

St Dunstons Review August '78



St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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10p MONTHLY

Cover Story Back in the Saddle

A full-time reservist in the Royal Ulster Constabulary, 50-year-old Willie Beatty thought he would never ride a horse again after he was totally blinded in an explosion in Co. Fermanagh last November.

But Willie's life took a sudden turn for the better when he mounted Sussex Police horse, Major Mike, at Ovingdean.

A farmer and horse trainer before he joined the R.U.C., Willie had spoken of his love of horses during a visit to the Brighton Police Club, arranged by Sussex Police Welfare Department. So P.C.s Tom Gray and John Boniface rode out to St. Dunstan's with Major Mike and Roland.

Willie was delighted. After running expert hands over the horses, he just couldn't resist climbing into the saddle. Before long he was riding down the centre's long drive overlooking the English Channel.

"I thought I would never be on a horse again", Willie said later. "I was sort of dreading this morning, wondering how I would face up to it. But now I have new hope".

Willie, who lost his sight in an accident while disposing of explosives in a quarry, plans to return to his farm, which is being looked after by his wife and five sons, aged from 6 to 19.

RETIREMENT PENSIONS

St. Dunstaners and their wives approaching normal retirement age receive from the Department of Health and Social Security application forms for their retirement pensions. St. Dunstaners in receipt of the unemployability supplement will also receive these forms and should they experience any difficulty in completing them, would they send them to the Pensions Officer, Mr. L. A. Slade, at Headquarters for attention.

Festival of Remembrance

It is hoped that we will again be granted an allocation of tickets for the afternoon and evening presentation of the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, 11th November. Any St. Dunstaner who has not previously had the opportunity of attending, is invited to apply to Miss Bridger at Headquarters, not later than Friday, 29th September, if possible, for inclusion in the ballot for tickets, indicating which presentation he would prefer to attend.

Those St. Dunstaners allocated tickets who do not live within daily travelling distance of London will be assisted with fares and accommodation for one or two nights at St. Dunstan's expense and will be invited to join the St. Dunstan's contingent attending the Cenotaph Parade in Whitehall on Sunday, 12th November.

C. D. WILLS

B.B.C. Radio Changes

From 23rd November, 1978, a new international frequency agreement comes into effect. However, the channels allocated to the B.B.C. will remain virtually unchanged. The B.B.C. hopes to achieve better all-round coverage of the country with its services by moving the services between existing channels. Those St. Dunstaners with radios with medium and long wavebands as well as V.H.F., should not experience any difficulty. To clarify the situation, full details of the changes follow:

Wavelengths, Metres

Radio 1	285 and 275	} Medium Wave
Radio 2	433 and 330	
Radio 3	247	
Radio 4	1500 and 1322	Long Wave
Radio Scotland, Radio Wales, Radio Cymru, Radio Ulster, B.B.C. local radio and all V.H.F. services will experience no change.		

MRS. DORIS GRACIE

It is with great sorrow that we have to report the death of Mrs. D. Gracie, 'Dot' to her friends on the staff of St. Dunstan's. Mrs. Gracie joined St. Dunstan's in 1936 and remained in continuous employment with us except for a period during the war when she was drafted into war work. Dot started work at Raglan Street when she was 14 years old, and later moved to the Netting Department at Marylebone Road Headquarters a department she eventually took over and administered its day to day needs in a very efficient and friendly way. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Mr. G. Adamson of the Joinery Department, who knew Dot when she joined the staff, and Mrs. G. Adamson of the Basket Department attended her funeral at All Saints Church, Hartest, Suffolk. We all at St. Dunstan's send our deepest sympathy to Mr. H. Gracie and her sisters.

DINGHY SAILING COURSE, 11-15th September

The Royal Yacht Association Seamanship Foundation will be holding their annual dinghy sailing course from 11th to 15th September, at R.A.O.C., Bicester. The course is open to all registered blind between the ages of 15 and 40, (special exception might be made for those over 40). The cost is £10.00 and application forms can be obtained from: Mr. C. Atrill, The Royal National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W1.

INTERNATIONAL PEN FRIENDS

International Pen friends, the largest organisation of its kind in the world, is launching a new division for blind people to celebrate its tenth anniversary. Any St. Dunstaners interested in this can obtain further information from: June Maugham, 60 Ellesmere Road, Benwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

NO SEPTEMBER REVIEW

Following normal practice, we will not be publishing a September Review. The next Review will be in October.

A.A. GUIDE FOR THE DISABLED

Published by the Automobile Association, Fanum House, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 2EA.

Price £1.00 (free to members)

This new A.A. guide lists the hotels and guest houses which, by design or accident, can offer the disabled or blind guest a reasonably trouble-free stay. Motorways service areas are included, with details of opening times, steps, ramps and special toilets for wheelchair users. There is also a lot of other useful information about concessions offered by ferry operators and bodies which make a special effort to help the disabled.

ADVENTURE HOLIDAY

The Woodside Adventure Centre, Richmond, Surrey, are proposing to run a week's outdoor holiday for the visually handicapped at Bideford, Devon, during the week beginning 1st October. Activities will include water ski-ing, grass ski-ing, sailing and surf sailing. The all-in cost for the week will be £35.00. Further details may be obtained from the Sports and Recreation Office at the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Tel: 01-388 1266

LEEDS CASSETTE

Bert Ward announces that now the *Leeds Cassette* tape magazine has its own copying facilities, as reported in last month's Review, they are now capable of making copies for a national readership.

There is some local news on the first side but the remainder is taken from national newspapers and magazines.

Anyone interested in receiving the *Leeds Cassette* should write to: Bert Ward, 9 Wynford Terrace, Leeds, LS16 6HU.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEM

John Simpson of Brighton, would like to hear from anyone who knows if there is any means of learning to speak with sighted dumb people other than the hand as when he goes fishing with them, he is not always able to communicate with them. If anyone can help, could they please contact the Public Relations Department at Headquarters.

REUNIONS

NEWCASTLE

When British Rail's advanced passenger train made its first journey from its construction shed to some other fitting bay, it was at the princely speed of 10 m.p.h. The journey on the 8th June, from London showed only a slight improvement. The train was 50 minutes late, breakfast was delayed 'for reasons beyond our control' and finally, the public address system packed up. Notwithstanding, there were 6 St. Dunstaners from the First World War and 12 from the Second World War at the Royal Station Hotel for the reunion.

After welcoming Mr. William Marsh of West Hartlepool, attending his first reunion, Major Sandys, J.P., a Member of Council, developed the main theme of his address, which was the role of women in society today. This was prompted by the assembly standing in silence to remember the life of 'Chips' Fraser. "During his lifetime, Lord Fraser achieved more than is given to most of us to achieve. He would have been the first to recognise and admit that much of it was due to the perfect companionship and help which she gave over so many years. I think that in her own quiet way, she did

At the Newcastle Reunion Mrs. Sandys helps Mrs. Pinder choose her prize while Mr. Wills and Mrs. Inman, Welfare Visitor, look on.



more for St. Dunstan's than anybody ever connected with it. She was the living example of the saying that behind every successful man, there stands a good woman. She had that marvellous ability, which has to be learned, for remembering people".

Major Sandys went on to compare the service paid to their husbands by the wives of St. Dunstaners. It was one of the most remarkable facets of St. Dunstan's life. He concluded by paying tribute to Mrs. Inman, who had just organised her first reunion, and to Miss Skinner, our Scottish Welfare Visitor, who had travelled so far to be present at the reunion. To emphasise his main theme, Major Sandys ended by pointing out that, "with the exception of two, all members of the staff present were women".

In replying on behalf of St. Dunstan's, David Bell of Edinburgh, likened his speech to a bikini; very brief, enough to cover the essential points, but leave something to the imagination. "As you so rightly said", continued David, "We must pause to reflect on absent friends. Lady Fraser was a typical example of a guide, a force and a friend, a wife and a mother—just like all St. Dunstaners' wives". David paid tribute to Geoffrey Stephens, John Black and Wilfred Knight, whose presence will be sadly missed. "But, again, we are here to enjoy ourselves and to chat with old friends, especially Mrs. King and Mrs. Midgley, who are here with us today".

David went on to thank the members of staff present, with a special word for Mrs. Inman, this being her first reunion, and Miss Skinner. He specially mentioned the late Margaret Bergman, a waitress who had served for many years. "We must not fail to give thanks to men of vision, Sir Arthur Pearson and Captain Ian Fraser, as he was then. Their vision, drive and far-sightedness in getting St. Dunstan's on a firm footing, has enabled us to be here today. It is back in your lap, gentlemen, to give every support to the Council and to keep the flag flying".



From l. to r. Mrs. Womack, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson and Mr. and Mrs. Petty, at the Sheffield Reunion.

SHEFFIELD

After the experience of our journey to Newcastle, we were not surprised to find that travelling by British Rail on Saturday, 10th June, was also a slow journey, but for a very different reason. Trains were clogged by senior citizens, making use of a day's free travel by rail. May we see a repeat of similar events.

Because of the delay in travelling, Sir James Pitman, K.B.E., M.A., apologised for being late to welcome St. Dunstaners to the Grosvenor House Hotel. He was pleased to welcome two new arrivals, Mr. Reginald Gadd of Nottingham, and Mr. William Stalham of Hatfield, Doncaster. Sir James continued, "In view of the age of the majority of St. Dunstaners, it is encouraging to see that there are 7 here who are still in full-time employment. It is very commendable to what extent you St. Dunstaners have adjusted yourselves and are counting your blessings. For it is the blessings and the counting of them which is the foundation for the acceptance of a disaster such as losing one's sight".

Sir James went on to talk about another disabled group with whom he is connected—the deaf. "They are denied language and above all, the emotion and

warmth in the tone of people's voices.

Language is the great gift that mankind has over the animal kingdom. It is one of the blessings that the blind have. You have words and sentences which you can exchange with others".

Sir James ended by re-affirming the interest and sympathy which the Chairman, Members of Council and staff held in all their dealings with St. Dunstaners.

After Mr. Wills had brought the assembly up-to-date with the latest developments, he called upon physiotherapist, Eric Foster, to propose a vote of thanks. Eric thanked Sir James for coming all the way from London on a slow train. A special tribute was paid to Miss Broughton for organising the reunion, "which must be very difficult when people cancel at the last minute. It seems to me that as we get older, these occasions will be the highlights of our year, regardless of hobbies". Eric went on to thank the staff of the hotel for their arrangements.

With reference to hobbies to occupy those 'twilight years', Eric explained how reading was important to him. He made a plea for a more efficient postal system to ensure a steady flow of talking books.

SHEFFIELD REUNION—continued

He concluded with the tale about George Bernard Shaw's invitation to Sir Winston Churchill. "I enclose two tickets for the first night of my play for you to attend with a friend—if you have one". Sir Winston's reply read, "I am unable to attend the first night, but would be delighted to attend the second night—if there is one".

BRISTOL

What's in a name? The Euro Crest Hotel, Bristol, has a new name. As the Esso Motor Hotel, it has been the scene of various Bristol Reunions and now, with its new, European title, it still has the same pleasant setting, its staff are still friendly and helpful and its food still excellent.

Fifty-two St. Dunstaners, who with their wives or escorts came to the Euro Crest on Saturday, 17th June, would agree because the reunion, arranged by Miss Muriel Meyer, was a pleasant and happy occasion.

In all the party numbered 52, including 11 St. Dunstaners from the First World War and 41 from the Second or later. They were greeted by Dr. Donald Hopewell, M.A., LL.B., Vice-President and Member of St. Dunstan's Council.

Before luncheon, Dr. Hopewell said Grace and asked the company to stand in silence in memory of Lady Fraser. As an old friend, he spoke movingly of her dedication to the work of St. Dunstan's and the inspiration she gave to Sir Arthur Pearson and to Lord Fraser.

Later, St. Dunstaners and friends stood again in silence for the toast to Sir Arthur, Lord Fraser and all past St. Dunstaners. Then Dr. Hopewell welcomed everyone to the reunion on behalf of the Council. "I am glad to be here in Bristol again after four years", he said, "The Bristol Reunion is different in that it covers a wide area. Here with us today are people from Cornwall, Wales and the Midlands. Many of the other reunions cover an area that is much more local".

Mentioning the names of members of the staff at the reunion, Dr. Hopewell referred particularly to Miss Meyer and



At the Bristol Reunion, Mr. Len Wiggins of the Employment Homecraft and Research Department, shows Gwen Obern a new type of chiming watch.

Miss Newbold, who had arranged the gathering.

Mr. Wills called on John Perfect of Plymouth, to propose the vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners. He began with the story of a small boy who did not learn to talk: "Until, when he was 7, he surprised his family at the tea table when he suddenly said, 'Dad, please pass the jam'. His father asked him why he hadn't talked before and the boy replied, 'I suppose I didn't have anything worth saying'.

"When you are saying thank you", concluded John, "There is always something worth saying". He expressed St. Dunstaners' thanks to Dr. Hopewell, to St. Dunstan's staff and to the hotel staff—and he said it well.

The afternoon continued with dancing and, as at all reunions, a great deal of conversation and banter. There was a mini reunion of Cader Idris climbers as Jim Blake, Ray Sheriff and Trevor Tatchell got together to resume their teasing of the long-suffering *Review* cameraman.

A very successful day concluded with tea and the prize draw.

LONDON

It is becoming traditional that the Hotel Russell should be the scene of the last of the year's regional reunions and the tradition was adhered to when 52 St. Dunstaners, mainly from the counties of Kent and Surrey gathered there on Saturday, 1st July.

Altogether there were 130 guests and the St. Dunstaners included 7 from the First World War and 45 from the Second.

The Member of Council presiding was Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, K.C.M.G., who was accompanied by Lady Arrowsmith. Sir Edwin's first duty was to pay a brief tribute to the late Lady Fraser of Lonsdale, and the company stood in silent tribute to her memory.

The Loyal Toast, after luncheon, was followed by a toast in silence to the memory of Sir Arthur Pearson, Lord Fraser of Lonsdale and all St. Dunstaners who have passed on.

In his speech Sir Edwin brought greetings from Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme and all Members of St. Dunstan's Council. He referred to the guests, naming Mr. Eric Boulter, Director General of the Royal

National Institute for the Blind, and Mrs. Boulter, referring also to Mr. Boulter's C.B.E. in the Birthday Honours List.

Sir Edwin also mentioned Miss Elspeth Grant, Miss Doris Hoare, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lawrence and Mrs. Sheila McLeod. He told his audience of the presence of four retired members of staff; Mr. Donald Ferguson, Mr. Edward Roberts, Miss Pat Rogers, Miss Mary Stevens and the names of staff present.

"Now of the St. Dunstaners attending this reunion I'd like to give a particular welcome to Mr. Arthur Coult of Morden, who is attending his first reunion" said Sir Edwin and he also specially welcomed the St. Dunstaners from Northern Ireland with their wives.

"I have always been in favour, since my name begins with 'A', of lists in alphabetical order", continued Sir Edwin, "but we have here one that beats all because his name begins with a double 'A'. He is Captain Aarons, a St. Dunstan from New South Wales, Australia. Just one thing quite remarkable about him: those of you who could see him when he stood up to acknowledge my mention of him could not possibly think he is, in fact, 91 years old".

Sir Edwin Arrowsmith is Chairman of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind and he spoke of the world problem of blindness: "There are at present over 40 million blind in the world and unless something is done about it by the end of this century there'll be 80 million. At least two thirds of this blindness is preventable. The four main causes are trachoma; river blindness, which is carried by the blackfly and through which the population of whole villages cannot see; blindness through malnutrition of children, just through lack of vitamin A and a few vegetables and, of course, cataract which is so easily curable by a simple operation".

"Of course very much still has to be done for people who are blind and this is where St. Dunstan's has given a lead to the whole world. I am very proud to belong to an organisation like this", concluded Sir Edwin and he expressed his pleasure at seeing St. Dunstaners and guests enjoying their afternoon.

Mr. Wills in his speech gave the up-to-date statistics of membership and outlined the new plans for training and help

Dancing at the London Reunion are Mr. and Mrs. William Orr.



LONDON REUNION—continued

in leisure activities now that many St. Dunstaners are reaching retirement age.

Jack Boorman, of Faversham, proposed the vote of thanks for St. Dunstaners with a witty and amusing speech which began: "Before I came here to-day my wife and I were the only two who knew what I was going to say. Now, unfortunately, my wife is the only one who knows and she is not here!"

Despite this handicap, Jack went on to bring further laughter from his audience before, in more serious mood, expressing St. Dunstaners' appreciation of the organisation and the staff. He also thanked their wives and escorts, "for all they do for us".

Dancing, chatting, laughing, St. Dunstaners passed the rest of the afternoon until tea and the conclusion of an excellent reunion organised by Miss Helen Stewart and Miss Rosemary Blebta.

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.

Norman Allison of Leeds, who joined St. Dunstan's on 4th July. Mr. Allison served as a driver in the R.A.S.C. and was in the V.R., which was embodied at the outbreak of the Second World War, and was discharged in 1945, following an eye injury. He is a married man.

Robert Alty of Widnes, Cheshire, who joined St. Dunstan's on 4th July. Mr. Alty, who is a single man, served with the Royal Engineers in the Second World War. He retired three years ago from telephony employment.

Horace Batt of Kingston St. Mary, Near Taunton, who joined St. Dunstan's on 28th June. Mr. Batt is 82 years old and

served in the 2nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers as a Private during the First World War. He was wounded in France in 1917. Mr. Batt is a retired newsagent, having had his own business for 20 years. He is married with two adult daughters.

Tony Dodd of Fareham, Hampshire, who joined St. Dunstan's on 3rd July. Mr. Dodd enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1935 and attained the rank of Petty Officer. He served in submarines and was first wounded at Dunkirk, subsequently being captured when his ship was sunk in the Mediterranean in 1943. He made eight attempts to escape, eventually succeeding and arriving home on V.E. Day. He was awarded the D.S.M. He is a married man with one son.

John Green of Dobwalls, near Liskeard, who joined St. Dunstan's on 14th June. Mr. Green served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery from his enlistment in 1942, until his discharge in 1946. He is 65 years of age. Mr. Green is married with one adult son and daughter.

Leslie Thomas Herring of Dursley, Glos., who joined St. Dunstan's on 4th July. Mr. Herring was commissioned and served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1942 to 1946; he retired from banking in 1965. He is married with one adult son.

David Hughes of Trecynon, Aberdare, who joined St. Dunstan's on 4th July. Mr. Hughes served as a Leading Aircraftman in the R.A.F. during the Second World War and suffered privation in the Far East prisoner-of-war camps.

Thomas Lionel Pilkington of London, S.W.19, who joined St. Dunstan's on 11th July. Colonel Pilkington was a Regular Officer, being commissioned in 1915 and serving almost continuously with the British Army and the Indian Army until 1943. He is a widower with one adult son.

William Tingey of London N.15, who joined St. Dunstan's on 4th July. Mr. Tingey served as a Private in the Middlesex Regiment during the First World War. He is married with two adult daughters.

World Confederation of Physical Therapy 8th International Congress, Tel Aviv

JIMMY LEGGE WRITES:

On Thursday, 25th May, 12 St. Dunstan's physiotherapists with their wives or other escorts, assembled at Heathrow bound for Israel. We were most fortunate to have Ron Priestley, St. Dunstan's Physiotherapy Superintendent, travelling with us, whose considerable experience in dealing with foreign travel and Congress affairs made our trip so much easier. He was ably assisted by George Stanford from H.Q. We took off in a Boeing 707 of EL AL airline, touching down 4½ hours later at Tel Aviv, after a comfortable flight. The next two days were spent in sweltering heat of around 110°F. and finding convenient restaurants, the Hilton Hotel and Holiday Inn where the congress lectures were to be conducted for the next 5 days. On Sunday, we registered and collected all our literature covering the Congress. In the evening, we returned to a Congress reception at the Hilton which gave us an opportunity of meeting many of the 2,500 delegates of the Congress representing 45 different nations. Monday saw lectures and demonstrations start in earnest and in the evening, at the Frederick Mann Auditorium, the opening ceremony took place. This was most impressive. For the remainder of the Congress participants were able to visit a number of hospitals, which proved to be extremely interesting. Several members of our group took advantage of a special invitation to visit Beit Halochem, which is a very modern sports rehabilitation and social centre for disabled war veterans and their families. This centre has an Olympic International size swimming pool and many other facilities, much in advance of anything we have in this country, for disabled sportsmen and women. After the closing ceremony at lunch time on Friday, we left Tel Aviv for Jerusalem.

Our coach was competently driven by Abraham and our guide, Paul, who must be congratulated on his knowledge of the Holy Land and his command of English. The remaining part of our holiday ought to have been much more leisurely, but

not so. Our tour operators had set out a very ambitious programme for us. Travelling by coach we had many stops, far too numerous to mention in this article, but our guide was very anxious that we should see such places as the Knesset, Israel's Parliament building, the Jewish Wailing Wall and Synagogue, as well as two Moslem Mosques, where we had to remove our shoes before entering. Without doubt, the climax of this part of our tour was reached when we visited the Garden Tomb and the Garden of Gethsemane and, at the very place where Jesus was crucified on the cross, we sang the first two verses of, 'There is a Green Hill Far Away'. We also walked the length of the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross. The tour also took us to the Shepherds Field and Manger in Bethlehem. Under burning sun and temperatures exceeding 100°F. in the shade, our guide took us to Jericho, the Dead Sea and the cave where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found by a Bedouin shepherd boy. On leaving Jerusalem our coach took us through the Sharon Valley to Nazareth. From Tiberias we travelled by boat 10 miles across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum. Contrasting with the heat we were feeling, one could look 10,000 feet up to the peaks of Mount Hermon covered in snow. This night we spent in a Kibbutz at the foot of the Golan Heights. Returning to Tel Aviv for our last night in Israel we had stops at Akko, Karmiel, Haifa and Caesarea.

Desert to Farm

Israel can be justly proud of its achievements over its 30 years of existence, for with intelligence and hard work it has turned large areas of desert into productive fertile farm land. Over the 600/700 miles we travelled by coach, we saw ample evidence of their labours with citrus fruits, olive groves, banana groves, root crops and flowers, all of which earn good income from exports to Europe. Returning to London in our Jumbo Jet, tired and weary as we were, one had time

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS— *continued*

to reflect on our visit to the Holy Land and all of us are agreed that our wonderful experience of actually having been there was so very much worth while and will remain with us for all time. *Shalom shalom.*

GORDON SMITH WRITES :

On 29th May, 12 St. Dunstaner physiotherapists took their places at the opening ceremony of the 8th International Congress for Physical Therapy, held in Tel Aviv. We were among 2,000 physiotherapists from 40 different countries who were meeting together to attend lectures and demonstrations and to take part in discussions and special interest groups. One most interesting lecture was given by one of our own group, Mike Tetley. Throughout the very full Congress week, there was a warm feeling of friendliness and goodwill as peoples of different nationalities met and got to know one another. From the first informal get-together, right through to the closing ceremony, the Congress was a great success and those of us who attended found it a stimulating and worthwhile experience from which we gained much.

Israel is a fascinating land, full of interest. Our visit there would not have been complete without a tour of the Holy Places, so the four days immediately following the Congress were given over to seeing as much as possible in the available time. For this, we based ourselves in Jerusalem and travelled each day to different places of interest. We were extremely fortunate in having the same excellent guide throughout and with his help and that of our personal escorts, we were able to have a detailed description of all we saw. Places and events we had only read of and imagined came to life and took on a fuller and deeper meaning as we saw the birthplace of Christ and his boyhood home and as we followed the Way of the Cross and strolled among the olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane. Past and present seemed to merge as we walked by the side of the river Jordan, visited the Dead Sea, some 1,290 feet below sea level, and

took a peaceful, relaxing boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. A most moving experience was to enter the Garden Tomb and feel the place where, it is believed, Christ's body was placed. Normally, the public may only view the Tomb from the weeping chamber. Through the kindness of Colonel Derby, who, with obvious pride, first showed us around the delightful garden of which he is in charge, the Tomb was opened so that we might go down into it and feel for ourselves its size and shape and ancient, crumbling, limestone walls. The last night of our stay was spent in a Kibbutz, seeing and learning something of the way of life of those who live and work there. This particular Kibbutz was started about sixty years ago by only 6 people. Now, it is a flourishing community of over 700. We would have liked to have been able to stay there longer but the brief glimpse we had of it was enough to show us just what measure of success can be achieved when all are working for the good of the community and to make some of us think that, perhaps, the simple way of life has much to offer.

METRO NATIONAL SPORTS

By Jimmy Wright

If you can recall what a nasty, cold, wet day it was on the 8th July for the Wimbledon finals, then you've got the picture for the scene for the second Metro National Athletics Championships for the Visually Handicapped, held a few miles further east at the East London Sports Stadium, Mile End. However, after the first couple of hours steady rain that was falling when the field and track events commenced at noon, the rain did actually cease and we had an afternoon full of activity for these games which now constitute one of the most important dates in the calendar of sport specifically organised for the visually handicapped, which was sponsored this year by the Abbey National Building Society.

Some 85 participants came from all over the U.K., including a contingent of some

METRO NATIONAL SPORTS— *continued*

20 strong from Scotland, but, unhappily, St. Dunstan's was only represented by two entrants, as against the ten who took part last year. Sadly, Tony Parkinson, who was so successful at these games last year, was unable to take part.

On a happier note though, Mike Tetley won the 3 kilometre walk for the totally blind in a time of 20 mins. 34 secs., winning the Bill Harris Trophy for the second year running. Mike Brace, Chairman of Metro Sports Club, led the field for the first 1,000 m. before Mike Tetley overtook him and it was a tussle between these two walkers for the rest of the race.

This year Bill Harris was able to attend these sports for the first time and present the trophy himself. This must have been an especially happy occasion for Bill who has championed race walking for the blind through his close association with St. Dunstan's for the past 55 years, and to present this particular trophy to a St. Dunstaner, must have been a great thrill for him. Incidentally, Bill is one of the judges at the Commonwealth Games once again, which are taking place

this month in Edmonton, Canada. Not bad for an octogenarian!

The 60m. and 100m. sprint events provided some extremely exciting races, with a very high proportion of accurate runs in the totally blind sections with several records being set up, including a new British national record for the 100m, totally blind men by Graham Salmon in 12.3 secs. Then Janet Bartholomew set up a new ladies' World Record in the 200m. for partially sighted women. John McCreidy set up a new world record in the 1 mile for partially sighted men. Another new British National record was set up in the high jump totally blind section by Terry White, with a height of 1 m. 45. These British blind athletes are well known to many of us who take part in the National Sports Competitions at Stoke Mandeville in September and, of course, the Disabled Olympics.

Despite the rotten weather conditions everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The programme of events was well organised by Mike Brace and his colleagues, and the Metro National Athletics Championships look to be well established as an annual fixture.

IMMORTAL BIRDS

by Sidney Scroggie

I don't know the calls, if any, of such birds as the albatross and lammergeyer. Knotts, turnstones and godwits never make themselves heard in my vicinity. But where Roseangle Cottage and its environs are concerned, there is not a bird that sings, calls, or utters so much as the slightest cheep, but I can identify it and this is an expertise that I have built up over a period of 28 years of painstaking aural observation.

On the far side of the old railway line, there are larks, peewits, pheasants and partridges; in and about the garden, wrens, blackbirds, thrushes, house sparrows, hedge sparrows, robins, greenfinches, curlews, oystercatchers and redshanks pass overhead; and in season, there are the visitors to look forward to, wild geese and whooper swans in winter, cuckoos in summer and willow

warblers, sedge warblers and white-throats.

Occasionally, something unusual happens, for I have heard garden warblers on the Birkie Brae, a blackcap in Templeton Woods and a nut-hatch on Toddle Brow, all of them birds only heard previously on gramophone records. Had I only carried a tape recorder with me over the years, I could have acquired ornithological sound archives which would have been of endless interest to myself and my friends in my declining years.

Think of the short-eared owl in Orkney, the greenshank in Glen Canisp, the buzzard over Ben Varckie, the goosander among the peat-haggs of Tarf, the nightingale near Ovingdean, the ptarmigan of Broadcairn and 20 other exotic bird sounds which have momentarily enriched my life, only to be gone for ever

IMMORTAL BIRDS—continued

through the want of recording apparatus.

This defect I have now remedied and the same local birds which have got accustomed to seeing me cocking an ear to their song, now see me pressing the buttons on a piece of gadgetry hitherto unfamiliar to the ornithology of Strathmartine. The swallows which chattered on the power wires between Maryfield and Rosemill now chatter for ever on a length of tape; the yellowhammer which chinked in bushes near Ludge-ma-Lane, now does so in perpetuity and by the time I have finished stalking him, there is a corn bunting around which is destined to live for ever through the recording of his strange and mysterious call.

'Thou wast not born for death, immortal bird'; this assertion of Keats' comes to be confirmed in our time through the ingenuity of the electronics industry. You will do anything in pursuit of some treasurable recording: crawl through impenetrable undergrowth, wade the Dighty Water waist-deep or crouch motionless for hours in some bleak and wind-swept area hoping against hope that the tawny owl which hooted so incessantly when you were without your apparatus will do so again just once now that you've got it with you.

The other night I climbed an old gate near the Ducat, followed the Fallows Burn down to the Dighty, worked cautiously along the bank of this by a field of turnips, then one of newly-rolled barley until I came to a field of hay, always lured on by the sound of a sedge warbler. It was not after all on the banks of the Dighty as I had supposed, but at some considerable remove up the slope to the north and in this direction I proceeded, dewy hay soaking the knees of my breeks, the babble of the Dighty receding behind me. Whether I could find my way back home again was an irrelevant consideration. I was prepared to spend the night out and wait for rescue in the morning if only I could get this sedge warbler on tape; if only he might be immortalized in my archives for ever.

Getting within recording range, I pressed the button, moved closer and pressed it again. Then, moving forward closer still, found myself up against a retaining-wall of dry stone above which

were whins, brambles and small trees. It was one o'clock in the morning. Apart from the occasional pipe of an oyster catcher, the strath was in perfect silence and I had run my quarry to earth. Sedge warblers sing pretty well continuously the night through and I had no difficulty now in obtaining the recording I desired, one of the clearest and most beautiful of all my recordings as it turned out. Latterly, it was enhanced by the hooting of an owl in the middle distance so as to form a perfect nocturne in sound. What gaps there are in the sedge warblers complicated utterance, are filled in by eerie hoots. Guided both by my sedge warbler and my owl, I made my way back to the Dighty, retraced my steps to the gate and got back home trembling with anticipation at 2 o'clock.

If I can locate his regurgitated pellets, the heap of mouse bones under his tree, this owl is the next objective in my quest for the perfect recording.

NEW HOME IS BACK HOME

Walter 'Dickie' Richardson left Brighton last month for his new home in Kempsey, near Worcester. A Midlander by birth, Dickie will be returning to an area he knows well, "I worked there as a telegraph boy and postman before the war and all my relatives and friends live up there".

Dickie retired at the end of last year, after 18 years as telephonist at Ian Fraser House. His friendly helpfulness has been missed by all those who telephone our Brighton Homes.

Before taking up his telephony work, Dickie ran a confectionery and tobacconist shop in the Worcester area. His shop was opened in 1950 by the late Wilfred Pickles.

Now, he is looking forward to growing his own vegetables in his garden at Kempsey, "I've got attachments for my artificial arm to dig and rake. I'm going to have a shed and I'm going to enjoy pottering about. We've got a nice bungalow with conifer trees and shrubs. There is a terrace and a patio".

Dickie has certainly earned a happy retirement and all will wish that for him and his wife, Eileen.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: A. C. Pointon, Bexhill-on-Sea

Mr. Editor, it is all your fault.

I was very interested to hear early this year of the ski-ing trips taken by some St. Dunstaners and received an affirmative reply to my letter asking if I too might be eligible. I also asked if any one had gone in for the other millionaire sports, such as water ski-ing, to be told that some had, in the Mediterranean.

For many years, I have known a man in Hastings, a Mr. Martin, who owns an engineering factory and who is keen on power boats. His son, who is also interested in water ski-ing, is towed across to France and back on a Sunday morning. I am told they do about 80 m.p.h. most of the time, (I am not sure if they stop for coffee but think not).

I gave Mr. Martin a call to ask if he thought it a sport a blind, 57 year old fogey could have a bash at. To cut a long story short, he sent my name and address to David Nation, who is in charge of the Ruislip Lido, where the world's water ski-ing championships are held, also informing me that there was to be a day for disabled people on 1st July, for both blind people and amputees. He told me that a 24 year old blind girl is doing very well.

Less than a fortnight ago I heard from Ruislip, with an invitation to go there for that day. After contacting the Welfare Department and within a miraculous time, arrangements were made for accommodation in London, in spite of a reunion, and for Jock Carnochan to escort me. Now, of course, I have gone and got myself hooked on it. Great stuff, even at 20 m.p.h., and when you come off, the water is so soft.

The question is, now that I have gone and got myself hooked, where and how can I develop my new hobby? That I will is certain, but the mechanics of it still have to be sorted out. So far, all that matters is that I have found it something one can really enjoy without getting too stiff the next day. I wonder why I didn't think of it before. But if you, Mr. Editor, had not printed that article about snow

ski-ing, I don't suppose I ever would. So the blame, you see, is really yours for the fact that I enjoyed a new, exhilarating experience for the first time and am intent on repeating it.

From: Mr. Reynoldson, of Kingsbridge, Devon, the late Miss Eleanor Gooles's cousin:

All friends of 'Goolie' will be pleased to know that, as a result of the generous contributions by St. Dunstan's friends, the Dartmouth and Kingswear Society, and others, there have been installed two bench seats on National Trust property at Gallants Bower overlooking the Dartmouth Estuary, and also a memorial seat placed at the duck area of Torcross Ley, South Devon. All these seats are now in full use and each carries a plaque inscribed:

ELEANOR GUGLIELMO (GOOLIE)
1895-1977
IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY
AND DEEP APPRECIATION OF HER
LIFE AND WORK

SIMPLE CONVERSION

Whereas the government have been unable to make up their minds about metrication, wood merchants have. Here, from Mr. Patterson of the Joinery Department, is a simple rule of thumb for the conversion of measurements in either direction:

Inches to millimetres—Divide the number of inches by 4 and call hundreds. For example, 12 inches divided by 4 equals 3 or 300 millimetres; 15 inches divided by 4 equals 3.75 or 375 millimetres.

Millimetres to inches—Multiply the first number of millimetres by 4. For example, 400 millimetres equals 16 inches; 90 millimetres equals 36 i.e. 3.6 inches.

Mr. Patterson hastens to point out that these are only rough guides but, nevertheless, should make the whole concept more comprehensible.



Elsie Aldred writes a note in Braille shorthand.

Elsie Aldred was 21 when she was called up. Her father and brother were already away in the forces so, to be near her mother, she opted for munitions work.

"I wasn't there very long. I went in November and then I had the accident in February 1943." The explosion totally blinded her and damaged her right hand. As the factory management had previously experienced accidents causing blindness there was no delay in informing St. Dunstan's. "So I was fortunate, really, that, after hospital, I came to St. Dunstan's straight away. It was so easy for people to slip through the net in those days, particularly working in munitions".

Elsie found herself at Church Stretton: "It was very good there—just a country village but it was very high and the air was wonderful. There were eight of us girls there in training at the same time. Practically every night we used to go to dances somewhere. There were a lot of Army and R.A.F. camps around Church Stretton and they used to invite parties of St. Dunstaners."

"I've always liked dancing. I started when I was about eighteen. Fortunately I've kept it up because it's a form of exercise, isn't it? I still go dancing about two nights a week and, in the winter, perhaps, three. I go to a dancing school in Warrington. Gold medallist? I wish I were. I would have loved to have taken it but my friends were not very keen on taking medals so I never got there."

Elsie has medals for various dances and used to demonstrate with the instructor for a number of years. I asked her favourite dances: "Jive, then sambas and rhumbas. I like all the latin-american ones."

There was work to be done at Church Stretton too: "We had to learn reading and writing in Braille. Then I did Braille shorthand and, although I could type before, I had to have a refresher on typing. It is surprising how you forget and I had to learn to do it one handed."

Elsie's choice of career was telephony, "I felt rather restricted having a hand injury but I did like the idea of telephony and I really have enjoyed it over the years."

WAYS OF LIFE—34

NOTHING IS INSURMOUNTABLE—

Elsie Aldred

Talking to David Castleton

She was at Church Stretton for 15 months "I was in and out of hospital all the time having operations so I did my training in between times. The actual switchboard, it's very easy. It was only in the latter part of training I went on the switchboard. After practising on the dummy board I went on to St. Dunstan's board, a very busy one."

Before she was blinded Elsie worked in the accounts department of Peter Stubs Ltd, a long-established Warrington company which, not long ago, moved from the town centre into the outer suburbs. "When the firm knew I was training as telephonist they asked me to go back. The switchboard then was only very small, it was a 5 by 20—five outside lines and twenty extensions. Over the years it has grown. It now is 10 by 50 and it's quite busy."

The incoming call is signalled by a flap dropping on the switchboard. This signal can be given by an audible bell but like most operators Elsie finds this noisy and prefers to work without it,



Dancing with a sighted guest at the Manchester Reunion.

listening for the sound the flap makes, feeling which one it is, "Then I insert a plug in the appropriate hole, push my speaking key forward and announce the name of the firm".

To help her connect her caller to the appropriate department Elsie has devised some guides on the board, "There are one or two extensions that are not in use and I've got a kind of plug in there with a little head on it. I feel for that head and I know the extensions that radiate out from that particular point so I can find them this way. Basically it is the way I was taught. I do use rubber bands in certain positions on the board so that I can find certain keys immediately. I am using Braille all day long on the switchboard, mostly for messages, I rely on my memory a lot for numbers and names."

In addition, Elsie's switchboard is placed at the main entrance so that she can act as receptionist as well, "That's very interesting, you see I've only done that since we moved. I didn't have any difficulties as I had a thorough knowledge



An evening game of chess.

Operating her busy switchboard.



of the firm from my telephone work." She finds all this particularly rewarding. "There are so many people you are in contact with every day and it's really very nice. We have many reps in the field, I think about 80, many of whom I know."

Although the transfer to new premises gave Elsie the opportunity to widen the scope of her work, the actual move itself proved to be something of an ordeal. "I was really looking forward to the move but when it actually came it involved a great deal of stress. I should think it took about six weeks, so we had people at the old firm and people at the new firm and they were commuting between the two. When they got to one firm they'd ring up the other one asking for a person and you wouldn't know whether they were here or there. It was absolute chaos."

By car to work

Another consequence of the firm's move from the town centre was that Elsie's journey from her home became more difficult. Previously one bus took her from home to work, now the journey necessitates an awkward change from one service to another so Elsie uses a local car hire firm and is driven to and from work on most days.

At home Elsie looked after her elderly parents for a few years. Now she lives alone, cooking for herself and keeping house with some daily help with the cleaning. She runs her home with only one special gadget—a small electronic device which indicates the level of fluid, for example when pouring tea into a cup.

"I find I can feel the ordinary figures on the gas regulo, I've got one or two small kitchen gadgets you can buy in any shop but most people have them anyway. I've got a spiral wire whisk, large spoon, various strainers and I keep them hanging on the wall near my table. My washing machine is quite simple to operate. There's no problem at all.

"I do a lot of cooking at the week-end. I try to do some dishes that will last me during the week. I have been putting some of my favourite recipes on tape: flapjacks, a kind of nutty biscuit—they're lovely, made with syrup and brown

sugar—shortbread, Cumberland gingerbread, I have so many."

Although she types some letters, "A lot of my writing has given way to tapes, correspondence tapes which I think are a very good idea—I put all sorts of things on to tape. I also have the *Talking Review*. It's very good because I can read that whilst I am having a meal—timesaving isn't it?"

Chess

Elsie has a wide circle of friends. She has been a member of the Women's Institute for about thirty years. At one time she was a keen bridge player but in recent years she has given this up and now she is learning chess.

"I stopped playing bridge when my parents weren't very well. It was difficult to get away then and I've not taken it up since. Bridge is one of those things you need to give a lot of time to. The more you play, the more it grows on you and the more you want to play. I haven't got the time for it now but chess is something that you can, perhaps, spend an evening, play a game, and then put it to one side, just when you have the time.

"I was told how the pieces move and then I was told to play. I have a friend who comes who can play. I suppose I do all the wrong things but one of these days I am hoping to go to the chess weekend."

Fashion

Fashion is Elsie Aldred's other great interest: "I buy quite a lot of clothes. My sister-in-law or the sales assistant will give me a short description of what is on the rack in the shop, the colouring and so on and if it sounds nice I try it on. I know immediately if I like it, the style, the fit." She keeps up to date talking with friends and so hears of things that are new, "Maybe someone has got something on and they let me feel it—sometimes I like it, sometimes I don't."

Then, of course, living alone raises the problem of choosing what to wear from her wardrobe, "When I have bought a dress I know the colour of it. I can tell by the style or the material which dress it



A pot of tea is no problem for Elsie.

is. I have no problem in knowing which clothes to put together. In my days at Art School, I learnt about line and balance and to appreciate colour harmony and discord. These things help one to know which is right to go with which."

It's no problem

Seeing Elsie Aldred moving gracefully across the dance floor, beautifully gowned, visiting her in her trim home in Warrington and sampling some of her delicious shortcake or watching her operate her busy switchboard, I find it hard to remember she is totally blind and totally reliant on herself, but she would say, as she often does, "It's no problem—nothing is insurmountable."

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 1222

Marshmallow Pie

By Graham Lord

Read by Colin Keith-Johnston
Reading Time 4¾ hours

With a title like this, who could resist reading the book? When I'd finished it, however, I was still no wiser as to its relevance!

It is a political thriller about a group of black gents on the one hand and a group of white gents on the other, being ever so nasty to one another.

The tale opens on a deserted late-night tube where M'Tembo (who is a black gent), receives a fatal karate chop from Van Zill (who is a white gent). Among M'Tembo's effects, which Van Zill nicks from his pockets, is a piece of paper bearing the name 'Sergeant Pepper'—and it doesn't refer to the Beatles record, either!

And now, enter Brian Waterman, the archetypal (fictional) scruffy, boozy reporter—and I just love the name of his pub, 'The Kiss of Death'. He has been told by his boss to dress up as a hippy with beads, kaftan, B.O. and all, join them and write a feature on their life-style. The hippies have lovely names like, 'Walking Jesus', 'Empty', 'Socrates' and 'Opium Petal'. Their leader is none other than 'Sergeant Pepper'. Now he is really a Cambridge scientist who has discovered a wonder drug which removes all hate and mistrust from the human mind.

Both groups are most anxious to get their hands on this potent potion—feed it to the other side, and, while they are being all sweetness and light, cut them to ribbons and take over.

Meanwhile, the luckless Brian is being held captive by a gang of sinister Chinese, who are late starters in the wonder-drug stakes.

It's all a splendid frolic really, with a couple of messy murders to entertain the jaded reader.

And it's also a bit earthy in spots and not for Auntie Mabel and the kids.

Cat. No. 770

The Return

By Michel Droit

Trans. by Olwyn Hughes
Reading Time 13¾ hours

Phillipe Tiery, a young lawyer, is a third generation Algerian-born Frenchman. After independence, he goes to live in Paris as assistant to Henri Verdier, a distinguished barrister and a former friend of his late father.

Phillipe is an able lawyer and soon begins to make a name for himself under Verdier's tutelage. But he attracts the attention of a group of French-Algerians at the Palais de Justice. These men are dedicated O.A.S. supporters, still hopeful of bringing down de Gaulle's government and taking back Algeria by force of arms.

Phillipe is not a political animal and is appalled by the aims of the group. They see him as an enemy and set out ruthlessly to destroy him and his new-found love.

An absorbing book with some fascinating glimpses into the French judicial system and an insight into the divided loyalties and the trauma of the returned *Pied Noir*.

Cat. No. 815

Inspector Ghote Plays a Joker

By R. H. F. Keating

Read by Garard Green
Reading Time 7¾ hours

What, do you suppose, have the following in common . . . four flamingos shot at Bombay Zoo, a public demonstration by an eminent scientist which goes disastrously wrong, a donkey substituted for the hot favourite at the Indian Derby and a yogi's attempt to walk upon the water which ends with his narrow escape from drowning?

This is the question exercising the mind of Inspector Ghote's boss, the formidable Deputy Superintendent of Police, Naik. He orders Ghote to find the perpetrator of these bizarre and cruel practical jokes.

READING TIME—continued

With his usual dogged persistence, the Bombay detective gets to work and eventually is able to name the hoaxer, but no official action can be taken.

Somebody, however, soon takes unofficial action and shoots the joker. Ghote has a murder case on his hands.

A 'good read' for Ghote fans.

Cat. No. 2289

To Kill a Mockingbird

By Harper Lee

Read by Marvin Kane
Reading Time 10¾ hours

This is a moving and sensitive story of life in the mid-1930's in a small town in the Deep South of America, seen through the eyes of a nine-year-old white girl.

The narrator is Louise Jean (nicknamed 'Scout') Finch. She lives with her widowed father, Atticus, elder brother, Jem, and Calpernia, the black servant, in the little town of Maycomb, Alabama. Atticus is a lawyer and a member of the State Legislature.

With Scout and Jem we walk the narrow streets of the town, sit in on their lessons, join in their games and meet their neighbours, pleasant and unpleasant.

It is an idyllic existence of warm lazy days and small-town gossip in an obscure little backwater where nothing ever happens.

Then suddenly the old deep-rooted prejudices flare up like a naked flame. Tom Robinson is accused of the rape of the daughter of a 'white trash' family living on the edge of the town.

Tom is innocent but he is a negro, which means he will automatically be condemned to death.

Unless Atticus, with his eloquence and warm humanity, can sway the jury and so produce a miracle.

This is truly a beautiful book about human frailty and human dignity, injustice and great humanity. It should be an absolute *must* for your next list. It has a splendid Mark Twainesque flavour about it—indeed, I half-expected at any moment to find Huck and Tom Sawyer skylarking through the quiet streets of Maycomb.

Amateur Radio Weekend

By George Cole

George Cole, G3AW1, calling. Another very interesting and successful weekend was held at Ian Fraser House on 10th and 11th June. About 20 members attended and the club was particularly pleased to welcome two new members, Geoff Cock and Frank Templeman. The weekend was made all the more enjoyable by the presence of two friends, both back on their feet after illnesses, Charles Rentowl and Ralph Cathle.

During a meeting on Saturday morning, Ted John, Secretary, brought the club up-to-date with progress on the permanent station being set up at Ovingdean. A tape recorder has now been purchased for the running of the log and it is hoped that the station will be in operation by the time of the next meeting in September.

There were two talks in the afternoon. The first, given by Eric Letts, G3RXJ, was on radio teletype, R.T.T.Y. This is a means of sending the written word by radio. Each letter is made up of a combination

of 5 signals plus an 'on' and an 'off' signal. But these 7 signals take 150 milliseconds to transmit, so the final word speed in current use all over the world is 45 words per minute. The application of this mode of communication can be found in a host of different fields, from amateur radio to business or sports.

The second talk was by Alf Lee, G4DQS, on the 'Worked All Britain' awards. Points are obtained by making contact with other stations in as many map grid squares as possible. The smaller the square, the greater the merit. Since giving his talk, we have heard that Alf was taken ill with a mild heart attack. The society have sent a get-well card and sincerely hope he will be on his feet again in the very near future.

The remainder of the weekend was spent making contact with fellow enthusiasts all over the world. On a personal note, I met up with two former army colleagues whom I had last met over 36

Amateur Radio Weekend— *continued*

years ago. St. Dunstaner, Len Withington, had also served in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. On the Sunday evening, a tap on the shoulder in a pub renewed a similar acquaintance of 20 years ago. It was thanks to the amateur radio weekend that we had met and it goes to show how small the world can be sometimes. Although the society is increasing in number at each meeting, there is always room for more and you never know who you may meet.

Our thanks to Commandant and Matron for their hospitality during the weekend. We look forward to our next get-together on September 9th and 10th, when the speaker will be the President of the Radio

Society of Great Britain, Dr. Dain S. Evans, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.M., G3RPE.

Any radio amateur who is fully licensed and has passed the fundamentals of morse but who would like to increase his speed and operational capacity, should contact George Cole. He is very willing to help on a personal basis. To benefit from his knowledge and experience, simply send a cassette, wallet and pre-addressed 'articles for the blind' label to: George Cole, G4AW1, 19 Oxen Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex, BN4 5AF.

George wishes to emphasise most strongly that potential customers must be very keen as morse is a long and time-consuming business but the rewards are great.

DANGEROUS LIQUIDS

NEW E.E.C. REGULATIONS

St. Dunstaners who are accustomed to identifying dangerous liquids by the fluting on the bottles are warned that, since the adoption in Great Britain of E.E.C. regulations relating to the packaging of dangerous substances, this means of identification can no longer be relied upon. The law concerning the use of fluted or ribbed bottles to contain certain dangerous liquids which might be used in the home, such as ammonia, solvents or certain acids, will soon be changed and these substances may then be supplied in containers which are not fluted. The change will not apply to poisonous medicinal products prepared for external use only, such as linaments, or to certain other dangerous products. From now on, the absence of fluting on a bottle should not be regarded as an indication that the liquid in it is not harmful.

BRIDGE THAT GAP

There are not many St. Dunstaners in Northern Scotland. When Ralph Pacitti learnt bridge some eight or nine years ago, under the guidance of Alf Field, the only way to get regular competition was to form a club. Ralph and his wife, Kaye, now play regularly every week in Elgin, Morayshire. In March, they came second

in the Simultaneous Pairs Competition for the whole of North Scotland. "It has given us both pleasure and an interest in life", said Kaye. "Recently, on holiday, we met some German tourists who could hardly speak English, but through the international language of bridge cards, we were able to communicate".

ODE TO D.I.Y.

by Herb Green

I decided to put up a shelf;
What better than to do it myself.
The saw sliced quite neatly through the plank.
As the handle caught on the shank
My finger wedged on the nylon butt,
and resulted in one extra cut.
Blood oozed from my fifth metacarpal,
Bringing tears to my eyes with startle.
I took hammer to nail, nail to wood,
But get it in, I'm damned if I could.
One last forlorn bid to drive it home,
Brought two pounds of steel down on my bone.
My head rose up and hit the rafters;
I needed two stitches just for starters.
Dazed, my brain forgot the garage door,
My nose caressed the cold, stone floor.
Left nostril reached down to skin scraped chin
Mouth twisted up in permanent grin.
The moral gleaned from this tale of woe,
Is "Ere you decide to have a go,
Check that it is not already made,
And some other mug the price has paid."

D. F. Robinson's

Gardening Column

I can't say that I have been very impressed with the summer, as I write the notes, it being like late autumn. I have to have some heat indoors to be comfortable, so I wonder what the plants are thinking. The growth, as I have said many times this year, has been very slow but we'll have something to show from the hard work in time.

Holidays will be upon all gardeners now so try and get all the plants well-watered and given a feed, plus tying in those rather tall items in case of strong winds when away from home. Try and get a neighbour to keep an eye on things, especially the greenhouse, which if there are very warm days, will need windows opening and extra water to the plants.

Bulbs of all kinds will be starting to be offered in the shops and catalogues appearing and no doubt the prices will have gone up a lot compared to 1977. Pot bulbs for the indoor display at Christmas and early New Year are the best ones to get now, but leave the rest a little longer as there won't be much room in the garden with all the border plants still giving plenty of colour. However, make a list of the ones that you need and get their planting positions set out, so that you can get cracking when the time comes along.

My greenhouse was, unfortunately, a bit more difficult to erect than expected and as it was so late, I still have a great many items to grow from seed for next season, both for pots and spring show outside from such things as Polyanthus, Primula, Bellis Daisy but there is still time to get them to a useful size, I hope. I shall try for a few late tomatoes and perhaps have some for Christmas plus a few dwarf beans. Naturally, I'll have to have some heat but won't use a whole lot and in any case, it will be an experiment and I can report to you how the scheme worked out. My geranium seedlings are coming along nicely and I may get a few in flower before the end of the summer and the rest will give good plants for next years bedding and also some colour under glass towards Christmas and also in the house. I think that it is a

much cheaper method to get geraniums, unless you wish to have named varieties, and one may get an unusual colour break. One only gets a few seeds for special types but there are always packets of the ordinary types where you get the normal amount.

Vegetables

Here one is really seeing the result of all the hard work put in earlier in the year. Harvesting of many items will be going on and where you had the crops, clear up and leave for a while before digging over. When you get down to digging put some of that well rotted compost down so that it gets in well whilst digging.

Runner beans which have reached the top of the poles or strings should have the tops pinched out so that more side shoots are produced and have a longer period of producing the beans. Do remember that in dry spells, give plenty of water at root level and spray the flowers and leaves in the late part of the day.

A further crop of french beans can be sown now for a late crop before cold weather sets in; the warm soil will make for quick growth and setting.

Watch out for those insect pests and spray at once or as I have said before, spray regularly in order to stop the pests coming to roost.

Keep the hoe going and also a little forking over between the rows will benefit the plants.

Fruit

Thin out the apples, pears, etc., to get a good sizeable fruit. Examine the grease bands round trees and destroy the pests which have collected there.

Summer pruning can be carried on, cutting back some of the over long shoots and any which have been bruised or broken by high winds.

Cut down to ground level all the fruiting canes of the raspberries and loganberries. Where you do not wish to propagate the strawberries for next year,

GARDENING COLUMN—*continued*

the runners can be cut away, but where you wish to have new plants, let some of the best root and dispose of the rest. These good runners can be pegged down to make good roots.

Lawns

Keep the mower going regularly and still keep the blades down tight on the grass. During really dry hot spells, leave mowing for longer spells and if using a sprinkler, ensure that you have permission from the water board who very often charge extra on the bill. A dose of fertilizer cum weed killer watered on when the soil is moist will help to give a greener colour and get rid of some of those weeds. Don't forget to trim the edges of the lawns since it does set them off and gives the flower beds a much better look.

Brush over the blades etc., in case grass clogs and the knives don't cut evenly. Give a touch of oil to all moving parts.

Fairy rings tend to show themselves in the summer, particularly during wet weather, showing small toadstools. One can get rid of this nuisance by watering the areas copiously with iron sulphate at the rate of 4ozs. to 1 gallon of water, spiking fairly deeply so that the solution goes in well.

Flowers

Still plenty of colour about and as usual weeds, so keep the secateurs and hoe going. The secateurs or scissors should be at hand to cut down the dead heads on all plants, which may give them a second life and more colour towards autumn.

Cuttings of types of plants can be taken now either using a frame or a greenhouse. It is quite a good thing to insert the cuttings round the edges of pots, as they always appear to take better in this fashion. Give them a good watering after having dipped the ends of the cuttings in a rooting compound as it generally has something in it to ward off moulds and mildews. Some plants which make offsets can be increased by tacking down to root and then detached a little later on.

Ensure that the outdoor Chrysanthemums are securely staked and pinch out

some of the buds which have formed in clusters in order to get good sized flowers.

Give a liquid feed to those perennials and autumn flowering plants and do remember to give ample supplies of water in dry spells; don't just give a spray. Water well down the roots after you have lightly forked over the soil.

Watch out for those pests and spray and dust regularly, using the items as per the manufacturers instructions and wash your hands plus equipment after use.

Greenhouse

Still plenty to do here watering down the floors in dry, hot weather to give moist conditions. Also use insecticides and fungicides regularly to combat invasions by the little pests that spoil all one's hard work.

Seeds of many annuals can be sown for a winter show under glass or in the house. Little or no heat will be needed to bring them along. Schizanthus is one of the best and they have dwarf strains. I have had some in the house and they really look like miniature orchids. Where you have some heat in the winter, try geraniums from seed and you will get an early show outdoors next year.

Cuttings of all plants can be taken now so that they get a good root system going before the cold and dark weather comes along.

Pot up those spring pot plants in their final containers such as calceolarias, cinerarias, primulas etc. Repot cyclamens which were rested after last years show. Complete all the potting into the large containers of chrysanthemums.

Some bulbs for an early show such as roman hyacinths and freesias ought to be potted, as well as a rather unusual bulbous plant called lachenalia, which gives a good show in a smallish pot although it is rather expensive to purchase.

Tomatoes and cucumbers will still be giving plenty of fruit so carry on with watering and feeding regularly. It may be soon time to stop the growing point of the tomatoes to keep the quality of the fruit good and take off some of the leaves up the stem, so that the light can get at the young fruit and give them a good chance of ripening if dull weather.

OVINGDEAN NOTES

It is hard to believe that we are in the midst of summer, with all the wind and rain we have had recently. Maybe all that hot sunshine is holding back for "Glorious Goodwood". Let us hope it will be an improvement on Derby Day when, owing to the great volume of traffic, we were unable to get on to the course at all. Undaunted, however, a few of us did manage to sally forth to risk a few bets.

Returning, our coach stopped for one of our passengers and his escort to make a 'natural break'. Whilst they were in the undergrowth, our driver had to move on. Glued to the rear window, all were shouting encouragement as the couple reappeared in hot pursuit, losing and gaining ground according to the speed of the coach. On the last lap they vanished down a dip, but reappeared at a brisk trot and swiftly boarded the coach to the rousing cheers from us all.

The rest of the day was spent in consuming vast quantities of food and not quite so much drink. On the whole, what could have been a disastrous day ended in general good humour.

Missing Fortune Teller

Racing at Brighton proved fruitful for many, it seems a fortune teller was assisting. Unfortunately, she failed to appear the second day and our luck reverted to normal. However, what we lost on the racing we gained in the musical world first with the enchanting 'Gigi' (Theatre Royal); two evenings with American Choirs, one at Brighton College with 'The Kirk Singers', which consisted of forty odd young students who also did hand-bell ringing, the other at the Dome with the 'Ohio State Choir', a very accomplished and talented band of singers. The very gifted Tony Ross, who finds time in his busy life to play the piano for us, also our old friends Cyril and Dolly, both professional pianists, entertained us again. We also had the pleasure of hearing those gentle folk singers Bill and Avril Stewert, and their friends, accompanied on the base by Bob Forshaw. With Les Harriss's always original record programmes and our own Tom Eales, who puts such a lot

of time and care into his flawless recordings, we are fortunate indeed in our Sunday evenings. We hope that Cliff Gibbons will come again with his band. This certainly turned out to be an unexpected pleasure of surprise entertainment.

Our drives continue to be most popular. We do cover such a lot of beautiful areas and are always made to feel so welcome at our various stops.

We ended our month as guests of the The Newhaven Labour Club who gave us an evening to remember. Our thanks to them for making the evening so enjoyable.

Let's hope that our forthcoming August Bank Holiday Dance will bring some happy surprises in the Fancy Dress Song Titles competition. With our ever faithful Ernie Took and his merry men, how can we fail?

Poetic Tribute

Written for Jim, though he never knew, on 9th April, 1975, by Sheila Crisall.

Mr. James McClintock of Marple, Cheshire, who died in January, 1976, had a very faithful companion—his dog. The following poem was written by one of his neighbours in honour of his friend.

He's more than just a dog to me,
He's everything and he can see.
He is my eye, my heart, my soul,
Without him there, my life would hold
No interest, apart from shades,
My eyes are dimmed and light soon fades.
We walk for miles, my dog and I.
We talk and talk, he cannot lie.
When feeling low, as oft' I may
He lifts my spirit in every way.
So, dearest friend, though you can't speak,
You are my life, my eyes, my feet.
I'm sure you know my feelings are
As true and deep and none can mar
Our closeness as the years go by.
My love and thanks, you are my eye.

CLUB NEWS

LONDON

Bridge Notes

On Saturday, 1st July, in the men's London Club rooms, we held our summer bridge drive and the winners were as follows:

1st P. Nuyens and M. Byrne	2,100 pts.
2nd R. Armstrong and J. Armstrong	1,710 pts.
3rd Mrs. V. Delaney and Mr. Bushell	1,220 pts.
4th F. Dickerson and S. Lightening	1,130 pts.

On Thursday, 22nd June, we completed the 1978 Aggregate Competition (the best 8 results from 12 matches), and the winners were:

1st B. Miller	62 games
2nd M. Sheehan	54 "
3rd P. Nuyens	52 "
4th C. Hancock	51 "
5th T. Higgs	40 "
6th J. Majchrowicz	32 "

MIDLAND

Quite a good meeting was held on Sunday, 11th June. As it was well-attended, nearly all the Sir Arthur Pearson Competition was completed.

As usual, our ladies arranged the tea for us and we thanked them, as always, in our usual manner.

KEMP TOWN NOTES

HIGH DRAMA AT PEARSON HOUSE

Though the sun shone brightly outside on Thursday, 25th May, the wind blew chilly in the Winter Garden at Pearson House, when the staff, under the direction of Pat Beal and Tom Sandner, presented 'The Monkey's Paw', by W. W. Jacobs, to an appreciative audience. Excellent recorded sound effects and attention to detail ensured that the atmosphere of doom and the unnatural was maintained throughout.

The evening ended in the here and now, however, thanks to the excellent and thoroughly human refreshments! We hope Mrs. Beal and Mr. Sandner will be encouraged to make their play readings a regular feature of the Pearson House entertainments roster.

On Sunday, 2nd July, we had our first half-day outing for this year with a visit to Ragley Hall, Alcester. We arrived there at approximately 3 p.m. and the weather, which had been very showery, was extremely kind to us. The gardens and grounds are lovely, with peacocks strutting about all over the place. There is a beautiful lake, upon which plenty of boating was going on. Pony rides could be had around the lake.

Jewels of the World

The main attraction to the ladies was the wonderful collection of jewellery which was on display in the Hall itself. These jewels are owned by Miss Evelyn McCullagh, historian, gifted lecturer and exhibitor. Now a resident of the Bahamas, she also heads the largest jewellery store in Freeport. Among these jewels were the royal and imperial jewels of the world. Each of our ladies chose their own special tiara but had, unfortunately, forgotten to bring their bankers cards with them. We spent two and a half hours there and I am sure everyone enjoyed themselves.

At 5.30 p.m. we boarded the coach again and proceeded to the Marine Ballroom, Evesham, for tea. All members of the party told me they had enjoyed the meal and so on we went again, this time to the Royal British Legion, Bretforton, which is just outside Evesham, for a 'tot'. We only spent just over an hour there and left for home at about 9.15 p.m., arriving in Birmingham at approximately 10.20 p.m. A little later than intended, but not too bad.

I think that everyone enjoyed the half-day and we were certainly lucky with the weather as it did not start to rain until we were nearly home. Our next outing is to Stratford on Sunday, 3rd September, and I must have the complete number who are coming by the August meeting so that I can give the Women's Section of the Stratford Royal British Legion the number of teas to prepare.

The September meeting will also incorporate another 'bring and buy' sale. Joan will be gathering in orders for Christmas cards etc., as usual, to help raise club funds.

CLUB NEWS—continued

We had rather a quiet meeting on Sunday, 9th July, once again mainly taken up with dominoes. The biggest talking point was the outing to Ragley Hall, leaving me in no doubt that everyone enjoyed themselves. It also brought to light that visits to historic places could be of interest to all and, therefore, I shall be open to suggestions on this line for next year's outings.

We all welcomed Eileen Maynard and her husband to the club once again. It is many years since she attended a Birmingham club meeting, but now that she is residing in Birmingham, we may see her at future club meetings. Everyone made her very welcome.

Tea was once again provided by the ladies and we all gave them our usual warm thanks for their efforts, which are gratefully appreciated, with special thanks to Marjorie for the lovely, home-made cakes.

During the tea interval, the subject arose once more of new premises and I assured everyone that I am still looking and have many 'irons in the fire'.

DOUG CASHMORE
Secretary.

BRIGHTON

Readers may be interested to be reminded that membership of the Brighton Club is open to all St. Dunstaners and their wives. This entitles them to take part in any function organised by the club whenever they are staying at Ian Fraser House or in Brighton.

The annual subscription is £1.00 for St. Dunstaners and associate membership for their wives costs 50p. per year.

BOB OSBORNE,
Chairman.

BOWLING NOTES

We have now completed our first half dozen fixtures of our summer bowling season, having had some grand bowling and great entertainment. Everyone seems to be well satisfied and enjoying themselves. There are many interesting fixtures ahead during the summer season and I would like all our members to join our coaches whenever possible. We have also started our summer aggregate for the

Quadling Cup, for which there is fierce competition. Please could all our bowlers give four days notice of attendance before each fixture to our secretary, Mrs. P. Jones, or any member of the committee, especially those bowlers who live well outside of the Brighton area.

A. ROBINSON,
Chairman and Captain.

BRIDGE SECTION

On Sunday, 11th June, we held our 6th Pairs event with the following results:

North-South	
1st A. Dodgson and Mrs. Dodgson	58.5
W. Lethbridge and Mr. Goodlad	
East-West	
1st F. Griffee and Mrs. V. Delaney	53.5
2nd W. Phillips and Dr. Goodlad	50.0

Our 6th Individuals was held on Saturday, 24th June, with the following results:

R. Fullard and W. Phillips	67.0
C. Walters and W. Burnett	66.0
I. Pellington and G. Hudson	66.0
F. Griffee and W. Lethbridge	63.0
H. Preedy and J. Padley	55.0

The 7th Pairs event was held on Sunday, 9th July, with the following results:

North-South	
1st B. Simon and Miss Sturdy	57.0
2nd T. Woods and Mr. Barker	50.0
East-West	
1st W. Phillips and Dr. Goodlad	58.0
2nd H. Preedy and Mrs. Barker	52.5
W. Allen and Mrs. Buller-King	52.5

Following this event, the competition for the Dacre Trophy, which is won by the St. Dunstaner with the best 5 scores from a possible 9 matches played with any partner, is at present as follows:

Name	Best 5 to date	Lowest score included
W. Phillips	287.9	50.5
F. Griffee	277.1	49.6
B. Simon	274.9	47.0
W. Lethbridge	266.9	46.4
B. Ingre	246.8	41.1
J. Padley	246.7	42.9
A. Dodgson	245.5	39.7
P. McCormack	231.0	40.0
R. Fullard	222.0	36.5
H. Preedy	197.9 (4 matches played)	
W. Allen	174.0 (3 matches played)	

W. LETHBRIDGE

CLUB NEWS—continued

ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Our summer programme is well under way, and on the 14th June, we spent a pleasant afternoon at Wakehurst Place Gardens. It was a complete contrast to Wisley Gardens, where we have been for the past two years. Here the grounds consisted mainly of large trees, shrubs, azaleas, rhododendrons and lakes and pools which held the largest goldfish ever described to us. We enjoyed a cup of tea in the old Manor House, which is several hundred years old; one of its features being the huge carved fireplace in the dining-room. We then made our way homewards, stopping at the Plough Inn, Rottingdean, where we were joined by our President, Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, and our Club Secretary, Miss M. Stenning, for an excellent dinner and drinks, which ended the day perfectly. Thanks must be given to Mr. Paul Woodall and his wife, Christine, mine hosts at the Plough, for the excellent way they looked after us.

The dance on the 8th July seemed to have a particularly happy atmosphere and I was pleased to welcome a party of members from the local branch of the Royal Engineers Association. The next dance will be held on the 12th August, when everyone on holiday will be made most welcome.

R. OSBORNE

FAMILY NEWS

Grandchildren

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Chapman of Cambridge, on the birth of their first grandchild, James Andrew, to their son, Alan, and his wife on 27th May.

Mr. Thomas Cox of Egham, on the birth of a great grandchild, Lee James, to his grand-daughter, Anne, and her husband, Barry, on 1st May.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Galway of Sandbach, on the birth of their grandchild, Adam, to their daughter, Jane, and her husband, on 31st May.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Ostle of Cocker-mouth, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Michelle, to their daughter, Christine, and son-in-law, Keith, on 5th March.

Mr. Edward Paris of New Malden, on the birth of his grandson to his son, John, and daughter-in-law, Sandra.

Mr. and Mrs. George Roake of Catford, on the birth of their fourth grandchild, Matthew Robert, to their daughter, Janet, and son-in-law, Robert, on 6th June.

Mr. Tom Taylor of Leyland, on the birth of his fourth grandchild, Andrew Lindsay, to his son, Paul, and daughter-in-law, Rosemary, on June 15th.

Marriages

Mr. Stanley Fowler of Beeston, Nottinghamshire, is pleased to announce the marriage of his son, John, to Susan Haylett on Saturday, 17th June.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Phillips of Steyning, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Prudence Phoebe, to John Nicholas Crowley, at St. Laurence Church, Hawkhurst, East Sussex, on July 15th.

Mr. and Mrs. John Simpson of Brighton, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Margaret, to Steven Barron at St. Edmund's R.C. Church, Whitton, on 15th July.

Our deaf St. Dunstaner, *Wally Thomas*, is pleased to announce the marriage of his youngest son, Barry, to Miss Ann West of Durban, South Africa. The wedding took place on June 10th at the Old Fort Chapel, Durban.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mrs. Dorothy Mary Atkins, wife of *Douglas Atkins* of Hemel Hempstead, on the recent death of her mother.

Mr. Leonard Ellaway of Trelleck, Gwent, on the death of his grandson, who was killed in a road accident on 6th July. We also extend our sympathy to the boy's mother, Mrs. Valerie Emery.

FAMILY NEWS—continued

Examination and Career Successes We warmly congratulate:

Denise, daughter of *Brenda Bates*, on her recent graduation from Kent University with a degree in Sociology.

Mrs. Muriel Bryant of Midsomer Norton, who has again received an award, a First Class Certificate, at this year's National War Pensioners Handicraft and Art Exhibition in London. Her prize was won for a soft toy, a dressed mother rabbit.

Stephen, son of *Dennis Freeman* of Coventry, who has just obtained his Queen's Scout Award. This is the highest possible training award in scouting and the County Commissioner presented the badge on July 3rd.

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.

Horace Charles Adams *Royal Artillery*

Horace Adams of Oxford, died at Pearson House on 28th June, aged 72.

Mr. Adams served in the Ox. and Bucks. Light Infantry and the Royal Artillery from his enlistment in 1939 until his discharge in April, 1945, with the rank of Sergeant. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1949 and was trained for industrial employment. Until 1964, he worked for Morris Motors of Cowley, when it became necessary for him to retire at the age of 61 on health grounds. He became a permanent resident at Pearson House in 1972, after being a constant visitor there since 1969.

He leaves a widow, Rose Ellen, a son and a daughter.

George William Beacock *Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment*

George Beacock of Hull, died on 12th June, aged 80.

Mr. Beacock enlisted in November, 1916, and served as a Private with the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment. He was discharged from the Army in August, 1918, after being wounded in September of the previous year. He joined St. Dunstan's in January, 1960.

Unfortunately, due to the injuries he sustained, Mr. Beacock was unable to pursue any form of

employment after his war service, but he was always a happy and contented man and part of a united family. He spent many enjoyable holidays either with his sister in Bradford, who divided her time between her own home and that of her brother, or at the family's caravan in Aldborough.

He leaves a brother, Danny, with whom he lived, and a sister, Mrs. Hindle.

Michael, eldest son of *Mr. and Mrs. Henry Petty* of Leeds, who received his twelve year's medal during a full-dress parade of the Territorial Army in Scotland last year. He was also chosen to be part of the guard of honour when the Queen visited Leeds during her Jubilee tour and this year, he received his third stripe, making him a sergeant. We also offer our congratulations to Michael's wife, who qualified as a nurse at St. James Hospital last November.

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He leaves a brother, Danny, with whom he lived, and a sister, Mrs. Hindle.

Harold Beddis *9th Gloucestershire Regiment*

Harold Beddis of Lydney, Gloucestershire, died on 19th June, aged 83.

Mr. Beddis served as a Private with the 9th Gloucestershire Regiment and the R.A.V.C. throughout the First World War and was wounded in 1918, suffering the loss of an eye and injuries to his leg. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1976.

Mr. Beddis worked for the Forestry Commission until he retired at the age of 57. His home being in the Forest of Dean, he was able to spend his last years in the midst of the countryside that he loved and knew so well. During recent months, his health had given cause for concern, but throughout, he was nursed devotedly by his wife, Alice Mary, to whom he had been married for over 55 years.

He leaves a widow, Alice Mary, a daughter, and two sons.

In Memory *continued*

Charles Henry Brown *4th Northumberland Fusiliers*

Charles Henry Brown of Burton-on-Trent, died on 27th April, aged 86.

Mr. Brown enlisted in the 4th Northumberland Fusiliers in 1915 and was discharged in 1920, following injuries from shrapnel whilst on active service in France during the First World War. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1921.

Although he had been a butcher before the war, Mr. Brown undertook a period of training and went into poultry farming, a venture which he ran successfully and with much energy until comparatively recently. He received many awards for his pullets and ducklings and was greatly helped by his wife, Gladys, until she, unfortunately, died in 1973.

In 1958, Mr. Brown disposed of the majority of his poultry and concentrated on the cultivation of his small holding, growing splendid crops of fruit and vegetables with the assistance of his two sons and their wives. He continued to tend his garden and keep a few chickens, despite deteriorating health, until he was no longer well enough to carry on. In the last few years, he was devotedly cared for by his sons and daughters-in-law, by whom he will be sadly missed.

He leaves two sons, Geoffrey and Eric, and two daughters-in-law.

Frederick James Harriss *Royal Fusiliers*

Frederick James Harriss, formerly of Colchester, died at Pearson House on 19th June, aged 83. His death on June 19th coincided with his admission to St. Dunstan's on the same day 62 years ago, and he was, therefore, one of our longest surviving members.

Mr. Harriss served as a Private in the Royal Fusiliers from his enlistment in 1914, until his discharge in 1916, following injuries received the previous year whilst in action at Cambrai in Belgium.

After a period of training, Mr. Harriss took over a small holding in 1919 where, with the help of his wife, Florence, he reared poultry and rabbits and grew a variety of garden produce. After his retirement in 1960, he and his wife moved to Colchester, where he retained his great interest in the soil, being justifiably proud of the fruit, vegetables and flowers which he cultivated.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Harriss died in 1970, after a happy life together for 46 years. Mr. Harriss became a permanent resident at Pearson House earlier this year following the death of his companion/housekeeper, Mrs. Craddock, who had cared for him for five years.

He leaves a daughter, Muriel, and sisters.

Bernard Martin, M.M. *5th Royal Irish Fusiliers*

Bernard Martin, formerly of County Wicklow, Ireland, died at Pearson House on 10th June, aged 84.

Mr. Martin enlisted in the 5th Royal Irish Fusiliers in 1914, and saw active service in Palestine, where he received injuries which led to his discharge with the rank of Sergeant in 1918. He joined St. Dunstan's in April, 1918. He was the proud holder of the Military Medal.

After a period of training in basket work and Braille, Mr. Martin commenced working on his own account and had many private orders which he produced in his own workshop. At the same time, he cultivated over half an acre of land, growing large crops of vegetables of which he was very proud. He continued to provide basket work for our Stores Department until 1972, when failing health made it necessary for him to give up working altogether. Mr. Martin's wife, May, passed away at the end of 1973, after 55 years of happy marriage.

He leaves three sons, Richard, Bernard and William.

Thomas William Walter *Royal Artillery*

Thomas William Walter of Gillingham, died on 30th June, aged 76.

Mr. Walter served in the Royal Artillery as a Fitter from his enlistment in August, 1919, until his discharge with the rank of Sergeant in October, 1946. He was a regular soldier and soon after enlistment was sent to India, where he remained until his return to England in 1930. In 1937, Mr. Walter went to Hong Kong, accompanied by his wife. During the Second World War, he was captured by the Japanese on Christmas Day, 1941, and his health was severely affected by years of malnutrition and privation in prisoner-of-war camps. His wife and child had been evacuated to Australia and in November, 1945, they all returned to the United Kingdom.

In 1946, Mr. Walter joined St. Dunstan's in the borderline category and, after a period of training at Ovingdean, he obtained employment as a caretaker with the Royal Artillery, retiring in 1967, when he moved to Gillingham. His wife, unfortunately, died in 1973.

Mr. Walter was admitted to full membership of St. Dunstan's in February of this year, by which time his health had begun to deteriorate seriously.

He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Laivier Harris, and a very good friend, Mrs. Ellen Berry.