Royal Army Service Corps as a Driver in the Second World War. He is married with two children.

## Talking Book Machine Project

A variable speed talking book machine has now been produced. It awaits sufficient orders to make the scheme viable. Directed mainly at students, the new machine can play up to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times normal speed but does not alter the voice pitch and has a foot operated pause control. The machine which costs £30, would replace the current model held by any applicant.

## EACH ONE A GEM

To be featured in the *Review* shortly, will be an interesting hobby practised by **Bernard Mason** of Reading. Cutting, polishing and mounting semi precious stones has kept Bernie busy for some time. At a recent Gemcraft exhibition held in Lymington, Hampshire, Bernie came away with two seconds and a third in open competition.

## ANNUAL HIGHSPOT AT WARMINSTER

*The following is an excerpt from an article written by Mr. Vic Harris of the Warminster Rotary Club.*

The trouble with the annual St. Dunstan's weekend camp is that by the time it is over the visitors look ten years younger and the hosts look ten years older. The ladies of the Inner Wheel, however, untouched by the passing years, maintain their effervescent appearance despite the wear and tear of coping with hosts and visitors on fairly equal terms.

Fortunately, the weekend of 7th-11th July, saw the continuation of the hot spell, with occasional clouds giving some relief in the busy programme arranged for the St. Dunstaners by local Rotarians.

Eighteen resident guests arrived on Thursday, the 7th. Once more, with the permission and kindness of the Commandant of the School of Infantry, the visitors with some half dozen sighted guardians, were provided with the usual excellent lodgings each night at the School. Throughout the weekend, other local friends and organisations took part in the programme, and, as always, the members of the Inner Wheel provided additional companionship and friendly family comfort at several joint meetings and during the Sunday family gatherings.

As usual, the weekend was not without incident. Camper Bill Aldridge, in a desperate attempt to increase his disability pension, sustained only stitches, bruises and a loss of dignity; whilst Harry Harding, considerable mathematician that he is, provoked the Salisbury race-course bookies to a near disaster. The first evening of the weekend was the regular Rotary meeting, which was a very lively gathering. Two senior members of the W.O. Mess and their wives, were the guests of honour, with Barry Marsh in his role as President and Bob Fullard expressing the thanks and appreciation of the visitors.

On Friday, after a quiet lunch in the Old Bell Hotel with several Rotarians, the Campers joined some old friends, many of whom represent their hosts prior to 1964, for the journey to Hinton Charterhouse where, in the home of Mr. Robin Robertson-Glasgow, the visitors enjoyed

an afternoon on the lawns, singing by the schoolchildren from Frome, and tea.

On Friday evening, the Royal British Legion members in Warminster took over and entertained the visitors at the Lakeside centre, with an excellent supper, friendly chat and a drink or two.

Saturday entailed a little shopping, a flutter on the horses at Salisbury race-course and then back to a salad tea at the Mess. In the evening, they were the guests of the Mess President and his committee at a special party; a party which is repeated annually with great success.

Sunday meant a later breakfast and then a journey by bus to Upton Scudamore, where the Reverend Canon Anthony Johnson and the people of the parish received the men of St. Dunstan's and the Rotarians and their families for a joint service. The afternoon was spent with Rotary families and friends, family lunch, a snooze, a walk, a visit to the White Horse and then the evening party at the Assembly Hall, once more with our friends from the Round Table and Ladies Circle in good voice and a cold savoury supper provided by the members of the Inner Wheel.

And so to the day of departure. It was a wonderful weekend, thanks to all those friends of ours.

## One Hundredth Green Shield Pup

We had heard that you can exchange green shield stamps for most goods, but a guide dog? In fact one hundred dogs have now been given to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association in this way. Tommy Ap Rhys of Bangor, North Wales, is probably the longest user of a guide dog in this country. He recently presented the 2000th dog at Leamington, was introduced to Princess Alexandra at the opening of the Wokingham Centre and in July presented the 100th Green Shield pup. It was an eventful day starting with a signal-box fire delaying many guests, including Tommy, by over an hour.

The presentation took place at Claridges in London. Speeches were followed by a luncheon, and then the long trek back to Wales. We wonder if this dog had read the questionnaire sent out to potential owners containing; "Are you frightened of touching dogs?" "Only when they bite", replied one experienced owner.



St. Dunstaners and Field Gun Crew, with their families, set sail for the Isle of Wight.

## H.M.S. DAEDALUS 1977

This year was indeed a vintage year both for sparkle and intoxicating pleasure. This is not a wine tasters' report but a hazy account of all our fantastic activities during the 1977 Daedalus Camp. We can't express enough, our thanks, to all who made this holiday such a delight. To impart all the events and happenings would be almost impossible and if anything is missed in the report blame "John Barleycorn".

Friday morning, all roads led to Lee-on-Solent, via Brighton and London, from as far afield as the Emerald Isle, Canny Scotland and Wild Wales. On arrival at Lee-on-Solent the usual entourage of friends and helpers, along with the Fleet Air Arm gun crew—our "dogs"—were there to pipe us aboard, and so to our various cabins.

After meeting old and new friends we had our evening get together in the F/CPO's Mess. The Glen was soon a hive of industry. Saturday morning awakened to the patter of tiny feet and hip swaying which would be the envy of any belly dancer, for this was our walking race. It

seemed this year was an outstanding performance all round and a great pity that all these efforts could not be rewarded (hard luck Arthur Carter, second again) however the results are as follows:—

### 2½ MILE WALK

Order of Finish	Actual Time	Allowance	Handicap Time	Place
W. Miller	24.39	scr.	24.39	9th
A. Carter	26.05	2.00	24.05	6th
M. Burns	26.12	3.00	23.12	3rd
E. Jinks	26.37	2.35	24.02	5th
R. Pringle	26.49	4.00	22.49	2nd
R. Young	26.58	2.20	24.38	8th
C. Stafford	27.16	2.25	24.51	11th
J. Wright	27.47	3.50	23.57	4th
G. Hudson	28.20	6.50	21.30	1st
D. Howard	29.58	5.10	24.48	10th
P. Spencer	31.31	6.00	25.31	12th
S. Blackmore	33.00	7.00	26.00	13th
H. Walden	33.45	6.30	27.15	14th
W. Scott	35.02	10.45	24.17	7th

### Handicap Result

1st G. Hudson	2nd R. Pringle	R. Pringle
Bridget Talbot	Novices' Cup	M. Burns
Dennis Deacon	Veteran's Cup	W. Miller
Fastest Loser's Cup		

After all those exertions, fresh energies were found and the light fantastic was practised, or should I say inflicted, on our escorts to the melodious sounds of St. Dunstan's very own dance ensemble—Herr Spencer, piano, Signor Humphrey, accordion, Monsieur Miller, drums, Senor Cookson, saxophone, Sheik Pringle, trombone.

Sunday morning full attendance was made at the Church with Rev. Frank Spurway at the top of his usual form. Slowly we wended our way to the Officers' Club to receive hospitality second to none. I am told by other sources that this was most convivial and it wasn't until the evening when I discovered it was the same day. The P.O.'s Mess then entertained us most royally with an excellent band and sing-song, to which members of neighbouring Ex-Marines Association and their wives were invited.

Monday morning. Following a group photograph, parties divided for fishing and sailing trips on the Solent with the latter going to Cowes where the Royal British Legion provided hospitality in their Club. Evening brought us another unexpected pleasure, the Dennis Deacon Memorial Concert for which Mrs. Deacon again generously provided support towards the artistes fees, these were Margaret Smith, soprano, Michael Wakeham, baritone, Bradley Harris, comedian and Gordon Fellingham, accompanist. The concert was followed by dancing.

Tuesday, this was torture day, what with flying shot, javelins and other missiles one could be forgiven for thinking it was the Battle of Trafalgar all over again. However, the following list was the result of many a hardy effort and naturally the best team won!!!

### SPORTS

Victor Ludorum—TB	J. Cope	162 points
—PS	T. Tatchell	175 points

### Doubly Handicapped overall winner

D. Bell	69 points
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### Best Beginner

T. Brown	139 points
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### Winning Team No. 3 with 772 points

I. Pellington (captain)	J. Taylor
J. Humphrey	B. Shea
R. Forshaw	H. Smith

### Second Team No. 1 with 768 points

D. Brett (captain)	T. Brown
M. Sheehan	E. Jinks
J. Cope	M. Burns

In the afternoon, a most excellent swimming gala took place at St. Vincent, need we say more than mentioning the winners:—

### SWIMMING RESULTS

Victor Ludorum—TB	J. Humphrey
Breast Stroke —TB	J. Humphrey
—PS	W. Miller
Free Style —TB	J. Humphrey
—PS	W. Miller
Plunge —TB	J. Wright
—PS	R. Forshaw
Plates —TB	J. Humphrey
—PS	W. Miller

Some of the members disappeared on a car mystery tour, the winner being George Eustace and his crew, with 35 points out of 40, while the remainder prepared for another function in the Eagle Club, always a well organised buffet-dance which seems to get better year after year—good show boys.

Wednesday brought another fishing day which I had the pleasure of sampling and I feel sure the crew are still wondering how one of the party could manage to fish without a line! The other contingent revisited Cowes and of course the Legion. Another successful Dance took place in the evening arranged by the Community Centre at Titchfield by Mrs. Marjorie Freeman and her Committee, even Snow-drop enjoyed herself.

Thursday was the day of the Hovercraft, this was more unusual this time as we made practice assaults up various beaches and both thrilled and surprised at the dexterity of the handler. Later Kath Riley had another of her mystery tours. There were so many activities on this day that one was spoiled for choice. Some of us attended the buffet lunch at the Royal British Legion at Lee-on-Solent to an excellent repast of home cooking and a concert which ended all too soon. The afternoon consisted of a fascinating visit to H.M. Submarine *Alliance* at H.M.S. Dolphin and we were shown round by Lieut. Peter Grigsby an old friend and our Liaison Officer for the past two years.

This was followed by a visit to the Submarine Museum on *H.M.S. Dolphin* which was also fascinating. One St. Dunstaner on this visit, Harold Walden of Swansea, actually served on *H.M.S. Alliance* and was interviewed on board.

It must also be mentioned that during the week Admiral and Mrs. Peter Buchanan again had "open house" for any camper who wanted to come and bathe in their pool and also took some sailing in their yacht and provided endless snacks, meals and drinks. Several Bridge tournaments were held in which Mrs. White the Commander's wife took part and who next year has promised to raise a ladies team.

### Camp Highlight

Thursday evening was the highlight of the Camp and after the presentation of the prizes in the C.P.O.'s Mess by Commander J. A. White, Mr. & Mrs. Spurway were presented with a magnificent clock with a representation of the Field Gun Crew in action as a token of deep affection from the Field Gunners by Gordon Brown next year's 1st trainer. Doug Howard made the speech of thanks to the Captain, Commander and other staff of *H.M.S. Daedalus*. Mickey Burns made a speech of thanks to the Field Gunners and then presented to the 1st trainer a natural sculpture in wood, depicting a field gun.

This was followed by a Dance and get-together during which it was announced that a cheque for £90 was presented to Ben Mills for the Camp Funds by "Jass" Servers, an ex-president of the C.P.O.'s Mess, who had made this sum by a "slim-in" losing many pounds in the process, though he admitted that when he weighed in he had ensured that his pockets were filled with 10p pieces.

Friday morning. A presentation was made in the dining-room to Wally Lethbridge of the celebrated Doom-Watch certificate. This, I feel sure, was the reason for the tears in his eyes. The evening brought the farewell Dance and Social in the F./C.P.O.'s Mess with a raffle being held of gifts provided by the St. Dunstaners and friends which raised £100 for camp funds.

Saturday morning and so another camp has rapidly come to a close, the two coaches slowly departed to the cheers of

the crews and friends. Thank you to the helpers, Sheila McLeod, Diana Hoare, Maisie Street, Kath Riley, Bill Harris, Ben Mills, Elspeth Grant and two new members of the team, Eirlys Brittain who became known as "Snowdrop" as no one could pronounce her name, and her son Richard Brittain our new doctor. Plus, of course, to our delight the Rev. & Mrs. Frank Spurway, the latter sufficiently recovered from her very recent hip operation to join us.

Above all thank you to our hosts, Captain D. F. Robbins, Commander J. A. White, the long suffering Presidents of the Chiefs' and Petty Officers' Messes—Dicky Bird and Barry Hartley who put up with us all disrupting their lives. Lieut. "Jan" Larcombe, our new Liaison Officer who put such an effort into seeing that everything went smoothly on the splendid programme, his assistant CPO Bill Banner. Colin Jones and Gordon Brown, 1st and 2nd trainers, George Gillam (next year's 2nd trainer), the P.T.I.'s and all the magnificent two footed "dogs" and other members of the staff of *H.M.S. Daedalus* too numerous to mention who contributed to this vintage year.

HAROLD SMITH

Sadly missed at this year's camp was Miss Helen Cowdell, of Little Gaddesden, who died suddenly in May. She was a voluntary helper for many years, both at Miss Talbot's Camp, and also at Lee-on-Solent. Her first camp was in 1931 and she went on helping up to the war. She only missed two camps following their resumption in 1945, carrying on the special jobs she developed for herself: helping with shopping, reading the papers and writing letters. She became a Member of St. Dunstan's in May, 1968.

### Lost and Found

If anyone lost a St. Dunstan's ashtray or a white stick (folding), whilst at *H.M.S. Daedalus* this year, could they please contact Elspeth Grant.

If anyone has discovered that they have picked up the wrong nylon mackintosh whilst at the Lee-on-Solent Camp this year, could they please contact H.Q. Reg Page now has a light navy mac, (St. Michael), having picked this up in mistake for his own, which is dark navy with nylon netting inside, across the shoulders.

### AUSTRALIAN WINS GOLD MEDAL by Jim Taylor, Secretary, South Australian R.S.L. Lawn Bowls Association

Bob Farmer, South Australian President and National Vice-President of St. Dunstan's Australia, has had a remarkably successful 1976-77 bowls season culminating in a Gold Medal in the first World Blind Bowlers Championships in April this year.

Early in 1976 he entered the Australian Blinded bowlers championships and trials for the 1976 Disabled Persons Olympics held in Toronto, Canada. He won the Australian singles Gold Medal and was selected to represent Australia in the Blinded Bowlers section and the singles Gold Medal.

He was nominated for the News Limited Caltex Oil Sportsman of the Year Award and was one of the 12 finalists. Messenger Newspapers, which has a circulation of over 300,000 for its publications, awarded him its "Man of the Year Award" and then came his selection to represent his country in the First World Blinded Bowls Championships held in Johannesburg, South Africa. He won the singles Gold Medal and a Bronze Medal for finishing third in the pairs. After his undefeated series of matches in the singles he was acclaimed the



Bob Farmer with his trophy  
—Photo Messenger Publications

outstanding bowler of the championships.

Bob is 66 years of age, married and has two daughters, three grandchildren and by the time this story is published he should have four. Bob says he could not have achieved his bowls successes without his wife Joyce. She tells him if the grass is slow or quick and being the family chauffeur she drives him to most of his comings and goings.

### JUBILEE THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT LLANDAFF

Mr. Trevor Tatchell of Cardiff has written to us of the memorable occasion when he and his wife were invited by the Lord Chamberlain to represent the R.N.I.B. at the Thanksgiving Service at Llandaff Cathedral on Friday, 24th June in celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's Silver Jubilee. He writes that the people of Cardiff were thrilled at the prospect of the State Landau coming to Cardiff for the first time in the history of the Royal Family. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh travelled in procession with the Household Cavalry to the Service at Llandaff, along a route lined with sightseers.

800 guests from all walks of life were assembled at the Cathedral by 10.15 a.m. Mr. and Mrs. Tatchell, having been allocated seats close to the aisle, were able to follow the Queen's progress from the City

Hall by the rising crescendo of cheers as Her Majesty approached the Cathedral. Her entry was greeted by the Trumpeters' fanfare of welcome. Mr. Tatchell writes, "the thrill of that moment will always be with me, it sent shivers of excitement down one's spine." The Service was conducted in both Welsh and English and the Cathedral Choir, together with the singing of the congregation, filled the vast building with music and created an atmosphere of celebration and rejoicing that was electrifying. The Duke of Edinburgh joined in, singing the Welsh National Anthem in Welsh.

At the end of the Service, the guests followed the Royal Party outside to the Cathedral Green, passing the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts in their privileged position at the entrance of the Cathedral.

# St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

SUPPLEMENT OCTOBER 1977

## IMPROVEMENTS IN WAR DISABLEMENT PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES AND NATIONAL INSURANCE BENEFITS

### WAR PENSIONS

#### Basic Pension

The Pension for 100% disablement is to be increased by £3·60 a week, and proportionately for lower assessments, so that a private soldier with a 100% disablement pension will receive £28·60 a week instead of £25·00 a week as at present.

#### Constant Attendance Allowance

A St. Dunstaner with guiding vision at present receiving £5·00 will receive £5·70 a week. The rate for total blindness, which is at present £10·00, will be increased to £11·40. A St. Dunstaner with disabilities additional to blindness who now has £15·00 a week will be entitled to £17·10 a week, and a St. Dunstaner with exceptionally severe disabilities, such as the loss of both hands, additional to blindness, who at present receives £20·00, will receive £22·80 a week.

#### Comforts Allowance

There is to be an increase in this Allowance from £4·30 to £4·90 a week for the totally blind and for the Unemployability Supplement pensioner, and from £2·15 to £2·45 a week for the pensioner with guiding vision.

#### Unemployability Supplement

This Supplement which is payable to those War Pensioners who by reason of their pensionable disability are unemployable, is to be increased from £16·30 to £18·60 a week, and any family allowances which might be payable with this Supplement will also be increased as follows for the 100% pensioner:—

Wife or other adult dependant:

from £9·70 to £11·00

First Child

from £6·83 to £7·78

Second Child and Subsequent Children

from £6·32 to £7·27

#### Invalidity Allowance

This Allowance, payable to those War Pensioners who are awarded the Unemployability Supplement prior to attaining the age of 60 (55 for women), is also due for uprating. Where the incapacity for work begins before the age of 35, the Allowance is to be increased from £3·20 to £3·70; where the onset of the incapacity falls between the ages of 35 and 45 the Allowance is to go up to £2·30 instead of £2·00, and where the onset occurs between 45 and 60 (55 for women) the new rate is to be £1·15 instead of £1·00.

#### Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance and Severely Disabled Occupational Allowance

Both these Allowances are to be increased, to £11·40 and £5·70 a week respectively.

#### Clothing Allowance

There is to be a small increase in this Allowance (payable where there is exceptional wear and tear on clothing because of an amputation or for some other special reason) to a maximum of £40·00 a year. (Lower rate £25·00).

### Allowance for Lowered Standard of Occupation

This Allowance, which is paid in exceptional cases only to a very small number of St. Dunstaners who receive less than 100% pensions, is to be increased from up to £10.00 a week to up to £11.44 a week maximum.

Examples which may help St. Dunstaners to appreciate how the increases affect them personally may be found on page 3, but if there are any difficulties, will they please get in touch with Mr. L. A. Slade, our Pensions Officer, at Headquarters.

### War Widows

The standard rate of pension for a War Widow aged 40 or over, or under that age with children, is to be increased from £19.80 a week to £22.70 a week. The Rent Allowance for War Widows with children increases from up to £7.50 a week to up to £8.60 a week. The age allowances for elderly Widows are to be

increased to £2.20 for those ladies between 65 and 70 years of age, and to £4.40 for those ladies over 70 years of age.

The increased rates of pension and allowances will operate as from the first pay day in the week commencing 14th November, which means that the effective date of payment in the majority of cases should be Wednesday, 16th November.

### Industrial Injuries Act

The 100% Disablement Benefit payable under this Act to employees disabled in the course of their employment is to be increased from £25.00 a week to £28.60 a week, with proportionate increases for lower assessments, and some of the allowances payable with the Disablement Benefit, which are very much in line with those payable to War Pensioners, are also to be increased.

The Industrial Pension for widows, which is at present £15.85 a week, is to be raised to £18.05.

## NATIONAL INSURANCE

The standard rate of Unemployment and Sickness Benefits will go up from £12.90 to £14.70 a week for single people, and from £20.90 to £23.80 for married couples.

Retirement Pensions are to be increased for the single person to £17.50 a week and for married couples to £28.00.

The Widow's Pension will also be increased from £15.30 to £17.50 a week.

Other National Insurance Benefits improvements include Invalidity Benefit, Dependency Allowances for Children, Widowed Mother's Allowance, Guardian's Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Maternity Allowance.

## EXAMPLES OF PENSIONS

Employable		<i>Present</i>	<i>New</i>
		£	£
<b>Totally Blind</b>			
Basic Pension		25.00	28.60
Attendance Allowance		10.00	11.40
Comforts Allowance		4.30	4.90
Wife's Allowance		0.50	0.50
		<u>£39.80</u>	<u>£45.40</u>
<b>Guiding Vision</b>			
Basic Pension		£ 25.00	£ 28.60
Attendance Allowance		5.00	5.70
Comforts Allowance		2.15	2.45
Wife's Allowance		0.50	0.50
		<u>£32.65</u>	<u>£37.25</u>
<b>Totally Blind with exceptional maximum rate of Attendance Allowance</b>			
		£	£
Basic Pension		25.00	28.60
Attendance Allowance		20.00	22.80
Comforts Allowance		4.30	4.90
Special Occupational Allowance		5.00	5.70
Exceptionally severely disabled Allowance		10.00	11.40
Wife's Allowance		0.50	0.50
		<u>£64.80</u>	<u>£73.90</u>
<b>Unemployable</b>			
<b>Totally Blind</b>			
Basic Pension		£ 25.00	£ 28.60
Attendance Allowance		10.00	11.40
Unemployability Supplement		16.30	18.60
Comforts Allowance		4.30	4.90
Wife's Allowance		9.70	11.00
*Invalidity Allowance		1.00	1.15
		<u>£66.30</u>	<u>£75.65</u>
<b>Guiding Vision</b>			
Basic Pension		£ 25.00	£ 28.60
Attendance Allowance		5.00	5.70
Unemployability Supplement		16.30	18.60
Comforts Allowance		4.30	4.90
Wife's Allowance		9.70	11.00
*Invalidity Allowance		1.00	1.15
		<u>£61.30</u>	<u>£69.95</u>

\* Based on the assumption that the St. Dunstaner is over 45 when first drawing Unemployability Supplement.

If a St. Dunstaner is 65 years of age or over, he will be receiving in addition to the above an Age Allowance of £6.20 a week.



## IT STRIKES ME

by Magog

### V.I.P. Visitors

In September, St. Dunstan's was very pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. John Brown at Headquarters. For many years Mr. Brown was Secretary of Lord Fraser's family firm in South Africa. Since his retirement, he has been Hon. Treasurer of St. Dunstan's (South Africa). He and his wife, on their fifth trip to Europe, were visiting relatives in Scotland and friends in Switzerland, the country to which Mr. Brown escaped as a P.O.W. during the war.

We have also been delighted to see two other members of South Africa's Board—Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Lloyd on a visit to England in June and St. Dunstaner the Reverend Michael Norman and his wife, Nora, when they visited relatives and friends in this country, Canada and Denmark—South Africa's Secretary, Mr. K. T. F. Ryan and his wife, and St. Dunstaner Derek Dymond and his wife, Penny, when they came over on a visit earlier in the summer.

### Gently does it

Readers may remember an article in our "Ways of Life" series in November 1974 which described Vic Davies' work training gun dogs for competition in trials. One of his dogs, Sarah, had suffered ill-treatment as a puppy at the hands of a former owner and at that time Vic was engaged in her rehabilitation. Other members of his club "thought I

was being a crack pot buying a dog like that".

But Vic persevered and this season his faith and skill were vindicated when Sarah, the dog they said was too nervous to ever work properly, won the West of England Labrador Club Open Test. "I was very pleased with her", Vic told me, "She didn't put a foot wrong. She's a different dog now, I think she's forgotten her past".

For Vic this is reward for 2½ years patient training: "There was such a lot to do, I think she has given me the most satisfaction. You have to be firm with them, but you have to be very careful—think twice. With Sarah, you had to be firm and gentle".

### Memories of Albany Street

A letter from a reader in Gosport will bring back some memories for older St. Dunstaners. Mrs. Dorothy Adams lives there and she is the daughter of the late Mrs. Wiggins who for some twenty years—from 1926 to 1946—was hostess to many St. Dunstaners at her house, 87 Albany Street.

St. Dunstaners visiting Headquarters, then in Regents Park, or just passing through London received warm and friendly hospitality in Albany Street and some may remember Mrs. Adams and her brother, who were their young escorts when they went out. We must not forget another important member of the family—the parrot.

### Mayor's Nest of Tables

When Councillor Mrs. Hillary Somerville, J.P., Mayor of Brighton, visited Ian Fraser House on the Silver Jubilee Open Day, she admired an oak occasional table which she saw in the joinery workshop.

Could she purchase four similar tables for the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall, she asked?

This was a one-off design made as an exercise in making joints, but Bill Colbourne, Joinery Instructor, soon had St. Dunstaner, **Collis Walters**, lined up to make the four mayoral tables. Collis had just completed a re-training course in joinery, prior to setting up his own workshop at his Southwick home. He travelled in to Ovingdean to make the tables, which are now complete and polished, gracing the Mayor's Parlour.



Collis Walters with one of the Mayoral tables.

### Bats, Beans and Bowls

**Wilfred Knight** of York is a man of multi interests. He recently passed through Ovingdean to mug up on a new type of switchboard which he will operate at a Barclay's branch in York. Wilfred is a regular player of bowls, weather permitting, and if that is not enough, still finds time to cultivate his allotment, an activity taken up at the age of 50. Perhaps most spectacular was his participation this summer in a couple of games of cricket. With the aid of the RNIB audible ball, the shouts and handclaps of sighted assistants, a virtually normal game of cricket can be played on a regular pitch. It was with great satisfaction that a scratch team from York was able to beat a regular team from Leeds. There is every confidence we shall retain the Ashes next year.

### Charity Walk

**Pat Murphy**, our first St. Dunstaner from Northern Ireland recently undertook a lone charity walk from Inverness to Thurso near John O'Groats. To start him off CSM Jim Scott of the KOSB, Pat's former regiment, accompanied Pat. Pat was unable to complete the walk due to trouble from his artificial foot. In spite of this, handicapped children in Scotland will have benefited from his efforts.

### Prizewinner

**Percy Stubbs'** talent for gardening has recently been shown at the Norwich Blind Annual Exhibition, where he won the Cup for the Horticultural Section. The judging was done on a points system for each entry, which included flowering plants, foliage plants, tomatoes, cucumbers and other vegetables in season. Of the eight items Percy entered, all were in the first three. Percy is a keen reader of Mr. Robinson's gardening supplement, from which he gets many tips. Percy also won First Prize for his wrought ironwork in the Handicraft and the Most Imaginative sections of the Exhibition.

### Red Maples

**Paul Baker**, Sidmouth physiotherapist and author of the "History of the Warwickshire Yeomanry", has accepted the Chairmanship of Sidmouth Town and Salcombe Regis Branch of the Conservative Association.

Remembering Micky Burns' candidature for the Liberal Party, Paul says, "I think he had a few legs pulled and if I do, so what?"

Quite right, Paul. After all, we live in a democracy. But there may be some questions asked about the name of your house . . . Red Maples?



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**From: George Brooks, Saltdean**

Well! Well! It sure "strikes me" buy yourself a bottle of whisky and you win yourself, with a little effort, a beautifully decorated vase! *Objet d'art*. What a brilliant idea by Harry Earnshaw. Yes, I can see quite clearly the finished models which, as he says, the scope is endless. I will sure have a go at this lark. By the way, what is this thing called "whisky" you get in bottles? I shall get a bottle of this fire water and get cracking! Yes I like the idea Harry, thanks for the know how. My wife will be able to prove herself with the paint brush, so Harry drink up Laddie!

**From: The Reverend Andrew Nugee, Lechlade**

I wonder whether many St. Dunstaners have come across the "Press-button" type of telephone instrument called the Key-phone.

I have had several weeks' experience of it and can thoroughly recommend it as much easier and quicker than the dial. How often has my finger slipped off the

dial and so I have had to start all over again. The Keyphone with its three rows of keys and one by itself at the bottom for 0 is very easy to operate. Much quicker too. I suppose the most urgent call one ever needs to make is 999, and on the dial that is one of the longest. The Keyphone operates as quickly as your finger can press the key, and with luck you will get through to the police before the burglar knocks you out. The real trouble is the expense. The charge is £5 for installation and then an additional £4 on the quarterly rent. Seeing that the Post Office gives us such excellent concessions on postal packets, I think that the Blind Societies might take this matter up jointly with the Post Office, and gain some concession for the visually handicapped, and perhaps sufferers from other disabilities.

**P.S. From the Editor:**

It should be pointed out that, although the number is more quickly punched out on the buttons, the automatic exchange will take the same time as the dial telephone to put the number through.

## LONDON REUNION

At the Hotel Russell in London on July 16th, St. Dunstan's series of Silver Jubilee Reunions came to an end. 224 people came to honour the Queen and to meet again with friends among guests, St. Dunstaners and staff.

Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, accompanied by Lady Arrowsmith, represented St. Dunstan's Council and presided over the occasion. This was the Central London Reunion but the 90 St. Dunstaners present included some from further afield and a particularly welcome group from Ireland. 14 of the St. Dunstaners served in the First World War, 72 in the Second and 4 in the post-war years.

Welcoming them Sir Edwin said he brought hearty greetings from our Chairman and the Council and an especially warm message from Lady Fraser. He also extended greetings to the guests: "Mr.

and Mrs. Eric Boulter, he is himself a St. Dunstaner and, as I am sure you all know, he is Director General of the R.N.I.B. We are glad, too, to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Pat Longden from Australia—he is Secretary and Honorary Treasurer of St. Dunstan's, Australia".

Sir Edwin then mentioned the names of other guests, retiring staff and staff members present and welcomed two St. Dunstaners attending their first reunion: Geoffrey Jacobs of Chelmsford and Alfred Lockhart of Dagenham. He had a special word for the St. Dunstaners who had come from Ireland and their Welfare Visitor, Mrs. Ruth Thompson, recently awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

Sir Edwin then paid tribute to members of St. Dunstan's staff who have retired and spoke of the need for our organisation

## LONDON REUNION

—continued

to keep up to date and in step with the Welfare State. He described the new thinking on the provision of hobbies and interests for St. Dunstaners entering retirement: "We are really looking for ideas and would welcome suggestions which would help with a practical, new hobby scheme. Obviously we have got to be sure of your support to make it worthwhile and when we consider that after the next five years 90% of St. Dunstaners will have retired there should be a lot of interest".

Concluding Sir Edwin said: "May I say on my behalf how very proud I am to be a Member of the Council of St. Dunstan's. I think St. Dunstan's has been an outstanding example to the whole blind world and as Sir Michael Ansell has said, it is, indeed, a very high class regiment".

### Toast to Staff

Harry Wheeler, of Merton Park, spoke for St. Dunstaners in proposing a toast to the staff of St. Dunstan's. He began by thanking the staff of the Hotel Russell, "for a wonderful meal and beautifully served to us all".

He referred to the Welfare Staff under Miss Penny Lord, Area Superintendent and to all the staff at Ian Fraser House—"It is the most wonderful place of service, I think one of the most wonderful places in the world".

Although he had no personal knowledge of Pearson House, Harry said he knew that Matron Hallett and her staff did a wonderful job and lavished care on the St. Dunstaners there.

"I would like to thank all the staff of St. Dunstan's wherever they may be, whatever job they are in now. We still think of them because they were good to us in the days when we needed help. The toast is the staff of St. Dunstan's, God Bless them".

The reunion continued with dancing until tea when the prize draw was made and the final Jubilee Reunion ended reflecting great credit on the Welfare Visitor responsible for the organisation: Miss B. Davis and her assistant, Miss I. Newbold.

## TRIBUTE TO FRANK HENNIG

**Ted John, Secretary of St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society writes:**

St. Dunstaners, particularly those of the amateur radio fraternity, were sorry to learn of the sudden death of Frank Hennig, at his home in Worthing, on Thursday, 21st July, 1977. He was 55.

Frank, whose call-sign was G3GSW, attended a meeting of those interested in radio at Ovingdean in 1968, details of which appeared in the May, 1968, issue of the *Review*, and he was the Guest Speaker at the first annual general meeting of the newly-formed St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society in January of this year at Ian Fraser House, particulars of which appeared in the March, 1977, issue of the *Review*, when he gave his experiences on radio both as a professional and an amateur.

Frank, who was a freelance writer and broadcaster for the B.B.C. always showed great interest in St. Dunstan's. He appeared regularly on the B.B.C. T.V. "South Today" programme, and was well known for his weekly interviews with Fred Streeter, who was head gardener at Petworth House. Frank published a book after Mr. Streeter's death entitled, "Cheerio Frank, Cheerio Everybody", which deals with their long association. A second book, "Fred Streeter's Gardening Year" is due to be published in October.

### Wednesday Magazine

Frank first became known for his interviews on the afternoon radio feature "Wednesday Magazine", and eventually became the presenter of the World Radio Club on the World Service of the B.B.C., which attracted millions of listeners, and he has contributed thousands of items to B.B.C. Television and Radio.

Frank will be missed for all the enjoyment he brought and entertainment he gave to millions who looked upon him as a personal friend, and we extend our deepest sympathies to Estelle, his wife, and Raymond and Robert, their two sons.

Letters of condolence have been sent to the family by the Chairman and by the Secretary of the St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society.

## TRACK ONE BEGINS IMMEDIATELY

A Review of the Talking Book Service by Ray Hazan



Master tape and book on the engineer's desk.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the Talking Book Service as we know it today. Recently published correspondence in the *Review* has voiced criticism of the selection of titles. It is proposed here to present a description of the working of the Service in all its aspects and then allow the reader to draw his own conclusions.

### Membership

Though this article deals with the past decade, it cannot be written without reference to Lord Fraser, the very first Chairman of the Sound Recording Board. The embryo of the Talking Book was conceived in his Regent's Park workshop in the 1920's. Since the introduction of the Mark 4 cassette, in use today, some 99,000 people have benefitted from its company. Membership of the Library is fluid, with the average association lasting 6 years. There is a membership at present of 49,450. Each week the Library receives 220 new applications for membership, while at the same time, there are 207 withdrawals. The high level of withdrawals is explained by the fact that out of 200 applications recently studied, only 4 were from people aged 45 or under.

The Library is in two locations. The Wembley section, which caters for half the readers, located south of a line drawn between the Severn and the Wash; and the Bolton Library, which caters for Northern England, Scotland and the whole of Ireland. A former member of staff at St. Dunstan's, Mr. Don Roskilly, heads the service, assisted by Mrs. Muriel Benstead. They both very kindly gave up valuable time to explain how the system functions. "We are not complacent by any means", said Mr. Roskilly. Indeed, a look into their future plans will show how they are trying to improve the system.

### Title Selection

When you have 3,000 new titles a year to choose from, and the means to record only 250 of them, you have the problem of title selection in a nut-shell. Thrice yearly, a list of about 80 books is drawn up by the Library. This is made up of readers' suggestions, programmes from radio and television, written reviews and visits to libraries. The trend of "fashionable books" is as fluid and variable as any other trend. A book may lose popularity by the time it is recorded, or even before



In No. 1 Studio, Ray Hazan chats with reader, Peter Barker, of the B.B.C.

it goes in front of the Final Selection Committee. This Committee meets three times a year and also decides on the Braille publications. Far from shortening the Library's list of 80, they frequently add to it.

There are four principal reasons why the number of books produced is limited. Firstly, due to the unique type of equipment used, copying from other master tapes is not yet satisfactory. The  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide tape of the talking book carries 8 tracks, 6 for the book and 2 for the indexing. Because each track is so narrow, this restricts the frequency range of the recording, which would, therefore, result in a sub-standard copy of a master tape. Secondly, books of great length will reduce the total number of recordings. Thirdly, sometimes a book is out of print; and lastly, the Library cannot "borrow" the two copies they require, as they have to be written on and thus defaced.

At present there are three recording studios, two of which run three three-hour sessions daily; and the other, two sessions. The object is to produce 2 hours of completed tape for every three hours in the studio. An average book will take

any of the readers about 6 weeks to record. The readers tend to be recruited mainly from broadcasting and the theatre. There is a certain element of casting when selecting a reader for a book. All editing is done "live"; that is to say, any mistakes are corrected on the spot by rewinding the master tape and re-recording over the top.

### Recording the Books

A great deal of effort goes into the recording of a book on both sides of the glass separating reader and engineer. The studio itself consists of a large room, divided in two by a glass panel. The reader and engineer are connected by loudspeaker and a lighted cue system. The readers spend as much time preparing the text as reading it. Readers like Alvar Lidell try to analyse exactly what the author is trying to say and painstakingly mark up the text with punctuation and phonetic marks.

At the studio, the reader will sit in a small, sound-proofed room. On a baize-covered table will be a book support with a directional microphone just above it. On his right is a cue card with the various announcements for the beginning and



Recording engineer, Alan Colson, fitting a 1" master tape to the recorder.

end of the tape. On the left is a little box showing the red and green cue lights; a lighted indicator displaying what track number is being recorded; and a cough button, which is self-explanatory. On the other side of the glass, Mr. Ian Turner, the chief engineer, explained the control panel, which enables different permutations of monitoring and recording. The engineer must make notes of the length of the recording sessions, 2 hours per track, and follow the reader on another copy of the book, stopping and re-recording as any mistakes occur.

#### Distribution

Once the master tape is completed, copies are run off at the Wembley centre. It may be of interest to note that, at this stage, orders are fulfilled for English Talking Book Libraries throughout the world. Demand has to be gauged, but obviously copies can easily be run off to

deal with any sudden influx of requests for a particular book. A staff of 27 at Wembley have to deal with the turn-around of some 3,000 cassettes daily. On arrival at the Library, each cassette is checked visually for breakage, is rewound and finally replaced on the shelf, though two-thirds of the stock is out at any one time. The address label, meanwhile, finds its way to the reader's file, where the number of the finished book is crossed off the reader's list. A new label is withdrawn from the file and is then married up with the next available title.

Apart from the sheer volume of traffic, some delay has been caused by the withdrawal of the Sunday postal collection. Whereas previously, books posted on the Sunday would reach the Library at the beginning of the week, they now do not arrive until the Tuesday or Wednesday, thereby creating an uneven workload. The staff at Wembley have been urged, "Never leave till the morrow that which can be posted today." The same applies to us readers.

#### The Future

How is the Library trying to improve its services? Firstly, the limitation of books recorded each year is due almost entirely to the low number of recording studios. This will be rectified when, on expiration of the present lease, the recording studios will be moved and doubled in number to six. Secondly, it is intended to computerise the filing system, which should aid distribution. The arrival of the computer is planned for, at the earliest, 18 months time. This will mean that, instead of a cassette being found for a reader, a reader will be found for the cassette. In simple terms, when a book is returned to the Library, the computer will be asked for the next person on the list awaiting that title. This will obviate books having to be put on the shelf at all; they will be continually on the move. The computer will enable more accurate prediction of popular titles, statistics, recording and monitoring of tape usage.

The conversion to compact cassette is not yet envisaged in the near future for two main reasons. Firstly, the unique equipment used by the Library means it is extremely difficult for pirate copying and hence the Library enjoys the greater

confidence of the Publishers; and secondly, the Americans, with their compact cassettes, are experiencing a 10% loss through non-return. The current C90 or C120 would involve bulky postal wallets, or an average of three of the present pouches per book. On the other hand, the new American 4-track  $\frac{15}{16}$  compact cassette would mean a new family of tape recorders.

The author, having had two years experience of a continental library, believes that the United Kingdom enjoys a good service. There are improvements in the offing which will eventually enlarge capacity and speed up distribution, though this will not happen overnight. Those who believe that the service can be improved through greater finance are, of course, correct. But the measure of success of the Library is a double-edged weapon: if an operation appears to be running smoothly on existing funds, why should it require more aid? Were the Library not so successful, then the authorities would no doubt step in with more funds.

Donations from private individuals are, of course, received with pleasure. A gift of £200 or more sponsors a book and this is acknowledged on the tape itself. In addition, donors are presented with the reader's autographed copy. Larger organisations, such as schools, receive a signed certificate.

Many listeners to talking books will vouch for the comfort they afford during long, sleepless nights or lonely days. Unlike the radio, the listener can switch the story off at any time and continue from where he finished reading. To some, the Talking Book is as natural as breathing or eating. It was Francis Bacon who said, "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed and some few to be chewed and digested". What would he have made of talking books?

#### ST. DUNSTANS ON TELEVISION

Whether you are a devotee of B.B.C. T.V.'s *The Duchess of Duke Street* or not, you may be interested to know that St. Dunstons features in the tenth episode due to be broadcast on B.B.C. 1 at 7.35 p.m. on Saturday 5th November. The action takes place in 1917.



Before recording, Alvar Lidell marks up his text to ensure his reading catches all the author's meaning.

#### THE LATE ALBERT DEAN

Many St. Dunstaners have been in touch with headquarters and Ian Fraser House to pay tribute to the service of the late Albert Dean, who so sadly died suddenly at Ovingdean on April 10th, 1977.

Albert had worked as an orderly for thirty years, having joined St. Dunstan's in February, 1946. During that time he became known affectionately as 'Big Albert' to the many friends he made among St. Dunstaners and staff.

Speaking at the London Reunion, Harry Wheeler, of Merton Park, said:

"Many of you will remember 'Big Albert' who passed on, as he would have wished, still working for St. Dunstaners as he had done for so many years. He did a wonderful job for us and, Albert, we shall remember you."

## OVINGDEAN NOTES

Did you know that July and August had fifty percent more than their average rainfall this year? You did? So let's talk of something else.

July started happily with a visit from Mr. Les Harris, bringing a selection from his enormous collection of records. Other record programmes were given by V.A.D. Miss Nicky Scally and by Mr. Michael Hayes, who brought "Music For A Summer Evening". Fortunately, it was. All of these programmes were much enjoyed.

### New Brighton Centre

Of the entertainments outside the House, one of the most successful was a visit to the new Brighton Centre, which holds five thousand people in the concert and conference hall. Music was played by the band of the Grenadier Guards, and everyone returned full of praise for the music, the comfortable seating, and for the imposing size of the hall. However, we did not allow our enthusiasm to wean us away from our friendly old port of call, the Dome, and we visited there whenever the Tuesday Variety Show made its bow.

Apart from George Bernard Shaw's "Man and Superman", the Theatre Royal was given over to comedy during the summer, and included "Those Golden Years of Music-hall", starring old favourites Peter Cavanagh, Adelaide Hall and Bruce Trent. This family show was a refreshing change from the all-too-frequent "X-cert." type play.

### Fishing

During July, we had five days of fishing—the weather was ideal, and the fish most co-operative, so that sunburned and happy faces were in evidence. Archery continued to give enormous pleasure to those taking part in the sport—our transport "chief" Mr. Austin, has done wonders, together with the other instructors; they all give so generously of their time and effort.

Sussex Fortnight came and went, leaving behind its trail of havoc—empty pockets and deep remorse—but so what? It was fun! The trainees visited the remains of Roman civilisation at Bignall, and went on to Singleton Open Air Museum full of interest, though hard on the feet! We had two evenings of play readings, one by the Brunswick Readers, and one by our V.A.D. staff with guest reader Miss Eve King. A most enjoyable evening was spent in the company of organist Mr. Peter Larsen. He played all the requests we threw at him, with the greatest of ease. He brought along his twelve year old pupil, Barry Williams, who made his public debut with us. He played beautifully, and received enthusiastic applause. It was a joy to see such a gifted youngster, who so obviously enjoyed making music, and we hope that Mr. Larsen will bring him along again to entertain us. Another very interesting guest musician was Mr. David Jenkins, the son of Tom Jenkins, of "Palm Court of the Grand Hotel" fame. Many of you will no doubt recall those delightful programmes on the radio every Sunday evening in the forties and fifties. David played several pieces from his father's repertoire, and was accompanied on the piano by Mr. Dennis Gomm, who played in the original Palm Court trio. The programme was recorded by Radio Brighton, and broadcast at the end of August.

### Invitation Tea

In mid-August, we were guests at an invitation tea, given by Mr. and Mrs. Lyndhurst, of Tylden House, near Horsham. Fellow guests were a number of Chelsea pensioners, whose uniforms made a lovely splash of colour. The tea was both abundant and delicious, and we are most indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Lyndhurst, who have been so hospitable to us on so many occasions. Another invitation tea was at the end of August when Mr. and Mrs. Kirby, the daughter

## A COLOURFUL CELEBRATION

Some folks celebrate a promotion with a bottle of bubbly; others go out to dinner. Paul and Thelma Francia of Portsmouth feted Paul's promotion to the post of Senior Lecturer at the Portsmouth Polytechnic with an exhibition of paintings on the patio of their home. The occasion produced the added bonus of raising the sum of £112 for the local blind, bringing the total raised through these exhibitions to £370. Describing the exhibition, *The News*, Portsmouth, writes, "The garden is a work of art in itself. A fountain plays in the centre of a colourful triangle, fashioned in brick and tiles. Delicately perfumed roses climb its columns giving a restful, bower-like effect. Thus in scent and sound, it is a garden for the blind, designed by Mr. Paul Francia. It is here and in the studios of Pembroke Park, that the 15 members of the Pembroke Artists meet for tuition by their teacher, Miss Charlie, (Thelma's professional name). Here too, they displayed their water-colours, gouaches, pictures in chalk and oil-paintings. Much of their work reflects the love and enthusiasm of their teacher for floral and plant life." Hence the expression, perhaps, of "say it with flowers".



Lady Fraser with Dr. O'Hara, after the presentation.

### Presentation to Dr. John O'Hara

On Thursday, 28th July, at Headquarters in the presence of Lady Fraser and Members of the Council, Mr. Garnett-Orme presented to Dr. John O'Hara a silver tea service on a tray bearing an inscription which recorded the devoted service given by Dr. John during the past 28 years to St. Dunstan's.

The Chairman wished him a long and happy retirement on behalf of the Council and all his friends at St. Dunstan's.

## Ovingdean Notes *continued*

and son in law of the late Freddie and Clarice Crabtree, invited a party from both Houses to "The Three Crowns" at Wisborough. The travellers returned with tales of fabulous boiled ham and luscious strawberries and cream—no wonder there were some absentees from supper!

August Bank Holiday weekend was filled with activity; we went to Goodwood on the Friday, and the sun shone upon us. Saturday afternoon saw us awash with calories, having consumed yet another cream tea at Boship Farm Hotel. That evening we held the Dominoes Tournament, the winners being Charlie Pilgrim, Bruce Ingrey, and Eileen Maynard, doing her bit against the male chauvinists. The following evening Mr. Eric Goswell

brought his concert party from Worthing, and they presented a most entertaining programme, ranging from "Tip-toe through the Tulips" to a torrid love duet by Eric and Rita, after which we had to lower the temperature with ice-cream.

The month ended with the Bank Holiday Dance, and it was nice to see our old friend Henry Kerr beating out the jungle rhythms on the drums (we were performing a most decorous quickstep at the time). V.A.D. Miss Joyce Briant acted as Mistress of Ceremonies, and did a fine job—she even enticed one or two away from the bar on the vague hope of winning, "Brut" Splash-on, and if you can do that, boy! You're good!

It's still raining.

## READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 2479

### Bats Fly Up for Inspector Ghote

by H. R. F. Keating

Read by Garard Green

Reading Time 7½ hours

Inspector Ghote of the Bombay CID is not happy. He has been seconded (by no less a Great Personage than the Assistant Commissioner himself) to the BATS, an elite squad formed to combat the 'black money' dealings of the big-time currency racketeers. Normally he would have been delighted at the honour, but his secret assignment is the distasteful task of keeping close watch on his fellow detectives, one of whom is obviously tipping off the crooks just before every raid.

But which one? Is it his old friend and mentor Inspector Nabkhani? . . . or the redoubtable Inspector Kelkah? . . . That odious fellow Radwham? . . . the young Sub-Inspector Patel?

Soon Ghote finds that the clouds of suspicion are poisoning his mind. He suspects everyone even Deputy Police Superintendent Naik. When he finds himself harbouring secret thoughts on the fidelity of his beloved wife, he decides it is time to call a halt. He will resign.

He doesn't of course and finally, by sheer persistence, he exposes the traitor in their midst.

A very good book—but then I am a confirmed Ghote addict. My enjoyment was considerably enhanced by Garard Green's impressively authentic Indian accent.

Cat. No. 603

### Bid the Soldiers Shoot

by John Lodwick

Read by Eric Gillett

Reading Time 10¾ hours

This is a wry off-beat account of the author's intimate knowledge of prisons, many and varied. Not, let it at once be stated, that this respected writer was ever a criminal, (although he did once 'borrow'

a bike, but it was wartime and in conditions in which such an act might reasonably be construed as a patriotic duty).

Living in France at the outbreak of war, he joined the French Foreign Legion. He was captured, escaped and was captured again. From then on he seems to have spent a goodly part of his war service being incarcerated in, and escaping from, prisons of all kinds and in many countries.

An authority on these establishments, he was able to award them 'stars' in much the same way as a Good Food gourmet classifies hotels and restaurants—although we are not given the rating of the place where he slaughtered no fewer than 626 bedbugs in one session!

The style is elegant, and the touch light, but the brutal realities of total war are never far away.

Cat. No. 1867

### Pavilion of Women

by Pearl S. Buck

Read by Jean Metcalfe

Reading Time 14¾ hours

Madame Wu is the matriarchal head of the rich and important Wu family in a remote province of China. She rules the great house of sixty people with gentle firmness and according to strict and changeless rules laid down in antiquity.

As 'First Lady' she wields absolute power, which she exercises with a kind of gracious inflexibility but with wisdom and compassion for the greater good of the house of Wu.

Then into her life comes the gentle giant, Brother André, the first 'foreigner' to enter the house. He has been engaged to tutor one of her sons but she too, in spite of herself, gradually comes under the influence of his teachings. For the first time she begins to question the ancient traditions and beliefs by which she lives.

A beautifully constructed story which marvellously captures the spirit of a China now vanished for ever.

Cat. No. 2082.

### Two Gentlemen to See You, Sir

by Victor Carasov

Read by Philip Treleaven

Reading Time 10¼ hours

The words of the title always struck fear in the heart of the author. The 'two gentlemen' were invariably detectives come to arrest him.

In the early 1900's, Victor Carasov, unhappy child of a broken marriage, took away a bicycle with some confused idea of escaping from his misery. He was ten years old and for his crime was sent to an approved school for five years.

The school was an old ship moored in the Clyde. Life on board was grim in the extreme and discipline harsh and unrelenting. One day somebody stole his boots. He took somebody else's and was flogged before the assembled company.

So began his apprenticeship for a life of crime. By the time he was sixty-five, Carasov had spent a total of fifty years behind bars. He specialised in robberies from hotel rooms whose doors had been left unlocked by careless guests.

Although he feels very strongly that the present penal system serves to make, rather than reform, criminals, he makes no excuses for himself. He admits quite cheerfully that he got only what he deserved.

An interesting read. The book is written with straightforward simplicity and with nothing left to the reader's imagination. It is unsuitable for family listening.

## BRIDGE NOTES

### LONDON CLUB

The first bridge match after the summer holidays was held on the 3rd September. The results were as follows:

H. Tybinski and S. Lyons	85
P. Nuyens and J. Majchrowicz	70
R. Stanners and B. Allen	64
L. Douglass and R. Armstrong	61
B. Evans and J. Huk	60
Miss V. Kemmish and B. Miller	59
F. Dickerson and H. Meleson	55

## FROM JEAN BLACKFORD

Dear Friends,

The generosity of St. Dunstaners—men, women, and, I feel sure, their wives, has overwhelmed me. It was an important decision to choose how best to spend the money contributed to my retirement present and I have chosen something I have long wanted and I think all of you will approve and will appreciate the hours of pleasure that your gift will give me.

It is a Dynatron Music Centre, (Radio Receiver, Record playing deck and cassette unit—all stereo), and it is concealed in a Queen Anne style table in walnut. Not only does it sound beautiful, but it also looks beautiful in my sitting-room.

Thank you all for your generosity. It only came a few days ago and, since then, I have hardly turned on the television, but have immersed myself in music. Thank goodness my bungalow is detached and the sitting-room windows are double-glazed!

My fourteen years with the family of St. Dunstan's is something I can never forget; to me, it was a privilege to be with you and so often to have been able to share with some of you a happiness or even a sadness.

Now, when I go shopping in Rottingdean, it's great to meet many of you. Again, I send you my best wishes and thanks.

### LIFELINE

Recently issued by the G.P.O. is a film called, "Lifeline". Part of the film shows the help given to the disabled through the marketing of special equipment. Tommy Gaygan was shown operating a switch-board designed specifically for the handless. Mr. Peter Matthews, of the Estate Department, was also featured using a telephone intended for those with a hearing defect. The telephone has a built-in loud speaker. "Society is not based solely on large organisations, but on the attitudes of individuals and direct personal contact. It is based on people communicating; on people talking to one another, whatever their circumstances." This is the G.P.O.'s way of helping.

### Charity Concert

A concert in aid of the British National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness will be held at the Royal Albert Hall on Thursday, 22nd December, 1977. A performance of Handel's Messiah sung by Kathleen Livingstone, Doreen Walker, Kenneth Bowen, David Wilson-Johnson, The Bedfordshire County Youth Choir, The Biggleswade and District Choral Society, The Luton Choral Society, The Bedford Musical Society, The Dame Alice Harpur School Choir and the Pilgrim School Choir. The performance will be accompanied by the Bedfordshire County Youth Orchestra and will start at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are 75p, £1.00, £1.50, £2.00, £2.50 and £3.00, and may be ordered by sending a stamped addressed envelope to B.N.C.P.B., D. Chesterman, Esq., 191 Old Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5QN. Tel.: 724 3716. Tickets will be posted to applicants in November.

### THE ITCHING HORSE LAUGH

by H. C. Wood of Brentwood

A horse you have drawn, the letter did say,

It came from the Ed, David, and Ray,

And IF it runs you will get a prize,

Such a kind thought brought a tear to my eyes,

For the prize guys are the good guys.

In the paper next morning Derby runners were listed,

And yours isn't one of them the missus insisted,

A rat or two I smell as the smile left my kisser,

Someone or two has been pulling my leg,

St. Cyr, they said was the name of the beast,

But we see no saint, not even a priest.

To the betting shop enquiries were swiftly borne,

It was scratched they said, a week before sweep was drawn,

Forgive the bums Lord for this dastardly con,

Just send down a U.F.O. and bung em all on.

### MESSAGE FROM AUSTRALIA

*Our Chairman, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, has passed on this message received from Colin Johnston, Federal President of St. Dunstons, Australia.*

It seemed appropriate that Jubilee Day was celebrated by us during the St. Dunstan's, Australia, Conference, and on that very night the State Delegates, wives and distinguished guests were being entertained at dinner by our hosts—the Queensland members of St. Dunstan's, Australia. The Loyal Toast seemed especially significant on that occasion. The previous day there was the St. Dunstan's Reunion Lunch during which your recorded message was played, and received with acclamation. There were about forty present and it was a very happy occasion. One Queenslander and his wife travelled all the way from Cairns (1200 miles) for the Reunion and some of the conference. His name is David Beatty and he was trained at St. Dunstan's in 1948 and whilst there he became friendly with a Red Cross Social Worker. This woman is now Lady Ramsay, wife of the Queensland State Governor, who opened our conference. The conference was a success.

Since my return I have been busy organising the distribution of the Jubilee Crown Pieces. May I say here it is a very generous gesture on the part of St. Dunstan's to present these crowns, and on behalf of all Australian members, I thank you and the Council most sincerely.

### The Editor replies:

Your tale of woe went right to our hearts;

The Ed being a man of many parts,

Takes quill to paper, and kerchief to eye,

And attempts to answer the reason why.

The draw must be made in plenty of time,

So the G.P.O. can drop you a line.

Next year, it has been decided,

That the horse as well must be reminded.

"Come back, UFO," may then be your cry,

"After all, Ed, you're quite a nice guy".

## CLUB NEWS

### BRIGHTON

#### BRIDGE SECTION

Sunday 17th July we welcomed a team of eight from the Saturday Night Bridge Club. An exciting match, that ended with both teams scoring so close the result was a draw.

Sunday 24th July the seventh Pairs Competition was held with the following result:

*North-South*

**W. Allen and H. Barker** 58%

*East-West*

**W. Lethbridge and R. Goodlad** 57.5%

Saturday 30th July the seventh Individuals Competition was held, results as follows:

**M. Clemmets and M. Tybinsky** 77

A. Dodgson and W. Phillips 66

W. Allen and R. Evans 61

P. McCormack and W. Burnett 60

J. Padley and C. Walters 57

R. Fullard and W. Lethbridge 57

Saturday 6th August the summer Bridge Drive was well attended. To commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee each player was presented with a souvenir Jubilee ball point pen. Many thanks to all the people who helped to make the day such a success. The winners were:

**W. Allen and H. Barker** 3,010

W. Lethbridge and Mrs. P. Lethbridge 2,860

W. Phillips and Mrs. M. Vessey 1,640

WALTER LETHBRIDGE

#### ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

With no Club meetings in August, we resumed our activities on the 1st September by going to the Fontwell Races—I think everyone came away a little in pocket!!! After which we went to supper at a local Inn, where everyone agreed the food was delicious and that the outing must be repeated.

On the 10th September we held our monthly Dance when Members from all over the country met friends they had not seen for many a year which formed the basis of a very happy evening. You can imagine the tales that were exchanged. Our next Dance is to be held on the 8th October.

#### Whist Aggregate, 7/9/77

*Gentlemen*

**A. Dodgson** 89

W. Phillips 86

W. Lethbridge 82

*Ladies*

**Mrs. N. Phillips** 86

Mr. J. Kennedy 86

Mrs. Griffiths 83

BOB OSBORNE

#### BOWLING SECTION

The Bowling Section has been very active this month. The competition for the Quadling Cup is in full swing on Tuesday mornings and we have visited Hurstpierpoint, East Preston and Beckenham Clubs. We have been made to feel very much at home at all these clubs and have had some very enjoyable games. It has been pleasant to meet old friends and to make new ones and we have been pleased to take along some new members to visit these Clubs. At Beckenham Ladies' Club as in previous years the highest scorers were each presented with a silver spoon. These will be treasured by our boys. I believe some have almost achieved a full set. A special presentation of a spoon was made to Mrs. B. S. Jones who has put in a lot of hard work as Secretary to our Section over a number of years and we were all delighted that her services had been recognised. Welcome to the Section Micky—here's power to your bowling arm.

BILL BURNETT

## Club News

—continued

### MIDLAND CLUB NOTES

Since my last club notes we have had three get-togethers, which included two meetings and one outing.

The meetings, one in July and the other in August, were quite well attended and fairly lively.

During the July meeting we still talked about and considered the possibility of a night out, but it was getting more and more difficult to find anywhere completely on the flat and, of course, reasonable. So it was left for me to go on looking around at local night spots which included some entertainment after the meal. At our meeting in August another proposition was put forward; this was that we should have another outing instead of an evening out. A vote was taken on this idea and was adopted with quite a good majority. Southport was the venue suggested and the date was 4th September. So I went ahead and booked a coach for this date. It was also suggested that, as the time between the meeting and the outing was so short, everyone should get their own meals.

So, on Sunday, 4th September we set off from Birmingham at 10 a.m. under clearing skies, and what looked as if it was going to be a lovely day. But the gods were not with us, for, as we stopped for coffee at one of the services on the M6, it began to rain, and it continued to rain more or less all day.

We arrived at Southport at approximately 1.15 p.m. and we all went our different ways to get a meal. Before leaving the coach we decided that should the weather continue to be wet, we would start back for Birmingham at 5 p.m. and I would make arrangements on the telephone with the Austin Branch, Royal British Legion, to allow us to return there for refreshments before we broke up. It did remain wet and so we returned as planned. Our friends at the Austin branch gave us permission to go there and we were made very welcome as usual, the stewardess making us sandwiches etc. which were very welcome.

## FAMILY NEWS

### Marriages

*Mr. Stanley Coe* of Ashford, is pleased to announce that his son, Barry, was married to Elaine Gower at St. Paul's Church, Kingston, on 9th July.

*Mrs. Winnie Edwards* of Partridge Green, is pleased to announce that her son, Christopher, was married to Angela Clare Simmons on 4th June.

*Mr. and Mrs. William Rowland* of Lambeth are happy to announce the marriage of their grand-daughter, Jacqueline to Gregory Steene on the 10th September.

*Mr. and Mrs. John Simpson* of Brighton, are pleased to announce that their daughter, Marie, was married to Peter Moore at Ian Fraser House Chapel on 3rd September.

Although the day was wet we did enjoy ourselves as usual, and the final stop did help to brighten the day.

At each of our club meetings the ladies put on a lovely tea as usual and we all thanked them for their efforts.

We were very pleased indeed to welcome a new member to our August meeting, Bob Ashmore, who came along with his wife. Bob only became a St. Dunstanian in June and I sincerely hope that he and his wife will continue to come along to meetings. They both came on the outing and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Bob was a Far East P.O.W.

Two other dates were arranged; we shall be having another "Bring and Buy" during our October meeting, and the Christmas dinner will be held at the Austin Branch, Royal British Legion once again this year. Saturday, 17th December is the date.

Please also note that the November meeting will be held on the first Sunday in the month so that we avoid Armistice Sunday.

DOUG CASHMORE  
Secretary

*Mrs. E. M. E. Somervell* is pleased to announce the marriage on 10th September of her daughter, Shirley, to David Barber, in St. John's Anglican Church Clevedon, New Zealand. Shirley is the daughter of the late *Lieutenant Alan Somervell*, (New Zealand Artillery, 4th Field Regiment), who trained in Physiotherapy at St. Dunstan's, Church Stretton and at the R.N.I.B. Physiotherapy School in London.

*Mr. and Mrs. John Whitcombe* of Eastbourne, are pleased to announce that their son, Anthony, was married to Angela Shore at St. Elisabeth's Church, Eastbourne, on 9th July.

*Mr. and Mrs. William White* of Fordingbridge, are pleased to announce that their son, Martyn was married to Rosemary Anne Weston at the Ringwood Methodist Church, on 30th July.

### Silver Wedding

Many congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. Albert Paulson* of Worthing who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 2nd August.

### Ruby Wedding

Many congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. George Reed* of Farnborough, Hants, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on 31st July with a cruise on the Rhine, passing through Holland, Germany and France.

### Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. John Foster* of Redhill, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 28th September.

### Births

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bentley* of Birmingham, on the birth of a grandson, Martin Robert, born on 14th July to their son Robert and his wife, Jan.

*Mr. and Mrs. John Brown* of Nuneaton are pleased to announce the birth of a grandchild, Abigail, born on 21st April to their son, Christopher, and his wife.

*Mr. Cope* of Bilston, Staffordshire, on the birth of his sixth great grandchild, born to his grand-daughter in Australia.

*Mr. and Mrs. Reg Craddock* of Warrington, on the birth of a baby girl to their son, Alan, and his wife, Pat. The baby is to be named Angela Vanessa.

*Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Holmes* of Southampton, on the birth of their third grandchild, Verity, on 14th April, to their son, Arthur and his wife.

*Mr. Frederick Horton* of Manchester, on the birth of his seventh great grandchild, Simon Paul. Mr. Horton also has ten grandchildren.

*Mr. Alan Key* of Dartford, on the birth of his grandson on 19th December, 1976, to his son, Malcolm, and daughter-in-law, who now live in Canada.

*Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Latham* of Worcester, on the birth of their first great grandchild. A baby girl, Rebecca Margaret, was born on 8th March to their grand-daughter, Wendy, and her husband.

*Mrs. Clara Nolan* of Acton, widow of *John Nolan*, on the birth of a grandson, James David, born on the 19th August, to her son David and his wife, Linda.

### Examination and Career Successes

#### We warmly congratulate:

Crispin Chappell, son of *Alfred and Betty Chappell* of Flaunden, who recently gained a joint Honours M.A. degree in English and Philosophy at Dundee University. Mr. and Mrs. Chappell attended the Graduation Ceremony, where the degrees were conferred by the Queen Mother.

*Mr. and Mrs. Freeman* of Coventry, who have both received awards for their services to Scouting. Dennis Freeman was awarded the Medal for Meritorious Conduct, the highest award of the Scout Movement. Mrs. Freeman was awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation. These awards were made on 19th September.

## Family News *continued*

Mr. Herbert Greasley of Coventry on the completion of 35 years service at Morris Motors, Coventry. He was presented with a gold watch by his employers.

Miss Susan Hill-Brown, daughter of Arthur Hill-Brown, for obtaining a Fine Arts degree at Kingston Polytechnic.

Nicholas Knight, son of Wilfred Knight, on passing out with credits in Agricultural Mechanics and Engineering. As well as coming second in the course, he received special commendations for his project and won the course prize as the most practical student.

Campbell, son of our late St. Dunstaner, Hugh Campbell McCrea of Greenisland, for obtaining an Honours degree in Politics at Newcastle University.

Steven Noxon, grandson of George and Mrs. Reed of Farnborough, Hants, who was awarded a Silver Cup for being the most outstanding pupil of the year. Steven was also chosen to recite the soliloquy from Shakespeare's "Henry V", before the Mayor and Mayoress of Rushmoor.

Stephen Ward, son of Bert Ward of Leeds, who, at the age of 30, has just been appointed Deputy Head of Temple Newsam Colton Primary School, Leeds, and took up his post on 1st September. A specialist in English language, Stephen was teaching immigrant children to speak English at a special Language Unit prior to his new appointment.

Christopher Wood son of Phillip Wood of Crewe, on obtaining his B.A. Honours degree in German.

### Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mr. John Bailey of Guildford on the death of his mother, who passed away on 18th June, aged 75.

Mr. William Carr of High Wycombe on the death of his sister.

Mrs. Stanley Edgar of Welling, Kent whose mother passed away on the 11th August.

Mr. Thomas Flaherty, whose wife, Annie, passed away on the 4th September after a long illness.

Mr. Joe Hill, whose brother George died in August. He is sadly missed by our St. Dunstaner.

Frederick Horton of Davyhulme, Manchester who mourns the death of his wife, Catherine, who passed away on the 9th August.

Mr. Harry Gosney of New South Wales, Australia, whose wife, Gladys Anna Gosney died at the age of 73 years on 20th April.

Reginald Greenacre of Dunstable, Bedfordshire, who mourns the death of his wife, Hilda, who passed away on the 13th August.

Mrs. Mary Lawton, wife of our St. Dunstaner, Mr. Lawton of Edgware, on the loss of her sister, who passed away recently in Ireland.

Mr. James Minter of Ruislip, on the death of his father on the 13th August, following a long illness.

Mr. Joseph Mosley of Solihull, on the death of his brother, Victor, who passed away on the 4th August.

Mr. Lewis Murrell of Minehead, on the death of his mother in a Taunton hospital on 22nd March. She was aged 97.

Mr. Andrew William Rutledge of Belfast, on the tragic deaths of his brother, Robert, and sister-in-law in July.

Mr. Leslie Thompson of Gateshead, who mourns the death of his father, who passed away recently at the age of 90.

## 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.

### John Egerton Lancashire Fusiliers

John Egerton of Manchester died on the 20th August, at the age of 84.

He served as a Private in the Lancashire Fusiliers from October 1914 to August 1918. He was wounded in 1917 and suffered damage to his sight, but it was not until February 1977 that he became a St. Dunstaner.

He leaves a widow, Ellen.

### Arthur Hartill Lancashire Fusiliers

Arthur Hartill of Sedgley died on the 7th August at the age of 84.

He served as a Rifleman in the Lancashire Fusiliers in which he enlisted in 1915. He suffered Mustard Gas poisoning in 1918 and was discharged from the Army the following year. Despite the damage caused to his eyes, Mr. Hartill was able to enjoy a working life for many years, but, with a further deterioration in his vision, he became a St. Dunstaner in April 1948 and retired the following year.

Having been a widower for many years, Mr. Hartill lived alone but spent part of each day with his daughter and her family and he enjoyed annual holidays with us at Brighton.

He leaves his daughter, Mrs. Ann Bagnall.

### Thomas William Higgins 544 Battalion 88th Royal Artillery

Thomas William Higgins of Kings Langley, died on 15th July, aged 58.

He served in the Second World War as a Gunner with the 544 Battalion 88th Royal Artillery having enlisted in July 1939. Following injury to both eyes whilst loading a lorry with lime, Mr. Higgins was discharged from the Army in 1943 and admitted to St. Dunstan's that same year.

Until 1948 Mr. Higgins worked in Industry but he preferred an outdoor life and took over a series of smallholdings rearing poultry, pigs and calves and growing a great variety of produce on the land and in his greenhouse with the able help of his wife. Earlier this year he took over a small farm in Kings Langley for which he had many plans, now unfortunately cut short by his untimely death.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Katherine Higgins, three sons and two daughters.

### Thomas Jackson 5th Kings Own Royal Regt.

Thomas Jackson of Lancaster died on the 27th August at Pearson House, aged 83.

He enlisted in 1911 and served as a Sergeant with the 5th Kings Own Royal Regiment. He was wounded in 1915 and discharged from the Army in 1916. It was not until December, 1976 that Mr. Jackson became a St. Dunstaner, by which time he was unfortunately already in poor health. He gave up his home in Lancaster and in June he went to Pearson House for nursing care.

He leaves a son, Alan.

### Percy Jennings, M.M. D.C.M. 48th South Midland Division; Royal Air Force

Percy Jennings, M.M., D.C.M., of Watford, died at Pearson House on 18th July, aged 84.

Mr. Jennings had a distinguished military career having served in the 48th South Midland Division where he held the rank of Sergeant when he was wounded at the Somme in 1916. At that time, his left eye was removed and, having regained the sight of his other eye some time later, Mr. Jennings was then transferred to the R.A.F. following its formation in 1918 where he was made an Air Gunner Instructor at No. 1 Observer School until his discharge.

After the First World War, Mr. Jennings was employed by an Estate Agent and ended up managing the business himself until his retirement. Unfortunately, the sight in his good eye then began to deteriorate and having been registered blind in 1970 he did not become a St. Dunstaner until 1974 at his own wish. For his Army service, Mr. Jennings was awarded the M.M. and D.C.M.

He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Mary Tout, and other members of the family.

### Reginald Kearns Royal Tank Regiment

Reginald Kearns of Bristol, died on 15th July, aged 72.

Mr. Kearns was admitted to St. Dunstan's in June 1975 having served as a Sergeant in the Royal Tank Regiment during the Second World War, from the outbreak until his discharge in December 1940.

Our St. Dunstaner had a fine Army record of which he was very proud and was a staunch member of the British Legion. In earlier years, Mr. Kearns had worked in the Potteries and after the War was employed as a Gardener/Chauffeur to well-known Bristol families until 1974 when, unfortunately, he was involved in a street accident which affected his already deteriorating sight and his health generally. His love of gardening and his greenhouse remained his greatest interest following retirement. Mr. Kearns



## In Memory *continued*

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also retained a keen interest in sport, having played football and boxed for the Army during his war service.

He leaves his widow, Mrs. Bessie Louisa Kearns, his three sons and daughter, twelve grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

### **John A. Lee** *Royal Artillery*

John Lee of Bradford died on the 4th August at Ian Fraser House after a short illness.

He enlisted in May 1939 and served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery. He was wounded and taken Prisoner of War in Italy in June, 1942. He became a St. Dunstan in January 1943 and in the April was repatriated, his discharge from the Army following in June that year. After training at Church Stretton, Mr. Lee took up employment as a telephonist in August, 1944 and he followed this occupation until 1962, when he retired. He then devoted his spare time to his garden and greenhouse, which were a great credit to him. Mr. Lee and his family left Yorkshire in 1968 to live for six years on the south coast, where he enjoyed taking part in many local activities, but in March 1976, they returned to Bradford. He became seriously ill after going to Ian Fraser House for a holiday during the latter part of July.

He leaves a widow, Audrey, and five children.

### **Leslie James Mackinnon** *Royal Artillery*

Leslie James Mackinnon of Brighton, died on the 11th August, aged 63.

Our St. Dunstan served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery from his enlistment in November 1939 until his discharge in 1941 and was admitted to St. Dunstan's following his loss of sight while serving with an anti-aircraft unit in North Africa. Prior to Mr. Mackinnon's admission to St. Dunstan's in 1945, and his enlistment in the Army, he had been Branch Manager of a grocery store.

After a period of training in Industry, as well as Braille and Typewriting, Mr. Mackinnon worked as a Capstan Operator until 1974 when he retired and commenced voluntary work for the East Sussex Blind Association paying regular visits to civilian blind in their own homes. Until the end of his life Mr. Mackinnon devoted most of his time to this voluntary work, helping and advising severely disabled people, arranging Christmas parties, and on occasions broadcasting on Radio Brighton to describe the work which his Voluntary Group were doing. Despite his own

indifferent health, our St. Dunstan worked tirelessly for the East Sussex Blind Association and will long be remembered by many civilian blind and disabled people whose causes he championed with an unsurpassed devotion to his work.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Florence Mackinnon.

### **George Benjamin Priest** *Royal Welch Fusiliers*

George Benjamin Priest of Birmingham, died on 22nd July, aged 87.

Mr. Priest enlisted on the 29th October 1907 and served as a Lance Corporal in the Royal Welch Fusiliers. He was wounded in September, 1915, and taken Prisoner of War and left the Army in 1917. He became a St. Dunstan in November 1931. His injuries had caused not only blindness but paralysis which confined him to a wheel chair and because of this, Mr. Priest was unable to follow any hobby occupation but he learned Braille and enjoyed reading this and the Talking Book. He spent holidays with us at Brighton from time to time and in 1954 was particularly pleased to be able to attend the special gathering of Old Contemptibles which was held there.

After the death of his wife, who passed away in December 1962 following a long illness, it meant a great deal to Mr. Priest to be able to remain in his own home where he was cared for with the utmost devotion by his daughter and son-in-law, Joan and Rae Foster, with the help of his two sons, Richard and Stephen. Our St. Dunstan was to be much admired for the courage and patience with which he bore his disabilities for so many years.

### **Joseph Harold Westby** *R.A.F.*

Joseph Harold Westby of Morecambe died in hospital on the 15th August at the age of 63.

Mr. Westby served in the Royal Air Force from October 1946 to June 1949. It was in October 1949 that he came to St. Dunstan's and after completing training with us, he worked in industrial employment for eight years, despite the fact that he did not enjoy the best of health. He then turned to basket making and seating stools as a hobby occupation. Mr. Westby bore his deteriorating health over the years bravely and he looked forward to the holidays he could spend at Brighton.

He leaves a widow, Nora, and three children and their families.