

St Dunstans
REVIEW
FEBRUARY 1979



St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

No. 704

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10p MONTHLY

Message from the Chairman

Honour for Mr. C. D. Wills

The announcement in the New Year's Honours List that Mr. Wills had been made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire will have given very great pleasure to St. Dunstaners and all his other friends.

Every aspect of the work and life of our organisation is connected with the basic importance of the welfare of individual blinded ex-Servicemen and women and their families. Mr. Wills' service throughout his 31 years at Headquarters has been devoted to this principle. Starting as our Chief Accountant, he became Welfare Superintendent in 1953. Twenty years later, he was appointed Secretary, our Chief Executive Officer to the Council, with added responsibilities in general administration and many outside contacts with other organisations both at home and abroad; but throughout he has maintained his deep involvement in the welfare of St. Dunstaners. They and all of us have benefitted continually from Mr. Wills' kindness, sympathy and judgment.

On behalf of all St. Dunstaners and their families, our Council, the staff, my wife and myself, I congratulate Douglas Wills on the public recognition of his splendid work for us.

Vice-Chairman of St. Dunstan's

In 1967 the Council asked me to become Vice-Chairman of St. Dunstan's, as well as continuing as Honorary Treasurer. This new arrangement came into force not because Sir Neville Pearson, who was then President, and Lord Fraser, our Chairman, were ill or thinking about retiring, but because, as Lord Fraser wrote in the *Review*, "it seemed to us to be time we had another colleague, of a younger generation".

Sir Michael Ansell and I are now in much the same position and, following the wise example set previously, the Council has asked Mr. Michael Delmar-Morgan to be Vice-Chairman, as well as continuing for the time being as one of our joint Honorary Treasurers.

Mr. Delmar-Morgan has worked with Lord and Lady Fraser and myself as a member of our Council since 1968 and Honorary Treasurer since 1975. He is 42 and is married with three children; he served in the Scots Guards from 1954 to 1957; he is a Director of Brown, Shipley, Merchant Bankers, and is a very keen yachtsman of international standing. During his service with St. Dunstan's, his work as Hon. Treasurer has brought him in contact with Headquarters staff, he has represented the Council on visits to New Zealand and Australia, and he has met many St. Dunstaners in this country through his attendance at local Reunions.

I am most grateful to Michael Delmar-Morgan for accepting this appointment as Vice-Chairman, which I am sure will be welcomed by St. Dunstaners and prove a tremendous help to us all.

COVER PICTURE: *Sightseeing on their return to London, the Aldridge family enjoy the view from Westminster Bridge. See 'Ways of Life' beginning on page 10.*

Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War-Blinded

For many years, Canadian St. Dunstaner Mr. W. M. Mayne has served at the Headquarters of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind as their National War Blinded After Care Officer, combined with his appointment as Executive Secretary of the Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War-Blinded. All our Canadian St. Dunstaners have benefitted from Bill Mayne's fine example and hard work. He retired at the end of the year and all their friends will wish Bill and his wife the best of good fortune.

A successor for these appointments will be named during the year but, meanwhile, Mr. Ross Purse, the Managing Director of the C.N.I.B. and himself a St. Dunstaner, will be directly responsible for the Sir Arthur Pearson Association.

Christmas Correspondence

My wife and I thank all readers of the *Review* who sent us such beautiful cards and delightful letters for Christmas. Greetings and messages from all over the world reached us both at home and via Headquarters. We spent a special evening during the holiday at Cheriton Cottage re-reading them all and appreciating your kind thoughts.

Very many thanks for giving us this personal interest and pleasure at Christmas!

Jon Earnett-Dune

Mr. W. R. RAYNER

It is with regret that we have to announce the sudden death on Sunday, 31st December, of Mr. Wally Rayner.

He retired in July 1977 after 31 years with St. Dunstan's staff. During the earlier period of his service he was responsible for the interests of St. Dunstan's shopkeepers, an interest he retained to the end. Latterly, Mr. Rayner took over the Homecraft and Stores Department and on Mr. G. P. Owens retirement became the Superintendent of the Industrial Department.

The death occurred at Hastings where Mr. Rayner was engaged in his much beloved recreation of chess.

The cremation took place at the South London Crematorium on Wednesday, 10th January, and St. Dunstan's was represented by Mr. Laurie Slade, our Pensions Officer

Mr. Garnett-Orme writes:

The news of Mr. Rayner's death was a sad shock to all his friends, especially as

he had visited Headquarters just before Christmas and seemed his usual kind and cheerful self. We shall all remember with gratitude his service in the Industrial Department and his special help to St. Dunstan's chess players.

New Years Honours List

St. Dunstaner, Trevor Tatchell, Branch Secretary of the South Wales and Monmouthshire branch of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, was made an M.B.E.

Mr. Colborne Brown, Education Officer, Royal National Institute for the Blind, was made an O.B.E.

Mr. Garnett-Orme writes:

These well-deserved honours for good friends of the blind in Wales and of blind students throughout the British Isles will give great pleasure to all Trevor Tatchell's and Mr. Colborne Brown's friends. Many congratulations to them both!

From the Chairman's Postbag

Extract from a letter from
Ceridwen Brown, daughter of the
late Tommy Ap Rhys of Bangor

Thank you very much for your letter of sympathy on the death of my father, Mr. Ap Rhys.

St. Dunstan's has meant more to our family than I can hope to express. I know that as a child, I regarded St. Dunstan's as our own special Fairy Godmother. If we did well at exams or had other achievements, there would be letters of congratulations and sometimes financial rewards. St. Dunstan's was just always there and gave me, I know, a great feeling of security.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you continued success in the work you do for the war-blinded.

Extract from a letter from
Leonard Brown of Clacton-on-Sea
whilst on holiday in New Zealand

Christmas has just ended and it has been fine and very warm, much to the delight of my farming friends who are now very busy with their annual haymaking ritual.

The Christmas dinner barbecue on the beach was quite a pleasant experience, in the midst of astonishingly beautiful scenery. One feels almost brainwashed by mountain ranges, rivers, lakes and vast stretches of sandy beaches, almost empty.

As suggested by Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, I have even dared to do battle with the rainbow trout. A friend of mine owns a farm further south with the Rangatik river running through it. This is one of the more famous trout rivers in New Zealand. After lots and lots of instruction, and quite a number of them got away, I landed a four pound, six ounce fish. I think that I must really get to know this magnificent sport.

Next month, I am touring the South Island with my friends and during this tour will stay with a friend of theirs who has mining rights to a stretch of gold dust river, as they call it here. I rather think that if there are any trout in it, I shall be far more interested in the fishing!

Extract from a letter from
Mrs. Marjorie Corbett, daughter
of Mr. Trueman Gamblin

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the Kings County Advisory Board to the Institute presented the Diamond Jubilee Award to St. Dunstan, Trueman Gamblin of Norton, New Brunswick, at their annual meeting on June 7th, 1978. Mr. Gamblin is one of the few blind persons in Canada who has been registered with the C.N.I.B. since its founding in 1918.

Mrs. Marjorie Corbett, Mr. Gamblin's daughter, in a letter to Mr. Garnett-Orme, wrote:

My father wishes to express his appreciation to St. Dunstan's for the many kindnesses over all these years. He always speaks with very deep feelings about his time spent there and the training he underwent following his loss of sight at Vimy.

He is now 92 years old and gets around his home with the aid of a walker. He is still quite alert and cheerful and enjoys his radio as well as his reader. Some of the modern stories are different to him, of course.

I was pleased my father was able to attend the meeting when he received his award, as we had arranged a wheelchair for him.

Extract from a letter from
Leonard Little of Ontario, Canada.

Do recipients sometimes tell you how they use their Christmas gift from St. Dunstan's? I am using mine to bring my family genealogy up to date.

My record begins with the birth of my maternal great great grandfather, Charles Dixon, on March 8th, 1730 (old style), at Kirk Leavington, North Riding, Yorkshire. Charles, with his wife, Susanna Coates, and four children came to Nova Scotia in 1772. Before the end of the third generation, a grandson made the history into a 195 page printed book. I am endeavouring to carry on from there.

Puzzle Corner

Divide £10.00 equally between X people. How much will each receive?

DIARY DATES FOR 1979

REUNIONS

Date	Reunion	Hotel
Saturday 10th March	Brighton Miss Stewart Miss Blebta	Metropole
Saturday 24th March	London (Kent & Surrey) Miss Stewart Miss Blebta	Russell
Thursday 17th May	Newcastle Mrs. Inman Miss Skinner	Royal Station
Saturday 19th May	Sheffield Miss Broughton Miss Newbold	Grosvenor House
Saturday 2nd June	Southampton Mrs. Lyall	Polygon
Thursday 14th June	Ipswich Mrs. Adkins	Copdock
Saturday 16th June	Birmingham Miss Newbold Miss Broughton	Albany
Thursday 28th June	Liverpool Mrs. Ballantyne Miss Broughton	St. George's
Saturday 30th June	Manchester Mrs. Ballantyne Miss Broughton	Midland
Saturday 14th July	London (Central) Miss Davies Miss Newbold	Russell
Saturday 21st July	Bristol Miss Meyer Miss Newbold	Eurocrest

EVENTS AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

February 24/25th	Ham Radio A.G.M. (2 days)
March 12/16th 19th/23rd	Bowls Tournament (5 days) Fishing (5 days)
April 23rd	Special Holiday Activity (1 week)
May 12/14th	Bridge Congress (3 days)
June 16/17th 18th/22nd 23rd/24th	Sports (2 days) Fishing (5 days) Archery Championships (2 days)
July 21st/22nd	Ham Radio (2 days)
August	
September 3rd/7th 20/24th 27th/1st Oct.	Fishing (5 days) Handless Reunion (5 days) Deaf Reunion (2 days)
October 13/14th 20th/21st	Ham Radio (2 days) Physiotherapy Conference (2 days)
November 12th/23rd	Bowls Championships (12 days)
December 1st/2nd 8/9th	Chess Tournament Weekend Bridge Instruction (2 days)

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

We are proposing to hold, as an experiment, and if there is sufficient support, the first of a series of short holidays geared for specialist interest groups. Initially, twelve beds will be allocated for St. Dunstaners interested in gardening as a hobby and the stay will be for one week from Monday, April 23rd. The programme will include discussions, lectures, practical sessions and visits to places of interest.

Early application is essential in order that a plan for the week can be organised well in advance. Those interested are asked to write to Miss Guilbert at Ian

Fraser House, setting out their own particular interest.

From amongst the first group attending, we hope to find St. Dunstaners who are willing to organise other similar holidays later on. Further information will be put in next month's *Review*.

VALENTINE GREETINGS

Mervyn Valentine sends New Year greetings to the St. Dunstaners who attended the Women's Reunion in 1978, who will remember him as their coach driver.

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 233

Best Horror Stories

Edited by John Keir Cross

Read by John Dunn

Reading Time 9½ hours

After a long-winded (and to my mind, totally unnecessary) foreword by the editor, the book finally gets under way.

There are fifteen stories in the collection, most of which I found just plain silly and as terrifying as Listen with Mother. One was actually called "The Thing on the Doorstep"!

As some compensation, however, there are perhaps three or four quite brilliant examples of the art of horror story writing. Two of these, "The Boarded Window" and "The Glass Eye", Poe himself might not have been ashamed to own.

But, on the whole, if you expect this book to make your "hair, like quills upon the fretful porcupine, to rise . . ." you could be very disappointed.

Cat. No. 753

The Darling Buds of May

By H. E. Bates

Read by Stephen Jack

Reading Time 4¾ hours

Have you ever wondered what writers would do for titles without dear old Will Shakespeare? "Perchance to dream", "Dear Brutus", "This happy breed", "Bid the soldiers shoot" and hundreds more works, would all have different titles!

I speculated what these five words from a Shakespeare sonnet have to do with Bates' comic creation, the Larkins. There was only one way to find out. I read the book.

The family consists of 'Pop', among the lower echelons of the entrepreneurs, but doing quite nicely; 'Ma', (a courtesy title, they're not married), fat, jolly, warm-hearted, and forever cooking meals of mammoth proportions; and their assorted brood, with names like Zinnia, Petunia, Primrose, Victoria and Montgomery.

As a family, the Larkins are boozey, gluttonous, vulgar, amoral, utterly outrageous—and utterly adorable.

The straightlaced Mr. Charlton from the Inland Revenue arrives one day and suggests, albeit tentatively, that Mr. Larkins might like to pay some Income Tax. Mr. Larkins explodes with laughter at this preposterous idea.

Mr. Charlton is smothered with kindness and hospitality and persuaded to join the family in the usual gargantuan meal and, almost without realising it, finds himself staying the night. 'Ma' and 'Pop' feel that he might do for a husband for Marriette, who could be pregnant.

Thus the transformation of Mr. Charlton begins. And so does the fun. . . .

An uproariously funny book with never a dull moment. My enjoyment of it was greatly enhanced by the reading of our own Stephen Jack who turns in a masterly performance as a kind of one-man repertory company, doing all the voices.

And the title? I'm not so sure! 'Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May . . .'? I reckon it would take a hurricane of unbelievably violent proportions even to ruffle their petals!

Cat. No. 887

Boomerang

By George Mikes

Read by Brian Perkins

Reading Time 6¼ hours

This is the account of the journeyings through Australia in the 1960's, by the celebrated Anglo-Hungarian writer. This is no mere 'Travelogue' but a book to be enjoyed. Inevitably, it does contain some facts and figures, but not in such profusion as to be tedious.

Mikes has an amiable wit and the true reporter's 'nose' for a good story. He tells amusingly of the deadly, implacable (and, perhaps, slightly ridiculous) rivalry between Sydney and Melbourne and of the curious 'convict snobbery' which now exists. Australians are now inordinately proud, rather than ashamed, as formerly, of their convict origins, and will often boast of non-existent 'criminal' forebears.

READING TIME—continued

He explores not only the country but the complex character of the Australians themselves, their love-hate relationship with Britain, their anti-police, anti-intellectual attitudes, their odd mixture of brashness and insecurity, their loudly-proclaimed brand of egalitarianism, 'I'm as good as the next man, but nobody else is as good as me'.

The writer brings vividly to life the empty loneliness of the outback and the beauty of the country, as well as the *nouveau riche* vulgarity of the swimming-pool belt and the inexorable creeping Americanisation of Australian cities.

A bright readable book, a kind of 'Australia Without Tears'.

AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

The following dates have been confirmed for meetings in 1979; 21st/22nd July and 13th/14th October.

The A.G.M. takes place on 24th February, the guest speaker in the afternoon being our old friend Louis Varney. Please don't forget to book your accommodation early with Miss Bridger.

KEMP TOWN NOTES

If visitors to Pearson House should find us positively comatose at present, we apologise, but we're going to need some time to recover from our round of festivities.

December started with a lively, slick evening of comedy and song presented by The Starliners with all the verve for which they are renowned. Then, by way of contrast, two days later we were up at Brighton College enjoying physical and spiritual satisfaction—what a tea they serve and how those boys sing! Needless to say it poured with rain. It is becoming a tradition for us to get back from the College each year soaked to the skin!

Our annual carol service at Roedean School and the traditional visit by the Salvation Army band kept us in the right mood for the coming of Christmas and we were so happy that the St. George's

ANYONE FOR SAILING?

The third dinghy sailing course for the blind will be held at R.A.O.C. Bicester, Oxfordshire, from 14th-18th May. The cost will be £10 per head. Royal Yacht Association Seamanship Foundation Cruiser Sailing Courses for the blind will also be held from 15th-21st July at Falmouth, hosted by the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club. The inclusive overall cost per person will be £35.

Anyone interested in either of these courses should contact the Sports and Recreation Officer, R.N.I.B., for further details and an application form. Application forms for the dinghy sailing course must be in by 12th February.

Miss M. Heap

The *Review* was very sad to learn of the death of Miss M. Heap. Miss F. Ramshaw writes: 'She was a valuable member of the staff for many years, having taught typing and tandem riding at Church Stretton and organised entertainments at Ian Fraser House, when we returned there. Numbers of the Second World War men knew and liked her and would wish to hear, as they are still interested in the old ones!'

Singers were able to visit our sick wards again.

Special Prize Dominoes on the 23rd December proved most lucrative, for the prizes were many—ranging from Old Spice (an awful lot of us are going to smell pretty good for some time) to Christmas crackers for the 'boobies'. Roy Hyett was the outright winner.

Mrs. Lyons, a V.A.D., entertained a small but most appreciative audience to a programme of her favourite music on the 24th, while St. Dunstaner, Bill Jack, provided the pièce de résistance of the season with his concert on Christmas night. We think we have discovered Bill's secret—a mixture of professionalism and warm humanity.

We would like to thank Matron Hallett for the tremendous amount of hard work she put in to make all this possible for us.

OVINGDEAN NOTES

As we sweep up the pine needles and clear away the paper hats, we look back at a Christmas season that is well worth remembering. It began with a difficult choice for many when two invitations clashed on December 15th. We are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Lyndhurst, who made us so welcome at Tylden House for tea, and to the staff of Roedean School who invited us to their annual festival of carols and lessons. On the 17th, Mr. Anderson and his colleagues rang us into festive season with their handbell ringing concert. Later in the week Tony Ross cheered up our afternoon tea with his piano playing, the Uckfield Brass Band gave us a rousing evening of Christmas music and we made our usual trips to the Dome for the carol singing and to the Theatre Royal for the modern thriller, 'Sleuth'

Old Time Music Hall

Christmas Eve was heralded by the traditional staff choir's carolling, after which Sid Emons and the South Coast Entertainers gave us a performance of their Old Time Music Hall

Christmas Day followed the traditional pattern and it need only be said that the dinner was excellent. In the evening, staff and guest play-readers presented 'Busybody' a highly entertaining mystery farce. The performance featured the Commandant as an ill-tempered, flu-ridden detective whose investigations were both helped and hindered by Eve King as the incorrigible cockney char. Matron Pass, Mrs. Pugh and Mary Frith read the remaining female roles supported by Tim and Steve Lea and Russ Howarth as the other men. A large audience had an entirely satisfactory evening's entertainment.

Boxing night brought us the traditional dance and tombola. Tombola tickets sold like the proverbial hot cakes and everybody settled in to enjoy three hours of eating, drinking and merrymaking.

In Christmas week we went to Eastbourne to see Terry Scott and Ken Goodwin in the Congress Theatre's magnificent production of 'Aladdin'. The annual prize

bingo and the Grand Dominoes Tournament gave dancers a chance to rest their feet for the New Year and a splendid afternoon tea was served at the House of Pipes.

Highlight of the Holiday

Which brings us to the heavy fall of snow and the amazing New Year's Eve party. This four hour marathon of music, humour and party games must surely rank as the highlight of the holiday. Twenty-one performers and a dog provided informal, sometimes impromptu entertainment throughout the evening. A large audience sang along with the songs, laughed or groaned at the jokes and joined in the games, sometimes having to pay the dreaded 'forfeit' of telling a funny story or kissing the Matron. Even the dog had a good time and although we've no space to list names, we thank all who took part.

The New Year's Day Fancy Dress Ball brought the usual imaginative and inventive response. We awarded prizes in so many categories that almost everyone who entered won something. John Henson and Eddie Barton were kind enough to judge for us and the standard was so high that they were very pleased to be able to reward so many.

We have welcomed the enterprise and enthusiasm of Russ Howarth who has extended his erstwhile lounge duties to include the entertainment sphere at Ian Fraser House. His innovations and organisation were greatly enjoyed by all.

So here we go into the New Year with just a hint of that 'after the ball' feeling, but already planning ahead to bigger and better things in the future.

ADVENTURE STORIES

If any St. Dunstaner has any Braille novels or adventure stories that they no longer require, it would be appreciated if they would return them to Mrs. Adamson at Headquarters so that they can be loaned out to other St. Dunstaners.

THE ROBERT REDFERN MEMORIAL TROPHY

The Robert Redfern Memorial Trophy (for personal achievement in the first year after a blinded man or woman becomes a St. Dunstaner) has been awarded to T. C. Dodd, D.S.M., of Lee-on-Solent, Hants. This doubly handicapped St. Dunstaner, who served in the Royal Navy and was at Dunkirk and in the Mediterranean until his submarine was sunk and he became a P.O.W., leads as full a life as possible, taking an active interest in sports and hobbies, and is undemanding and most thoughtful for others. Many congratulations to Tony Dodd on his wonderful attitude to life!

When this year's award was considered, a number of excellent candidates were recommended and Mr. Garnett-Orme comments that he is very proud to know that our new St. Dunstaners are so full of courage and enterprise.

RETIREMENT

The *Review* has learnt of the recent retirement of Mr. John Broadley of the Scottish Braille Press, who print our Braille edition. We wish Mr. Broadley a long and happy retirement and thank him for all the help and attention we have received over the years.

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.

James Rogers of Patcham, Brighton, who joined St. Dunstan's on 3rd January. Mr. Rogers, who will be 96 next birthday, served as an Able-bodied Seaman in the Royal Navy from 1898 until 1917. Mr. Rogers was on duty lining the deck of his destroyer at the Isle of Wight when Queen Victoria's coffin was paraded through the fleet.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Tommy Tonge, Manchester
Kingly Prize

Referring to Phillip Wood's problem, I suggest the following solution: Each twin rode the other's horse, riding it as hard as he could so that the other horse, his own, would be the loser.

From: Colin Johnston, Melbourne, Australia

Tribute to Kath Riley

In the life of a blind person, there are many kindnesses shown by many people. But now and again one meets someone with additional qualities of thoughtfulness and complete understanding of all situations at all times.

In my experience, as a 'new boy' to the Lee-on-Solent Camp and to the rigours of the 'Glen', I found Kath Riley one of these people, with all the qualities mentioned. I not only have the most pleasant memories of Kath, but my wife and I brought home to Melbourne some excellent photos of her, taken with camp personalities, and a silver Lee-on-Solent spoon, which was Kath's farewell gift.

1974 was my year, but the memories I have of Kath Riley and the camp itself, will remain fresh in my mind for many years to come.

H.M.S. DAEDALUS

Once more, the Royal Navy are continuing their generous custom of inviting a party of St. Dunstaners to spend a week at H.M.S. Daedalus at Lee-on-Solent. This year the camp will be from Friday, 10th August, until the morning of Saturday, 18th August.

Would all those wishing to be considered for a place at camp, please contact Elspeth Grant, High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden, Essex or telephone 01-262-2723 after 6.30 p.m.

To avoid any disappointment caused by last minute applications, will everyone please apply as soon as possible and *not later* than Saturday, 12th May, 1979.



WAYS OF LIFE—37

THE NAME OF THE GAME—

Maurice Aldridge

Talking to Ray Hazan

Pictures by David Castleton

Blindness has changed the course of many people's lives. For many, a road which was straight and narrow has become tortuous and undulating, or simply of a very different texture. 'All roads lead to Rome', however, and whether you travel by a major or a minor road, the journey can be as exciting, stimulating and satisfying. Maurice Aldridge, a Devonshire man, was intent on following a naval career, as had his father and grandfather before him. Said Maurice with a smile, "My ambition was to become an Admiral, but that takes a long time!" His career instead has been a sea of words.

In 1953, Maurice joined the Navy as a boy seaman and a year later, as a result of someone else's act of sabotage, lost his sight whilst serving aboard the aircraft carrier, H.M.S. Eagle. "I was the youngest St. Dunstaner at Ovingdean, by far. But I look back at my time there as the happiest years of my life. There were some marvelous escorts and plenty of opportunities to meet young ladies".

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Young Maurice Aldridge studying at Ovingdean.

Life was extremely active. Maurice was able to resume his education. His aptitude for languages, English and mathematics were pursued to 'O', 'A' and 'S' level, leading to the important distinction of a Barker Exhibition to Queen's College, Oxford, in 1961.

Maurice admits to being shattered by the ending of his naval career. There were, however, two principal compensations. "I was young and flexible enough to start afresh without too much difficulty. I learnt Braille and typing very quickly. It also brought to life ambitions and abilities which had lain dormant. I had always been keen on music and Ovingdean offered ideal opportunities. I learned the piano under Dudley Sheard and went on to the organ, violin, cello and some of the 'windy' instruments, such as the recorder. I remember being actually banned from playing the organ in the chapel because they thought I was devoting too much time to it". His love of classical music has stayed with him ever since. He devotes a

lot of time to the piano and has also taken up the classical guitar.

"Going up to Oxford was the first great milestone in my life, as it was the starting point of my academic career as it is today. With my wife, Christine, who had been a V.A.D., I went up, ostensibly to read English, but I took advantage of a special course called Course 1. I think it was the prestige value of the number which attracted me! This meant studies in old-time German, Gothic, Icelandic, Old Russian, Latin, Indo-European philology and Anglo-Saxon. The lack of any Braille literature in this field made life difficult as I had to re-write it all myself. However, Christine helped me enormously".

Maurice talked with affection of his days in Oxford. Concerts and theatre trips were important interests as well as the spectacular list of dons, who obviously were of great encouragement to him; Professor J. R. R. Tolkien, author of 'Lord of the Rings', Professor Wrenn, one of the

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Among the instruments Maurice learned at Ovingdean was the violin.

greatest saxons of his day, Professor Davis, currently one of the world experts on mediaeval, non-literary English, and Professor Campbell, a close friend and tutor.

In 1964, Maurice obtained his B.A. and in 1966 he completed his 500 page thesis on the study of the development of mediaeval philosophical vocabulary. This was very favourably received at the time.

After all these years of study, the next problem was how to use them to earn a living. Two opportunities presented themselves. One at Queen's College, New York, and the other, a temporary lectureship, at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa. "I wrote back to South Africa, saying I wasn't the least bit interested in a temporary lectureship and

started packing my bags for New York. Back came a letter asking if I was interested in a full-time lectureship at Rhodes. Various circumstances converged to determine my final decision, and so, at the end of 1967, with Christine and my two year old son, Oliver, I set off for South Africa".

A three week voyage on the City of York brought the family to Port Elizabeth, where they were filled with very mixed emotions. 'Darkest Africa' turned out to be rather like a smaller version of a dirty English seaport. The Head of Maurice's department had driven to meet them and more feelings of strangeness overwhelmed them as they drove the 80 miles across innumerable steep hills. The journey took four hours.

The Aldridge family settled in an attractive house near the centre of Grahams-town which was reminiscent of an English village, quiet and unspoilt, before the onslaught of the motor car. Their feelings of strangeness were soon dissipated by the friendly and helpful people who surrounded them.

Rhodes was not a large university by general standards, having a student population of 2,500. Maurice lectured in the history of English, English language, Icelandic and Russian. He became more and more interested in philosophical linguistics and logistic systems in mathematics. This led him to modern English semantics and structure. This new specialisation culminated in two achievements. Firstly, in 1971, Maurice was the first member of staff to be appointed to the new Linguistics Department, of which he became deputy head a year later. He was appointed Senior Lecturer in 1973. Secondly, this interest in the correlation between logistics and language earned Maurice a Doctorate.

Thesis for Doctorate

The thesis for the Doctorate was entitled, 'Quantification in English and its place in the development of some modern approaches to syntax and modern English'. In simple terms, the paper discussed how we use numbers of objects rather than just talking about the object as such. What is the difference, for example, between, 'some men like horses' and 'every man likes a horse' or 'hardly anyone likes a horse' and 'nobody likes horses'?

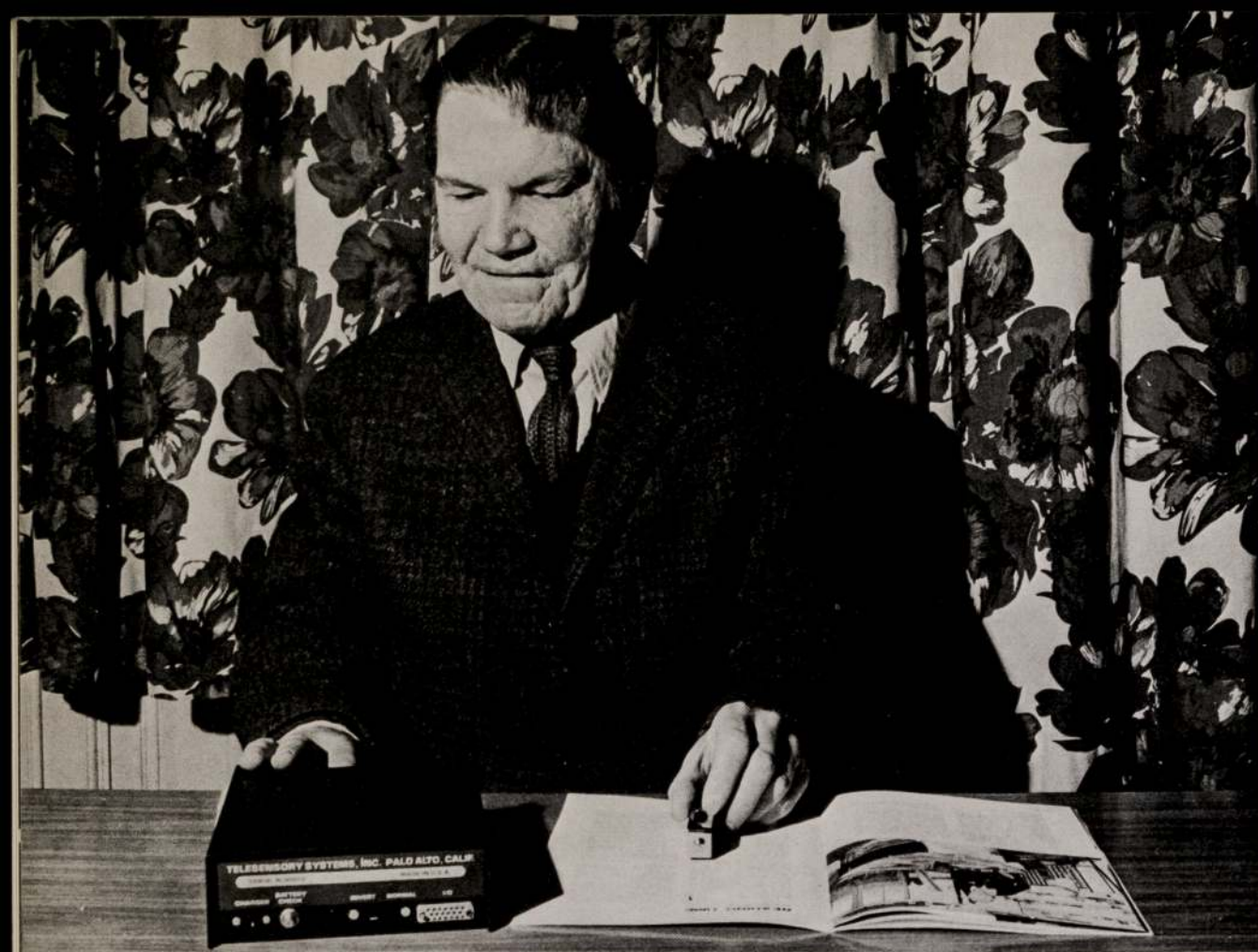
The first half of his thesis was completed on a six month sabbatical, during which Maurice worked all day, seven days a week. The second half was finished while carrying out his duties as Lecturer. The reading was enormous and was done with the aid of Christine and the Optacon. Maurice was awarded his Doctorate in 1977. "This was another turning point in my life because, besides the interest of the work, I came into contact with several eminent and learned professors at Manchester University and in the U.S.A. It also posed the question, 'Where do I go from here?'. The answer to that must wait until the end of the article.



In Trafalgar Square, Oliver meets some famous pigeons.

Showing Oliver his English heritage, the Aldridges pause by the statue of Churchill in Parliament Square.





At St. Dunstan's H.Q., where he trained, Maurice is seen reading with the Optacon.

Gaining knowledge is one side of the problem, imparting it is another. Maurice has always made it a point to keep his handwriting up to the mark and so is able to make use of the blackboard during his lectures. He illustrates diagrams with the use of an overhead projector and makes use of tapes for teaching Russian and Icelandic. There are two methods for reading through student's work. "Christine must be the best reader in the world. She can interpret any handwriting and read for literally hours on end without pausing, even for a glass of water".

Maurice is able to be even more independent now, thanks to the Optacon. "This reading device has made an enormous difference to my life". In 1975,

Maurice and Christine were welcome visitors to 191 Old Marylebone Road.

Maurice and his family returned to the U.K. for a short period to attend the Optacon training course. Together with a fellow Lecturer from Rhodes, Maurice was to be the Optacon pioneer in South Africa. Now, on a good day, he can read up to 90 words per minute. He can also read Icelandic and, much more slowly, the Russian cyrillic alphabet. "It is a matter of honour and pride not to have to ask other Lecturers for help".

As if the work involved in lecturing was not enough, Maurice has become increasingly interested in the education of deprived children and adults. The problems of language in education in minority immigrant groups has resulted in further research and innumerable committees.

But life is not all academic. Grahams-town was ideal for Maurice's principal sport of riding. "We use a burropet, a small but strong horse. The ground is full of holes and with the odd snake, bush and gatepost, which the horse will try and leap, you have to be on your guard". Maurice is accompanied by Christine and son, Oliver, who, at thirteen, is 6ft. 1 inch and an excellent rider. As Maurice's responsibilities increase and spare time diminishes, so riding becomes a rare treat.

Music also plays a large part in Maurice's life. He continues to play the piano and, since arriving in South Africa, has taken up the classical guitar.

The Game is not Over

Earlier in the article, Maurice mentioned his place at Oxford as a turning point in his life. On January 5th, this year, another such point was reached. Maurice was elected to the Chair of Phonetics and General Linguistics at the Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg. Maurice will have a staff of 20 and be responsible for 450 students, with all the teaching, administration and research that such numbers involve. The 'Witt' is probably the largest university in Africa. He looks forward to this exciting challenge.

In general, these articles have portrayed the way of life of St. Dunstaners who have achieved a particular goal. Maurice has certainly achieved a goal or two, but one thing is certain, and that is that the game is not yet over.



Gardening Column

May I thank all of you for the wonderful wishes and cards which were sent for Christmas and the New Year to me and Mrs. Robinson. We both wish you the same and hope that we can keep in touch for many years to come.

Now down to the real business of the garden, though as I write these notes, I wonder if it would be better to get a boat out to get down the garden. I certainly won't be able to get anything done outside for weeks but perhaps that's a good thing as I tend to be a little too early in starting everything.

Many items can be started from seed now but only if you have some sort of heating in the greenhouse, shed, garage, house, etc. Do ensure that your wife agrees to your having the seed containers in the latter place or you may be in sore trouble.

Vegetables

Make certain that you have all the vacant beds dug over and trenched where necessary and keep the hoe going on those that were done earlier on. A dressing of leaf mould, manure or compost, etc. can be spread over the empty beds and left a little while before digging in.

Clear those beds of sprouts and cabbages which are spent to have space made for the new season's planting and a digging over will be a good thing, plus the addition of a dose of lime, leaving this out if you are to use this area for the potato crop. Do remember not to use the same bed for greens each year; have a rotation of crops. I know I have said this before but a little reminder may save a lot of problems later in the year.

Get those pea and bean sticks ready and dip the ends in a solution of Jeyes just in case there has been a left-over of disease from last season.

Continue to sprout those early potatoes and make sure you have orders in for the main crop and onion sets as they may be in short supply. Even if they are plentiful, you get better class by early ordering.

Provided the weather is suitable most vegetable seeds can be sown toward the

end of the month, but do give a little protection with cloches, plastic or even paper when the weather tends to get very frosty.

In the southern and more sheltered areas, the very early potatoes can be planted, plus any winter lettuces from the cold greenhouse or frame. When lifting, take a good ball of soil so as to keep the roots intact and plant in one of the more sheltered areas.

Any peas and broad beans which were autumn sown and showing through well, might do better if earthed up a little as a protection against hard weather.

Remember that the heavy soils will be much colder at this time of the year and even in the south will be very wet, so it is a good plan to leave early seeding with this type of soil.

Lawns

There is next to nothing to be done here at present, but there may be signs of a little growth. In gardens which tend to hold water, it is a good idea to use the fork and go over the lawn to make holes for any excess water to drain away and not settle on the top. Unfortunately, I have this last trouble owing to very heavy clay, but have helped a little by this method. I would have to put in land drains to complete the job, but what a price!

See that the mower is ready for use and if not, get it serviced at once.

Flowers

Still rather a drab outlook here except for one or two winter flowering shrubs, but it won't be long before there is quite a lot of colour from the various bulbs, plus wallflowers.

Keep all the beds free of weeds and fork up to keep the ground open. Cut away any broken or damaged shoots and branches from shrubs and trees. Ensure that all supports are firmly anchored and ties alright. Make certain that the sweet pea stakes are alright and cleaned up ready to put in their places.

When the weather is right, a few seeds of hardy annuals can be sown, either in their flowering quarters or in beds ready

for transplanting later on. This I would reserve for the southern parts of the country and even then a little protection in severe conditions will not come amiss.

Rose bushes can be planted now when the weather is right, but don't do any pruning, even of the new bushes, until around the end of March. Climbing roses can be trimmed and toed into position.

Many summer flowering shrubs will look a bit poorly now, but don't do any cutting back as yet, since the old leaves and shoots act as a cover for the new buds.

Compost, manure and leaf mould can be given as a dressing to the beds so as to give the roots a new lease of life and ensure good growth and plenty of flowers later on.

Remember to put a little compost or manure in the planting holes when putting in new bushes of any kind, plus an extra amount of peat for items such as Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Heathers, etc., and keep lime away from them.

Greenhouse

Try and raise the temperature a little now as most dormant items will be starting into life very soon, and will need that extra boost. Give a little more water, but don't overdo it. Give as much ventilation as possible when the weather conditions permit.

Those perennial pot plants which need a larger pot can be moved on now and many plants can have cuttings taken from them to use in the garden later on. The cutting down of the main plants will also make for a better shape and encourage more side shoots and therefore more flowers.

Where you have Geraniums which were stored on the dry side to get some cuttings for the garden, they can be repotted and watered to encourage shoots which are taken as cuttings.

All these items will need some bottom heat so see that the heater under the bench will be ready to get going at once. This will also give you a start with the bedding plants to be raised from seed, so have some compost inside to warm up a little before sowing the seeds.

Don't forget to firm the seedling compost before sowing and have it moist, not

wet. Larger seed is easily sown and can be given a fair covering of compost, but very fine seed is a bit more difficult as it is so easy to sow in one spot. As I have said before, some fine sand added to the seed packet will give more even sowing and also the only covering that is needed. Naturally all seed boxes and pots will need to be watered after sowing, by immersion rather than from the top. Cover the container with plastic or glass which will need turning over each day, because of the moisture. It is not always necessary to keep the light out with newspaper or the like, but if you do, remove it as soon as there is the slightest sign of germination. Prick off when the first true leaves are formed.

All kinds of seeds can be raised now, whether for indoors or outside plus some early tomatoes and cucumbers, this last provided you have plenty of heat to carry them on until the sun's heat really arrives.

Tubers, corms and bulbs which have been kept dormant can be started, but repotted in new compost or put into trays with moist peat. They can be put into flowering containers when they are really growing well.

Try some new items this year. You may be pleasantly surprised how easy they are to raise from seed and keep as perennials.

Fruit

Complete the pruning of all fruit trees this month. Try and dig up the earth round the base of the trees and add a mulch of manure or peat so that a good dose of liquid manure can be given a little later on. This peat or manure will also help to keep the moisture in during very dry spells and will take the water addition you give in these dry periods. In order to stop some of those pests it is quite in order to water on some insecticide.

Where you have been having very severe winds, cut away any broken stems and branches at once and dust over with a fungicide in case the tree is affected. Don't let those broken pieces hang around as you may have an awful lot of trouble. Ensure that all the supports on the trees are alright and tie in again where they have broken away.

Happy gardening for 1979 and don't blame the weather for all the mishaps.

CLUB NEWS

MIDLAND

The final event in our club calendar is always our Christmas dinner, and this year was no exception. As usual, it was held at the Austin Branch of the Royal British Legion, on Saturday, 16th December and we began to assemble at 5 p.m.

We were very pleased to have as our guests Mr. C. D. Wills, Secretary of St. Dunstan's, and Miss C. Mosley, Northern Area Welfare Superintendent. Also Miss Newbold, our Welfare Visitor, who is well known to many St. Dunstaners in the Midlands, and Mr. J. Newbold.

We all took our places for the dinner at 5.30 and I was told how beautiful the tables looked, with floral decorations arranged by Mrs. Dot Richards, Secretary of the Women's Section, Austin Branch. After formal introductions had been made we were served with a lovely meal, a traditional Christmas dinner, well cooked and beautifully served. Everyone enjoyed it.

Before starting the meal, grace had been said for us by Mr. George Queen, Austin Branch President, who was one of our Royal British Legion guests.

The Loyal Toast was drunk immediately after the meal and I then rose to thank the Austin Branch for allowing us the facilities for holding our annual Christmas dinner and also thanked the stewardess, Mrs. Pat Collin, and her helpers for a lovely meal and good service.

Anniversary

It was then my pleasure as spokesman for our Club Chairman, Joe Kibbler, and on behalf of the Midland Club, to say how pleased we were to have the company of Mr. Wills and Miss Mosley. I reflected on the point that it was fifteen years ago since the Birmingham club moved from the Red Cross Headquarters in Highfield Road, Edgbaston, to the British Legion in Thorpe Street, where we became known as the Midland Club. From then on the club was run by St. Dunstaners with the help of their wives.

It was on Sunday, 8th December, 1963, that the late Mr. A. D. Lloyds, then Secre-

tary of St. Dunstan's, came up to Birmingham to open the new club.

I said how we had read in 'Message from the Chairman' in the *Review* about three months before that Mr. Wills was going to retire sometime in the New Year and we, the members of the Midland Club thought it would be nice to invite him to join us at our dinner to show him our appreciation of the work that he has done for us over his years in office as Welfare Superintendent and then Secretary.

On behalf of the Midland Club I then presented Mr. Wills with a silver brandy goblet and a gold Parker pen, as I told him, not so much as a retirement gift, but as a gift of appreciation.

Lost for Words

Mr. Wills said in his reply how taken aback he was by this little ceremony and he was lost for words, but he thanked us for the gifts and said that although he would be retiring in 1979, it would not be until near the end of the year and he would be seeing us at the reunion in Birmingham during the year and at many more in the future.

It was then the turn of Mrs. Eileen Maynard to present Miss Mosley and Miss Newbold with a bouquet of flowers from the club for their kindness and help.

Mr. George Queen, Branch President, then rose to say how pleased he was to be with us once again and how much he enjoyed being at our Christmas dinners.

It was then time to move away from the tables so that the room could be cleared for the evening's dancing which some of our members took part in.

Mr. Wills and Miss Mosley circulated amongst us chatting with one or another. I believe they enjoyed the chance to spend an evening, without responsibility, with us.

This particular day was the wedding anniversary of Doug and Connie Faulkner, married for 34 years, and just before we took our places for the dinner they had a message that their daughter had given birth, so during the evening's dancing, the

MIDLAND CLUB—Continued

M.C. announced this double event and Doug and Con kindly did a lap of honour for us to the tune of, 'The Anniversary Waltz'.

I am sure that everyone enjoyed the evening. We look forward to another enjoyable New Year.

During 1978 we have had two outings, a theatre night, a Christmas party and a Christmas dinner. Why not come along to club meetings and join us for this year's functions.

Whilst writing these notes I have just heard of the award of the O.B.E. which has been made to Mr. Wills in the New Year's Honours List. May I, on behalf of all Midland St. Dunstaners, offer him our sincere congratulations. It is always very nice to hear of someone, who is doing good work for the blind world, being honoured.

DOUG CASHMORE,
Secretary

BRIGHTON

ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

On December 9th, our Christmas Dance took place at Ian Fraser House, when over 120 members and friends attended. We were delighted to welcome our Chairman, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, and his charming wife, who presented the trophies to the winners of the Sir Arthur Pearson Tournaments. Mrs. Clare Preedy then gave Mrs. Garnett-Orme a bouquet on behalf of everyone present.

Our President, Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, and our Vice-President, Dr. John O'Hara, were on top form and Matron and Commandant joined us for the dancing. Once again, I must praise our group, the Compact Three, for their excellent music and our M.C., Alf Garstang, for the way they helped to make the evening such a success.

I would also like to thank the Committee and their wives, especially the

Silver Goblet Presentation



Mr. and Mrs. Garnett-Orme present a silver goblet to Bob Osborne, winner of the darts competition in the Sir Arthur Pearson Tournament.

ladies, for the lovely buffet they prepared, which everyone enjoyed enormously.

Wednesday, December 13th saw the last meeting of 1978, when we held our Christmas Party. We began the evening by holding our Domino Aggregate Drive, followed by a splendid tea. Afterwards, we were entertained by Mr. Tony Ross, an excellent pianist, who had everyone singing the old songs and carols—possibly the couple of drinks helped to lubricate the larynx. We also 'resurrected' Joan and the Three Blind Mice, who had not sung together for over two years. It was great fun and I must thank Ron Smith and Win Holmes for joining Joan and I on this occasion. I enjoyed myself, anyway!

As in past years, our dances will be held on the second Saturday of each month in the Annexe at Ian Fraser House and everyone will be made most welcome. The next one will be on 10th February.

The Committee are now busy preparing for the summer events and have arranged eight days in Babbacombe, from 19th-26th May. The trip will cost £65 including two full day trips and two half day trips. Anyone who is interested in going should contact me on Brighton 32115 as soon as possible.

As we were unable to submit a report in last month's *Review*, the Management Committee and I would like to wish all members and their families a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

R. OSBORNE,
Chairman

FISHING

This year, the trophy for the largest fish was won by Jim Padley with Albert Wallace as runner-up. The trophies were presented by Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme at the Annual Christmas Dance at Ovingdean. Jim received a cup and a silver tankard, the handle of which was designed to represent a large fish, while Albert received a shield.

We were very sorry to hear that the boat which we use for club trips, the Bridge-haze, was vandalised just before we were due to take our fishing trip from Ian Fraser House. It was my sad duty to tell our skipper, Ron Archer, how sorry the men were to hear of this unfortunate event. I am now in the happy position of informing everyone that she is almost as good as

new and I will be fixing up our future trips in the next few days.

After discussions with a few members who fish regularly with the section, I attended a meeting of the Management Committee, where it was decided that the club trophy for the largest fish will, in future, be awarded only for the section fishing, as is the rule of the Sir Arthur Pearson Fund for club activities only.

Let's hope there are some really big ones this year and I wish all members of every section a very happy New Year and enjoyment of this year's club activities.

BILL PHILLIPS

BOWLING

Congratulations to all our bowlers for a sparkling performance in the Bowling Handicap and the Bowling Championship. Your skill and determination was a credit to all. Well played, lads

We are now well into our winter bowling season, having played one of our fixtures, against Worthing, on the 5th November, where we enjoyed a grand game with very keen interest. We are now looking forward to our next match.

Many thanks from all of us to our official marker and referee, Mrs. Teresa Mugan, who is always there to referee all our games, doing it with patience and perfection. Well done, Teresa, for a grand job of work.

A. ROBINSON,
Chairman and Captain

FAMILY NEWS

Pearl Wedding

Many congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Blacker* of Peacehaven, who celebrated their Pearl Wedding on December 18th, 1978.

Many congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. Jane Farrant* of Weston Coyney, Staffs., who celebrated their Pearl Wedding on 3rd July, 1978.

Ruby Wedding

Many congratulations to *Percy and Katie Stubbs* of Norwich, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on January 14th.

FAMILY NEWS *continued*



Mr. Harry Wheeler is seen here with his two great grandchildren, Joanne and Benjamin, at a party at his home to celebrate his Diamond Wedding Anniversary on December 7th, 1978. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler received a congratulatory telegram from the Queen and flowers from the Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough of Merton. It was the first time that all the Wheeler family were present under one roof. Their daughter, Joan, did all the catering.

Diamond Wedding

Many congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. William Rowland* of Lambeth, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 25th December. Mr. and Mrs. Rowland, who have 5 married daughters, 8 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren, received a telegram from Her Majesty the Queen on this happy occasion.

Grandchildren

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Alf Bradley of Rosliston, Staffordshire, on the birth of a grandson, Stephen Robert, on December 27th, 1978, to their daughter, Eileen, and son-in-law, Trevor.

Mr. and Mrs. Squire Brooks of Welwyn Garden City, on the birth of their grandson, Matthew Edward, to their son, Michael, and his wife, Gillian, on 3rd January.

Mr. and Mrs. George Cattell of Northampton, on the birth of their grandson, Ashley Philip, to their daughter, Leslie, and son-in-law, Philip, on 6th December, 1978.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Clay of Layer-de-la-Haye, Essex, on the birth of their grandson, David, to their son, Raymond, and daughter-in-law, Barbara, on 12th November, 1978.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Palfrey of Westmoors, on the birth of their second grandchild, Nicola Joy, to their daughter, Joy, and son-in-law, Robert, on November 6th, 1978.

Mr. and Mrs. John Simpson of Brighton, on the birth of their fifth grandson, Stefan John, to their daughter, Margaret, and son-in-law, Stefan, on 13th November, 1978.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mr. Thomas Cooper of Hull, on the death of his grandson, Anthony, aged 36.

Mr. Gomer Hopkins of Balham, on the death of his wife, Christina, who died in hospital on 28th November, 1978, aged 51.

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.

Thomas Ap Rhys, B.A. (Hons), M.C.S.P.
Royal Engineers

Thomas Ap Rhys of Bangor, North Wales, died suddenly on 6th December, 1978, whilst undergoing training with a new guide dog at the training centre in Bolton. He was 82 years old and a widower; his wife, Evelyn, having died in January, 1977.

Mr. Ap Rhys served in the Royal Engineers from his enlistment in October, 1914 until his

In Memory *continued*

discharge in July, 1917, following serious injuries sustained at Vimy Ridge. He joined St. Dunstan's that same year. He had been studying electrical engineering at Bangor University College when war broke out, but undertook a period of training in massage and worked in this profession until 1920, when he was forced to give it up due to the after-effects of mustard gas. Mr. Ap Rhys then re-entered Bangor University College, studied for an Arts degree and graduated with three first class distinctions in Philosophy and History in 1921.

In the 1929 General Election, Mr. Ap Rhys stood as a Labour Candidate for Caernarvon in opposition to Mr. Lloyd George, but was unsuccessful. He then continued with his studies in Economics and lectured on the subject. Following a period of re-training, he returned to Massage and Physiotherapy in 1945, having successfully passed his examinations and had a part-time hospital appointment as well as his own private practice. Although he gave up private practice in 1960, he continued in his hospital appointment until past retiring age at the request of the hospital authorities, eventually retiring in July, 1967 when he was over 70 years old.

With his wife, Evelyn, who was a Justice of the Peace, Mr. Ap Rhys took a great interest in local affairs. He was a highly valued member of his profession and will be greatly missed at future Physiotherapy Conferences by his many colleagues and friends and by the Matron and staff at Ian Fraser House. He will also be greatly missed by his friends at the Lee-on-Solent camp.

As a mark of respect, the Bangor University flag was at half-mast on the day of Mr. Ap Rhys' funeral, when many tributes were paid.

He leaves a son and two daughters.

Frank Percival Best *20th Royal Fusiliers*

Frank Percival Best of Rotherfield, Sussex, died at home on 6th January, his birthday, aged 85.

Mr. Best enlisted in the 20th Royal Fusiliers in September, 1914 and was wounded in 1916, losing one eye and the sight in the other. He trained as a masseur and obtained his first post in a London hospital. He then worked with Mr. Odell at St. Dunstan's for six months before accepting a position at the Birmingham Surgical and Military Hospital in Moseley in 1919. He was an able and devoted worker, treating as many as thirty patients a day, but increasing neuritis in his arms forced him to retire after twelve years, and although he hoped to return to his profession, he was never able to do so. He re-trained in basket and tray making and

maintained a very high standard of work over many years. In 1936, he was asked to represent St. Dunstan's at the Disabled Soldiers and Sailors Exhibition in Birmingham, but had to refuse due to his ill health.

In 1948, Mr. Best moved to Shepperton with his wife and family and in 1973, he moved finally to Sussex. His wife died in 1966.

He leaves a daughter, Frances, and two grandchildren.

Charles Henry Cornwell *9th London Regiment*

Charles Henry Cornwell of Ipswich, died at Pearson House on 1st January, aged 82.

Mr. Cornwell enlisted in the 9th London Regiment in May, 1915 and was discharged in October, 1918 following injuries received whilst on active service. He joined St. Dunstan's later that year and, after a period of training, undertook a quota of work for the Netting Department of our Stores, which he continued until 1967, when his wife, Rose, died and he moved to Ipswich to live with his daughter. From then on, Mr. Cornwell was devotedly cared for by his daughter, Mrs. Margaret Basham, and he settled down happily although missing his wife tremendously. He was a frequent visitor to the local blind club and enjoyed his talking books and his visits to our Brighton homes, where his indomitable spirit will be long remembered by our Matrons and staff.

He leaves a daughter and grandchildren.

John Jack Dale *Royal Engineers*

John Jack Dale of Clitheroe, Lancashire, died suddenly at his home on 21st December, 1978, aged 58.

Mr. Dale served as a Sapper in the 178th Tunnelling Company of the Royal Engineers, having enlisted in 1938. In October, 1941, he was totally blinded and lost part of his left arm following an explosion during blasting operations in Gibraltar. He was discharged from the Army in April, 1942 and immediately joined St. Dunstan's.

Although a coal miner in civilian life, Mr. Dale readily adapted to a period of industrial training and tuition in basketwork and Braille. However, he was only employed in industry for a couple of years and retired on health grounds to undertake a quota of basket work for our Stores, and rug-making in later years.

Despite prolonged periods of ill health and his disabilities, Mr. Dale retained a great interest in his garden and greenhouse, and successfully bred canaries and budgerigars for many years.

He leaves a widow, Rebecca.

In Memory *continued*

Frederick Albert Dear *Royal Air Force*

Frederick Albert Dear of Caernarvon, North Wales, died at home on 4th January, aged 57.

Mr. Dear served as a Leading Aircraftsman in the Royal Air Force, having enlisted in June, 1940. In January, 1945 he received serious injuries and was totally blinded as a result of a V2 bomb explosion whilst serving in Antwerp. He then spent several months at Stoke Mandeville. Later that year, he joined St. Dunstan's and undertook a period of industrial training at Church Stretton.

From the end of 1946, Mr. Dear was employed in industry and remained for twenty years with a Bangor electrical company as a press operator, helping to produce equipment for G.P.O. telephones, until he was forced to retire on medical grounds. From then on, he made a quota of rugs for our Stores. His greatest hobby was his garden and greenhouse and in 1977, he received an award in a Municipal Housing Garden Competition and was specially commended. Mr. Dear and his wife, who had been married for 34 years, had only moved into their own home four months before his death.

He leaves a widow, Vera, and a daughter, Olive.

Cecil John Rhodes Fawcett, M.C.S.P.

Kings Royal Rifles

Cecil John Rhodes Fawcett, M.C.S.P., of Bournemouth, died suddenly at his home on 23rd December, aged 79.

Mr. Fawcett served as a Lance Corporal with the King's Royal Rifles, having enlisted in March, 1917. In 1918 he was blinded, following injuries received whilst on active service on the Somme. He joined St. Dunstan's at the end of 1918, for training in physiotherapy and massage, also becoming proficient in typewriting and Braille. Until 1964, when he retired, Mr. Fawcett successfully ran his own practice and was a highly respected and valued member of his profession. Mr. Fawcett's first wife, Evelyn, by whom he had two sons, died in 1970, but in 1974 he remarried.

Despite intermittent periods of ill health, Mr. Fawcett remained in good spirits and was a frequent and welcome visitor to our Brighton homes.

He leaves a widow, Rita.

Edward Griffiths *Sherwood Foresters*

Edward Griffiths of Kidderminster, died in hospital on 29th December, 1978 following a short and grave illness. He was 55 years old and, tragically, had only been married seven weeks previously.

Mr. Griffiths served as a Private with the Sherwood Foresters from his enlistment in 1942, receiving multiple injuries in Italy from a mortar bomb, when he was totally blinded. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1944.

Despite his disabilities, Mr. Griffiths successfully mastered Braille and typewriting and undertook a period of industrial training. From 1945 until 1968, when he was made redundant, he remained a highly valued employee of a Switchgear company in Chester and was then employed by a Wrexham firm, who were extremely impressed by his abilities. He remained there until October, 1978 when his health began to give cause for concern.

From the time of his discharge from the Army, Mr. Griffiths was devotedly cared for by his mother and other members of his family in Wrexham. On 14th November, 1978 he married Joan Pound, his good friend for many years and moved to Kidderminster, but their happiness together was, sadly, short-lived.

He leaves a widow, Joan, his mother and other members of his family.

Bernard Arnold Josey

2nd Battalion, Ox. and Bucks. Light Infantry (Airborne)

Bernard Arnold Josey of Windsor died at home on 17th December, 1978, aged 61.

Mr. Josey enlisted in the 2nd Battalion, Ox. and Bucks. Light Infantry (Airborne) as a Private in June, 1940, and was discharged in 1943, following serious injuries received in an explosion. He joined St. Dunstan's following his discharge from the Army and undertook a period of training at Church Stretton, initially in boot repairing and soon afterwards for industry, taking employment as a press operator with a Slough company in 1951, where he remained a valued employee for 27 years. He retired only three months ago, having received many gifts and tokens of appreciation from his employers and fellow workers.

Mr. Josey faced his last illness with considerable courage and was devotedly nursed by his wife, to whom he had been married for 38 years.

He leaves a widow, Florence, and son, Philip.

Ernest Charles Lailey

Royal Army Medical Corps

Ernest Charles Lailey of Oxted, died in hospital on 6th December, aged 86.

Mr. Lailey enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps in January, 1915 and was gassed in 1918. His sight deteriorated over the years and in 1974,

In Memory *continued*

he joined St. Dunstan's as a full member. After the First World War, he had set up his own business as an upholsterer and continued to take an active interest in it up to the time of his last illness, walking over a mile to his workshop each day.

He leaves a widow, Elizabeth, and a son and daughter.

William Ernest Lee *Royal Engineers*

William Ernest Lee of Liphook, died in hospital on 15th December, 1978, aged 60. Mr. Lee had borne many years of ill health with great fortitude and had been devotedly cared for by his wife, Jean Mary, with whom he had recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding.

Mr. Lee enlisted in the Royal Engineers at the beginning of the Second World War and was discharged with the rank of Sergeant in 1945, following injuries received at Benghazi, whilst on active service. By 1959 his sight had seriously deteriorated and he joined St. Dunstan's where he undertook hobby training and rug making. Until 1958, he had worked as a maintenance engineer but, due to failing health, was unable to continue in industrial employment. He made a quota of rugs for our Stores for several years.

In 1962, Mr. Lee moved with his family from Hampshire to The Wirral, Cheshire, where his greatest hobby was his garden and greenhouse, returning to live in the South of England in 1974, on health grounds and to be nearer to his family. He was a frequent visitor to our Brighton homes, where he enjoyed the company of his fellow St. Dunstaners.

He leaves a widow, Jean Mary, three daughters and two sons.

Joseph Spence *Pioneer Corps*

Joseph Spence of Heywood, Lancashire, died on 21st November, 1978, following a heart attack. He was 67 years old.

Mr. Spence served as a Private in the Pioneer Corps from his enlistment in 1942 until his discharge in 1945, following injuries received in Antwerp the previous year when a V2 rocket exploded. He joined St. Dunstan's in February, 1973.

Before the war, Mr. Spence was a bus driver and following his discharge from the Army, he was employed as a packer with a Manchester company for over 20 years. In 1972, he was forced to retire due to failing sight and he then moved to a small bungalow in Heywood close to one of his sisters, Mrs. Sharp, who was able to keep a watchful eye on him.

In retirement, Mr. Spence enjoyed his visits to the local blind club and listening to his talking

books. He had several good friends locally with whom he enjoyed taking walks or paying a visit to the local.

He leaves two sisters, Mrs. Sharp and Mrs. Wright.

William Edward Thomas *Royal Engineers*

William Edward Thomas of Pen-y-craig, South Wales, died after a long period of ill health borne with great fortitude, on November 18th, 1978, aged 65.

Mr. Thomas was a member of the Territorial Army and, as such, was embodied in the Royal Engineers at the outbreak of the Second World War. He served with the rank of Sapper until his discharge in 1946, following severe deprivation as a Japanese prisoner-of-war after his capture in Java in 1942. Mr. Thomas was forced to work on what was subsequently known as the 'Death Railway' and his health was seriously affected as a result. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1977, following severe deterioration in his vision.

He leaves a widow, Doris, an invalid whom he cared for devotedly despite his own disabilities, and a son, William.

Francis Whyte, M.C.S.P. *Royal Artillery*

Francis Whyte of Misterton, near Doncaster, died in hospital on 5th January, aged 63.

Mr. Whyte enlisted in July, 1940 and served as a Sergeant in the Royal Artillery. Following his loss of sight whilst on active service, he joined St. Dunstan's in July, 1944 and trained as a physiotherapist. In March, 1948 he was appointed full-time physiotherapist at the Law Junction Hospital, Carlisle, which he combined with some private practice. However, in 1951, he gave up his hospital appointment to concentrate on private work. In 1954, he once again accepted a hospital appointment at the John Coupland Hospital in Gainsborough and early in 1960, resumed some work in private practice whilst retaining his full-time employment.

Unfortunately, his wife, Sarah, died in 1972, but with the help of those of his nine children still living at home, Mr. Whyte was able to continue in his physiotherapy appointment. Due to injuries received in a car accident in 1973, Mr. Whyte was unable to return to his work until September of that year and, regrettably, by 1975 his health was deteriorating and he was unable to continue in his profession any longer.

Mr. Whyte was a highly valued and respected member of his profession and will be sadly missed by his colleagues, patients and many friends. In earlier years, he had been a keen bridge player and gardener.

He leaves nine children.