



**St Dunstans Review**  
May 1978

# St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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## LADY FRASER OF LONSDALE, C.B.E.

The loss to St. Dunstan's by the passing of Lady Fraser is profound and so is our gratitude to her for her unique service throughout our history.

This edition of the *Review*, with quotations from some of the moving messages we have received from all over the world and photographs taken through the years, may reflect our own cherished memories of a wonderful friend.

It will be my privilege to pay a tribute to Lady Fraser at our Service of Thanksgiving for her life and work at Ian Fraser House on the 5th May and this will be printed in the June *Review*.

*Jon Larnell-Dune*

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Lady Fraser of Lonsdale at her home in Regent's Park, London, on 18th March, 1978, at the age of 87.

Lady Fraser was a Vice-President of St. Dunstan's, having served our organisation over the whole of its life, dating back to its foundation in 1915. As Miss Irene Mace, she was Assistant to the late Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., at the time when this great blind man conceived the idea of a training centre for the rehabilitation of the young men who were returning blind from the battlefields of France.

It was as deputy for Sir Arthur that Irene Mace met Lord Fraser, then Ian Fraser, a young officer, newly blinded, in hospital. In later years, as his wife, she contributed to his outstandingly successful career, including the Chairmanship of St. Dunstan's, his business interests as Director of several companies, his work as an M.P. and his subsequent elevation as one of the first Life Peers. She acted as her husband's eyes in their travels throughout the world and played a part in all his activities at work or in recreation.

Lady Fraser also continued her day to day work with St. Dunstan's, where her special interest was the welfare of war-blinded men and women and their families. She was a Member of the Executive Council of the Royal National Institute for the Blind and was a Vice-President of that organisation. Her influence on work for the blind in this country and abroad has been immense and was recognised by her appointment as a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

### Our President, Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L. writes:

Throughout the world, every blinded ex-service man and woman will mourn the passing of Lady Fraser. Nevertheless, we will be happy with our memories of all she did for us who were blinded.

It was in 1915, that Sir Arthur Pearson founded St. Dunstan's. How fortunate it was that his personal assistant was a V.A.D., Miss Irene Mace. It was she who carried a letter from Sir Arthur to the newly blinded Captain Ian Fraser, later



"... And we lived happily ever after", wrote Lord Fraser. Through this photograph, taken in the garden of the Frasers' home in Regent's Park, shines the quality of their marriage.

COVER PICTURE: A portrait of Lady Fraser of Lonsdale, C.B.E.



Above: On an early royal occasion, Lady Fraser, then Irene Mace, can be seen standing behind Sir Arthur Pearson as he talks with Princess Mary (afterwards Princess Royal) and the Prince of Wales.

Below: Campaigning at Morecambe in Sir Ian Fraser's constituency, Lady Fraser reads the local news.



Lord Fraser of Lonsdale. That visit was to mean much to many of us.

Ian Fraser always remembered how, when he was in hospital, still rebellious, two things happened to him of the greatest importance. One was the visit of Irene Mace and the other was the message she brought from Sir Arthur with his invitation to go to St. Dunstan's. "I accepted the invitation and entered a new world. I fell in love at the first sound of Irene Mace. Her charm, her personality, her true sympathy. She is now my wife".

In the world of the blind, she knew every single one of us St. Dunstaners; she understood our problems in an uncanny way; she was always there to help and encourage us as she had helped and encouraged her husband. I, like every St. Dunstaner, received her sympathy and help in times of distress.

We shall all miss her, but how fortunate we are to have known her. We will live with many happy memories of all she did for us.



Coxing Lord Fraser's boat on Regent's Park Lake.

**Our Chairman, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, wrote for the *Daily Telegraph*:**

Blinded ex-servicemen and women of the Commonwealth and allied countries are sadly recognising the end of an era. The death of Lady Fraser of Lonsdale has followed three years after that of her husband. Throughout their wonderful partnership, 'Chips' accompanied Ian Fraser everywhere, the perfect wife and escort for a blind man, contributing so much to his wide interests and great success in both Houses of Parliament, in business, in world travel (particularly in South Africa) and even when rowing, riding or fishing.

Her powers of judgement and wise decision, her sympathy and understanding, and the warmth of her friendship were extended to all she met. Most especially, she gave unstintingly of herself to St. Dunstan's from its creation in 1915, when she was personal assistant to Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., our Founder, throughout Lord Fraser's fifty-three years as Chairman and continuing into her widowhood. Ian wrote: "She has had more influence over the affairs of St. Dunstan's than any other woman, possibly than any other individual". Our blinded ex-servicemen and

women — and their wives and families — valued and loved 'Chips' Fraser as a unique friend. Her place will never be filled.

**Her friends wrote:**

*Extracts from messages received at Headquarters.*

... a woman of great compassion and courage with a capacity for friendship equalled by few.

Her patience, sympathy and understanding and her inexhaustible energy worked miracles with all of us during those early days of depression and doubt.

She had a life of fulfilment...

... knowing her for a short time was quite long enough to realize her indomitable courage and her unceasing dedication...

... her compassionate and genuine concern for each and every St. Dunstaner...

... Lady Fraser was a symbol of all St. Dunstan's stood for...

Many will mourn her passing, but rejoice at her very wonderful life.



Lady Fraser with Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme at the re-opening of Ian Fraser House and, below, talking with St. Dunstan, Bob Lloyd, at the 1974 Southampton Reunion.



#### CAPE TOWN MEMORIAL TO LORD FRASER

When the new Civic Centre opens in Cape Town, there will stand in its entrance hall a proud memorial to its friend, Lord Fraser of Lonsdale. During an informal ceremony in March, Mrs. Opperman, Chairman of St. Dunstan's (South Africa), handed over the low relief, bronze replica of the Westminster Memorial to the Mayor, Mr. Ted Mauerberger. The profile is mounted on honey-coloured marble and bears both Lord Fraser's crest and the badge of St. Dunstan's. The inscription is reproduced in Braille. Amongst those present at the ceremony were, Mr. Christopher MacDonald, grandson of Lord Fraser, and Ernest Krowster and Jan Uitlander, both of whom lost their sight in the Western Desert. Our late Chairman was remembered, "Not with weeping and wailing at his parting but with love for his memory and gratitude for having had the privilege of knowing such a good man."

#### SQUADRON LEADER B. M. T. S. LEETE, O.B.E., A.F.C.

*The Chairman writes:*

Squadron Leader Bernard Leete, whose death is reported on another page, served the Commonwealth in many ways. He was in the Royal Flying Corps and R.A.F. throughout the First World War and between the wars he made his record-breaking flight from London to Karachi and worked for civil aviation in India. In the Second World War he trained pilots in India until he was severely injured in a crash. In recent years he had many interests, including voluntary work to help his fellow men.

It is a St. Dunstan's story of which we may all be proud. We offer our deepest sympathy to his widow and family in their great loss.

#### MR. GEOFFREY STEPHENS

In the death of Geoffrey Stephens on 12th April, St. Dunstan's and in particular the Estate Department, and those St. Dunstaners living in Eastern England and Scotland, have suffered a heavy blow. Geoffrey joined St. Dunstan's in 1957, taking over the North Eastern region of the Estate Department.

During 21 years of devoted service he endeared himself to St. Dunstaners from

Great Yarmouth to Elgin and became a trusted friend. His colleagues will miss him greatly and the Estate Department is the poorer for his untimely passing. We extend our sympathy to his widow, who did so much for him in a "back up" capacity, and to his daughter Louise.

#### MR. VINCENT RANGER

The death occurred recently of Mr. Vincent Ranger of Ranger, Burton and Frost, formerly St. Dunstan's solicitors. Mr. Ranger was a close associate of Lord Fraser. His father, Sir Washington Ranger, was a former Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind and Vice-President of St. Dunstan's after Sir Arthur Pearson's death.

#### TALKING REVIEW AVAILABLE TO OVERSEAS ST. DUNSTANERS

Any overseas St. Dunstaners who own a cassette tape recorder and who wish to receive the monthly *Talking Review*, should send their name and address to: The Public Relations Department, St. Dunstan's, 191 Old Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5QN. The cassette will be despatched by air mail, provided it is returned in the same way. The cost of the return should not be great. Subscribers should check with their own Post Office regarding sending the wallet via concessionary air mail. Readers will be issued with two wallets. If at any time both wallets are in the post, then no new cassette can be sent out.

#### H.M.S. Daedalus

PLEASE will all those who want to be considered for a place at camp this year remember that I must have all applications by Saturday, 20th May, 1978. I know that over the first part of this year I may have been difficult to contact by telephone, so I suggest that to ensure that your application reaches me in time that you write rather than telephone.

Elsbeth Grant, (Flat 1) 7, Craven Hill, London, W.2. Telephone after 6.30 p.m. 01-262 2723.

#### BOOK WANTED

Would anyone who has a copy of a book on the 17th Armoured Division please contact the Public Relations Department at H.Q.

## PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES

Increases in war pensions and allowances were announced by Mr. David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, in a statement in Parliament on Wednesday, April 12th. The increases will take effect during the week commencing 13th November, 1978.

The basic 100% disability pension will go up from £28.60 to £31.90 per week, and there are to be corresponding increases in most of the related allowances. Benefits will rise by about 11½%.

For the war widow who is under 65 years of age, the basic pension will increase from £22.70 to £25.30. Age allowances are to be increased to £2.40 per week for the widow aged between 65 and 70 years, and for the widow aged over 70 years, the allowance is to be increased to £4.80 per week.

Later in the year, a supplement will be issued with the *Review* giving more detailed information but, in the meantime, should St. Dunstaners have any enquiries, would they please address them to Mr. L. A. Slade, our Pensions Officer, at Headquarters.

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

Employable	Totally Blind	
	Present	New
	£	£
Basic Pension	28.60	31.90
Attendance Allowance	11.40	12.70
Comforts Allowance	4.90	5.40
Wife's Allowance	0.50	0.50
Child's Allowance	0.38	0.38
	£45.78	£50.88
Unemployable	Totally Blind	
	Present	New
	£	£
Basic Pension	28.60	31.90
Attendance Allowance	11.40	12.70
Comforts Allowance	4.90	5.40
Unemployability Supplement	18.60	20.75
Wife's Allowance	11.00	12.20
Invalidity Allowance	1.15	1.30
	£75.65	£84.25

## BRAILINK—a British technological achievement

On 20th March, 1978, a production engineered model of a high technology aid to blind employment was successfully demonstrated by its developers, Messrs. Clarke & Smith, at their Surrey Laboratories.

Styled in a slim, rigid, brief-case, Brailink's main features are the keyboard and the line of Braille cells for the entry and verification of data. For example, information previously displayed on visual screens is presented and read across a full line of transitory Braille — no paper is involved. The aid can operate either locally or via tele-data links and the latter was strikingly demonstrated by dialling a computer centre in Cleveland, Ohio, which had no previous knowledge of the demonstration, and receiving an immediate reply in Braille from across the Atlantic.

Major Frank Clarke, Chairman of Clarke & Smith International, the well known Talking Book manufacturers, explained that he had conceived the idea originally to reduce the bulk of Braille books on library shelves, but in the event, Brailink had come first, with support from the National Research Development Corporation. He felt that the aid would put the U.K. in a leading international position, supplying the need for the increasing numbers of blind persons entering the general area of data handling.

Witnessing the demonstration were representatives of Government Departments, the Civil Service Training College, the N.R.D.C., the R.N.I.B., St. Dunstan's, the Central Computer Agency, B.P. Oil and blind computer programmers.

St. Dunstan's can claim some small credit for the furtherance of the project as our Mr. Richard Duffton was instrumental in bringing it to the notice of the N.R.D.C., who provided finance, and he has acted as adviser to the N.R.D.C. on the project since its inception.

## CORRECTION

Our obituary in the April *Review* on George Edward Porter of Saltdean, who died on 17th February, omitted to mention that Mr. Porter was honoured with the award of the Imperial Service Medal, following 40 years service with the G.P.O.

## 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.*

**John Acworth Elliman** of Maidenhead Thicket, Berks., who joined St. Dunstan's on the 23rd February. Captain Elliman served in the Northamptonshire Regiment throughout the First World War and was severely wounded in 1915 and again in 1918. He is a retired textile engineer and married with two sons, a daughter and grandchildren.

**John Fletcher Palmer** of Okehampton, Devon, who joined St. Dunstan's on the 3rd April. Mr. Palmer was commissioned and served in the R.A.F.V.R. in the Second World War; he was a Prisoner of War in Germany. He is a married man.

## SWIM FOR HEALTH

Liverpool and swimming are synonymous with the name of Vi Delaney. So, when that city recently launched a swim for health campaign, it was natural to find Vi at the opening ceremony. After giving a demonstration swim, Vi and her sister, Rene, were presented with a diploma by Anita Lonsborough. "We came home feeling much better for our swim," said Vi. Now, if that isn't proof of the value of the campaign. . . .

## LAST CHANCE

This is our last reminder for applications for Derby Sweepstake tickets. The closing date is Wednesday, 24th May, so get those stamped addressed envelopes in the post with your cheques or postal orders. The winning ticket will cost no more than the "also rans", 20p.

St. Dunstaners only, please, apply

The Editor, D.S.S. Dept.,  
191 Old Marylebone Road,  
London, NW1 5QN.

Draw: London Club, Thursday, 1st June.  
All those drawing a horse will be notified.

## FUN WITH WOOD

It's fun, it's relaxing, it's woodcarving. Eric Brocklehurst arrived in the Comox Valley, Victoria, Canada, 18 months ago. He is now the instructor of a wood carving class entitled, "Fun with wood", started recently for members of the Evergreen Senior Citizens Club. A retired pharmacist, he taught woodwork for nine years at Doncaster Technical College. "Brock" joined St. Dunstan's in 1942.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Michael Backhurst, son of Mrs. Pamela Backhurst and the late Mr. Charles Backhurst of Jersey, on being sworn in as an Advocate at the end of February. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1975. Michael went to Victoria College, Jersey, and then served with the Royal Signals from 1965 until 1972. We wish him a long and successful career.

It was a very happy day for Michael, his parents and family and we were sorry to learn of the death nine days later of Mr. Charles Backhurst. We send deepest sympathy to all the family.

## HOW FALLING SNOW GAVE TOM A SORE JAW

A postman delivering mail from the back of a tractor may not be a common sight. But it was in Parracombe, Devon, home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Daborn, this winter. On the Thursday evening, Tom developed toothache but snow prevented a visit to the dentist. On the Friday, a doctor, two policemen and the driver of an army snow-cat vehicle called in to see if all was well. Tom's face was now the size of a football, so the doctor left some pain-killing drugs.

It was not until Monday that the bulldozers had cleared the way so that the Daborns could get through, and the offending tooth was removed. "We were O.K. for food; and we had just had half a ton of boiler fuel and 10 gallons of paraffin delivered".

## DO YOU HAVE SLEEPLESS NIGHTS?

Please contact Mrs. Lefrepe of Men's Supplies, who has some copies in Braille of the B.M.A. pamphlet, "Sleeping" for anyone who would like to receive one.



Richard Dufton, Member of Council presiding over the Southampton Reunion, chats with Reg Goding.

## SOUTHAMPTON REUNION

It was a brisk, sunny day which welcomed guests to the first of the U.K. reunions for 1978 on 18th March. The Polygon Hotel always looks after St. Dunstan's very well. There was an even larger attendance this year, with ten from the First World War, thirty-one from the Second World War, and four from post-war campaigns.

This was the first reunion in this country at which Mr. Richard Dufton has presided. It was very unfortunate that, due to illness, Mrs. Dufton was unable to accompany her husband. Mr. Dufton has attended many reunions on the other side of the cloth, so to speak, as a St. Dunstaner himself. After bringing greetings from the Council, he went on to speak about the first St. Dunstan's gathering this year, which he had attended; the triennial Reunion of the St. Dunstan's Association in New Zealand.

"I was met in Auckland by our representative, Mr. Jim May, and his wife. Because there are hardly any trains and roads are few and far between, we flew to Nelson, as did most of the other guests. Nelson is the geographical centre of New

Zealand and is named after Lord Nelson, himself. The temperature was about 80° F, so the dress was informal.

"The reunion was planned to last the whole weekend. But don't get too optimistic until I've explained some of the geography. It was as if Mr. Wills was holding the reunion in Carlisle; then the most northerly people would be coming from the Shetland Islands and the most southerly from Plymouth and Torquay." He told us that after a luncheon at which a taped message of goodwill from our Chairman was played, there was a demonstration of reading and mobility aids.

A splendid Ball was organised in the evening by the Returned Servicemen Association, their equivalent to the British Legion. A Remembrance and Wreath Laying Ceremony on the Sunday and an A.G.M. on the Monday completed the triennial Reunion.

Mr. Dufton then went on to describe the remainder of his tour around New Zealand and very spectacular it sounded, too. Finally, he alluded to the importance of personal encounters. "I think these

relationships were extremely well and warmly expressed by Mr. Garnett-Orme in his recorded message of friendship and comradeship to our friends overseas."

Mr. Wills then stood up to speak. Before giving a few facts and figures, he welcomed Mr. Pat Owens, formerly our Industrial Superintendent at Headquarters. He told us that there is now a total of 1,106 St. Dunstaners in the U.K. comprising 279 from the First World War and 827 from the Second World War and subsequent campaigns, and added to the 529 overseas colleagues, this gives a total family of 1,635.

Mr. Wills went on to talk about the new hobby service. Courses are being run at Ian Fraser House, with the Use of Tools being held at Headquarters. Anyone

interested should contact Mr. Norman French or Miss Pat Saunders at H.Q. "Gardening is a popular hobby," continued Mr. Wills, "and although he retires in April, Mr. Robinson will continue to advise and help where necessary. In future, the gardening notes will be contained in the body of the *Review* and, of course, in the taped edition."

On behalf of St. Dunstaners, Mr. James Mash of Jersey, rose to thank firstly, the staff, especially Miss Lord and Mrs. Lyall, for organising the day; secondly, all the wives for their help during the 12 months since the last reunion; and finally, the staff of the Polygon Hotel.

A 'guess the weight of the Easter egg' competition and tea rounded off what proved to be a most successful start to the 1978 U.K. reunions.

## BRIGHTON REUNION

April Fool's Day was the date fixed for the Brighton Reunion but fortunately, none of the guests thought their invitations were hoaxes and around 230 people gathered at the Hotel Metropole for a really happy and convivial occasion. There were 20 St. Dunstaners from the First World War and 75 from the Second and later campaigns, with their wives or escorts.

They were greeted by our Chairman, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, accompanied by Mrs. Garnett-Orme, and the Guests of Honour were the Mayor of Brighton, Councillor Mrs. Hilary Somerville, and her husband.

After an excellent lunch, Mr. Garnett-Orme called for the Silent Toast before his speech proposing the Toast of St. Dunstan's. He began by referring to the sad news of the death of Lady Fraser and announced that a Service of Thanksgiving for her life would be held in the Chapel at Ian Fraser House on May 5th. "There, we will do our best to pay tribute to her great gifts and undying influence on St. Dunstan's," he said.

Our Chairman welcomed St. Dunstaners and their guests, the Mayor of Brighton, Mr. K. S. C. Phillips, Sussex Grocers' Association, Miss Kathleen Riley, well-known to St. Dunstaners who attend the

Lee-on-Solent camps, and retired members of staff, Mrs. Avison, Mrs. Blackford, Mr. Rice and Mr. Stevenson. He made



Anniversary waltz for Patricia and Jim Padley, celebrating their Silver Wedding at the Brighton Reunion.

### Brighton Reunion *continued*

particular reference to three St. Dunstaners attending their first reunion at Brighton, John Chatfield, Chichester, John Foster, Redhill, and George Robinson, Eastbourne.

There were enthusiastic welcomes from the audience for the staff members from Brighton and Headquarters named by Mr. Garnett-Orme and warm applause when he said, "Miss Stewart, helped by Miss Blebta, made all the excellent arrangements for our lunch today and we are very grateful to them."

Since the last reunion, Mr. Garnett-Orme said that Mr. Wills had visited Canada for the Reunion of the Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War-Blinded and Mr. Dufton had been to New Zealand for the reunion there. Both had been warmly welcomed and entertained.

Concluding, Mr. Garnett-Orme said that there were now 1,106 St. Dunstaners in this country and 529 overseas: "I can assure you that, through the example set by yourselves, our name and reputation

continues to be in the highest standing everywhere. Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the Toast—St. Dunstan's."

Replying on behalf of St. Dunstaners, Mr. Patrick Lowry of Saltdean, said, "Our annual reunion is greatly looked forward to and gives us a chance to meet many old friends."

"Today has a certain tinge of sadness with the death of Lady Fraser, who meant so much to St. Dunstan's. It is said that behind every great man there is a great woman and Lady Fraser was certainly a very great woman."

Mr. Lowry concluded with a special expression of thanks to the wives of St. Dunstaners and to the staff of St. Dunstan's.

In the afternoon there was dancing to Ken Lyon's orchestra and the second reunion of 1978 ended with the prize draw and tea. Outside, the departing guests found a grey day had been transformed by sunshine to match a happy occasion.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**From: André Brandt,  
Worcester, South Africa**

In the closing months of 1977, there appeared in your *Review* an appeal for copies of the Bible in Braille. A number of St. Dunstaners have responded and I have received about 70 volumes. I would like to express my heartiest thanks to the widows of Reverend Nugee and Mr. Holland for responding, and also Mr. Jack Prior. And also my most sincere thanks to Mr. Wally Thomas for triggering off the whole thing.

My name is André Brandt and I was born in Umtali, on the Eastern border of Rhodesia and Mozambique. I am almost 18 years old now. My sight and hearing started to fail when I was just over 9 years old.

In 1968, the failure of my sight and hearing forced me to enter a school for physically handicapped people in Bulawayo. But I only spent a year there before I was transferred to this school, where I am in my last year. It has been a great and

pleasant life in this school. I owe a lot to Mr. J. H. Wessels, who has been guiding me all through these last eight years. Mr. Wessels made me into a veteran wrestler and taught me to play chess. I am now very interested in chess and a keen boxing fan. I also love to go camping in the bush and ski-ing, as well as many other pleasures.

Work? Well, I have been negotiating with the Rhodesian Army to get a job in their workshops and I am waiting for comments from them. If it isn't successful, I hope to be in a Salisbury industry for physically disabled people in January, 1979.

I must once again thank Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Nugee and Mr. Prior for their kindness to me and wish them all the best of luck. They have all done me a good favour and dear Wally Thomas can loosen his finger on the trigger now, thanks to you all.

### 'MOTHER OF THE TALKING BOOKS'

St. Dunstaners and her fellow members of the staff may be surprised to learn of Miss Joy Cooch's forty years' service, because, since 1943, she has been an important member of the staff of the recording studios of the Talking Book Service. In May 1938, when our offices were still in Regent's Park, she joined St. Dunstan's Appeals Department. Five years later she transferred to the Talking Books as secretary to the late Mr. L. S. Pinder and has remained 'on detachment' ever since.

After the bombing of the offices they were the only staff left in Regent's Park. "I remember our studio was an old mortuary and the engineer was in the chapel. Partly due to the bombing, our output of books in those days was 25 a year and, of course, they were on long-play discs. Now we produce more than 250 tape recorded books a year for more than 50,000 members.

As secretary to Mr. Don Roskilly, Director of Talking Books R.N.I.B., Joy Cooch, "I call myself general factotum", receives the books from the Director of Publications, keeps track of the recordings' progress through the studios and organises the readers' schedules. "It is a very, very pleasant job. You meet lots of personalities from radio, television and the theatre, who read the books. You are always having visitors and a lot of blind people come in to see us to join the library. Of course you get some grumbles



Joy Cooch.

but they keep you on your toes".

Joy also copes with a bunch of young sound recording engineers: "They keep me young even if they do call me the little white haired old lady at the end of the corridor!"

Their Christmas present last year bore this message: "To Joy-bells, Mother of Talking Books".

### Joint R.M.P. and Chichester City March

This march was first organised by both the Royal Military Police and Chichester City last July. By popular demand, it is now being held annually. The aim of the walk is 'to encourage physical well-being and maintain the international spirit of goodwill and friendship generated by the Centenary March.' The march will take place on Sunday, 6th August, 1978. It will consist of individuals or teams of between 6 and 24 walking over the South Downs. Running and speed marching are forbidden. Participants can opt for distances of 40kms. (25 mls.), 30kms. (20 mls.), 20kms. (12½ mls.) 10kms. (6 mls.). A fee of £2.50 for adults and 75p for under 16's

entitles them to a badge or certificate, respectively. The march culminates in a full dress parade through the streets of Chichester. Requests for further details and names of those interested should be sent to Jock Carnochan, at Ian Fraser House.

### Amateur Radio Weekend

Speakers at the Amateur Radio Weekend at Ian Fraser House on June 10th and 11th, will be: Mr. Alf Lee, G4DQS, on the W.A.B. Awards and Mr. Eric Letts, G3RXJ, who will give a talk and demonstration on R.T.T.Y.

Those wishing to attend should make arrangements through Miss Bridger.

## IN HIS MIND'S EYE— Eric Foster

Talking to David Castleton

Barnsley General Hospital is situated on the outskirts of the town. It is one of Britain's newest hospitals and its impressive modern complex of buildings provides excellent facilities for patients and staff.

Turn right from the main entrance and you will find yourself in the Physiotherapy Department. This, the Superintendent claims, is as up-to-date as any in the country, and he should know because he planned it.

The opportunity to plan your ideal hospital department doesn't come to many physiotherapists, still less to those who are totally blind. Eric Foster has waited a long time for it; since 1946, when he was the only physiotherapist in a one-room department, 36 feet by 18.

Eric's involvement with the planning came about when he pointed out to the Hospital Manager that there was no physiotherapist on the Planning Board of the new hospital. "Within a week I was called in and I found they'd already planned the department and when I went through it, I literally tore it to pieces, so they gave me the board and let me get on with it".

As Eric could not draw his plans, his brother made a model. "A lovely model in ply-wood and bits of wood and wire. We made the model and I took that to the committee. So we went in and I got this—planned out all the office, reception, consultant areas and things like this".



*Claire, a young patient with cerebral palsy, has to learn co-ordination and mobility.*

The Department has a hydrotherapy pool. "That wasn't as big as I would have liked. However, they did lengthen it and made it wider by a couple of feet. It is thirteen foot square exactly."—a splendid gymnasium and treatment area equipped with shortwave, ultrasonics, interferential, ultra violet,—"You name it and we've got it".

For Eric Foster, all this is the culmination of his ambitions. "This is my objective, to build up the physiotherapy service in this town comparable with areas beyond us. Over 32 years I've seen a lot of changes and a lot of controversy. I've been in a lot of arguments but its all based on building up the physiotherapy service".

Barnsley born and bred, he was 23 when he was totally blinded in Tunisia in 1943. Before he lost his sight he had planned a career in technical drawing; at Church Stretton he chose physiotherapy.

"It was Bob Evans, a friend of mine, who really pushed me into physiotherapy." After three year's training in London, he qualified in 1946 and returned to Barnsley.



*Manipulation treatment for muscle wastage by the head of the department.*

"I never intended to stay in Barnsley. I really came because there was no physiotherapist here. During holidays from physiotherapy school I did a bit of part-time work at the hospital, so actually when I qualified there was a job waiting for me".

That was in the small room in the town centre and, after 1950, in larger, but still old premises in Queens Road. "For twenty years we hadn't above one other physiotherapist and for most of that time there was only a nurse and myself. We were treating about 200 patients a day then but a lot of them were just heat treatment — ultra violets — and we used to send them up to the gym *en masse*. We had a gym but it wasn't in the department. It was an old dance hall belonging to a big restaurant".

In 1947, Eric was improvising facilities again, borrowing the public swimming baths to treat children who had succumbed to the polio epidemic. "We got it here; it lasted until about 1949. At that time we had as many as a hundred children come into my department".

"They varied from just a small foot gone — just a single—muscle to literally the whole body. We used to have to carry some of them into the water. Ted Foster, no relation, was manager in those days. He was very keen and he used to come in himself and help with the children. That was when the baths were closed to the public. Parents brought their children. There weren't a lot of cars but, nonetheless, people brought them in prams or walked and carried them. We used to call in the parents a lot — get them in the water so that the bath was one mass of people".

An almost impossible task for a blind man to supervise, I suggested to Eric: "Well, that didn't appear to be any trouble to me at all. I went around from individual to individual and I used to call out by name".

Now, in his fully equipped department, Eric is District Physiotherapist, head of a staff of 25, including 17 qualified physiotherapists. He is more proud of his department than of his own achievements in





*Treatment being carried out in the hydrotherapy pool.*

heading it. He has reached his position by hard work and he sets this example to his staff: "I do it by example. I try to get stuck into as much work as they do and still do the office work. I am able to deal with the administrative side because the authorities have given me the staff to do the job. I find now, over the years of experience, that everybody recognises that if I am talking about a nut and bolt, I know it's a nut and bolt. Nobody's going to say, 'Well, he can't see what he's talking about'. All the hospital people, particularly the senior people, if they want to discuss anything they'll come to me".

Perhaps they go to him because they know they will get a straight answer, as the head of the hospital staff did when he asked Eric Foster how he would feel about taking the appointment of Head of Department: "I said, 'Well, Sir, if you want my candid opinion: if I had a choice of picking between a good blind man and a good sighted one, I should have to pick the good sighted one'. Asked if he thought

he could manage the job if he got it, Eric's answer was an unequivocal yes, and he got the job.

It is a hard, competitive world for a blind physiotherapist. "Every time you handle any patient, the first thing you have to do is to prove to that patient that you can do the job. This has never to be far from your mind. The second thing is to prove to your patient that you are competent. For instance, one of the things that annoys me is if I am groping around in the cubicle for equipment and it's not there. Now if there's a new patient here and he sees me groping all over, what's he going to think?"

"I've got helper staff who clean up, tidy up, and put things away as soon as they are dropped. As I say to my staff: 'If it's easy for me then it must be easy for you'".

A blind physiotherapist, says Eric, must know his department. "You haven't to be afraid of moving about — personal mobility is absolutely vital and the asset of my new department is that I built it on



*Supervising the work of a remedial gymnast in the well-equipped gymnasium.*

the drawing board so there's no corner secret to me".

Not only does Eric know his department, he knows his staff, and how to handle the situations that arise in supervising their work. "I always say that a good general plans his retreat, so I try not to put my foot in it unless I can get it out. Many's the time I've wanted to give a physiotherapist a damn good rollicking but I've found from experience it's much better to hold your tongue and very gradually, later on, you can get a point put over".

"Like a young lady I caught off guard. She was treating a hip. She knew it was not the orthodox method but she soon told me so. It wasn't and it was wrong but I wouldn't contradict her in front of the patient and I left. I shall say to her later on, 'I wouldn't make a habit of that. It's all right as an experiment but you weren't achieving much. The poor patient was lying on her side — uncomfortably'".

Eric Foster had only placed one hand on

the patient, how could he know how she was lying. I asked?

"I saw her".

"How did you do that?"

"Well, I did. She was lying on her left side".

"I didn't see you touch her."

"I saw enough of it. I only have to put my hand on a patient and I can tell. You see I can also see if that physiotherapist is pleasant, happy, smiling, or miserable. I call it environment. It isn't just the tone of voice, it's the pressure built up by antagonism, resentment, or — for instance — I can 'see' if a person is smiling".

Eric has no perception of light, but in his mind's eye. "I can see every move they make". And in his mind's eye he has his ideal department. "I think my disability has always made me recognise the weakness of being a patient. I hate to upset the patient or have them in any way inconvenienced. I know we could go to the point where we spoil them and we try not to do that".

## Gardening Column

The days and weeks pass very quickly and it seems that as soon as I have got one lot of notes done, it comes round to the next month. I certainly am not complaining as I like to do them, but the same is true in the garden; that time is so short to get all the jobs done.

Most things will be late this season all over the country, as the weather has been so unpredictable and rather on the bad side with so much moisture about, getting on to the soil, and getting it ready has been awkward. I know that where I live, the earth will be wet for a long time and the only way for me to warm it up has been by using cloches.

A good many items can be raised in boxes for later planting but many vegetables have to go in their permanent positions. But, as I have often said, do not despair as later sowings often give better crops.

Many new-fangled garden gadgets keep on coming out, some of which are quite good but many only for the rich as they need replacing each season since the quality is poor. Don't go in for them but use the old and trusty implements which you have got used to over the years. The artificial fertilisers are a must these days when you haven't got a compost heap or are unable to get some good farmyard manure. Peat is a good thing to give substance to the soil and break up the clays but some chemicals will have to be added to give it enough feed for all those vegetables, fruit and flowers to give good results and do not forget the fungicides and insecticides before even putting in the plants or seeds.

### Vegetables

Most of those items grown in boxes under frames or in seed beds outside can be planted out and to keep a continuation of crops, all items sown outside last month can be done so again, especially salad crops such as Lettuce, Raddish, Carrots and Peas. Also sow Runner Beans for a late crop and French Beans, keeping a few of these latter back for sowing later to have crops right through the summer and early autumn. Do remember to check that those young

cabbage and brussel plants are well bedded in, especially after strong winds have been around or birds have had a go at the leaves.

Put in some small stakes and use black cotton stretched between them and over the vegetables, which may help to keep them away. There are one or two liquid repellents which work for a few weeks provided there isn't too much rain.

Keep the hoe going to combat weeds and crumble up the soil and, though it may seem strange for me to say this, in dry spells do water the newly-planted items and, of course, water when they are first put in.

A little fertiliser, such as Growmore, in between the rows will give them all a boost and it will last some time. Use the insecticides and fungicides regularly as a deterrent but remember to use as per instructions on the container and don't use them if there is a lot of wind about. Keep children and pets out of the way at the same time.

Tomatoes, marrows, pumpkins and the like can be planted out now, but I think that only those in the warmer south and south-west should do this and the others wait until next month and if planted out, give protection if cold weather is forecast or arrives.

### Fruit

Thin out the fruit of newly-planted trees and give a mulch of manure round the roots, especially if the ground is particularly dry. Give them a good watering before applying the mulch.

Cut out some of the suckers on the Raspberries and the runners on Strawberries which are not wanted for young plants, should also be cut away. Put some straw down between the rows, especially where the berries are to form, beneath the flowers.

### Lawns

Carry on with the mowing regularly and, if possible, with a box, as one gets a much better-looking lawn. In showery weather, a little lawn fertiliser scattered over the area will do a lot of good. Where you have rather a lot of weeds, a

### Gardening Column continued

combined fertiliser/weed killer will help to keep those nuisances under control. However, with some of the deep-rooted items, such as dandelion, use a small fork and ease them up and pull out. Small pieces left behind in the soil will give more dandelions.

Spiking the lawn with a fork will help to get rid of some of the wetter patches and raking may help to keep moss under control. Don't forget to edge those parts of the lawn near the flower beds with a pair of shears; it does make things look much neater.

### Flowers

The borders will now be starting to show their worth and all the hard work that you put in by pruning the Roses and Shrubs and thinning out those rather large clumps of perennials, will be rewarded.

Hardy annuals which were sown in the beds will be nearly in flower and in some cases, if they have grown a bit tall, nipping out the main shoot will make them shorter, though setting back flowering a little longer.

Get all those half hardy annuals which were raised under glass and hardened off, into their permanent quarters though, as I have said before, in the colder and more northern areas it might be a good thing to wait a little longer.

Tie in the Sweet Peas as they grow and get stakes in for the taller items such as Delphiniums and Gladioli and other items which are a little on the leggy side and good targets for the winds.

Do remember to water all items at planting time but keep other watering down to a minimum and, in fact, let the plants tell you by their slight droopiness that they want a drink. Give a fertiliser in the shape of pellets, powder or liquid often and, as with the vegetables, use insecticides and fungicides regularly.

Pick off and burn any leaves on Roses affected by Black Spot and spray regularly with Benelate or some Rose fungicide made especially for this nuisance.

Plants such as Hydrangeas with rather pale leaves can be given a dose of Epsom Salts to help correct the colour. There are other items on the market but I have found this a good cheap substitute.

### Greenhouse

This section of the garden will now be pretty full of all sorts of items, especially for those of you in the Northern parts of the country where the weather hasn't ranted all that much as yet, so don't be in a hurry. Gradually harden off those items which are to go outside by leaving on the space near the greenhouse during the day and taking in again at night.

For pot plants, it is not too late to give one colour in late winter and early spring, and in any case there may be a bit more room when they have germinated and want a bit more room.

Early Tomatoes will be giving plenty of growth and trusses of flower and fruit at the bottom of the plant. Remember that feeding has to start at this stage and lower leaves removed to give more light to the lower trusses in order to hasten the ripening.

Other pot plants will be growing apace and will need a bit more water, especially in very sunny weather, plus a liquid feed at every other watering.

Take off the dead flower heads on all plants and any leaves looking sorry for themselves unless, of course, this has been caused by the invasion of insects or one of those fungus diseases. Check over and use the most efficient curative. In fact I am a great believer in giving regular doses of insecticides and fungicides under glass as the conditions here are just right for these things to happen. It might be a good thing to mix your insecticides so that the creatures don't get immune to your usual. Also burn some smoke cones but shut the place tight and beat a hasty retreat after lighting. Open everything in the morning for a while before really working inside.

Many permanent pot plants and well-growing cuttings could do with a lift into a larger pot or the top soil in the present container being scraped away and new compost added to give them a new lease of life.

Those rather stringy-looking plants could do with a stopping to make them grow bushier and more likely to flower well.

As an addenda to my statement about potting plants, do ensure that the roots are trying to burst out of the pot first.

## READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 778

### Dover Two

By Joyce Porter

Read by David Broomfield

Reading Time 7½ hours

The action takes place in a small North Country town, deeply and bitterly divided by Catholic-Protestant hatred and prejudice. Eight months earlier, Isobel Slatcher had been shot in the head by an unknown assailant and has lain in a deep coma ever since.

As the story opens, somebody has finished off the job, so to speak—slipped into the hospital, smothered her and slipped out again. Det. Chief Inspector Dover of Scotland Yard is called in.

Dover is a graceless slob, bad-tempered, bad-mannered and a dedicated glutton—but not for work. He is notorious as the Yard's worst detective (then how on earth did he manage to rise to such an exalted rank, I can hear you ask . . . so did I!)

Actually, he solves the murder with some very smart, objective thinking—which makes a nonsense of this image and plays havoc with the reader's credibility.

I found the pace of this book slow at times and the *denouement* outrageously improbable. The religious feuding is totally irrelevant to the plot, so why drag it in at all?

Cat. No. 371

### Funeral in Berlin

By Len Deighton

Read by Anthony Parker

Reading Time 11¼ hours

A complicated (and to me at least) sometimes confused and confusing, cloak-and-dagger tale.

It opens, prosaically enough, with the usual impending defection of a Soviet scientist to the West—but he's only a red herring, if you'll pardon the pun. Quite a few very devious characters are indulging in knavery and skulduggery on the side.

Naturally there's a beautiful and mysterious girl spy and a K.G.B. Colonel around,

together with a couple of quite spectacular deaths. Both the victims are baddies, so that's all right.

The story is told in the first person by the British agent and he at least seems perfectly satisfied with the outcome.

Cat. No. 2491

### The Little Hotel

By Christina Stead

Read by Elizabeth Proud

Reading Time 6¾ hours

This is a story about the small, narrow lives of those sad people, the 'exiles', who inhabit the cheap little hotels, out-of-season, in the Continental resorts.

The 'Swiss Tourist' is such a place, a small *pension* whose guests are a curious collection of nationalities and personalities. There is Mrs. Trollope, an English widow, who has lived most of her life in Malaya (and who is suspected by fellow-guests of having Indian blood) and her parsimonious 'cousin', Mr. Wilkins. It is common knowledge that he is not really her cousin and their liaison has lasted for more than twenty-five years.

There is the Swiss lady, Mrs. Blaize, whose doctor husband has a rich practice in Zurich and who visits the hotel only occasionally.

The Princess is a wealthy American, desperately fending off the ravages of old age with diets and cosmetic surgery. There are many types here; the sham, the greedy, the hypochondriac and the eccentric.

The tale is told mainly by Madame Bonarde, owner of the *pension*. The style is curiously stilted, like a translation into English—which obviously it is intended to represent. I found this device a bit irritating at times.

### St. Dunstan's Annual Sports and Archery Championships, 1978

All St. Dunstaners wishing to compete in the 1978 Annual Sports and/or Archery Championships, please write to the Sports Organiser, Jock Carnochan, for entry forms, not later than 15th May.

## Ron Smith on Ultra-Sonic Bats and Whales

An extract from a talk given at Ian Fraser House

I suppose it all began when I was about 18 years old and I remember reading a paragraph out of one of the London dailies which said that one day the sound made by bats could possibly help blind people to get about more easily and I thought, 'How the dickens could that happen?' Because, from younger days I was told that bats were blind and they didn't seem to make any sound at all. But when I was thinking about this at the age of 18, my thoughts went further back in years to when I was about the age of 10 or 11 — how there's a wonderful stream, shown on the map as a river, which ran right from the valley for about 12 miles. Occasionally, in about four places, it had been dammed to serve some of the flour mills, giving a mill race and thereby helping to turn the very large wooden wheels. At just one other spot, it was also dammed, to fill one of the lakes there.

One part that I remember so well along that stream was about 50 yards long. The nearside bank would be something like 3' high from the water, the other side was about 8', or at least it seemed like that when I was a child, and on the top it had quite a lot of wild growth. There were many trees growing fairly closely together and these were quite tall and some of the branches were overhanging the stream, almost touching the nearside banks, making in the summer a perfect, green tunnel. Now, if you went paddling, as I did many, many times, quite often there would be one or two grubs falling down off the leaves above, sometimes caterpillars, and, therefore, there was a fair amount of fish in the stream. On an early summer evening and possibly right through the dark, it was a paradise for hundreds of bats. I remember these so well, and even now I can visualise their flight. It seemed erratic, undulating. I remember one particular bat turning round, just as though on a six-penny bit, and going back again and then going back again. I thought, 'What a ridiculous flight. Nothing like the straight flight of a bird that I used to admire.' These bats seemed

all so irregular. There was nothing neat about the flight at all.

Little did I know. But I do remember hearing the squeaks because, of course, at about the age of 10, a child would hear some of these squeaks because the skin over the eardrum is very much thinner than it is as one grows older. From the age of 18, I thought, 'How could those squeaks help a blind person to get about more easily?'

### Echo Location

Then, after the war, I remember listening to my first bat recording and I was really fascinated by the sound. Since then, I've spoken to a man in research, which was most fascinating and he told me that what happens is that the bats send out ultra sonic sounds. These are really echo-location sounds and if they hit an insect, the bat will know immediately. It will then follow the insect and catch it. It takes evasive action if it receives frequencies from a twig or branch. But it has got to be so quick. Then I realised that this erratic flying that I've mentioned wasn't anything of the kind. It was fantastic flying. The bat which I had seen turn and then come back was obviously chasing an insect and it was almost dark. Of course, bats aren't totally blind but they have very poor sight and in any case, hunting as they do in the dark, their sight would be no use at all. These ultra frequency sounds are marvellous and those tiny creatures, with their very small, computer-like brains, have to sort all this out.

### Sonic Torch

Then, several years later, I read about Professor Kay. He had invented and developed something called the Sonic Torch. This sends out frequencies, which we have to listen to and then learn their meaning. Later, when I heard the sonic torch, I thought, 'This is exactly what the bat is doing'. When hunting for food, it knows exactly what to do. Likewise, when we know the signals of the sonic torch, we too become fairly proficient.

When I mentioned to one or two research people about the bats influencing them in their research, they seemed to skirt around the subject. But I did find one Research Officer, our own Mr. Richard Dufton, who said, "About ten or twelve years ago, there was some research in the physiological area, which you've mentioned, the mammals and the bats, and that did see the start of the work in ultra sonic mobility devices. In very recent years, the research into the behaviour of dolphins and seals has been greatly intensified.

#### Echo—Locating Systems

"I think we can look at the first practical echo-locating systems as being very much in under-water detection. This was greatly stimulated during the Second World War. There are two sorts of under-water echo-locating systems; a passive one and an active one. The passive system is when you are simply listening for sounds emitted by another object. The active system is where you are actually emitting sounds yourself or your instrument is, as in the case of mobility aids. They pick up and actually detect the range and bearing of the object you are looking for. In the case of the bat, of course, he is doing this remarkable feat of echo-locating in three dimensions; he is flying and his target is flying, so he has to make remarkably quick decisions. But there is a similarity with sonic aids as one has to learn the pattern of echoes returned from objects because all objects are relatively distant as one moves forward through one's surroundings."

#### Perfect Fossilised Specimen

I have kept in touch with Professor Kay and I asked him some time ago whether there had been any change in the construction of the bat over hundreds of thousands of years. He told me that had I asked that same question five years ago he couldn't have answered it for the simple reason that to find the remains of bats is very difficult indeed as their bones are so brittle. They don't make good fossilised specimens. But, a few years ago, some geologists came across a perfect, fossilised specimen of a bat embedded in shale at the bottom of an old lake. It was found that this bat was millions of years

old and that, in fact, the bat has not changed at all over that time. What fascinates me is that whilst ultra sonic sounds are relatively new to us, to the bats they are extremely old.

#### Vampire Bats

One must remember that the bat is the only true winged creature. All the birds, of course, have developed their wings. Not all the thousands of specimens of bats use these ultra sonic sounds. The very large, fruit-eating bat, often found in the West Indies and Queensland in Australia, is one such example. Many people, I am sure, have read books with stories in them about vampire bats, these very large bats, which seem to fly through the windows of houses and take the blood of a sleeping person. These, of course, are just stories. But there is such a thing as a true vampire. This is a very, very small bat which has a wonderful digestive system for the blood which it takes in. But it doesn't suck it up; it laps it up with its rather long tongue. How does it take the blood? Well, it has two scalpel-sharp teeth, and in South America, where one such bat was observed hovering over a sleeping animal, it used these teeth to puncture the skin, took the blood and then flew away without even waking the animal. This, of course, is what happens to the sleeping humans. But the animal or person does not die from the fact that so much blood has been taken away, but from the vecta of sleeping sickness which the bat injects when it makes an incision in the flesh of its victim.

Certain characteristics of the whale family make one wonder whether it was, at one time, a land creature. It has the brain of an average-sized man, whilst remains of fingers have been found in the ends of the fins. It makes you wonder when you notice its eyes, set back like human eyes; its size, and its ears, which are like ours but are set back inside the skin. Why has it got such a large brain and what was it used for?

#### Cowboy of the Sea

All these creatures are very fast swimmers because their bodies are specially constructed to fit the contours of the waves. The porpoise, for instance, can keep up with the fastest liners. It's also been known as the cowboy of the sea. It

will herd a shoal of fish into a bay and seal off any exit so that the other porpoise can go in one at a time and take their fill. As one goes in, the gap is closed.

I remember stories some years ago when the New Zealand Government took out legislation to protect one of these creatures. Protection was asked for by some of the captains of the old sailing ships about sixty years ago. They said that this porpoise would meet them some distance in front of the ship, turn around and guide them through the very rocky channels of Cooke's Strait and Murdoch Sound.

When the porpoise is born, it is born backwards, otherwise it would drown when it is released by its mother. It then shoots to the surface, takes a brief breath of air and goes back to join its mother exactly the same time as a nursemaid comes to give attendance.

On one occasion, three porpoise were seen swimming together. The observer wasn't looking for porpoise, but he noticed these three coming up and that they seemed rather agitated. Then, some distance away, he saw the dorsal fin of a shark cutting through the water. This shark encircled the three porpoise. After a while, the observer was surprised to see quite a lot of water being shot up some distance away and thought that it must be one or two speed boats. But, on further observance, he saw a shoal of porpoise coming at a tremendous speed. They completely cut off the shark and then, one at a time, began to dive at it, striking it behind the gills, until at last they had killed it. They do not use their teeth for attacking, although they have about 44 in each jaw.

#### Good Samaritans

But, of course, they are friendly to man and have been known to be so for hundreds of years. We have proof of this in a Roman coin which was minted at Hippo, a North African settlement. This shows a boy riding on the back of a porpoise. There have also been stories where porpoise have helped people in difficulty, probably taken far out to sea on a tide, and who have been pushed back again by these wonderful creatures.

But to return to the whale's brain. What is it really used for? Doctor Payne, a

young American scientist, has been doing research into whales for many years. "The brain of the sperm whale is the largest brain of any animal on earth. Of course, porpoise also have large brains and there has been much discussion about the possibility that they use them for advanced thought. I don't really think that they do. I suspect that the brain is used instead for advanced manipulation and calculations. They are using their high computing capability for getting the most information out of a sound. I suspect that human ears are about as dull in comparison to porpoise ears as our sense of smell would be compared to a Blood Hound's. The sound of one snapping one's fingers, for instance, would tell a porpoise far more than it would tell us. It might tell it something about the shape of the room, its contents; and any other major features. I prefer to think of whales as being acoustic rather than highly intelligent. I think they probably use their brains, not for philosophical thoughts, but for acoustic purposes." According to Doctor Payne then, the brain is used for acoustic manipulation.

Well, I do hope you too have found magic in the darkness.

#### CASSETTE COPYING SERVICE

From now on, we hope to start building up a stock of master cassettes here at Headquarters. Subjects could range from radio programmes to St. Dunstan's events, such as reunions. Anyone requiring a copy should simply send the appropriate length blank cassette, their name and address and the catalogue number and title of the cassette required. These details may be sent on the blank cassette provided it is wrapped in paper or has a rubber band around it.

Watch out in the *Review* for titles available.

First titles available:

- G1 Peter Jones on Radio Sheffield. Hints on do-it-yourself. C60
- G2 Ron Smith. Lecture on nature and ultra sound. C60
- SD1 The speeches of our Chairman and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent at Ian Fraser House on 3rd March. The tape lasts 3-4 mins.

## OVINGDEAN NOTES

Now that the momentous visit of the Duchess of Kent, which was so well and truly covered in our last issue, is over, back to more mundane happenings.

A tour of the Brighton Pavilion by our trainees was much enjoyed and with the assistance of a most helpful guide, nothing was missed and the Regency atmosphere was captured by all.

The Theatre Royal certainly lived up to its name with Alan Ayckbourn's tongue-in-cheek comedy, 'Ten Times Table' and so, with the side-splitting comedy, 'George and Mildred', the following week, the entertainment was first-rate.

The drive to Wyndham Farmhouse was somewhat marred by wind and rain, but being the week for the fishermen, what else can one expect? You only have to mention that it's the week for fishing and the heavens open and gales appear in full force—it never fails!

On Good Friday, we had a play reading by the V.A.D.'s, Dorothy Roffey, Joyce Briant, Jennifer Low and Mary Frith, with our guest reader, Eve King, as polished as ever. I am sure that the odd muffled, "It's your line", "No, it's not", etc., by our V.A.D.'s, was as much appreciated as any immortal lines by Sarah Bernhard.

We were entertained on Easter Sunday by the sweet and gentle singing of The Kittiwakes, folk singers, who accompanied themselves on guitars. Their words and music conjured up for us the true joy and hope of Easter.

### Easter Bonnet Parade

Spring burst upon us on Monday evening in a rainbow of colours from the Easter Bonnet Parade and what a parade of beautiful hats! Dr. Stilwell and his charming wife, who kindly consented to judge, were hard-pressed indeed to choose the lucky winners. But choose they must and the winners from the ladies section were:

1st Margaret Bingham, in a sensational picture bonnet, a gorgeous creation in gold, with flowing ribbons and falderals.  
2nd Barbara Bell, whose head was graced by a truly golden daffodil.

3rd Elsie Aldred, elegant as always, in a Fleur de Plume, just made for her, a symphony of black and pink in sweeping ostrich feathers.

So, now onto our dashing gentlemen:  
1st Carl Burt, "bird in nest", complete with eggs and straw. (I trust there were no cuckoos about!)

2nd Freddie Harris with "Easter Wishes". Instead of putting his Easter cards on the mantelpiece, he put them on his head in tasteful array.

3rd Bernard Inman with "Hottie and Coolie", sporting a hot water bottle wrapped round his head, with his partner hidden under a large coolie hat.

A most enjoyable evening followed with dancing to the strains of Ernie Took and his merry men. Ernie kindly agreed to M.C. the whole affair, which he did with the flourish of the Grand Master and received three vigorous cheers, lead by Bob Evans, for his efforts and those of his fellow players. A delicious buffet was served at "half-time".

### Long John Silver?

Matron Pass gave a vote of thanks to all the V.A.D.'s and wives for putting such great effort into their creations. Unfortunately, her leg is still heavily encased in plaster, but she nobly hopped around on her one good leg. One almost expected to see a parrot perched on her shoulder. She has since been confined to a wheelchair for her sins. We hope to see her mobile again very soon.

So our Easter ended with the dulcet tones of ten hand bell ringers, lead by Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, on Tuesday evening. This was much appreciated by all as, afterwards, the bells were handed round and everyone was encouraged to have a go. Though these highly skilled bell ringers are much in demand, they gave of their time generously and willingly.

Our readers will no doubt detect some change in the notes this month. The pithy and witty pen of our Entertainment and Escort Officer, Mrs. Dorothy Williams, is temporarily stilled. Mrs. Williams has been seriously ill but is now convalescing and all here join in sending her our good wishes.

## CLUB NEWS

### MIDLAND

All the members of the Midland Club were deeply saddened at the news of Lady Fraser's death. It is some years now since we had the pleasure of her company at a Birmingham Reunion, but she was always in everyone's thoughts and we shall miss her very much.

Lady Fraser was thought of with great affection by all St. Dunstaners and their wives and we offer our deepest sympathy to her family at this sad loss.

With her death, an era in St. Dunstan's ends and we must now turn over a new page and see what is on the other side.

Due to the bad weather in February, we did not hold a club meeting that month, so that is why there has not been any report about the Midland Club in the *Review* for a couple of months.

However, we were able to hold our March meeting as usual and I am pleased to say that all members attended the meeting on Sunday, 12th.

Everyone soon became involved in domino games and we had quite a number of matches in the knock-out competition which was played before the meeting came to a close.

I was very pleased about this as we are anxious to get the Sir Arthur Pearson Competition completed as soon as possible so that we can start another one which will include our wives and escorts.

During the interval for tea, we discussed a number of things, including this year's outings. The main outing may be another run to Dovedale and Alton Towers, but at the moment this is still being studied. Coach costs have to be looked into thoroughly.

Tea was arranged for us once again by the ladies of the club and we all thanked them in our usual manner.

### Chelsea Pensioner

Our Chairman, Joe Kibbler, has been invited to become a Chelsea Pensioner, but although I think he does fancy himself in a nice red uniform, I do not think that we shall be loosing him yet awhile.

Our monthly meeting was held on Sunday, 9th April, and it was very well attended. Many good friends came along

to give us their support as we ran another of our now famous "Bring and Buy" sales.

It was a great success and brought quite a nice sum of money into the club funds.

We would still very much like to see the club numbers growing and I know that there are several St. Dunstaners in the Midland area who could get along to club meetings once a month. How nice it would be to see a few of you coming along. I can assure you of a very warm welcome.

Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Royal British Legion Headquarters, Thorpe Street, Birmingham.

We talked over this year's club outing and it is now decided that we shall go to Ragley Hall and Evesham. We just have to hope for good weather.

The remaining time was taken up with dominoes and our competition is going ahead very well.

Our ladies put on the tea for us once again and we thanked them in the usual manner.

I am making enquiries all around to see if it is possible to get new club premises on the flat. At the moment we have to go up a flight of stairs and they are becoming more and more difficult to negotiate for one or two members, particularly Bruno Tomporowski, so we are keeping our fingers crossed in the hope that new premises can soon be found.

Our next meeting is on Sunday, 14th May.

DOUG CASHMORE,  
Secretary.

### LONDON

#### Bridge Notes

Our fourth match in 1978 for the Gover Cup (Individuals) was played in the London Club rooms on 1st April, and the results were as follows:

<b>M. Tybinski and J. Huk</b>	<b>73</b>
J. Carney and J. Majchrowicz	63
B. Evans and P. Nuyens	63
F. Dickerson and H. Meleson	63
V. Kemmish and R. Stanners	56

## Club News *continued*

### BRIGHTON

#### ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

March 8th, 'C' Day. I am sure all 37 members and friends who went on this trip will agree that it was 'different'. The first pick-up point was at Pearson House, the time being 6.30 a.m., and, when everyone was eventually on board the coach, we made our way to Dover to catch the Hovercraft to Calais.

On arrival, we were ready to board the Hovercraft when it 'took off'. It was a case of the saying being true, 'pull up the ladder, Jack'. You can imagine how dismayed we were but, never daunted, we caught the next flight, after spending an hour in the duty-free lounge. Although the sea was choppy, it was an experience no-one would have missed.

We then travelled by coach to Calais, where we went our separate ways to spend a couple of hours as we pleased. When we met again later, everyone

seemed to be singing, 'Where have all the toilets gone?' — I will not elaborate on this point!

Owing to the delay in the morning, we decided to come home by boat and I think everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip on the 'Chartres'. Then, well-laden with our duty-free and various presents, we boarded our coach for the journey home. Of course, we had the traditional singing and were highly entertained by the clever wit of Alf Dodgson, who had us in peals of laughter from the moment we left Dover. What a pity Opportunity Knocks is coming to an end on T.V.! The verdict: after this expedition we can tackle anything.

Despite the strike at the brewery, our March dance was a great success and we were delighted to see such a good crowd there.

BOB OSBORNE,  
Chairman

## FAMILY NEWS

### Marriages

*Mr. William Muir* of Newcastle, is pleased to announce that his grandson, David Paul Steel, was married on March 27th.

*Mr. James O'Hara* of Wimbledon, is pleased to announce that his daughter, Jill, was married to Nigel Gunner on 4th March.

### Pearl Wedding

Many congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Tatchell* of Cardiff, who celebrated their Pearl Wedding on March 27th.

### Grandchildren

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. Robert Austin* of Elland, Yorkshire, on the birth of their thirteenth grandchild, Melvin Ian, born on 24th March, to their son, Ian, and daughter-in-law, Cynthia.

*Mr. and Mrs. John Edmund Brown* of Huntingdon, on the birth of their grand-

daughter, Rosalind Sara Ann, born on 17th March, to their daughter, Cheryl, and son-in-law.

*Mr. and Mrs. Edward Quinn* of Telescombe Cliffs, on the birth of their first grandson, Matthew Richard, born on 24th October, 1977, to their daughter, Maureen, and son-in-law, Michael.

### Examination and Career Successes We warmly congratulate:

*Frederick Bentley* of Birmingham, who was recently presented with a gold Braille watch in recognition of 32 years service at British Leyland.

Christopher, grandson of *Charles Brown* of Burton-on-Trent, who, in February, was successful in obtaining a bronze medal in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Christopher and his mother have already got their bronze life saving award, his mother having obtained it four years ago at the age of 40.

## Family News *continued*

### Deaths

#### We offer our sincere sympathy to:

*Mr. Tommy Bice* of Westmoors, Dorset, whose father died on 9th March.

*Mr. John Cope* of Bilston, Staffs., whose wife, May, died on 27th March.

*Mr. Walter Durrant* of Norwich, whose mother died on 5th November, 1977.

*Mr. and Mrs. Robert Finch* of Shirley, Solihull, on the death of their son, Blake, who died on 7th April.

*Mr. Bertie Harsent* of Colchester, whose wife, Edith, died on 31st March.

*Mr. Michael Lang* of Liverpool, whose father died on 8th April.

*Mr. Donald Lorenz* of Norwich, whose father died on 16th January.

*Mr. James Minter* of Worsley, whose mother died on 18th January.

*Miss Margaret Paterson* of Chessington, whose sister died in March.

*Mr. Cecil Pennells* of Brighton, whose sister died on 28th January.

*Mr. David Thomas* of Manchester, whose mother died on 1st April.

*Mr. Ashby Ward-Smith* of Falmouth, whose wife, Gladys, died on 8th March.

*Mr. Laban Williams* of Bristol, whose wife, Jenny, died on 4th March.

## 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.

### Basil Charles Backhurst *Royal Air Force*

Basil Charles Backhurst of St. Brelade, Jersey, died on 8th March, at the age of 55.

Mr. Backhurst served as a leading aircraftsman in the Royal Air Force from his enlistment in 1941, until his discharge in January, 1946. Following his discharge, Mr. Backhurst returned to his previous occupation as a shop assistant for a short while and was subsequently employed by an airline in Jersey. Later, he entered the Jersey Civil Service, but had to retire in 1972 due to his vision loss. He then successfully completed hobby training courses at Brighton and became proficient in typewriting and wrought iron work, as well as seagrass stools. In earlier years, Mr. Backhurst had been a keen exponent of the 'do-it-yourself' school and he, therefore, faced each new hobby he undertook as a challenge, despite periods of ill-health. He also enjoyed his garden, talking books and a French course which he had recently started.

He leaves a widow, Eileen Pamela, son, Michael, and daughter-in-law.

### Bartholomew Culley *Irish Guards*

Bartholomew Culley of Bexhill-on-Sea, died on 10th April, aged 71.

Mr. Culley was a Regular Guardsman from

1921, when he enlisted in the Irish Guards at the age of 15, and was trained to be a military tailor. He was discharged in 1956 and joined St. Dunstan's two years later.

His greatest interest was his garden and greenhouse but he had many other hobbies, including card games, listening to his talking book and radio, dominoes, draughts and a keen interest in football. Mr. Culley thoroughly enjoyed his visits to Ovingdean and, although suffering recurring bouts of ill-health over the years, displayed great courage and remained in good spirits.

He leaves two daughters, Mrs. Patricia Creed and Mrs. Shirley Leppard, two sons, Terence and Frederick, and their families.

### Reginald William Greenacre *Royal Field Artillery*

Reginald William Greenacre of Dunstable, died on 9th March, aged 82.

Mr. Greenacre enlisted in August, 1914, and served as a Private with the Royal Field Artillery. He was wounded by a gas shell on the Somme and discharged from the Army in October, 1918. With the subsequent failure of his sight, Mr. Greenacre joined St. Dunstan's in July, 1931, and trained as a mat maker and, although he did

## In Memory *continued*

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not enjoy the best of health because of chest trouble as a result of his injury, he continued in this occupation until, in 1942, he went into factory work to help the war effort. Later that year, after he and his family were bombed out, they moved from Norwich to Dunstable, where he took up further industrial employment. He remained in this type of work until 1960. When he retired, Mr. Greenacre then made his garden and greenhouse his hobby and specialised in growing carnations.

After suffering the sadness of his wife's sudden death in August, 1977, Mr. Greenacre's health deteriorated and he spent a good deal of time at Ovingdean.

He leaves three sons.

### **Squadron Leader B. M. T. S. Leete, O.B.E., A.F.C.**

Bernard "Leeto" Leete, of Stanmore, Middlesex, died on the 30th March, aged 79 years.

After being commissioned and serving throughout the First World War and for some years afterwards, he made civil aviation history when he flew a de Havilland Gipsy Moth biplane from London to Karachi in 1926. He was accompanied by Commander Neville Stack, flying a similar plane, and their flight established a long distance record for light aircraft. Subsequently, he stayed in India, instructing at civil aviation clubs and later training pilots during the Second World War. He was awarded the Air Force Cross for his record-breaking flight and the Order of the British Empire for his work in India. A glider crash in 1942 led to his complete loss of sight and serious ill health for the rest of his life.

He went to St. Dunstan's at Tembani in South Africa for training and later returned to England. He had wide interests, including current affairs and politics, and wrote and lectured on various subjects. He helped the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind and also served for some years with the Samaritans. Recently, he had increasing ill health, but had just enjoyed a family party, celebrating his eldest son's Silver Wedding, when he collapsed and died within a few days.

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

### **John Styles Royal Army Veterinary Corps**

John Styles of South Ruislip, died at Pearson House on the 17th March, aged 90.

Mr. Styles served as a private with the Royal Army Veterinary Corps during the First World War. He enlisted in 1915, and was discharged in 1919, following injuries received in the fighting near Amiens. He joined St. Dunstan's in November, 1974.

In earlier years, Mr. Styles had been a scrap dealer but he had been retired for many years. However, despite his disabilities and advancing years, he retained a lively interest in his large family and current events and enjoyed listening to the radio and his talking books.

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

### **Lionel Frank Tanner Dorset Regiment**

Lionel Frank Tanner of Stroud, died on 19th February, aged 70.

Mr. Tanner served as a private with the Dorset Regiment during the Second World War. He enlisted in June, 1943, and was discharged in February, 1945, after being wounded the previous year. Prior to becoming a St. Dunstaner in February, 1972, Mr. Tanner worked in the building trade and then as a storeman with British Petroleum. After his wife's death in March, 1973, Mr. Tanner coped very well with living alone with the help of his sister, who visited him daily.

He leaves a sister, Mrs. Lucy Cox.

### **Frederick John Wade Durham Light Infantry**

Frederick John Wade of Durham, died on 6th March, aged 91.

Mr. Wade enlisted in 1914, serving with the Durham Light Infantry and the Machine Gun Corps as a private. He was wounded on the Somme but continued to serve in the Army until 1918. After his discharge from the Army, he took up employment as a colliery engine wright until his retirement at the age of 63. He joined St. Dunstan's in June, 1974.

He leaves four grown-up children.

### **Gordon Jack Watts Royal Norfolk Regiment**

Gordon Jack Watts of Norwich, died on 1st March, aged 70.

Mr. Watts served as a private with the Royal Norfolk Regiment from September, 1939, until May, 1942. He suffered defective vision after being wounded in 1940 and when his sight failed completely, he joined St. Dunstan's in March, 1963.

Having sound knowledge of poultry keeping and gardening, Mr. Watts made these activities and a greenhouse his hobby occupation and more than proved his ability by the considerable success he had when exhibiting in local shows. He was also a proficient basket-maker and another interest he enjoyed was membership of his local blind association. Mr. Watts became ill in 1976, but with patient and devoted nursing by his wife, he made a good recovery, until sadly he became ill again early in February.

He leaves a widow, Lillian, and their three daughters.