

St Dunstons
REVIEW
JANUARY 1979

St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

No. 703

JANUARY 1979

10p MONTHLY

Message from the Chairman

Commandant of our Brighton Homes

Mr. Lawrence Fawcett, M.B.E., who is so well known to us all as "Commandant", has been in charge of our Brighton Homes since 1947. He has earned the gratitude of St. Dunstaners, the Council and staff for the splendid way he has carried out his duties for 32 years. He is to retire in January, 1980.

We must now plan for the future and a very happy solution to the problem of his successor has been found. Dr. Ray Stilwell went to Brighton in May, 1977, and has since proved himself an excellent Medical Officer, an able administrator and a welcome colleague. He has accepted the future combined appointment of Commandant and Medical Officer. He will be giving up his private practice and will be working increasingly with Mr. Fawcett, so that he may become experienced in the dual responsibilities.

On behalf of all our readers, I wish Dr. Stilwell every success. I am sure when the time comes for St. Dunstaners to bid farewell to their old friend, Mr. Fawcett, they will be very glad that no stranger, but another good friend, will take his place.

Jon Garnett-Orme

From the Chairman's Postbag

Extract from a letter from Bob and Margaret Pearson of Auckland, New Zealand

I thought I would inform you of the White Stick Club, Henderson, West Auckland. There are about 25 or 26 of us and we are all hard at work saving up and making things to sell. We have some stalls in the shopping Malls and we are selling things there to raise money to make a South Pacific Tour on September 4th, 1979. We will have sighted wives, husbands or friends with us.

Most of the group have never been out of New Zealand, so this trip will be the real high-light of their lives, my own wife included, of course. We will visit about 7

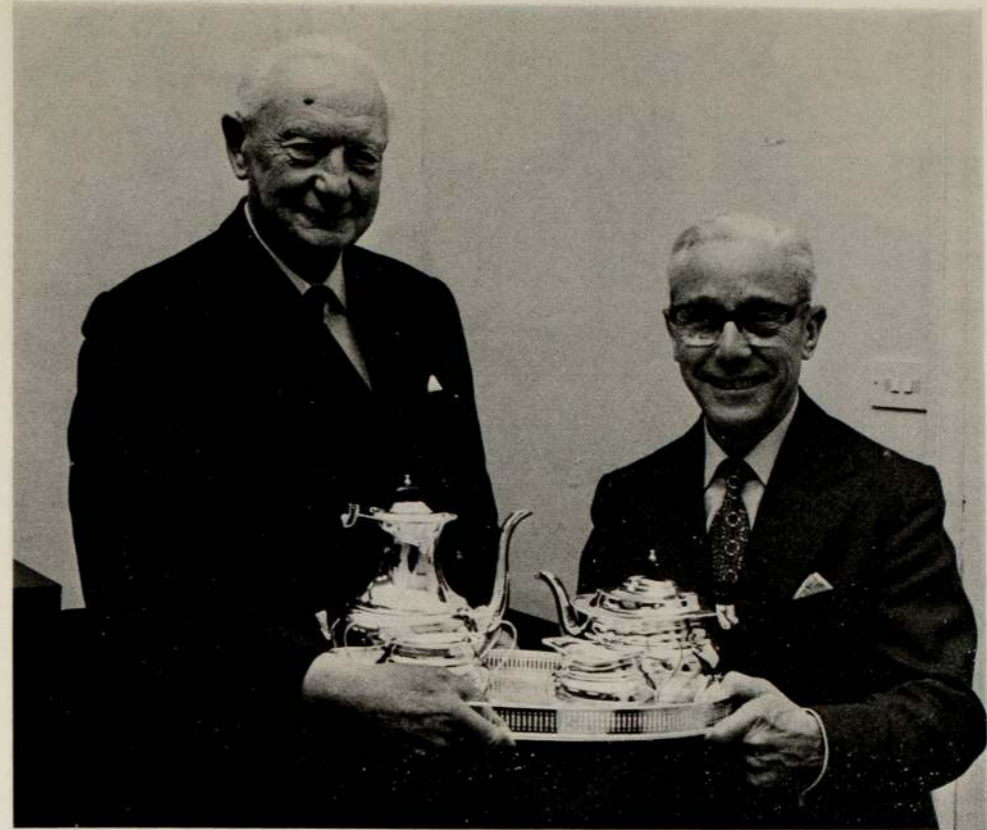
ports, including 2 in Australia. I have been making macrame rope mats and other articles such as moccasins through St. Dunstan's here, so you see, life is very full.

From Phyllis Rogers

Since my retirement, I have been happy to receive numerous messages through the goodwill of my friends at Headquarters, especially from Cynthia Mosley and Penny Lord, concerning the welfare of St. Dunstaners and their families. The family news and events in the *Review* also help to keep me in touch with you all.

May I take this opportunity of wishing everyone all the best in 1979.

COVER PICTURE: *A study in style and concentration: Captain and Chairman, Micky Robinson, in action in the Class 'B' bowls final.*



Mr. Jon Garnett-Orme presents a silver tea service, the gift of St. Dunstan's Council, to Mr. Fred Bridger on his retirement. A full account of Mr. Bridger's service over more than thirty years with the Estate Department will appear next month.

ST. DUNSTANER'S THIRD MAJOR AWARD

Mr. Eric Boulter, Director-General of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, has just received his third major award this year for his services for the blind. Earlier this year, he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. In last month's *Review* the Chairman congratulated him on being presented with the Helen Keller International Award and now we have heard that he has been awarded the Louis Braille Gold Medal, which was presented to him in Prague in November at the General Assembly of the European Committee for the Welfare of the Blind.

Mr. Boulter, leader of the U.K. delegation to the committee, has been associated

with the World Council since its creation in 1951, and is a former President. He received the Louis Braille Medal from the current President, Mr. Boris Zimin.

Thank you from the Staff

Mr. Wills, Miss Mosley, Miss Lord and other members of staff at Headquarters; Commandant, Matrons and staff at Ian Fraser House and Pearson House, thank the many St. Dunstaners both at home and overseas, who have sent Christmas greetings and regret they are unable to respond individually. To all of you, however, we send the warmest greetings and good wishes for your happiness and health in 1979.



In the staff restaurant at Ian Fraser House, Lawrence Austin receives a radio from Commandant Fawcett, who made the presentation on behalf of colleagues on the staff.

Mr. Lawrence Austin

Many St. Dunstaners and certainly all St. Dunstan's staff, will know Mr. Lawrence Austin, who retired on November 24th. Mr. Austin arrived at St. Dunstan's with our first coach; in fact, it was he who delivered it from the Albion Works on October 1st, 1938. Since then, he has been in charge of our transport section either at Pearson House or Ian Fraser House, apart from a break during the war.

A keen archer himself, Mr. Austin introduced archery first to our trainees and later to St. Dunstaners on holiday at Ian Fraser House. Using special aids, an increasing number are enjoying the sport at archery clubs in their home area and at our annual championships at Ian Fraser House.

On Thursday, November 23rd, the Chairman, on behalf of St. Dunstan's Council, presented Mr. Austin with a gold wrist watch in recognition of his 40 years service. Colleagues on the staff at Ian Fraser House and at Headquarters made a gift of a portable radio, which was presented by Commandant at a little ceremony on his last working day. At the presentation, Commandant paid tribute to Mr. Austin's popularity and long service.

Talking Bibles

Tape recorded Bible stories are now available on C60 cassette. At present, there are thirty-three stories from the New Testament, sixteen on volume one and seventeen on volume two. Work is currently being undertaken on volume three, which will comprise stories from the Old Testament. The price of each tape is £2.27 and copies can be obtained by writing to: Don Feltham, Director, Echo Recordings, 14 Collington Rise, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, enclosing the correct money. There is no charge for postage.

Not So Elusive Pints

Here is the answer to those "elusive pints" in last month's *Review*. Fill the 3 pint container and empty the contents into the 5 pint container. Refill the 3 pint container, using the contents to top up the 5 pint container. You will, therefore, have 1 pint left in the 3 pint container. Throw away the contents of the 5 pint container. Pour the 1 pint left in the 3 pint container into the 5 pint jar, refill the 3 pint jar and add the contents to the 5 pint jar. You should then have four pints exactly in the 5 pint jar.



Welcome Visitor

St. Dunstaners and staff at Headquarters were pleased to welcome Mrs. **Natalie Opperman**, Chairman of St. Dunstan's (South Africa), when she lunched with them recently. Mrs. Opperman was on a private visit to members of her family in Britain and brought greetings from St. Dunstaners in South Africa. She also dined with Mr. and Mrs. Garnett-Orme.

Affectionate Farewell

Francis Howe and his wife, Charlotte, who have recently retired from their shop in Taunton, are obviously going to be missed by their customers. The Howes received 59 presents and 140 retirement cards from their customers before they left and on the final Saturday of trading, the number of customers going into the shop to wish them well was like a bread queue!

Danger UXB

On January 8th, at 9.00 p.m., a new weekly I.T.V. series starts on *Thames Television*. In thirteen episodes, which will be networked nationally, "Danger UXB" will tell the story of a Royal Engineers bomb disposal company. Among the advisers to the series is our St. Dunstaner, **Ken Revis**. He is particularly concerned with episode 12, to be shown on March 26th. Ken and other bomb disposal expert advisers are the subjects of a feature in the current issue of *T.V. Times*.

IT STRIKES ME

by Magog

Scottish Reunion

St. Dunstaners, **Johnnie Cope** of Saltdean, and **Arthur Morgan** of York, both of whom are ex-Gordon Highlanders, attended the Gordon Highland London Association Annual Reunion on November 10th, accompanied by Mr. Laurie Slade, our Pensions Officer.

For Arthur Morgan it was a very special occasion, as he was reunited with his old Commanding Officer of 1941.

Much liquid was consumed and all went down very well with piping and song.

Freedom of the City

George "Jim" Shepherd and his wife, June, of Whitchurch Hill, Berkshire, travelled up to London on Wednesday, November 15th for a very special occasion when Jim was awarded the Freedom of the City of London.

"I don't want to make a big thing of it. I don't know how I got it," he said. Could it be anything to do with his service with the Queen Victoria Rifles, his being wounded at Calais in 1940, his time spent in a prisoner-of-war camp, his later repatriation, his running of a pub, the award of a Nuffield Foundation Agricultural Scholarship to both himself and June in 1953, the running of a seven-acre pig farm and 9 years of taking part in the weekly B.B.C. Radio programme, "On Your Farm"?

Jim is now retired, giving him time for gardening, music and walking. It has been a full and busy life for Jim and June. Now they have the freedom to sit back and relax.

Gardening Column

May I hope that your weather is not too bad with no hard frost or snow about to prevent you from getting on in the garden and continuing with the work of getting the vegetable and flower borders ready for spring sowing and the like. Where your soil is clay, you will have to keep off it for some time after the winter weather to let it dry off a bit, otherwise it will be worse than ever.

After the gales and heavy snowfalls, check over those autumn planted shrubs, trees and roses. They may have been drawn away from their root base, so heel them in again and put in some extra strong stakes for support. These newly-planted items will take some time before their roots get a firm hold, so check them over regularly for a year or so. Cut away any broken shoots in order to give you a bushier plant with more flowers. See to those ramblers and climbers, even those which have been in for many years, as they are often badly affected by strong winds.

It is not really a gardening month, apart from the drawing-up of plans for the garden lay-out and the setting of the annuals on the borders with the dwarf items in the front, a reasonable distance from the edge of the lawn so that you don't lose any when cutting the lawn. Get the seed orders in early, especially the newer items which may be in short supply.

Flowers

As with everything else, prices are up again, but at least seeds are cheaper to buy than plants and one can get much more for one's money and a great variety of colour. Sometimes it is a good thing to sow the seeds at intervals in order to get colour throughout the season, keeping a few for pots and boxes in the house during the drab days of autumn and winter. Try some of the more unusual items; you may get a pleasant surprise.

The spring flowering bulbs which you have in containers should be coming on well now, but check them over in any case. Most should be well out of the compost with a good show of leaf and

possibly flower buds in a dormant state. Don't be in too much of a hurry to bring them indoors or poor flowering may result, with buds not really coming out of the bulb and little or no stem in the end. Do, however, bring them into the light to encourage top growth, but not into too much warmth as yet.

The ordinary garden bulbs used for containers will not be any use in containers next season after flowering but should be alright in the beds. However, don't expect too much of them for a year or two. Remember to plant them as they come out of the container into the soil. Set a cane at the spot in case they are dug over later in the year and disturbed.

Try and complete the main pruning of the fruit trees this month as well as spraying with winter tar oil when the weather allows.

Keep all the vegetable beds clean and free of leaves, the leaves being consigned to the compost heap. In addition, when the weather is suitable, keep the hoe going between the growing crops. This will aerate the soil and also stop the weed seeds from getting a firm hold.

In areas where snow is forecast, give those spring greens protection in the shape of sacking, paper, cloches, or anything that can be laid flat.

Greenhouse

The greenhouse temperature needs to be kept at between 45°-50°F. in the bleak periods or even a bit higher, but do try to give some ventilation in the late morning and early afternoon. Keep plants away from the panes of glass and free of dead leaves, flowers, etc. Watering should be kept to a minimum and if in doubt, don't, especially where Geraniums are concerned.

Get all the utensils for the spring sowing ready, such as trays and pots. Give them a good clean with some disinfectant. Make sure that you have the composts on hand to sow the seeds as soon as they arrive. I find that Soil-less or No-soil composts are the best these days, since the once wonderful John Innes mixtures

GARDENING—continued

are now very poor, with little good loam about.

These No-soil composts are very easily mixed and if you contact me, I will send you sheets of paper with the formulae for the seed and potting mixtures. However, if you have only a small need, these mixtures are available at most garden shops and the like. These composts keep moist much longer than the soil mixtures, but if dried off, take a long time to get moist again so be careful with the watering. In addition, the fertiliser content goes quickly, so give more feeds.

Keep a space cleared on the staging for the propagation of seeds and the setting up of the boxes, ensuring that it is clean. Naturally, you will have to increase the heat for raising seeds and set the boxes or pots over the source of heat.

May I wish you all a really extra special season in the garden and greenhouse this year and urge you to try something different.

WEST GERMAN HOLIDAY

The Organisation for the War-blinded in West Germany can offer rooms in a holiday home in the Eifel on a hill over Blankenheim, which is about 60 km. from Cologne and 80 km. from Aachen. The town can be reached either by train or by car.

All the guest rooms have individual toilets and a balcony or terrace. The home possesses well-equipped lounges, an indoor swimming pool, a bowling rink and a fitness room. The park has specially laid out paths which the blind can walk along alone.

For further information please write to: Bund der Kriegsblinden Deutschlands, Schumannstrasse 35, D-5300 Bonn 1 or telephone (02221) 213134.

PHOTO-FIT

We apologise to two St. Dunstaners for a case of mistaken identity in the December *Review* under the heading "Conversation Piece".

The St. Dunstaner talking to Tommy Gaygan was, in fact, John Belton and not Alex Nesbitt.

Welcome to St. Dunstan's



On behalf of St. Dunstan's we welcome a St. Dunstaner recently admitted to membership. The Review hopes he will settle down happily as a member of our family.

Joseph Wolsey of Belfast, who joined St. Dunstan's on November 8th. Mr. Wolsey served as a Sergeant in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers during the First World War and was wounded at Ypres. He is married with a grown-up family.

PROFESSOR ALDRIDGE

Our St. Dunstaner, Doctor Maurice Aldridge, has been appointed Professor of Phonetics and General Linguistics at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

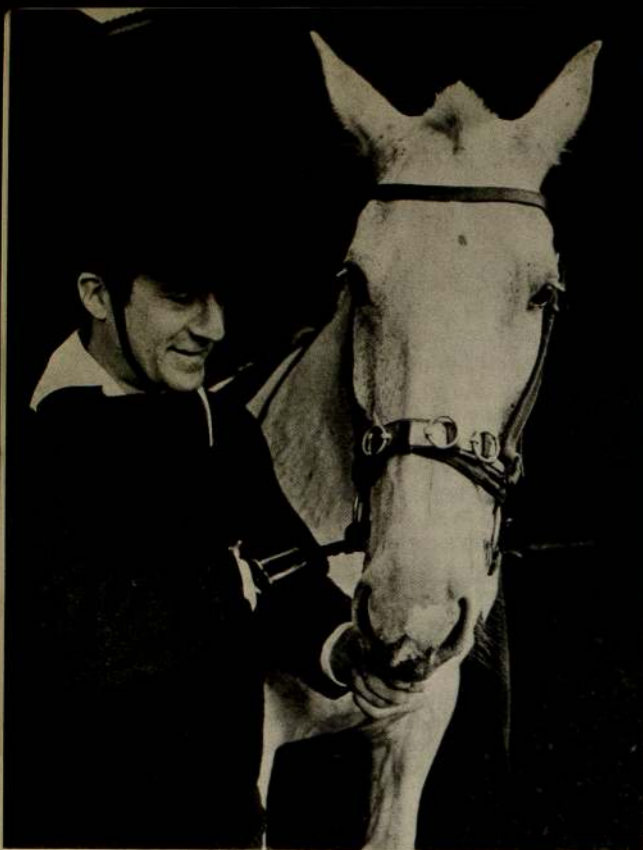
SERVICE TO SCOUTING

Say the word "scouting" in Coventry and you would probably be given the name Freeman. We have reported in the past on the work of **Dennis Freeman** with his Venture Scout unit and as Assistant District Commissioner. His eldest son, Raymond, has been a Queen's Scout and held the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. We have also reported on his daughter, Anne's achievement of the Gold Award as a Ranger Guide and now, the Freeman's youngest son, Stephen, has followed his brother and sister to Buckingham Palace to receive his Gold Award on December 7th. The family lunched at Scout Headquarters, where their service is greatly valued.

Kingly Prize by Phillip Wood

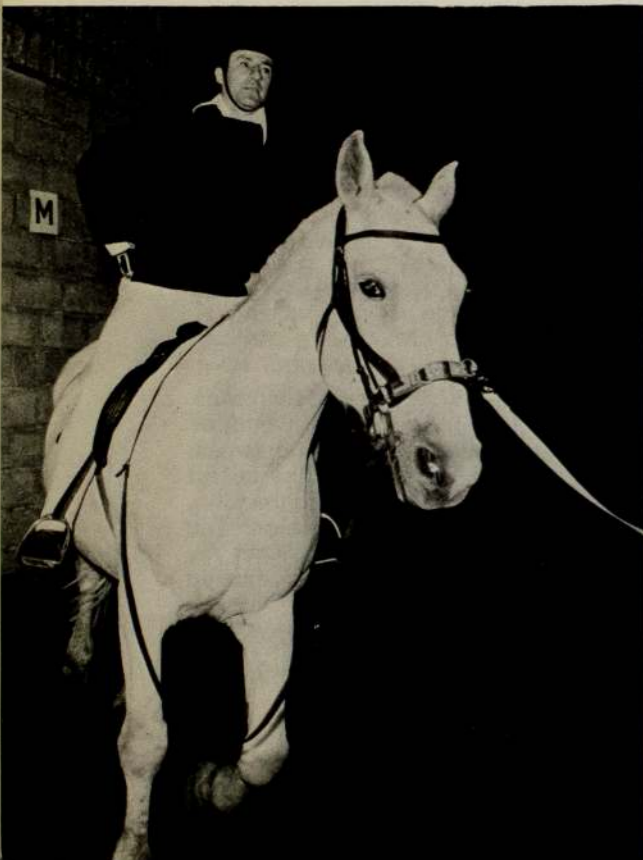
There was this King who had twin sons. Who was to succeed to the throne? Both princes were mad-keen horsemen, each claiming his horse was the fastest thing on four legs. "Right", said the King, "you will race for the succession. The owner of the *slower* horse will get my throne, my lands and my numbered account in a Swiss bank!"

How did the two horsemen resolve the problem?



Ray Hazan with Zinnia.

One of the exercises; riding with 'no hands'.



RIDING HIGH

by Ray Hazan

Photos: David Castleton

King Richard was prepared to give his kingdom for one. Where would the Light Brigade have been without them? Frightening to some, the object of everlasting love to others, the horse is the subject of one of those love-hate relationships. Throughout the centuries, this quadruped lead man into battle, worked the land, aided the industrial process and perhaps most important of all, enabled him to communicate. One common denominator in all these attributes, is the horse's capacity for providing both pain and pleasure.

Like many, no doubt, I thought riding a horse was like driving a tank; pull to the left and it goes left, pull to the right and it goes right. But I soon discovered the art of riding requires strength, fitness, stamina, understanding and balance. It provides sport or recreation for all ages from two upwards. Riding not only gives you exercise, but helps develop all the senses. This could be a valuable method of rehabilitation for newly-blinded people.



Arriving safely back at the stables.

What can be more pleasant than to sit back and discover the countryside? From the afore-mentioned pleasures should be subtracted the odd bite, bruise, stiffness, cold and wet skin. But, on balance, it is still all worth it!

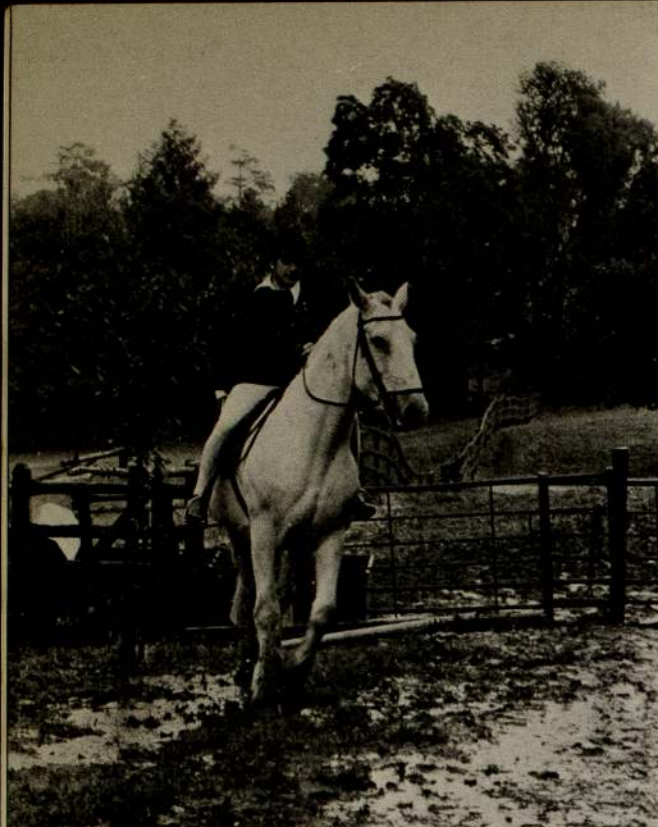
Having decided that a little masochism never did too much harm, you must find your stable. This should not present excessive difficulty, as they can be smelt a good half mile away. The next sense to be assailed will be your ears. The stable yard resounds to a cacophony of clattering hooves on cobble stones and horses trying to kick down the doors to their boxes. Only the voice of a stable girl can compete with the whinny of a horse. Tractors trundle to and fro.

As you pay your first subscription, about £2.00 an hour in the country, you will be loaned a riding hat. This is as essential as a crash helmet for a motor cyclist. The hat is made of a fibre-glass dome, rather like the bottom half of an egg, and covered in a velvet-like material.

It has a peak in the front and two short little ribbons at the back. These are either for tickling the neck, thus maintaining the head in an upright position, or for telling the direction of the wind; the mystery has yet to be solved. Another question is whether the greasy head-band has been caused by sheer terror or by effort. Riding apparel deserves a paragraph of its own later on.

The first hurdle to be cleared is not in the arena, but in that bustling stable yard—the first encounter with the said beast. It looms high above your head; it stamps its feet, throws its head around and flicks its tail. It will try and have a jolly good rummage through your pockets for carrots or similar delicacies; a wise horse it is that seeks its reward before you mount.

The second hurdle contains the problem of hoisting yourself six feet into the air—it's a change from going six feet down, anyway. The whole operation must be performed in a casual and debonaire



A wet skin on a 'summer' day, but Ray says it is worth it.

manner; you are determined not to make a fool of yourself in front of the five year olds.

Firstly, you must decide which way the horse is facing. It is hairy at both ends; one being called the mane; the other, the tail. Both ends can inflict damage. The one, tooth marks; the other, hoof marks. The experienced blind rider heads for an inanimate object such as the saddle and determines compass heading from that. Then, gripping both the reins and front of the saddle with the left hand, thereby ensuring, as far as possible, a stationary mount, you place the left foot in the port side stirrup. This involves the most un-debonair contortion of ramming left knee in left ear. With a cry to the heavens, you theoretically straighten the leg and find yourself astride the afore-mentioned steed. Other methods involve either the wife or stable girl kneeling in the mud while you stand on their back, or the stable girl bellowing at you so loudly that out of sheer fright, you leap into the air. In these emancipated days, methods one and three are more common.

Your legs, which were stretched in the vertical plane, are now rent apart in the horizontal plane in order to achieve some sort of grip around the horse's belly. At this point in the operation, the experienced school horse will decide to nibble on some grass. This pulls the reins sharply forward and down. The unwary would follow, but the prospect of repeating the mounting procedure once more is so daunting, that it ensures stability.

The first lesson continues with learning how to sit properly. The heels point down and toes in, thereby causing the knees to grip. Head up, shoulders back and a good, straight back, pushing the seat well down into the saddle. The reins are gripped in two hands just above the pommel of the saddle and at just the right tension so as to 'feel' the horse's mouth. The achievement of motion should not require any excessive action by the rider. A squeeze with the knees and a slight loosening of the reins should be sufficient.

Early lessons will be held in an indoor or outdoor paddock with the horse on a lunge rein. This operates like a circus act, with the instructor holding a 20 ft. rein while the horse goes round in a circle. By squeezing with either knee or leg, you can get the horse to walk faster, trot, canter or go backwards. A horse will not put its feet further forward than its nose, thus by reining in and bringing the nose back, you shorten the stride. You must learn to feel with which leg the horse is leading and how to get him to lead with the right one.

There are exercises to be done to learn balance and build up confidence; lying out on the horse's back, touching toes, turning through 360° in the saddle and riding without stirrups and hands. Another hurdle is literally small jumps, from poles lying on the ground to 2 ft. high fences. It may not sound like the Horse of the Year Show from where you are, but from 6 ft. up it is a very different feeling.

At this juncture, special mention should be made of the Riding for the Disabled Association. There are many clubs throughout the country catering for all ages and all disabilities. The aim of the Association is the integration and development of independence of both handicapped and disabled children and adults. Their fees are extremely modest.



No, Ray has not confused the two 'hairy ends', he is learning balance.

It is very encouraging to see children who can hardly sit in a wheelchair, being held on a horse by a band of happy helpers. The therapeutic value is enormous. The results can be as remarkable as for any able-bodied group. In some indoor schools specifically for the blind, sound beacons around the arena enable one instructor to guide the whole class.

Once the disabled rider has proved he can control his steed with competence, he may be allowed out on a hack or to promenade. For this outing in public, some feel they should be properly dressed. The hat has already been mentioned and will cost about £10.00. Jeans tucked into wellington boots or stout shoes with an adequate heel can be worn, but to maintain close contact with the horse, jodphurs at between £15.00 for women and £23.00 for men are more appropriate. Even though your feet are not doing the walking, they are fairly costly to protect at £30.00 for the short, elastic-sided boots and from £65.00 for long boots. Optional extras such as a riding jacket and riding mac are from

£60.00 and £50.00 respectively. These are London prices and not all items are necessary. The hat is really the essential item.

Now what could be more pleasant than a trot down a country lane on a summer's afternoon? Your wife's description of the hedgerows and flowers is punctuated with the buzzing of bees, bird song and the lowing of cattle in the fields. What could be more exciting than the freedom of a canter across open fields to the accompaniment of thudding hooves? Provided there is somebody in front for you to listen to and someone behind to shout the odd word of direction, you can roam as free as a bird.

So why not turn the clock back a few centuries? Get away from those lead-soaked exhaust fumes for a while. It is a sport in which both husband and wife can participate together. Riding or trekking holidays can be very reasonable. A few stiff muscles perhaps, but the benefits in exercise and fresh air are just rewards. After all, there are not many ways of taking exercise sitting down!



The championships in progress in the indoor rink. The bowler in action is Bob Osborne.

Bowls is booming in St. Dunstan's. Thirty-nine competitors took part in the 1978 Indoor Championships at Ian Fraser House from the November 20th-24th and over those five days, bowling was going on from 9.00 a.m. to 7 p.m. with just short breaks for meals and refreshments.

Among the entrants were two ladies, Mrs. Brenda Bates and Mrs. Margaret Bingham and four handless competitors: David Bell, Dick Brett, Tommy Gaygan and Bill Griffiths. The latter had their own Class C tournament, won by 'Maestro' Dick Brett who beat David Bell by 10 shots to 4 in a final which produced some exciting moments and accurate bowling from both players, using the ring attachment to hold the wood.

The ladies took on the men in Class A singles and Margaret, bowling from her wheelchair, had the distinction of the highest score in the tournament when she beat Eddie Quinn 14-4 in the first round. In the next round she gave a good account of herself against 'Johnnie' Cope losing by only 6 shots to 5.

The standard of bowling in the tournament was high. In one doubles match there were 12 woods clustered around the jack in a space of a yard and the final rounds produced some tense and exciting situations.

The Class B final between Club Chairman and Captain, Micky Robinson, and Bob Forshaw was typical. The match turned on the sixth of nine ends when, with the score Forshaw 4, Robinson 3, Micky Robinson made four clear shots, putting his score to 7 shots to Bob's 4. He won the seventh end by two shots, extending his lead to 9-4 and then came the other crucial end, the eighth. Bob Forshaw, needing a good score to stay in the match, was in a position where one wood hitting the jack and moving it would have given him the chance of a four shot life-line. He shaved the jack three times but failed to touch it on for the vital shots he needed. He had to be satisfied with one shot, leaving him the task of a four shot win in the last end to tie the score.

For Bob the ninth end was anti-climax, for Micky, victory. His one shot advantage gave him the championship by 10 shots to 5, but the match was closer than that score suggests.

The final of the mixed pairs competition was closely contested by Jack Boorman and 'Johnnie' Cope versus Bob Osborne and 'Monty' Golding. After three ends they were all square at 3 shots each and halfway through the last end, although Boorman and Cope had begun it leading

by 5-3, Osborne and Golding were holding two shots!

So all square in the last end. Then Jack Boorman knocked his partner's wood on and into second shot position and 'Monty' Golding could do nothing to win back that vital shot to tie the score. So the doubles championship went to Jack Boorman and 'Johnnie' Cope in a nail-biting final, decided only in the last end, by 5 shots to 4.

Time was wearing on when the Class A final began. A 'local derby' this, between Norfolk and Suffolk in the persons of Percy Stubbs and Alf Waters. Percy got off to a flying start with a four shot advantage in the first end. In the next two ends Alf Waters started to find his form, fighting back to make the score 4-3.

The fourth end saw Alf holding a three shot lead when his last wood hit the jack, moving it and reducing his advantage to two shots. But all of this was lost when Percy Stubbs found a brilliant last wood which stopped $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the jack and took his lead to 5-3. Here is the fascination of the game of bowls—two woods which changed a possible high score for Alf to a one shot disadvantage.

By supper time, the scores were Percy Stubbs 6, Alf Waters 5—anybody's match. But after the interval Percy got away to another good start winning by two shots. Alf made a gallant effort in the eighth to pull back, but a measure for the shot gave Percy the advantage by just one inch. 9-5 and only a win by four shots could save Suffolk in the last end. It was not to be and another two shots gave Percy Stubbs the championship by 11 to 5.

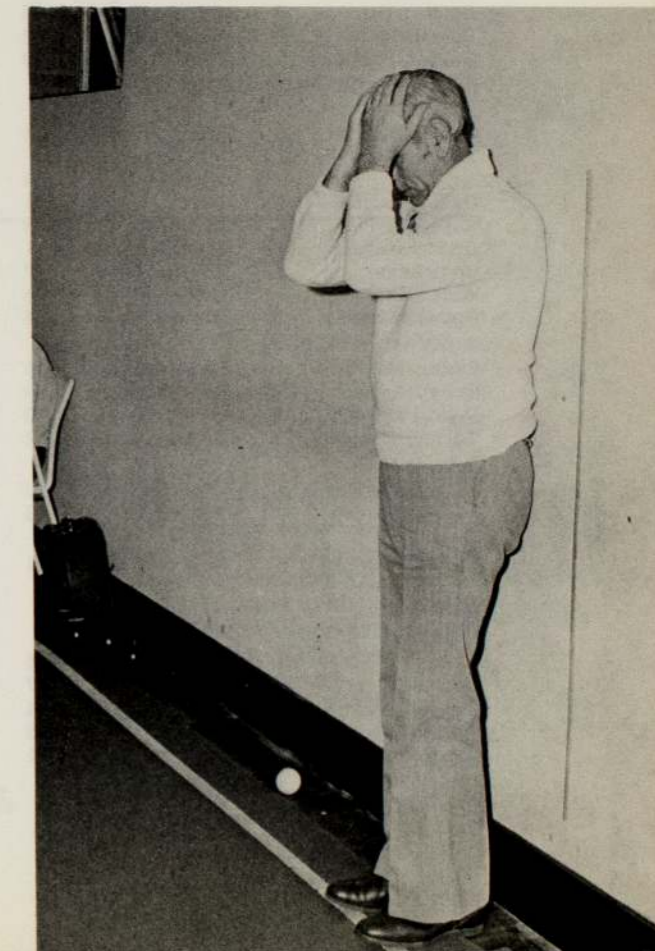
The presentations of trophies were made by Mrs. W. Knight and Commandant at a dance held in the Annexe. Mrs. Knight, widow of our late St. Dunstaner, Wilf Knight, presented a trophy in memory of her husband, given by his employers, Barclay's Bank, Ltd., to the mixed pairs winners, Jack Boorman and "Johnnie" Cope.

The bowlers even found their own music-maker in Bill Claydon, who played his electric organ for the dancing. Bill was eliminated from singles and pairs tournaments in the early rounds, but provided a grand finale to the bowls week with his swinging style which brought the dancers crowding on to the floor.



Dick Brett bowling in the Class 'C' final.

Head in hands, Bob Forshaw betrays the strain a finalist undergoes.





Percy Stubbs and Alf Woods listen intently as Jock Carnochan makes a crucial measure.

BOWLS RESULTS IN FULL

MIXED PAIRS

1st Round

Golding/Osborne	7	Griffiths/Palmer	6
Burnett/Carter	8	Bell/Morris	2
Gaygan/Hodgson	1	Griffiths/Robinson	9

All the other matches in the 1st round were byes.

2nd round

Stubbs/Mitchell	5	Mugan/Pellington	4
Padley/Wagstaff	7	Mrs. Bingham/Davies	3

Quinn/Hudson	4	Morrish/Scales	1
Cope/Boorman	5	Mrs. Bates/Forshaw	3
Dodd/Headland	11	Claydon/O'Donnell	1
Brett/Acton	2	Preedy/Simmon	7
Waters/Brown	2	Golding/Osborne	5
Burnett/Carter	2	Griffiths/Robinson	4

3rd round

Stubbs/Mitchell	4	Padley/Wagstaff	5
Quinn/Hudson	3	Cope/Boorman	6
Dodd/Headland	0	Preedy/Simmon	10
Golding/Osborne	3	Griffiths/Robinson	2

Semi-finals

Padley/Wagstaff	3	Cope/Boorman	5
Preedy/Simmon	1	Golding/Osborne	6

Final

Cope/Boorman	5	Golding/Osborne	4
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CLASS A

1st round

Stubbs	13	O'Donnell	4
Mugan	4	Padley	7
Mrs. Bingham	14	Quinn	4
Morrish	4	Cope	5
Mrs. Bates	1	Dodd	11

Claydon	6	Osborne	8
Preedy	6	Waters	7
Griffiths	6	Burnett	8

2nd round

Stubbs	13	Padley	3
Mrs. Bingham	5	Cope	6
Dodd	2	Osborne	13
Waters	8	Burnett	5

Semi-finals

Stubbs	12	Cope	3
Osborne	5	Waters	7

Final

Stubbs	11	Waters	5
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CLASS B

1st round

Golding	3	Simmon	10
Pellington	3	Davies	11
Wagstaff	12	Pullen	9

All the other matches in the 1st round were byes.

2nd round

Morris	11	Carter	6
Scales	8	Mitchell	6
Forshaw	7	Brown	6
Headland	12	Acton	7
Boorman	4	Robinson	9
Palmer		Hudson	bye
Hodgson	4	Simmon	11
Davies	7	Wagstaff	5

3rd round

Morris	7	Scales	8
Forshaw	10	Headland	6
Robinson	10	Hudson	2
Simmon	7	Davies	6



Mrs. Knight presents the Wilf Knight Memorial Trophy to Jack Boorman and 'Johnnie' Cope.

CLASS B—continued

Semi-finals

Scales	5	Forshaw	12
Robinson	9	Simmon	3

Final

Forshaw	5	Robinson	10
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CLASS C

Semi-finals

Brett	7	Griffiths	5
Bell	10	Gaygan	1

Final

Brett	10	Bell	4
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CLUB NEWS

BOWLS

A Grand Bowling Handicap will be held at Ian Fraser House from January 27th to February 3rd, 1979. It will be called the New Year Bowling Handicap and will commence on Monday, January 29th for five days with both singles and mixed doubles.

Will all St. Dunstaners who are interested please book in from January 27th for one week as the entry chart will close at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday, January 28th. So, polish up your woods and come and enjoy a great bowling festival. If there are any questions, please contact me by telephone or by post at Ian Fraser House from January 20th.

*A. ROBINSON,
Chairman and Captain.*

Autumn Handicap

The weekend before the National Bowls Tournament, our Captain, Micky Robinson, organised a bowls handicap, which we called the "Autumn Handicap". It was played over a period of three days and everyone voted it a real success.

On behalf of the Bowling Club, I would like to thank Micky for all his hard work in making it a great occasion. I would also like to thank him for his handicapping of the players which was so successful that four matches finished with a sudden-death play-off and nine games ended in a single point victory. The rest of the matches were also very close.

The final, between George Hudson and Alf Waters, was a real cliff-hanger all the way through, with George winning on the

last end.

Our very special thanks go to Kate Stubbs and Audrey Waters, who had the strenuous task of umpiring, marking and assisting the players with their woods on the green. Girls, you were great. Prizes were given to the winner and runner-up and token prizes to our two umpires.

To mark our appreciation, a gift was presented to Micky for all his hard work by Percy Acton, who gave a donation towards the prize money. In Percy's own words, "Here's to the next one, the spring handicap".

*T. MUGAN,
Vice-Captain.*

MIDLAND

Our Christmas festivities started with a real swing at the meeting on Sunday, December 3rd. The tables all around the room were covered with gaily coloured Christmas table-cloths and then laden with all sorts of Christmas fare; turkey, pork, trifles, mince pies and Christmas cake, as well as many other goodies. We had quite a number of grandchildren with us, so the atmosphere was truly full of the party spirit.

After quickly finishing off one or two domino games, we settled down to tuck into the beautiful tea. It was soon made short work of and the kiddies had a great feed. We thank our ladies once again for the wonderful work they all put into making such a marvellous spread.

Once the tables were cleared and everyone was settled, the children sat down in a circle and sang "Jingle Bells" and then Father Christmas, wonderfully performed for us by Mr. Bill Richards of the Austin Royal British Legion, entered the room. He gave all the children a present, calling them up to him in turn and then gave all the ladies a gift on behalf of Tommy O'Connor.

When this part of the proceedings was concluded, the prizes were presented to the winners of the Sir Arthur Pearson Domino Competition. The singles competition was won by Joe Kibbler, with Bruno Tomporowski second, Doug Faulkner third, and Doug Cashmore fourth. The doubles competition was won by Joe Kibbler and Janet, his daughter, with Doug and Joan Cashmore second.

All the children were then given packets of sweets, which had been given to us by another of our very good friends from the Austin Legion. A toast was then drunk.

There is no doubt whatsoever that our new premises made all the difference to our festivities. It is so clean and warm and the Secretary, Mr. Stan Whitfield, gave us all the help he could with the preparation of the room.

We were all very sorry that Tommy O'Connor could not be with us, but we are looking forward to having him with us at our Christmas dinner. I am sure that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and some stayed on at the club in the evening for an extra tot.

My sincere thanks go to everyone who helped to make the occasion such a success, including Mr. and Mrs. Bill Richards and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Scrivens from the Austin Branch, and Mr. Stan Whitfield.

All our members, wives and escorts join me in wishing every St. Dunstaner and their families and friends the compliments of the season and this message is extended most sincerely to all members of St. Dunstan's staff.

Our first meeting in the New Year will be on Sunday, January 14th. It would be grand to see some new faces at that meeting. I can assure you all of a warm welcome. Should anyone wish to make any enquiries regarding coming to the Midland Club, they can contact me on Bromsgrove 73856.

*DOUG CASHMORE,
Secretary.*

BRIGHTON

ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Christmas Dinner Dance, 1978

The evening of Friday, November 17th, saw members and their friends arriving at the Dudley Hotel, Hove, for their annual Christmas Dinner Dance. The atmosphere was warm and friendly and we were all greeted at the door by our genial Chairman, Bob Osborne, accompanied by his irreplaceable wife, Joan. This set the seal for a most enjoyable evening.

After a very delicious meal our President, Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, gave a speech

welcoming our guests and congratulating Bob and Joan Osborne for the work they have achieved during the past year. Mrs. Dacre concluded by thanking all members and friends of the club for their loyal support. Bob Osborne in reply thanked Mrs. Dacre, Dr. John O'Hara, Miss Mary Stenning, Mr. Ken Dew and Miss Ramshaw for all the help that he had received from them and reiterated Mrs. Dacre's words of thanks to the members and friends who had supported him. He also said how gratified he was to see so many members from all over the country taking the opportunity while down for the National Bowls Week to come along and so swell our numbers to one hundred plus.

We were very lucky in having our usual monthly trio, "The Compact Three", to supply music for our dancing and listening pleasure, right through to Auld Lang Syne, when everybody made it clear how much they had enjoyed themselves.

Thanks to Bob and Joan and to all members of the Entertainment Section for the arrangements that had to be made to make it such a success and special thanks from all the ladies present for their lovely mementos of the evening.

JIM PADLEY

BRIDGE SECTION

Two further matches have been played in the West Sussex Inter-Club League Teams of Eight Competition. The first was against Hove Bridge Club on Sunday, November 12th, and the second against Worthing "B" team on Saturday, December 2nd. I am sorry to have to report that St. Dunstan's were the losers on both occasions.

The final event of our bridge year took place on Sunday, December 3rd. This was our Christmas Drive, a happy occasion enjoyed by all. The winners were:—

- 1st M. Tybinski and Mrs. V. Barker
- 2nd R. Fullard and Mrs. V. McPherson
- 3rd H. Preedy and Mr. B. Barker
- 4th A. Dodgson and Mrs. E. Dodgson

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported and helped the Brighton Bridge section throughout the past year.

W. LETHBRIDGE

Ovingdean Notes

Christmas is almost with us, so once again we are in the throes of rehearsals and preparations for the festive season. Many consultations are taking place regarding fancy dress for the New Year festivities. It's "do your own thing" this time, which offers a bit more scope.

We are hoping that our forthcoming visit to Eastbourne for the pantomime, "Aladdin", starring Terry Scott, will prove to be as good as the posters claim.

We have some surprise entertainers this year, including the odd familiar face under some exotic guise. St. Dunstaners, wives and staff are expected to "have a go" at our New Year's Eve Party and we also hope to have some outside entertainers to help us through our week with our usual dances, prize bingo, dominoes, etc. We are already feeling the spirit of Christmas descending upon us.

Bridge Instruction Weekend

The mad stampede for the bowling rink has quietened down now that the tournament is over, to be replaced by the stealthy creep to the Winter Garden for the Bridge Instruction Weekend.

The Theatre Royal has been giving us some very good entertainment, with such stars as Penelope Keith and Danny La Rue, amongst others. The House of Pipes is fast becoming one of our most popular drives, with such hospitality shown to us by our hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Irvine, and with that unique collection of pipes. It will certainly be a must during our Christmas programme. Nor shall we forget our old friends, Mr. and Mrs. Lyndhurst of Tylden House, Warnham, who have once again issued their generous invitation to the Christmas tea to which they treat us every year. We are very fortunate in having kindness shown to us on all our drives, too numerous to mention.

We have a family of musicians among us, as we discovered when St. Dunstaner, Percy Acton presented us with a tape of organ music played by himself and his daughter. Most of his family play a musical instrument of one sort or another. Maybe we should have a talent contest—

there seem to be so many St. Dunstaners with hidden talents!

Ray Benson has given us some delightful musical evenings, along with Tom Eales. At one of our Monday night dances, Ernie Took and his band were ably assisted by Bob Forshaw on the double bass and Ken Revis with his vocal chords.

We have been presented with some very handsome hand bells and would like to hear of any St. Dunstaner who has some experience of hand bell ringing. We could call ourselves, "St. Dunstan's Ding Dong Along". Any other suggestions? Printable ones only, please.

May we take this opportunity to wish all St. Dunstaners and their families a very happy New Year from all of us at Ian Fraser House.

FAMILY NEWS

Marriages

Many congratulations to *Edward Griffiths* of Kidderminster, on his marriage to Joan Pound on November 14th.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hiscox of Mountain Ash, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Wendy, to Phillip Lawrence on October 28th.

Ruby Wedding

Many congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Rockshire* of Chingford, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on November 25th.

Diamond Wedding

Many congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wheeler* of Merton Park, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on December 7th. They received a congratulatory telegram from Her Majesty the Queen.

Births

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Alex McLeod of Luton, on the birth of their first child, Angela Joan, on November 24th.

Grandchildren

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Bradshaw of Northampton, on the birth of a granddaughter, Hannah Jane, on November 10th, to their son, Andrew, and his wife, Jane.

Personal Achievements

We warmly congratulate:

Stephen, son of *Bert Ward* of Leeds, who has obtained his Master of Education Degree at Leeds University. This was conferred at a ceremony on December 19th at the University. Mr. Ward has qualified over a three year part-time course, working evenings and weekends. He is Deputy Headmaster of Temple Newsome School.

Mr. Granville Waterworth of Coventry, who retired on August 8th, after working nearly 40 years for Dex Grears. Mr. Waterworth was presented with a carriage clock and a calf-skin wallet, together with a card of good wishes signed by all the present employees.

Deaths

We offer sincere sympathy to:

Mr. John Bocking of Morecambe, on the death of his wife, Clara, on November 8th.

Mr. William Griffiths of Blackpool, on the death of his brother, Robert, aged 56, on November 10th.

Mr. Thomas Cooper of Hull, on the death of his eldest sister in November, at the age of 89.

Mr. Sidney Hebditch of Highgate, on the death of his wife, Rose Mary, on November 20th, aged 86.

Mr. Reg Palmer of Downham Market, on the death of his father on November 14th, following injuries received in a car crash a few days earlier.

Mr. Reginald Parsons of Cardiff, on the death of his wife, Anne, on November 15th.

Mr. Gordon Smith of Rottingdean, our physiotherapist at Ian Fraser House, on the death of his wife, Rosemary, on November 23rd. We also extend our sympathy to their son, Nigel.

Mr. Henry Southgate of Chelsea, whose wife, Ellen, died in hospital on November 30th, at the age of 82.

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 868

The Long Drop

By Alan White

Read by David Strong

Reading Time 7½ hours

The plot is ordinary enough, almost obligatory even, in this kind of yarn. Contained in an impregnable vault near Liège in Belgium, are top secret German documents which the British would dearly love to lay their hands on. A small group of hand-picked, specially-trained paratroopers, under the command of Major Rhodes, set out to bring back the papers.

A very familiar story indeed, but skilful treatment lifts this book well above the usual run-of-the-mill, cloak-and-dagger stuff. Interspersed with exciting action, thumbnail sketches of the men involved make them seem more like real people and not the more usual cardboard cut-outs. And Robin Rhodes, a ruthless killer when duty demands, is saddened and revolted by the needless slaughter of war.

There are some weaknesses, of course. The paratroopers kill no less than twenty-eight Germans *on their way to Liège!*

All the same this book (for adult reading) is quite riveting and I commend it to anyone who likes this type of fiction.

Cat. No. 1385

The Jersey Plunder

By John Chancellor

Read by Peter Barker

Reading Time 9¼ hours

Franklyn Moore is forty-six and retired from the Secret Service, (he's a bit past it, really). He is now earning an honest crust doing industrial espionage (which is quite legal, I'm told!)

Living on the Isle of Jersey is one Rancek, an ageing electronics wizard. Franklyn goes to see him, hoping to pinch the secret of whatever earth-shaking project he might be working upon. But the scientist is doing nothing spectacular—he's past it, too.

The two men become friends and hatch a plot to pull off one gigantic coup and

live in luxury for the rest of their lives on the illicit proceeds. They decide to rob the Isle of Jersey! They choose the Bank Holiday weekend, when there will be an estimated half-a-million pounds in the tills of the large stores.

They lay their plans very carefully. The *modus operandi* includes a few harmless bangs—and great numbers of exploding seagulls!

All goes swimmingly . . . at first . . . It's all a jolly romp and although you can see the end coming a mile away, it's quite an enjoyable read. There's an "X" certificate on this one.

Cat. No. 254

Death in Captivity

By Michael Gilbert

Read by Garard Green

Reading Time 7½ hours

Most of the action of the book takes place in a P.O.W. camp for British officers in Northern Italy. The inmates are the usual fictional arche-types of British officers, all frightfully decent chaps who went to the right schools . . .

. . . Except one. He is (you've guessed it) a foreigner, Lt. Kiriarkos Kotoulis. "The Chaps" suspect him of thoroughly un-British nastinesses—like tipping off the Italians about the escape plans. It is no surprise to them (nor to the reader) when this foreigner is found dead in a tunnel they are in the process of digging.

One of the Brits is charged with murder—an obvious frame-up by the Camp Commandant, *a very nasty piece of work* indeed.

But the accused is not executed, of course. In the nick of time the Italian Army decide to call it a day, and the nasty Camp Commandant and his equally nasty chums stand not upon the order of their going—but go.

The rest of the book deals with escaping (by far the most interesting part, this) and the final unmasking of the real villain of the piece (you know all along that the foreign gent isn't really a baddy).

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 Batt *Royal Fusiliers*

Horace Batt of Kingston St. Mary, near Taunton, Somerset, died in hospital on December 1st, aged 82.

Mr. Batt served as a Private in the 2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers during the First World War, having enlisted in 1916. He was wounded in France the following year, losing his left eye. His sight deteriorated over the years and he joined St. Dunstan's in June, 1978.

For twenty years, Mr. Batt ran his own news-agents shop in Hitchin and, on retirement, moved with his wife to Kingston St. Mary in order to be near his family. He fitted happily into village life and retained a keen interest in his garden.

He leaves a widow, Elsie, two daughters and grandchildren.

Edward Charles Slaughter, M.C.S.P. *North Staffordshire Regiment*

Edward Slaughter of Salisbury, Wilts., died at his home on November 25th, aged 79.

Mr. Slaughter served with the North Staffordshire Regiment during the First World War and was discharged following injuries received in 1917, when he was totally blinded.

Shortly after joining St. Dunstan's in 1918, Mr. Slaughter commenced training as a singer and a teacher of singing and was a pupil at the Incorporated London Academy of Music. He successfully undertook professional singing engagements and trained choirs and also studied German, French and Italian in order to sing in these languages. In 1929 he conducted community singing at a League of Nations Union meeting as well as establishing a successful school for singing tuition, continuing to take concert and broadcasting engagements.

In 1934, however, Mr. Slaughter decided to become a physiotherapist and having passed his examinations, eventually went into private practice in Salisbury in 1940, where he remained a highly valued member of his profession until 1963, when he retired on health grounds.

Mr. Slaughter was a frequent visitor to our Brighton homes, where he enjoyed playing bridge and, until recently, remained very active with Masonic and Rotary interests. Despite many periods of ill health, he remained remarkably cheerful and he will be sadly missed by the staff both in London and Brighton, who knew him well and admired his indomitable spirit.

He leaves a widow, Margaret, and stepson, Mr. Greenway.

Allan Ivor Gwyn *2/6 Suffolk Regiment*

Allan Gwyn of Lowestoft, died at his home on November 6th, aged 80.

Mr. Gwyn served as a Private in the 2/6 Suffolk Regiment, having enlisted at the age of 16 at the beginning of the First World War. In 1917, he was injured at Zonnebeke and, as a result, joined St. Dunstan's the following year.

A student of chemistry prior to joining up, Mr. Gwyn decided to take up poultry-farming in 1919, and successfully ran his business, which initially combined a tea-room, until his marriage in 1930, when he moved and modified the scope of his activities. However, with the able assistance of his wife, Vera, he continued to run a small-holding, rearing chickens and turkeys and winning many prizes at poultry exhibitions.

In retirement, Mr. Gwyn's greatest hobby, his garden, was a credit to him. He also enjoyed the annual reunions and regular visits to Ian Fraser House, as well as looking forward to his visits to the Lee-on-Solent Camp, where his cheerful disposition always made him a popular and welcome member of the party.

Despite failing health over the past two years Mr. Gwyn remained in good spirits and will be sadly missed by many St. Dunstaners and members of the staff in Brighton and London who knew him personally.

He leaves a widow, Vera, and a son, David.

Thomas Tootell *Royal Army Service Corps*

Thomas Tootell of Farnborough, Hants., died on November 15th, aged 85.

Mr. Tootell enlisted as a Private in the Royal Army Service Corps in March 1915, and was discharged in July of the same year. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1916.

In his younger days, Mr. Tootell had a fine tenor voice and Sir Arthur Pearson sent him to Milan to have it trained. On his return to England, he made professional concert appearances under the name of James Tell and in July 1921, he broadcast from the Marconi Scientific Instrument Company, the programme being relayed to the St. Dunstan's Working and Sales Exhibit at Beaver Hut in the Strand. It was noted that the broadcast could be heard at a distance of 60 miles. On another occasion, he appeared with Yvonne Arnaud and in 1927, sang at the Brighton Grand Theatre with great success. The times, however, were hard for free-lance artistes and he was forced to abandon his singing career.

He undertook training in basketwork in the late twenties and, starting with a stall in the market, was soon able to rent a shop and then buy his own business premises. With the help of his second wife, he made a great success of his business, retiring in 1964.

He leaves a widow, Margaret, and two daughters by his first marriage.