

St Dunstons
REVIEW
DECEMBER

St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

No. 691

DECEMBER 1977

10p MONTHLY

Message from the Chairman

Happiness, peace and prosperity

Once again I am sending you my Christmas message and perhaps in a way it is part of the wonder of this season that year after year men of goodwill repeat the same wish to one another—may you have a happy Christmas and peace and prosperity in the New Year!

My wife and I send our affectionate greetings to all our St. Dunstan's friends, blind and sighted, young and old, at home and abroad.

St. Dunstan's Day, 1977

St. Dunstaners everywhere will remember that two years ago it was decided that we should have an annual private "St. Dunstan's Day", when we would all remember Sir Arthur Pearson and Lord Fraser of Lonsdale in whatever way we each chose.

This year I suggest that the appropriate date, between the anniversaries of their deaths, is Sunday, 11th December.

May "St. Dunstan's Day, 1977" unite us once again in thankful memory of the lives of our two great leaders.

The Rev. F. Darrell Bunt, C.B., O.B.E., M.A.

Just a year ago, I wrote in the *Review* of the retirement from our Council of Mr. Darrell Bunt and now we mourn his death on the 31st October.

He had a long and distinguished career as a Naval Chaplain, holding many appointments before becoming Chaplain of the Fleet; he retired in 1960. He served on St. Dunstan's Council for twenty-five years and I know how much both Lord Fraser and I valued his help and concern. Many St. Dunstaners will remember Mr. Bunt's cheerful friendliness at numerous local Reunions.

On behalf of our Council, St. Dunstaners and staff, my wife and myself, I offer our deepest sympathy to his wife and daughter.

COVER PICTURE: *The Marquess of Exeter presents Colonel Sir Michael Ansell with his Olympic award.*

The Reverend Andrew Nugee, M.A.

St. Dunstaners from both World Wars will be saddened by the news of the death of Andrew Nugee. He served his fellow men in various parishes with kindness and understanding for more than 55 years and, in particular, he was our Chaplain during the wartime years at Church Stretton. By his personal example as the finest type of St. Dunstaner and his wise guidance as our 'Padre', he made a great contribution to the rehabilitation of the new generation of blinded men and women, which St. Dunstan's will never forget.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dufton and Miss Pam Barnard represented the Council, St. Dunstaners and staff at the beautiful funeral service in Lechlade Church.

To Andrew's widow, Zeala, and other members of his family we offer our deepest sympathy at this time—we share their sense of loss.

Jon Earnest-Dune

Greetings from Lady Fraser

I am so hoping my St. Dunstan's friends are going to have a very happy Christmas and good luck in the New Year.

I send my love and very best wishes to you all.

With warmest thoughts and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

PAT COLLINS

MR. PETER MATTHEWS

I have received several contributions from St. Dunstaners who have requested the opening of a fund from which to make a Presentation to Mr. Matthews upon his retirement at the end of the year. I am very pleased to act as Honorary Treasurer to the Fund and St. Dunstaners who wish to contribute should send their cheques or postal orders, made payable to St. Dunstan's, to me at 191 Old Marylebone Road, London NW1 5QN, by 21st December, 1977

C. D. WILLS

Christmas Entertainments at Ian Fraser House

Local St. Dunstaners, their wives and escorts, are warmly invited to join us for the following entertainments:

Friday, 23rd December

7.30 p.m. in the Winter Garden, Mr. Tom Eales presents 'Stereo Mixture'.

Saturday, 24th December, Christmas Eve

7.30 on stage in the Lounge, the Merry-makers Concert Party from Crawley.

Sunday, 25th December, Christmas Day

9.30 a.m. in the Chapel—Carol Service.

7.45 p.m. in the Lounge—Alan Ayckbourn's comedy, 'Relatively Speaking', presented by Commandant and members of the staff.

Monday, 26th December, Boxing Day

8-11 p.m. Dance in the Lounge, with buffet, bar and Tombola.

Saturday, 31st December

8 p.m.-12.15 a.m.—New Year Fancy Dress Dance. Prizes to be presented following Fancy Dress Parade at 8.30 p.m. Bar and buffet.

Sunday, 1st January

7.30 p.m. in the Lounge—Concert given by the Rendale Entertainers.



V.I.P.'s of the Olympic and equestrian world congratulate Colonel Sir Michael Ansell.

Olympic Silver Award

The London Hilton Hotel, along with the rest of Park Lane, was plunged into gloom by a power cut on November 2nd, when a distinguished company gathered there for the presentation of an Olympic Award to Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L., our President. However, he enjoyed the situation, joking that he was the only member of the gathering unaffected by the actions of the power workers.

Fortunately the lights came on before the presentation was made by the Marquess of Exeter, K.C.M.G., LL.D., International Olympic Committee Member to Great Britain. Lord Exeter spoke of the great contributions made by Sir Michael to British equestrianism and to the Olympic movement since the Second World War, referring to "his drive, punch and organising ability".

The Olympic Games, he said, were the tip of an iceberg, a human iceberg which began with all those athletes who took part at village level for the love of sport. He could think of no better example of this love of sport than Sir Michael and no-one better fitted to receive the award of the Silver Medal.

In expressing his thanks, Sir Michael referred to Lord Exeter's own feats as an athlete including eight British Championships, three gold medals in the Empire

Games of 1930 and an Olympic Gold Medal in 1928.

He also reminded his audience of Lord Exeter's contribution as an administrator, especially during the London Olympics in 1948, when he persuaded Sir Michael that it was possible to lay out the equestrian course, including digging the ditches, overnight. Sir Michael said that, in all awards, the recipient was the figurehead who owed much to the team behind him and he was particularly conscious of this in accepting the Olympic Award, "It will be my most prized possession", he concluded.

Sir Michael's sister, Mrs. Williams and his daughter, Mrs. Sarah Evans, were with him and St. Dunstan's was represented by our Chairman, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme.

Mr. Dennis Follows, Chairman of the British Olympic Association, His Grace the Duke of Beaufort, K.G., P.C., G.C.V.O., Master of the Horse, were present and other guests included the Rt. Hon. Dennis Howell, P.C., M.P., Minister of State for Sport, Major General J. R. Reynolds, Director-General, British Equestrian Federation, and medal winning riders: Captain Mark Phillips, Mr. Wilf White, Mr. Richard Meade, Mrs. Jane Holderness Roddan (née Bullen) and Miss Mary Gordon Watson.

THE LATE DR. F. LE GROS CLARK

A Memorial meeting to the late Dr. Le Gros Clark was held at Cambridge on Saturday, 5th November, when a large number of associates and friends met at the School of Pythagoras, St. John's College.

The Chairman, Dr. Wooster, reviewed the life and achievements of Dr. Le Gros Clark paying his own tribute before introducing a number of speakers who came from widely differing fields—sociology, nutrition and education. Others spoke of Dr. Le Gros Clark's concern about implications of the rapid advancement of scientific knowledge both in the pre-War and post-War eras—an insatiable curiosity about topics which seemed remote from his cardinal interests had no doubt widened his horizons.

As the meeting progressed, with speakers telling their individual stories, a picture built up of a man who had evolved ways of acquiring, retaining and recalling a vast amount of information including the statistical data essential in his particular subject. It also became apparent that either by example or encouragement, Dr. Le Gros Clark had greatly influenced the outlook of a significant number of people with whom he had associated throughout a very long working life and a thread of "kindness to others" linked all the tributes. Finally there were short readings from his book "Blinded in War" commissioned by St. Dunstan's in the '60's. The quotations revealed a philosophy, an approach to blindness and a self imposed discipline that had undoubtedly been a major influence in a lifetime of endeavour in the service of his fellow men.

RICHARD DUFTON

THE LATE REVEREND F. DARRELL BUNT

It is with deep regret that we report the death on October 31st of the Rev. F. Darrell Bunt, C.B., O.B.E., M.A., at the age of 75.

In his person, the Church of England and the Royal Navy were represented on St. Dunstan's Council, as a great part of his life was spent at sea as a Chaplain in the Royal Navy. During the Second World

War he served in H.M.S. Pembroke and H.M.S. Duke of York. His naval service culminated in his appointment, in 1956, as Chaplain of the Fleet and Archdeacon of the Royal Navy, a post he held for four years.

He was also Honorary Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen from 1952 to 1960 and in the Birthday Honours list of 1958 he was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath (C.B.) He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1950.

At the funeral held on Friday, November 4th at Milford Parish Church, General Sir Richard Goodbody, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., represented St. Dunstan's Council and Mr. G. P. Owens, our former Industrial Superintendent, represented St. Dunstaners.

Miss Nancy Feaver—Pearson House

Miss Feaver retired on 31st October, after 25 years service with us.

Since Pearson House re-opened she has been Assistant Matron there and before that was Lounge Sister at Ovingdean.

All St. Dunstaners who met her will remember her gentleness of manner, her impartiality and dedication to being of maximum help.

The generous donations from St. Dunstaners at both Homes have enabled Miss Feaver to choose a Rolex watch as their gift. She has chosen various household equipment and gadgets as her gift from the Staff of both the Brighton Homes and Headquarters. We all wish her many happy years of retirement.

Owner required for lost pair of gloves

A pair of gentleman's leather gloves was found on the coach returning from the Remembrance Sunday Parade. The owner should contact Mr. E. V. Stevens at Headquarters.

Due to the Christmas break, we will be going to press early in December for the January Review. We would be very grateful, therefore, if contributors could send their articles to us by 10th December at the latest.

EDITOR

TO TOUCH A STONE

Bernard Mason
Interviewed by Ray Hazan

"To touch a stone with the fullness of sense, with the knowing mind alive in the fingers, is to go back where all deep beginnings were, to feel the flames and floods that brought the earth, and know that hand is one with all that was". Roland English Hartley. A saying brought alive in the hands of Bernie Mason, for working with semi-precious stones is his hobby. "I feel it's something for the whole family", he said, "and a hobby well within the grasp of many retiring St. Dunstaners, especially if they are used to working with machine tools".

It all started about two years ago when Bernie was on holiday at Highcliff. He was feeling around in a pool when he felt another hand on a similar errand. It turned out to be another blind person. They started discussing pebbles; their smoothness and the time the seas had taken to pound them into that form. Bernie was fascinated by the idea of imitating the forces of nature. In true British style, it was raining the next day, so Bernie and his wife, Vera, visited a shop selling ornaments and jewellery and got into conversation with the owners, and now very close friends, Don and Barbara. "We only went in for a few minutes, but it lasted all day".

Bernie's first foray into the hobby was made with the use of plate glass and varying grades of grit. He had the stones cut in half and, using the glass as a polishing surface, the grit would act as an abrasive, rubbing the stone down until it felt as smooth as a mirror. The cutting of the stone would thus expose the miracles of nature. The Mexican Geode, for example, is a rock which during its formation some two to three hundred miles below the surface of the earth,



Bernard Mason with his lapidary collection in its illuminated display cabinet.

encapsulated a drop of water. Under the intense pressure, this forms a crystal-lined hollow inside the stone. Mount this on a wood block, and you have an attractively visual and tactile ornament.

Having satisfied himself that this hobby was feasible, Bernard approached St. Dunstan's with a view to setting up a workshop containing some time-saving machinery. "I first asked for a small saw. It was costing me 10p per square inch of stone cut. They turned up with this enormous one and I was well away." "This enormous one" is a circular saw about 12inch in diameter, with a diamond-coated cutting surface—you trifle with neither cutting edge nor price with this saw!

There are assortments of grinders which include a tumbler. This is a revolving drum in which stones are rotated with grit. This produces a rounded, polished surface. A high speed drill with tungsten-

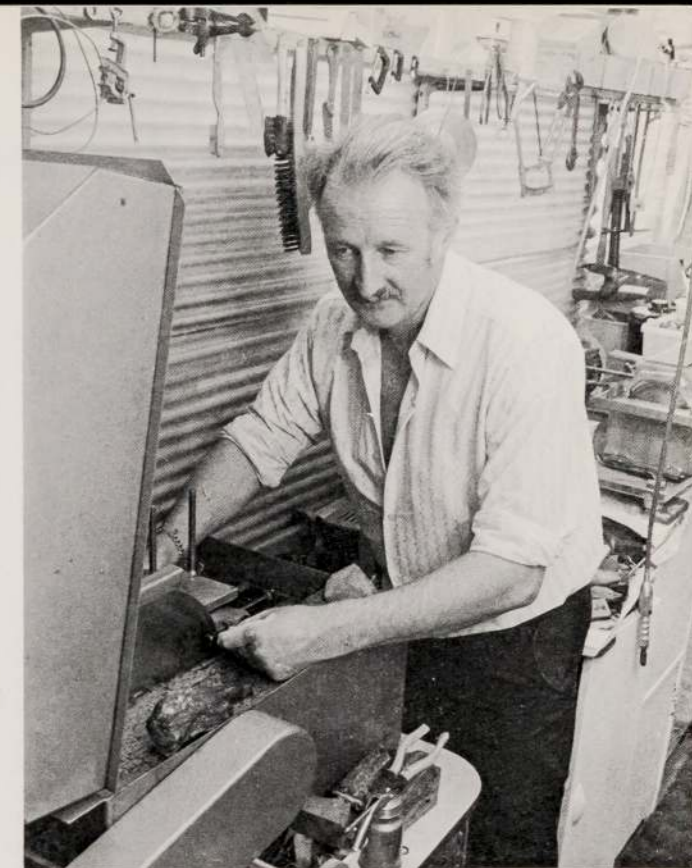
tipped bits completes the main items of equipment. It might sound a frightening host of hardware, but most are standard machines needing little adaptation and, depending on the aims to be achieved, not all are essential.

"I am very keen to suggest this as a hobby for St. Dunstaners, as the whole family can join in." Firstly, there is obviously a lot of reading up to do. The central theme of geology can lead into off-shoots such as archaeology. Bernie, himself, has a fossil which has been dated by a museum as being between three to four hundred million years old. Now, a walk along the beach or in the country can suddenly become a fascinating search. When it comes to setting the stones, Bernie's wife, Vera, has now become expert. We were shown examples of marble paper-weights, thermometers mounted on 'slices' of cut stone, rings, bracelets and pendants.

Cutting stones can be far more involved than working with metal. Firstly, a suitable line along which to cut has to be selected, primarily by feel. It then has to be clamped, bearing in mind the irregular form of a stone. The hardness of the rock determines the speed of the saw and the time it takes to feed the stone through. The objects must be kept cool and fingers at a distance. The tricky business of holding a small gem to the grinding surface without damaging your finger is solved by applying wax to the gem, which is then mounted on a little stick. The shapes that can be obtained are infinite if you have skill, knowledge, and above all, a sense of touch.

The next hurdle to be attempted is that of cutting facets. These are the surfaces on jewels, such as diamonds, which make them sparkle. This demands accurate work with a micrometer and infinite patience.

When not in his workshop, Bernie may be found in any of three gardens belonging to him or his neighbours. Previous work as a nurseryman has come in useful. While we were talking, there was the constant chatter of birds, Bernie's other hobby. At the foot of the garden there is an aviary, where amongst other species there is a pair of chinese quail and a nest of breeding canaries. "I wanted to be kept occupied". You're right there, Bernie. The thrill of two birds with one stone!



Using a diamond tipped saw.

This high speed drill is controlled by means of a foot pedal.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Phillip Wood, Crewe

Dear Sir,

May I say how very much I enjoyed Ray Hazan's article 'Track One Begins Immediately'. I thought it a fine piece of objective reporting which gave with clarity and simplicity an all-round picture of what goes on behind the scenes of a Talking Book recording studio. I have long wanted to know just how a cassette is actually made and I am very grateful to Ray for enlightening me.

Perhaps it would not be inappropriate here to pay tribute to those gifted men and women who so marvellously breathe life into the cold black and white of the printed word—the readers. It is their dedicated skill which elevates the mediocre to acceptable level, gives gloss and elegance to the mere 'good read', and an extra touch of magic to the classics.

If I might borrow from the same Bacon essay from which Ray took his quotation '... Books are not absolutely dead things, but do contain a certain potency of life in them ...'

Thanks to those splendid people, the readers, that 'potency of life' is ours at the turn of a switch.

From: Paul Baker, Sidmouth

Like many, I was much interested in the article on the Talking Book Library. I have little doubt that others were too, but do we all agree with its findings? A question which, I wonder, might be worth an answer from us all.

For my part, I am now down to one book per time and this means ten days to a fortnight whilst awaiting a replacement. I seldom, if ever, use weekend posting.

I suppose, like many, I have made suggestions for titles. I would like to know more about how the selection is made. I rather agree that popular books, or 'in' books, at any time may soon go out, but I would like more books which, although not necessarily serious, give me something to talk to people about or discuss. After all, to a blind person, the media is, in the main, the verbal inter-

course and flow of information from other sources.

I would prefer the old system of telling me what number of tracks per book and not its number, which is meaningless, so that I know when I am nearing the end.

As our Library seems anxious to help us, I think we should help them by feeding in any suggestions. I do find an awful lot of over-tracking, either one over three, or two going backwards as I read three, and wonder if there are not too many tracks per cassette in use.

I think this kind of article is useful. Maybe others might follow on items of the blind, for, as in many walks of life, those actually concerned are seldom asked their opinions or consulted.

Don Roskilly, Director of the Talking Book, Service replies to Paul Baker's letter:

1. This is at Mr. Baker's own request. As recently as March this year, the librarian informed him that she had sent him a second book to allow for delays due to volume of traffic. With a minimum cycle of six working days, four postal, two library, insistence on one at a time would mean gaps in reading.

2. The description in the article of the selection process is factual, with the exception of a missing '0' in the number of books published every year (this should read 30,000 and not 3,000) and very little can be added. Suggestions from members are welcomed but we can make no promises as to whether they will be approved by the Selection Committee. Please can they be put through the proper channels, that is via the librarian, not the author or publisher.

3. Due to the limited capacity, thirty-three cells, of the Braille labelling machine, we had to drop the indication of the number of tracks when requested to add the catalogue number by organisations representing the blind. But when the new machine, with a capacity of up to 100 cells, is available, we shall be able to give this information.

4. This indicates a machine in need of playback head adjustment. Your servicing volunteer should be informed. But if any cassette shows this fault, while others play satisfactorily, the suspect one should be returned to the library with a large cross on the member's side of the address label and the letter 'R' if you wish it to be re-instated on your selection list. It will then be checked and withdrawn if the fault is confirmed. With over 100,000 cassette copies produced a year, the odd faulty recording slipping through our net is only to be expected.

General Comments:

a. Since the article was written, a survey of the period April—September this year has shown that the average weekly increase in enrolment is 29 new members, rather than 13 as stated in the article.

b. To amplify the point about narrow tracks—8 tracks are recorded onto a 1" master studio tape, which is then transferred to the $\frac{1}{4}$ " tape of the cassette copy.

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.

Patrick Armstrong of Liverpool, who joined St. Dunstan's on 27th October. Mr. Armstrong served with the Royal Air Force as a Senior Aircraftman during the Second World War and is married with two adult sons and one adult daughter.

Albert Waddington of Burnley, who joined St. Dunstan's on 17th October. Mr. Waddington served with the Royal Artillery as a Gunner during the Second

Editor's note

The impression may have been gained from the article in the October Review that the Talking Book Service was an independent body. It is, of course, administered by the R.N.I.B.

From George Fallowfield, Worthing

We publish an extract from George Fallowfield's letter with his permission and would be happy to receive comments.

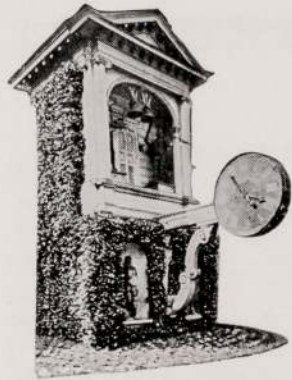
... What we need is some humorous books in Braille. I asked a deaf-blind friend if he knew the title of any humorous books and he replied that all he was sent from the Library was 'Horror', as if our lives are not horrid enough! ... We need another P. G. Wodehouse and W. W. Jacobs to put a spot of laughter into old lives. Other people have got radio and telly and so they have no time to spare to think of the deaf-blind. We are right back on memories all the time.

World War. He is married with one adult daughter.

Clarence Stalham of Doncaster, who joined St. Dunstan's on 12th October. Mr. Stalham served with the Manchester Regiment as a Private and then the Royal Artillery as a Bombardier during the Second World War. He is married.

James William Metcalf of Torquay, who joined St. Dunstan's on 12th October. Mr. Metcalf served as a Leading Airman (Met. Observer) with the Fleet Air Arm from 1965 until his discharge in January, 1974. He is 28 years old and is married with two young daughters.

George Lewis Rees of Cwmavon, who joined St. Dunstan's on 11th October. Mr. Rees served as a Private with the Welch Regiment during the First World War. He is married with two adult daughters.



IT STRIKES ME

by Magog

Sisters in the Swim

Vi Delaney and her sister, Rene, have qualified for the Amateur Swimming Association's Supreme Gold Award for distance swimming. This involves swimming a million yards in five years. Vi and Rene swam that distance, 568 miles, in three years, in daily sessions of a mile or a mile and a quarter, at their local swimming pool in Liverpool.

They were invited to the Championships at the Derby Swimming Pool, Blackpool, by the President and Chairman of the A.S.A. "In the interval, the Chairman announced that they were

going to make a special presentation. We felt embarrassed standing there, two old crocks amongst all those swimmers," said Vi, "They all started cheering and that made us feel worse. At the end of the session they had the Victory March and Rene and I were asked to present the awards to the finalists."

Well done, Vi, you must be fit. A million yards represents a lot of water flowing under the bridge in just three years.

South Africa's Oldest St. Dunstaner

Someone who was highly delighted with his Silver Jubilee bowl and crown was 76 year old Mr. James Auld.

Mr. Auld was blinded on the Somme in 1917 and went out to South Africa in 1931 as a painting contractor. He now lives at the John Edward Palmer Hostel for the Blind, at Sherwood. "The clock I received from St. Dunstan's in 1962 is on a bracket made by my son Jimmy, on the wall of my room in the hostel. The clock is in perfect condition and keeps excellent time. It is not touched by anybody but me and is wound up faithfully every Sunday afternoon. It is a constant reminder of my happy association with St. Dunstan's. The folk at St. Dunstan's, South Africa, have always been exceedingly good to me; I feel I cannot express sufficient gratitude for their solicitude and kindness to me at all times; it is greatly appreciated."

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Vi and Rene at the presentation (below).



St. Dunstan's Oldest Typing Trainee

George Farrant, 82, who lives in Eastbourne, has become St. Dunstan's oldest typing trainee. He was a Gunner with the Royal Field Artillery and served throughout the First World War. He suffered a leg wound and his eyes were damaged during a mustard gas attack. At Ian Fraser House he undertook a hobby course, but it was in the typing room that he surprised his teacher, Mrs. Carol Locke.

"My son told me he thought I would not be able to do it, so I was determined to succeed", George told me. He learned in record time and at the Public Open Days at the Training Centre, some of his work was proudly displayed for visitors to admire.

It was war-time experience in signalling and telegraphy that helped him, George says, "I found that quite an asset learning typewriting and memorising the keyboard".

Mrs. Locke said, "He learned in about six weeks all told, and took about two weeks, which is the average, to learn the alphabet. At the age of 82, that is very good and we are very proud of him . . ."



George Farrant with Mrs. Locke.

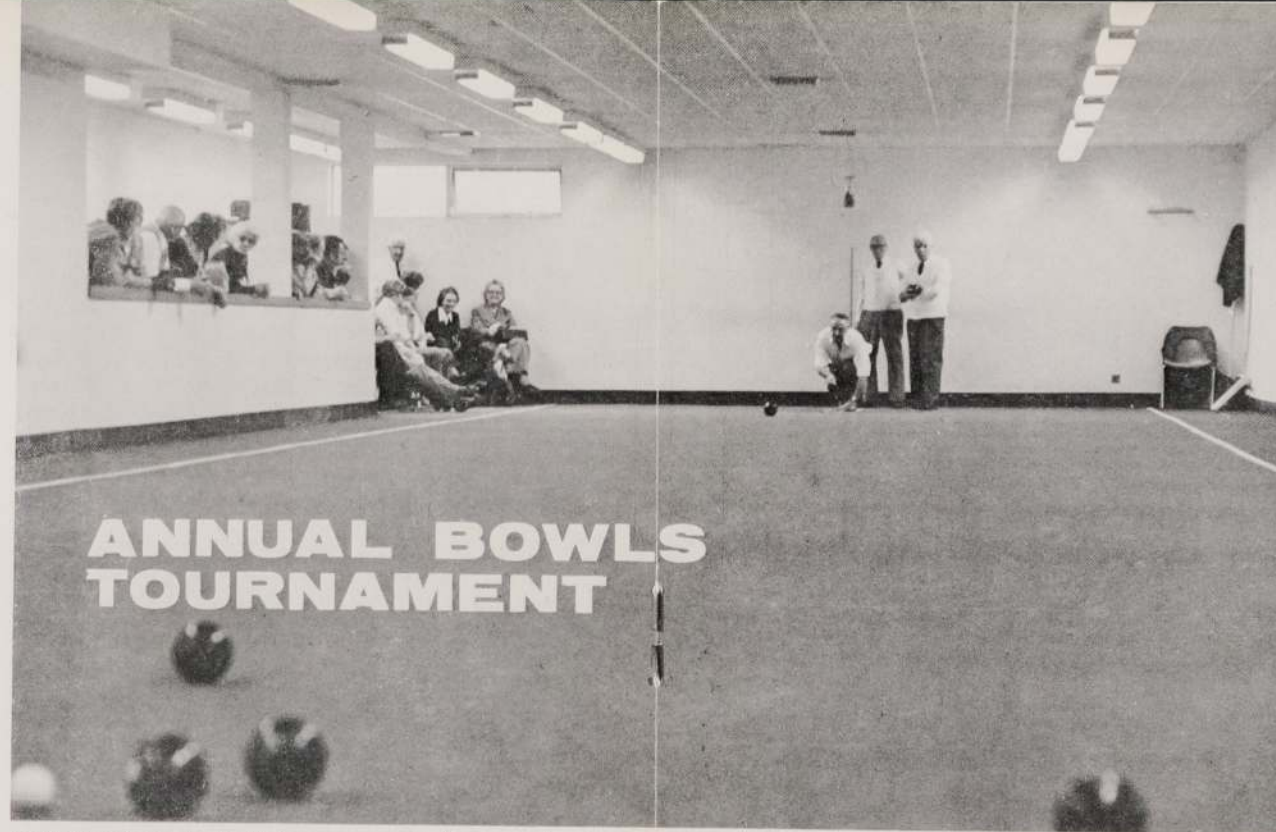
James Auld (below).



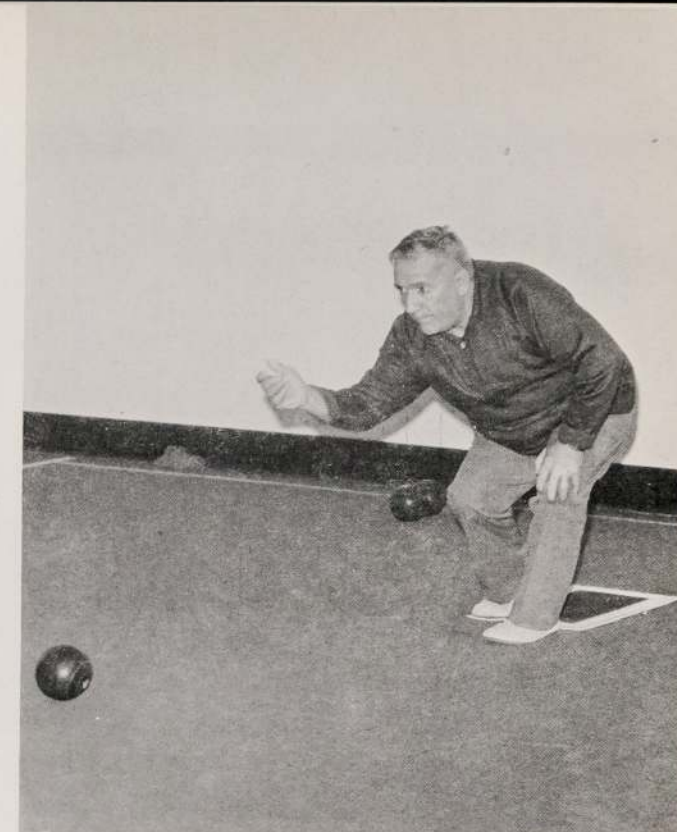


Bowling from her wheelchair, Margaret Stanway, with Jim O'Donnell reached the semi-final

Commandant presents Ted Frearson with his singles trophy.



The Class 'A' singles final is in progress as Ted Frearson bowls against Eddie Quinn.



Ike Pellington, winner of the class 'B' singles, in action during his final.

Bob Forshaw and George Hudson receive their trophies from Jack Boorman.



The third Annual Bowls Tournament was held at Ian Fraser House indoor bowling green from 31st October to 4th November. There were 32 entries in all, some excellent bowling was seen and enjoyed by many spectators.

Since this tournament started three years ago, the bowlers have really got down to it and the standard is now very high. One feels that now our blind bowlers could hold their own against sighted opposition.

Results of final rounds:

Class A Singles

Semi-finals			
Frearson	10	Preedy	4
Quinn	8	Osborne	3
Final			
Frearson	11	Quinn	2

Class A Pairs

Semi-finals			
Osborne and Stubbs	3	Preedy and Griffiths	2
Cope and Frearson	9	O'Donnell and Stanway	3
Final			
Osborne and Stubbs	5	Cope and Frearson	2

The tournament was organised by Jock Carnochan and to Jock and his helpers, Bert, Fred and Bill, we say a big thank you. At the conclusion, prizes were presented to the winners of 'A' section by Commandant Fawcett and to 'B' section by Jack Boorman, last year's champion.

Thanks were extended to all the helpers by the Commandant. The week was voted a great success by all concerned and we are looking forward to the next tournament.

Class B Singles

Semi-finals			
Forshaw	10	Davies	8
Pellington	13	Palmer	1
Final			
Pellington	9	Forshaw	4

Class B Pairs

Semi-finals			
Carter and Davies	4	Scales and Kirk	2
Forshaw and Hudson	3	Hodgson and Pellington	2
Final			
Forshaw and Hudson	3	Carter and Davies	2

JACK BOORMAN



Vi Delaney second from left, and Charles Hague, fourth from right, with the Merseyside group in Belgium.

MONS WELCOMES MERSEYSIDE BLIND

The City of Mons in Belgium, famous from the 1914 war, has been the twin town of Bootle since 1964. The Mons Authority was kind enough to offer hospitality to a party of blind persons from Merseyside for a week's holiday this September.

Accordingly, the Merseyside branch of the National Federation got together a party of ten persons to visit Mons, including St. Dunstaners, Vi Delaney and myself.

Setting out at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 16th, we travelled by train and boat, arriving at Mons at 9 a.m. on the Saturday.

Our thanks are due to British Rail for their efficient special travel arrangement. At each change point assistance was available to transfer us and our luggage to reserved seats. Even at Ostend our luggage was taken off the boat for us and the Belgian police were waiting to escort the party to the train for Brussels. And even there, they knew in advance about us because porters were waiting to take our luggage and guide us to the correct platform for Mons.

At Mons we were met by Monsieur Albert Langue, Chef du Cabinet du Bourgmestre and Secrétaire Communal adjoint. He had a private coach waiting to take us to a Sporting Centre, where we were to be accommodated for the week.

This is a residential establishment where students are taught aquatic sports; yachting, sailing, swimming, water skiing, etc., alongside a large lake with the most beautiful scenery in the background. This spotlessly clean establishment was situated about two miles from the centre of Mons.

Although we had been travelling all night, we did not feel tired at all (the helpful assistance on the journey must have worked wonders). This was fortunate, because at 10.15 a.m. the coach returned to escort us to the Hotel de Ville for an official reception. This was held in the Bourgmestre's private room and the leading Aldermen and Officials of the town were present to welcome us. During the speeches of welcome, the 'wine of honour' was served to us by white gloved attendants. We also had the honour to meet Madame la Comtesse Gaston

d'Oultremont and Madame Haurez, the Vice President and Director, respectively, of Les Amis des Aveugles, a non-profit making organisation to help the blind, which was founded in 1885. Both these ladies were most kind and sympathetic to us and they both spoke English very fluently.

I was fortunate in having as my personal escort Fred Lacey of Bootle, the former Public Relations Officer of the Bootle Council, who had been instrumental in arranging the original twinning of Bootle and Mons in September, 1964.

A full programme had been arranged by Mons for each day of our visit and every morning at 9 a.m., or earlier, the coach would arrive to take us to various places of interest. The programme included a guided tour of Mons with an English speaking hostess, a trip to the battlefields of Waterloo, a full day's shopping excursion in Brussels and a visit to various chateaux situated in the countryside near to Mons.

Workshops for the Blind

One of the most interesting days was when we visited the Workshops for the Blind the ophthalmic hospital and the homes for the elderly blind. Here, we met a resident of over 95 years, who welcomed us to her private room by singing a song of great length in French. Every time we prepared to clap her wonderful effort, she would start on yet another verse. At this beautiful home, we sat down to a most pleasant lunch, complete with wines. We were then taken to the training ground for guide dogs and I was the first to volunteer to have a go with one of the dogs over a long and difficult obstacle course. It was strange for me to have to give the dog its instructions in French but I managed quite well. This was yet another memorable experience for me.

Hitler's Bunker

The Comtesse Gaston d'Oultremont was most kind and sympathetic and generously invited all our party, together with some local blind people, to her beautiful home for a grand lunch. After lunch, we were taken to a very interesting location on her estate, known as Bruly de Pesche. Here, we examined Hitler's

private bunker deep in the forest, where he directed operations at the time of the capitulation of France. The Comtesse spent all day looking after us and after 4 p.m. tea and biscuits, she kindly gave each of the party two souvenirs, engraved 'Bruly de Pesche', to take home as a permanent memory of our visit.

On the last day, we had a further official reception at the Hotel de Ville when the welcoming official party was joined by Alderman Jacques Hamaide, the President of the Council of Tourism and the Mons Twinning Committee, who had just arrived back from Chicago.

Gastronomic Feast

After the reception, we were taken to one of the most famous restaurants in Belgium, the Restaurant Devos, a family concern established in 1879. Next year will be their centenary of serving superlative meals. Naturally, we all enjoyed this gastronomic feast, complete with various wines and ending with coffee and cognac or liqueurs. Many speeches were made to the effect that they hoped we had enjoyed our visit and looked forward to seeing us again next year!

The journey home, again by night boat, was very pleasant and once again the utmost courtesy and assistance was given us at all points of change. It was less trouble than for me to catch the bus to work. The police at Folkestone were especially helpful and sympathetic to us.

Wonderful Welcome

With my service in the Royal Navy, I have visited most parts of the world but I cannot recollect being made so welcome anywhere as I was by the good people of Mons. Of all the marvellous days we enjoyed so much there was one thing that remains to me more wonderful than anything. When total strangers come up to you in the street and, shaking your hand, say, "Thank you for giving us your eyes" it is difficult to remain unmoved. Even I, a hardy old sailor, felt a lump in my throat. Thank you Mons... after so many years, you have once again made me feel proud to have served. I shall never forget your many kindnesses to a blind man.

CHARLIE HAGUE

THE CENOTAPH PARADE SUNDAY, 13th NOVEMBER, 1977

by Joyce and Robert Pringle

This year the weather was very kind to us again for it was a bright, if rather cold, day. Traditionally, we gather at the clubroom in headquarters where we are greeted by Mr. Stevens. Ian and Nancy Dickson and Marion Douglas had their work cut out giving out cups of tea to such a large gathering. Soon the time came for us to get into the coaches and go off to Wellington Barracks.

At the march past once again our contingent, headed by Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, received a great deal of applause.

It was cold on the parade and we were glad to be back in the coaches. On we went to the Great Western Royal Hotel at Paddington where we were received by the Chairman.

A few of the people we got time to have a brief word with were Mr. W. B. Riley, formerly of South Africa, who is now living in Brighton. George Coote who is a permanent resident at Pearson House was delighted to be present and was escorted by V.A.D. Miss B. Griffiths. Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Headland came from Shepherds Bush. He may be known to you as a keen bowls player.

Bill and Alice Griffiths were a welcome addition to our number and both looked very fit.

We had two Millers (Aubrey and Billie), Tom Hart and Mike Tetley, Ernie Jenson among the younger element. Setting an example of what clean living can do for a young St. Dunstan we had Ernie Carpenter, Les Douglass, Bob Young and Charlie Hancock, all stalwart First World War marchers.

From H.M.S. Daedalus came George Gillow, Bill Reed and John Scott.

Loyal Toast

The noise of conversation was just getting to a phenomenal rate on the decibel scale when lunch was announced. The meal was the usual excellent one provided by the hotel. At its conclusion Mr. Garnett-Orme rose to propose the Loyal Toast and we gave a really full-throated rendering of God Save the Queen.

Mr. Garnett-Orme's address followed:

"It is good to see so many of you here today. We were 51 St. Dunstan's on the Parade which is more than for some years and I welcome you all and your wives and escorts and especially those of you who have come long journeys from Scotland, Wales and the North of England to be with us.

Lady Fraser sends you her love and best wishes and is very sad that she cannot be with us.

One of the features of Armistice Day has always been the 'Two Minutes Silence'.

Noise has, unfortunately, become more and more part of every day life. We have the noise of traffic all around us in cities and towns and often in villages and country roads. We have the noise—I am afraid it is some times very little more than that—of radio and television. We have machines in factories, telephones and typewriters in offices, and aircraft overhead.

Two Minutes Silence

But on Armistice Sunday we pause and for two minutes there is silence. We are quiet with all our comrades around us and the remembered presence of so many from the past. Our hearts and minds turn to something beyond the daily round and petty worries. We forget our demands or arguments and perhaps as we remember those who have passed on we may also remember how often the seemingly impossible was accomplished. We may think, too, how much could be achieved now if only we had a common unity of purpose and all of us pulled together.

You St. Dunstan's have given your sight and some of you your limbs for your country, and now, as one big family you can still give valuable help by influencing younger generations, through your example, to put our country first and themselves second.

Surely we are all the better for that two minutes silence.

I know you would all like to join me in thanking Miss Bridger for organising everything for us today and Mr. Stevens and all our escorts for marching with us."

I give you the toast of St. Dunstan's."

The Chairman then called upon David Bell to speak. He began by sending our

love and best wishes to Lady Fraser. "It is fitting that on Armistice Day she is naturally in our thoughts.

I would like to take this opportunity of making a few reflections of my own recollections concerning Armistice Day. I think of the words of the poem by Colonel McCrae.

"To you from failing hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep though poppies
grow in Flanders fields"

and again, At Kohima, it is written up "We gave up our todays that you who follow on may have tomorrow".

"Stupidity of War"

I give our thanks to Mr. Stevens, keeper of the Privy Purse and O.C. Parade. Our presence on the march today will have served a useful purpose if only the people in authority will take note of the stupidity and horror of war.

I would like to thank the staff of St. Dunstan's and the management of the hotel, the escorts and wives who polished our Naafi milk bottle tops, polished

our eyes and got us on parade on time.

Incidentally, our very large body of men today included a wheel-chair on the parade, directed by Fred Galloway with John Scott providing the motive power". David also mentioned "Bill Harris, M.B.E., our oldest escort, and Bob Young, our only Boer War Veteran."

The Chairman thanked David and threw the meeting to the floor. Bill Harris rose to say, "Mr. Chairman, I should like to say a few words on behalf of the escorts. I have a feeling of sincere pride coupled with privilege to be part of the great body of men of St. Dunstan's. What a pleasure it was to be marching along this year in fairly good step, to the tune of the old songs that won the war and I know the escorts here will echo these sentiments. Thank you for the excellent meal and the hospitality this afternoon".

Mr. Smith rose to say that he would like to thank the Royal Military Police, the Department of Environment, and the Parks Police for what they did towards making today possible.

There followed general private conversation and another afternoon drew to its conclusion.

International Congress of the War Blinded

5th & 6th OCTOBER, 1977, IN BAD BERLEBURG

by Richard Dufton

Delegates from 10 countries representing 13,000 war-blinded attended the 4th International Conference at Bad Berleburg, West Germany, on 5th and 6th October, 1977.

The gathering was held at one of the West German Association for the War-Blinded's Holiday Homes at a small health resort with wooded slopes rising to 2,500 ft. within a short distance of the building.

Delegates were welcomed by Dr. Sonntag, the Conference Chairman, and the proceedings were opened by Princess Margareta of Denmark who lives in a medieval castle nearby. A local Mayor and representatives of the Government Departments of Employment and of Social Affairs also attended the opening.

The agenda included economic, social and welfare aspects affecting the war-blinded in member countries and the provisions made for rehabilitation and training, holidays, recreation, transport and hobbies.

A session was devoted to the status of the war-blinded in their respective countries—their achievements and range of interests were discussed. The U.K. report referred to the promotional flair of Sir Arthur Pearson, Founder of St. Dunstan's, and also the great example of leadership by Lord Fraser, his successor, over half a century ago. A forward looking attitude to employment in new areas, and a professional approach to public relations in its widest aspects had combined to keep the name of St. Dunstan's and

St. Dunstaners before the public and meeting them on equal terms.

Delegates reported on new aids and apparatus and discussion was further stimulated as a result of a comprehensive exhibition of standard and advanced aids specially set up for the Conference. The advanced aids, which had been researched and production engineered in West Germany, are intended to expand employment opportunities in a changing industrial and commercial scene.

Towards the end of the Conference, Dr. Sonntag was elected President of the Congress for the next three years with M. Van Dyck of Belgium acting Vice-President.

Dr. Sonntag paid tribute to Lord Fraser's work and the encouragement he had given to blind people everywhere. He also spoke with regret about the late Lieutenant Commander Robin Buckley, G.M., who had succeeded Lord Fraser as President of the Congress at the end of 1974—he had visited West Germany earlier in the year during the planning stage of the present Conference.

A special stamp was issued to mark the Conference—it was on sale at the centre and there were franking facilities.

The Conference ended with delegates expressing appreciation for the generous hospitality at such a well appointed centre and also for the excellent organisation which included simultaneous translation.

On the final night all were invited by Princess Margareta to dine at the Castle Berleburg—a Reception followed by candlelit dinner, and a charming hostess made a memorable finale to the 4th Congress.

St. Dunstan's was represented by Mr. C. D. Wills and Mr. Richard Dufton.

OVINGDEAN NOTES

We remembered! We said "White Rabbits" before dawn on October 1st! And much good it did us; the gas and electric bills plopped on to the mat, the needle on the bathroom scales lurched sickeningly over to the right, "Ernie" continued to spill out the wrong numbers . . . But the St. Luke's Summer was

Insurance Cover on Homes and Contents

After reading the notice on the above subject in the November *Review*, it would seem to be possible that a doubt may have been raised in the minds of those St. Dunstan's tenants who hold Contents Policies, as to whether or not the St. Dunstan's Block Policies with the Sun Alliance in respect of the properties, would cover such a situation as specified, i.e. a slate becoming dislodged from the roof and causing injury to a third party. In fact the Block Policies do cover all risks of that description which relate specifically to defects in the structure itself.

On the other hand a St. Dunstan's Contents Policy covers risks which are purely the tenant's/occupier's responsibility.

Rate Rebates and Rent Allowances

On several occasions in the past attention has been drawn to the fact that *all* tenants of residential property are entitled to make application to their local authorities both for rate rebates and for rent allowances. The Estate Department will be pleased to give advice and help to any St. Dunstaner tenant who has not yet submitted such an application.

P. MATTHEWS
Estate Manager

Silver Jubilee Bowls

For those 300 St. Dunstaners who have not yet received their Silver Jubilee bowls, we can now give the manufacturer's assurance that they should be delivered by the middle of December.

lovely, so we had our compensations.

The first few days of the month were most happily spent with the "Muffies", an account of whose gallivanting during their Reunion was given by Ron Ellis in the November *Review*. We always enjoy their good company and sense of fun—it was a most cheerful weekend.

Our French Conversation sessions have taken a step forward—we now have a teacher, Miss Pat Finneran, coming each Monday and Wednesday afternoon, and with her help, we are "Discovering French". We hope that all St. Dunstaners in the House, from those who know no French, to those who wish to extend their vocabulary, will join the meetings. However, to those readers who took seriously our joking remark about "A-level French", we hasten to say that informality is the keynote of the sessions.

Radio Hams

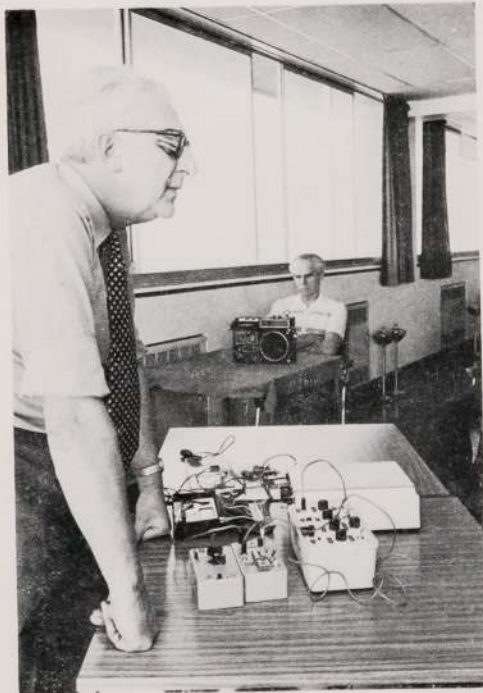
The Radio Hams spent an enjoyable weekend with their audio-tuning units, C.W. filters, read-out meters and other mysterious appurtenances (and, incidentally, with each other!). It was good to see them in their usual cheerful spirits. The Theatre Royal offered a variety of plays; The Late Edwina Black, Filumena, (which starred Joan Plowright), and Shut Your Eyes And Think of England, which title caused our eyebrows to rise a trifle. As it starred the fruity-voiced Donald Sinden and the very pretty and well-endowed Madeline Smith, it didn't take a genius to work out that it's appeal would not be purely intellectual. But we did feel that genius *would* be needed to live up to the Theatre Royal's promise—Robert Morley Talks To Everybody—for 1 week only. And don't think he couldn't! Mr. Morley was both witty and entertaining, and theatregoers spent a happy evening listening to his anecdotes and reminiscences.

We had several varied and enjoyable record programmes in the House, given by Mr. Les Harris, and V.A.D's Mrs. Pugh, Miss Scally and Mrs. Frith. Mr. Michael Hayes encouraged us to wallow in nostalgia with his Journey Down Memory Lane, for we heard old favourites Sandy Powell, Claude Dampier, Jeanette McDonald and Nelson Eddy, Albert Sandler, Tommy Handley, Charlie Kunz . . . The performance which really tugged at our heart-strings was that of a youthful Judy Garland, her voice full of warmth and emotion, singing "Over The Rainbow", and "You Made Me Love You", to a picture of smashing Clark Gable. Ah! those were the days!

A red-letter occasion was the Annual Concert given here by the Not Forgotten Association. Our popular friend, Miss Evelyn Seeley, who is the Organising Secretary of the Association, brought a splendid party of professional artistes to entertain us, and "party" was the operative word. The compere, Harold Taylor, provided much of the fun, and had a warm personality which immediately created a rapport with his audience. David Winnard and Mary Illing, who frequently appear at the Dome, sang some delightful songs and paid us the compliment of wearing evening dress. David wore a black velvet dinner jacket, which provided a pleasing contrast to Mary's lovely gown of deep pink, its medieval-type sleeves lined with silver, and a silver rope tied round her slender waist. Very dishy! Syd Wright set our feet tapping to the music he coaxed from his xylophone, and Elsie Taylor, who once again was a first-class accompanist, performed as a musician in her own right. She played music with a Jubilee theme, and we sang "Rose of England" with a will. We really let it rip with "Land of Hope and Glory", which is a most satisfying song in which to spark on all cylinders. Harry Wheeler expressed our pleasure and gratitude in a charming speech, and Miss Seeley and the artistes joined us for tea in the Lounge.

As we write these Notes, expectancy is on tiptoe in the bowling rink, for Finals Day is almost upon us. The Bowls Tournament has been generating much excitement all through the week, and the standard of play has been very high. Noise and laughter abound in the House, particularly during the coffee and tea-breaks, and we all enjoy the convivial atmosphere.

During November, we shall be husbanding our failing strength for the Chess Congress and the Bridge Instructional Weekend, early in December. And then the Festive Season will be upon us, with its attendant dramas, traumas, worries and fun. We like to grumble about all the effort that goes into a few days of rejoicing, but just between you and me, we like it. And so to everyone, we send our warm good wishes for a Happy Christmas, for a year of good health and good fellowship.



Peter Jones demonstrates BROMA

AMATEUR RADIO WEEKEND

by Ray Hazan

"It's something I've been wanting for years". It can tell you the temperature in your greenhouse, or on your central heating thermostat. It will read any electrical meter such as the battery level or recording input level on your tape recorder. It's called BROMA and it comes later in the report.

The St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society was pleased to welcome twenty-three members and two guide dogs to its meeting. There were two new members, Peter Jones, G3DRE, of Sheffield, and Charles Campkin of Hove. Another four new faces present were those of Ray Sheriff, Ray Benson, Maurice Searchfield and Pat Murphy—the order has nothing to do with their looks. The weekend sadly missed George Cole, G4AW1, and Mr. Ralph Cathle, G3NDF, both of whom are in hospital. May the ionosphere soon reflect rosy cheeks and distant transmissions.

The principal announcement during the Saturday morning meeting was the state of progress of the station to be based at Ian Fraser House. The rig was actually set up in the Winter Garden and, after some initial teething problems, was functioning. Jim Padley had volunteered to be station manager.

Broma

Peter Jones then gave a practical demonstration of BROMA. This gadget is wired into any electrical meter and through a series of dots and dashes, will tell you the reading. The code is very quickly learned and a control enables you to slow down the audible signal in the early stages whilst getting the hang of it. It was Peter who conceived the idea, persuaded two friends to design the circuit, and then built the prototype himself. Interest has been expressed in many quarters, though its commercial viability is still being investigated. Anyone may apply for the circuit diagram from Peter.

Radio Amateur Examinations

A very interesting programme had been organised for the afternoon as well. Mr. Richard Canning spoke about the Radio Amateur Examination and gave a brief description of how the exam format was to change. The talk was followed by a lecture by Messrs. J. O'Houlihan and L. Wooller of the Home Office. They gave a most useful and interesting talk on the subject of interference, which concerns amateur radio enthusiasts very closely. This may be contrary to what many St. Dunstaners might believe if they have shared a weekend at Ian Fraser House and heard all sorts of strange noises emanating from the intercom system. They had obviously taken a great deal of trouble to prepare their lecture with aids specially adapted for us. The rest of the weekend was spent chatting of this and that; being shown a system of soldering involving 'wrapping' a wire around a pin instead of using a hot iron. Many people stayed on an extra day or so to make full use of the radio facilities available. Our thanks to Commandant and staff for their hospitality.

The Second Annual General Meeting and dinner will be held on the weekend of the 4th February, 1978.

DETERGENTS, DOG FOOD AND DECIBELS

By Phillip Wood

It is one of the sadder facts of life that intolerable noise is something we have to live with in return for whatever dubious benefits science and technology have brought us . . .

. . . Like our supermarket. As you enter the magic-eye-controlled glass doors, you automatically brace yourself against a seemingly solid wall of cacophonous noise. It is blasting non-stop from a battery of loudspeakers, sited with sadistic precision where they will inflict maximum damage.

This infernal racket seems to fall into two categories. The first, and more destructive, is made by what is called "a group". "A group" is a collection of aggressively ill-natured young people with a bitter grudge against humanity. This they effectively demonstrate by thumping, banging and twanging things while at the same time screaming abuse in what might very well be broken Swahili. I am reliably informed, however, by my "pop" expert (thirteen next birthday) that the language is in fact phoney American—and it's a love song anyway.

Soul Music

The second kind of aural torture I must confess I do find mildly fascinating, in a revolting sort of way. This is a thin tuneless sexless wailing of the kind I imagine might be rendered by a tone-deaf Chinese while washing-up his rice-bowl and chopsticks. This is known as "soul music" (again I quote my expert) and I think I know why. The executant is so obviously suffering from a particularly distressing ailment and is giving his/her "all" from the sick-bed and like Charles II is taking "an unconscionable time a-dying".

As if all this were not bad enough, the Devil's Concert is frequently punctuated by a raucous female bellow 'making announcements' in a voice which would reduce Stentor himself to wild tantrums of jealous impotence.

I asked a man who looked like a floor-walker why it was necessary for her to "annouce" at something like five hundred

decibels above the threshold of audibility. "She has to be heard above the ordinary sounds of the store" he told me stiffly. I was pretty sure she could easily have been heard above the ordinary sounds of a Concorde take-off, but I didn't mention it.

But why do supermarkets inflict this horror upon innocent people—from whom, after all, they confidently expect to make a good living? I've thought a great deal about this, and I think I've come up with a possible explanation.

The shopper's sales resistance and self-control rapidly disintegrates under this savage onslaught. She belts round the store like James Hunt, recklessly hurling things into the trolley, her resolution to "go a bit easy this week" forgotten. For she will do anything, anything at all, to escape into the street and the healing calm of car brakes, motor-bikes and screeching jets.

It is only when she gets home to the soothing effects of a cuppa and takes stock of her purchases that she begins to appreciate the Machiavellian cunning of the supermarket bosses. Half the stuff she can't remember buying! Five tins of Lassie! The dog died in 1969.

You can buy almost anything in our supermarket, from white wine to watering-cans, from sausages to step-ladders. It's what they *don't* sell that I find significant. . .

There isn't a pair of ear-plugs in the place!

IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL

Bertie Williamson of Colchester, has recently been awarded the Imperial Service Medal in recognition of his 31 years service as a packer at the Ministry of Defence Ordnance Support Unit in Colchester. The medal was presented by Major General Michael Callan in the Works Canteen in the presence of the other employees with the words, "In recognition of the meritorious services which you have rendered".

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 2348

A Family of Shopkeepers

By Ray Waterman

Read by Robert Gladwell

Reading Time 11¾ hours

In the early 1900's, Jacob and Ada Samuels arrive from Poland and begin a tiny drapery business in an impoverished street in the East End of London. They have escaped the infamous pogroms, they will build up the business, make a comfortable living . . .

And here the book deviates from all the usual 'rags to riches' Jewish stories. For the Samuels do not make money. Life is a perpetual struggle to make ends meet. The children come along, first Miriam then Phillip. They have to put up with the suspicion (and the pilfering) of their Gentile customers. Jacob is a timid and nervous man, and, untypically, totally without the business acumen of his race.

But there are compensations. A warm close Jewish community grows up around them. Friends and relations join them from Poland. They sing the old Yiddish songs and try to keep alive the tenuous links with 'home'.

The book ends with the marriage of Miriam. She vows she will never fall into the trap which threatens to destroy her parents. But will she be able to escape it?

A splendid book. My enjoyment was greatly enhanced by Mr. Gladwell whose Jewish accent sounded so marvellously authentic.

Cat. No. 1049

Seven League Boots

by Wendy Myers

Read by Carol Marsh

Reading Time 10¾ hours

At the age of eighteen Wendy Myers set off, with a rucksack on her back and £100 concealed about her person, to see the world. With great determination and a fearless and adventurous spirit, she achieved what to most people must seem like an impossible dream. It took her seven years.

She criss-crossed the globe from San Francisco to Singapore, from Luxor to Leningrad. She was interviewed and made broadcasts from a dozen countries, lived with families as far apart as Japan and Rhodesia. She crossed the Sahara with a sheep smuggler.

What comes over very strongly in this book is the truly astonishing kindness she met with wherever she went. Hospitality was overwhelming. She was presented with free air travel, steamer tickets, and received gifts of money and jewellery. On at least two occasions she sold her blood.

A most intriguing book and an absolute 'must' for the armchair traveller.

Cat. No. 1041

The Third George

by Jean Plaidy

Read by David Broomfield

Reading Time 12¼ hours

This is the story of the tragic and troubled reign of George III. When he succeeded his grandfather George II, his marriage was arranged for him by his mother, the Dowager Princess of Wales, and her lover, Lord Bute. They chose as his bride the sixteen-year-old Princess Charlotte from the obscure dukedom of Mecklenburg. By this move they hoped to rule the kingdom through a weak and pliant George, without any 'interference' from a non-English-speaking Queen.

Throughout his reign, the King was at the mercy of an inept, often corrupt, government. There was constant unrest because of the people's distrust and hatred of Lord Bute, and the eclipse of their idol, Pitt. He saw his country torn by the 'No Popery' riots, and was deeply saddened by the disastrous marriages of his sisters.

Then in middle life came the final terrible blow, his growing madness, exacerbated, it was said, by the scandalous behaviour of a depraved and disolute son.

A very readable book by the doyenne of the 'fictionalised biography'.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON

Bowling Club

A meeting was held at Ian Fraser House on 8th November. A silent tribute was held in memory of our late friend, Les Dennis. Unfortunately, our Secretary, Mrs. P. Jones, is in hospital, but our Treasurer, Mrs. Burnett, volunteered to take her place. (Get well soon, Pat).

Our Chairman, Ted Frearson, has resigned and the club recorded their appreciation of his six years of loyal and efficient service. 'Micky' Robinson was elected as Chairman and Captain, unopposed. Dickie Brett was elected on to the Committee. The members agreed to carry on the club policy.

JOHNNY MUGAN

Vice Captain

Bridge Notes

In October, the ninth and final matches of both our competitions were completed. On Saturday, 15th, we welcomed a team from Horsham Bridge Club for a friendly match, which I am happy to report the home team won by a narrow margin.

For the first time, a St. Dunstan's team was entered for the West Sussex Inter-Club League teams of eight competition. So far, we have played two and won two. The first match against Worthing Bridge Club 'A' Team was won by 11 victory points to 5. The second, against The Avenue Bridge Club, Hove, was won by 12 victory points to 4.

The results of the ninth Pairs competition are as follows:—

North-South

A. Dodgson and Mrs. E. Dodgson 54.2

East-West (Joint)

P. McCormack and Mrs. A. McCormack 57.6

R. Fullard and Mrs. Choen

The ninth Individual competition results:—

F. Griffee and W. Phillips 71

C. Waters and G. Hudson 65

W. Burnett and Partner 64

J. Padley and A. Dodgson 61

P. McCormack and R. Fullard 59

M. Clements and W. Lethbridge 58

Dacre Trophy, 1977, Pairs Competition

The best five percentage scores, played with any partner, from a possible nine.

W. Lethbridge	307.8
R. Fullard	299.5
A. Dodgson	276.5
B. Ingrey	276.1
F. Griffee	271.5
M. Clements	265.1
W. Phillips	258.1
J. Padley	249.2
B. Simon	244.6
P. McCormack	233.0

Gover Cup, 1977, Individual Competition

The best five results from a possible nine matches played:—

W. Phillips	357
C. Walters	348
W. Lethbridge	348
A. Dodgson	343
M. Clements	341
R. Fullard	336
F. Griffee	330
J. Padley	326
W. Burnett	324
P. McCormack	308

Entertainment Section

The Sir Arthur Pearson competitions are now in full swing and the Whist and Domino Aggregates are under way. On the 10th December, we will be holding our Christmas Dance which will be an all-ticket affair; the price of which will be 70p. and which includes a buffet, from 7.30-12 p.m. Any members wishing to join us on this evening, please contact us as soon as possible for catering purposes.

WHIST—LADIES

Mrs. P. Lethbridge	88
Mrs. B. Griffiths	81
Mrs. E. Walch	81

GENTLEMEN

H. Preedy	88
J. Kenney	83
W. Phillips	80

DOMINOES

Mrs. F. Pike	7
Mrs. E. Mudge	5
Mr. W. Phillips	5

BOB OSBORNE

Fishing, 1978

All St. Dunstaners wishing to participate in the 1978 fishing sessions should choose any one of the following pairs of dates and write to me indicating their choice, and for further information.

- A. March 20th—24th
June 19th—23rd
- B. March 20th—24th
Sept. 4th—8th
- C. June 19th—23rd
Dec. 18th—22nd
- D. Sept. 4th—8th
Dec. 18th—22nd
- E. March 20th—24th
Dec. 18th—22nd

Closing date is January 31st, 1978.

Apologies for omitting the following from the account of the Stoke Mandeville Games in the November issue. 'T. Parkinson also won the Gold Medal in the javelin and, incidentally, still retains the visually handicapped javelin title.'

JOCK CARNOCHAN

FAMILY NEWS

Marriage

Many congratulations to:

Clifford Chadwick of Fareham, is pleased to announce the marriage of his son, Sam, who was married to Miss Kathleen Ward on the 10th November. The wedding took place in Scotland as Mr. Chadwick's son is stationed at R.A.F. Lossiemouth.

Grandchildren

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Benson of Horsham, on the birth of their grandson, James Douglas Richard, born to their daughter, Sharron, and her husband, on 13th October.

Mr. John Douglass of Ruislip, on the birth of his grand-daughter, Tamzin Elizabeth, born on 10th October to his son, Frank, and his wife, Penny.

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.

Miss Alice Dorothy Merlyn Alban, R.R.C. Q.A.I.M.N.S.

Miss Dorothy Alban, of St. Leonards-on-Sea, died on the 25th October, at the age of 89 years.

Miss Alban was a nurse who served with the Army at home and abroad for a great many years, finally holding the rank of Principal Matron in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and being awarded the Royal Red Cross for her outstanding services to the sick and wounded. Her sight ultimately deteriorated and she became a St. Dunstaner in 1962. Always wonderfully independent, Miss Alban lived alone for many years, but from 1973 she had been in nursing homes. Her death followed a fall, when she broke her wrist and her strength failed.

She leaves a sister and other relatives and friends.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fullard of Saltdean, on the death of Mr. Fullard's father.

Mr. Tom Taylor of Preston, on the death of his mother who passed away on the 11th October.

Mr. Anthony Warren of Bedfordshire, on the death of his mother who passed away on the 15th October.

Examination and Career Successes

We warmly congratulate:

Simon, son of our St. Dunstaner, *Mrs. Bloxam-Rose*, and Mr. Bloxam-Rose on obtaining five 'A' passes in his 'O' level examinations, with a special commendation for his History paper. Simon has also been awarded a Gold Medal for Elocution.

Willie Birkby Duke of Wellington's Regiment

Willie Birkby of Sowerby Bridge, died on the 27th October, aged 78.

Mr. Birkby enlisted in April 1913, and served with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He was wounded in 1916 on the Somme but continued to serve in the Army until 1918, his discharge being due to further injuries he received earlier that year.

By the time he became a St. Dunstaner in January, 1973, Mr. Birkby had already been retired for some time from his employment in the woollen industry and he was, unfortunately, in rather indifferent health.

He leaves a widow, Annie, and two sons and a daughter.

John Boffey Royal Artillery

John Boffey of Telford, died on the 29th October, aged 73.

Mr. Boffey served as a Gunner with the Royal Artillery from his enlistment in September, 1939, until his discharge in 1945, having been wounded earlier the same year.

After his discharge from the Army, Mr. Boffey took up employment as a Hospital Porter and Stoker until his retirement in 1963. He became a St. Dunstaner in August, 1976, by which time he was in rather frail health, but he bore this very bravely and spent his convalescence at Pearson House.

He leaves two sons and two daughters.

Leslie Dennis Royal Engineers

Leslie Dennis of Ringmer, Sussex, died on 3rd November, aged 66.

Mr. Dennis, having enlisted in January 1940, served as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers and, following injury to both eyes whilst on active service in France, he was discharged in April, 1941.

Mr. Dennis was admitted in 1951 for training in Braille and typewriting, as well as basket work, and in 1953 he took over a tobacco and cigarette kiosk. By 1957, he was successfully running his own shop in Croydon and in 1964, purchased his own business in Hastings, ultimately being forced to retire in 1969, due to ill health.

In earlier years, Mr. Dennis was a great walker and undertook the London to Brighton walk on several occasions. He was the second blind man ever to have walked 100 miles in under 24 hours, which he did in 1959. Two years later, he became the only blind man to have achieved this feat as a Centurion twice. In retirement, he had many hobbies, including bowling, rug-making and

learning French. In 1972, he travelled to South Africa, accompanied by his wife, as a team member of the South Hastings Blind Bowlers Association and, until comparatively recently, was involved in many local social activities. He also had piano lessons and retained a great interest in his garden.

Mr. Dennis displayed great courage and fortitude in the face of deteriorating health. Over recent months, finding it more difficult to pursue some of his former hobbies, he acquired a Hammond Organ, from which he derived much pleasure.

He leaves a widow, Joan, his son, Patrick, and daughter, Maureen.

James Arthur Hills London Irish Rifles

James Arthur Hills of Tenterden, died on the 26th October, aged 80.

Mr. Hills served in the First World War as a Rifleman from 1915 until 1919, when he was discharged following injury by mustard gas. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in June, 1962.

In civilian life, Mr. Hills was a gardener and, prior to retirement, spent 18 years in his last post. His great interest in gardening and his greenhouse remained his main hobby to the end of his days and, with his wife's assistance, he maintained a display of flowers and plants.

He leaves a widow, Edith May

Frederick Horton Royal Field Artillery

Frederick Horton of Manchester, died on the 21st October, aged 83.

Mr. Horton enlisted in April, 1912, and served as a Gunner with the Royal Field Artillery. He suffered mustard gas poisoning in 1918 and was discharged from military service in February, 1919.

Despite his disability, Mr. Horton was able to continue employment for the remainder of his working life until he retired at the age of 65 and then in July, 1970 he became a St. Dunstaner. His second wife, Catherine, passed away in August, 1976.

He leaves a son, two daughters and a step-daughter, Peggy Ferguson.

Herbert Hutchinson West Riding Regiment

Herbert Hutchinson of Barnsley, died on the 6th November, aged 89.

Mr. Hutchinson enlisted in October, 1914 and served as a Private, first with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and then with the West Riding Regiment. He was wounded in France in

In Memory *continued*

1915, but continued with his military service until April, 1919. Until he retired, Mr. Hutchinson's occupation was that of a blacksmith, and it was not until January, 1973, when he was 86 years of age, that he became a St. Dunstaner.

He leaves a widow, Frances.

William Richard James *Merchant Navy*

W. R. ("Dick") James, of Porthcawl, died at his home on the 1st November, at the age of 65 years.

He started seafaring as a boy in 1928 and served in the Merchant Navy until his ship was torpedoed in 1941. He was discharged and worked with the British Transport Docks Board in Cardiff Docks until his retirement. His sight gradually failed and he became a St. Dunstaner in 1969. As a Welshman, he had a typical love of the Rhondda, rugby and music and he was particularly proud of the fact that he was a Life Member of the Pendyrus Male Choir.

He had been in poor health for many years, but was devotedly cared for by his wife. Unfortunately, her health has also been bad for some time, but they faced their difficulties with unflinching cheerfulness and courage.

He leaves his widow, Bess, and their son, Brian, and his family.

The Reverend Andrew Charles Nugee, M.A. *9th Rifle Brigade*

The Reverend Andrew Nugee, of Lechlade, Glos., died at his home on the 22nd October, at the age of 81.

He was commissioned and served in the First World War, was injured and left with only guiding sight, and came to St. Dunstan's in 1916. Later, he decided to study for the Church and was ordained in 1921.

When St. Dunstan's was settled at Church Stretton for the wartime years, he moved from a parish in Derbyshire to become our Chaplain. He and his wife gave invaluable personal service through their example, friendship and kindness to the new St. Dunstaners in training, and he was also specially involved with St. Dunstaners engaged in academic studies. At the end of the war, he left to become Vicar of Crowthorne in Berkshire, where he stayed for many years until he moved to a smaller parish in Oxfordshire.

His first wife died in 1963. He remarried and continued to live very happily in retirement in Lechlade.

He leaves his widow, Zeala, and many relatives and friends.

Frank George Ogg *First Royal Warwickshire Regiment*

F. G. ("Jeff") Ogg, of Natal, South Africa, died on the 17th October, at the age of 80.

He served and was commissioned in the First World War and became a St. Dunstaner in 1919. He first trained as a singer and worked on the professional stage for some years and then trained as a physiotherapist. In 1941 he went to South Africa and settled there very happily with his wife and family, but always kept in touch with his old St. Dunstan's friends in this country. He and his wife came here for a holiday visit in 1966.

He leaves his widow, Eunice, two sons and a daughter and grandchildren.

James Owen *Royal Engineers*

James Owen of Rhondda, died on the 16th October, aged 81.

Mr. Owen was called up in 1914 and served as a Sapper with the Royal Engineers until 1916.

Although he had suffered with defective vision for many years, it was not until October, 1974 that Mr. Owen became a St. Dunstaner, by which time he was already retired. Unfortunately, he became very frail in health in recent months but he was cared for devotedly at home by his wife.

He leaves a widow, Dilys.

Albert William Pimm *Royal Air Force*

Albert William Pimm of Wickford, died at Pearson House on 9th November, aged 80.

Mr. Pimm joined the R.A.F. as a 2nd Air Mechanic in May 1915, losing both eyes and the fingers of his left hand in a detonator explosion in the summer of 1918. He became a St. Dunstaner in 1926, training as a poultry keeper and he ran a smallholding most successfully until ill health forced him to retire in 1961. In earlier years, he made baskets and trays as a hobby and latterly, his greatest interests were Braille, talking books and radio.

He had the misfortune to lose his wife, Barbara, in 1931, and from that time on was cared for devotedly by one of his sisters, Miss C. Pimm. His only son, Stanley, who also joined the R.A.F. was killed in 1945, but his daughter, nephew and their families kept closely in touch with him. He enjoyed his frequent visits and holidays at Ovingdean, where he was always a welcome visitor.

He leaves a sister, daughter and nephew.