

St Dunstons Review April 1979

St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

No. 706

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10p MONTHLY

Message from the Chairman

Retirement of Mr. R. Priestley, M.C.S.P.

The announcement of Mr. Priestley's retirement, which appears on another page, is not news for our St. Dunstan's physiotherapists, both practising and retired, for they have known about it for some time and paid their personal tribute to him at their Conference last autumn. Now, however, the actual date has been reached and I am therefore writing of his fine service to St. Dunstan's.

Ron Priestley has been our Physiotherapy Superintendent for 30 years and he has worked with skill and devotion, both in the field of physiotherapy generally and to help individual St. Dunstaners. He has thus been largely responsible for the ability of our physiotherapists to lead full professional lives, which have been useful to the community and rewarding to the blinded men and women themselves, and they in turn have always had every confidence in him as their special adviser and friend. This good relationship will fortunately not be completely ended as, happily, he has offered us his professional advice when necessary for the time being.

On behalf of our Council, the physiotherapists, their wives and families, all his other friends amongst St. Dunstaners and staff, my wife and myself, I thank Mr. Priestley for all he has done for us and I wish him and his wife the best of good luck in retirement.

Jon Earnest-Dune

OUT AND ABOUT

St. Dunstaners will probably be interested to know of a new feature of Arlington Forest, Abbotts Wood. It is not far from Michelham Priory and within easy distance of Ian Fraser House.

A special walk for blind and handi-capped pedestrians and also for wheel-chair cases has been planned, constructed and now put into operation. The area has a good level surface with about seven bench seats and some tables placed at strategic distances apart. The pathway is about 380 yards in length, with a banked area and toilet facilities have now

been completed (again with easy access for wheel-chair users).

The scheme, which has been organised by the Forestry Commission, will be officially opened on 5th June next when a limited number of representatives from various handicapped groups will be invited. The walk itself will be open from early March and can be used by visitors to the Forest from that time.

Gifts of money for the purchase of new trees have been made and it is hoped more will become available from individuals and also from interested organisations.

COVER PICTURE: A dramatic view of the Horse of Burra Voe in the Shetland Islands sets the scene for this month's feature by Ron Smith on centre pages. Photo: Bobby Tulloch.

A visit to the Forest is being planned during the *first activity holiday week for gardening enthusiasts (April 23rd)*.

A second week's holiday for gardeners will be held at the beginning of June if support warrants it and we are hoping then that our President, Sir Michael Ansell, may find it possible to join us. Names should be sent to Miss Guilbert at Ian Fraser House please.

STAFF RETIREMENT

Mr. R. Priestley, M.C.S.P., is retiring on 31st March, 1979, after 30 years with St. Dunstan's.

He has been involved with and responsible for the selection, training, settlement and professional aftercare of St. Dunstan's Chartered Physiotherapists since April, 1949. After March 31st, 1979, he will continue to be available in an advisory capacity to St. Dunstan's. The day to day services to physiotherapists will be under the supervision of Mr. N. French from 1st April, as Head of the Employment, Home-craft and Research Department.

BRIGHTON STAFF RETIREMENTS

The following long service members of staff have recently retired from our Brighton Homes: Nurse Beryl Griffiths, with 34 years service; Orderly, Alec Freel from Ovingdean, with 21 years service; and Miss Mary Ralston, who was maid to the Matron and Senior Staff at Ovingdean, with 14 years service.

Their former colleagues and St. Dunstaners wish them a long and satisfying retirement.

GOOD WISHES

Alex and Peggy Craik, formerly Peggy Ballantyne, thank their many friends at St. Dunstan's for the greetings and good wishes they received for their wedding on February 23rd.

STRAY CROMBIE

Did anyone pick up a Crombie overcoat in mistake for one with a John Collier label after the Remembrance Day Service last November? If anyone knows anything about this, could they please contact the Editor of the Review at Headquarters.

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.

Kenneth Walker of Sutton Scotney, Winchester, who joined St. Dunstan's on 22nd February. Mr. Walker served as a Leading Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve during the Second World War and suffered deprivation as a Far East prisoner-of-war in Singapore. He is married with two adult children.

AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Please remember that the next Amateur Radio Weekend will be on 21st and 22nd July. Don't forget to book your accommodation early with Miss Bridger.

Also, if any St. Dunstaner has a radio receiver which covers the amateur radio bands for which he has no use, would he please contact Ted John, 52 Broadway Avenue, Wallasey, Merseyside, L45 6TP.

TRY HARD

Bert Ward of Leeds, is obviously a 'trier' and his efforts have won him £25 in a 'Try Hard' Competition sponsored by Rent-A-Car.

Bert's name was put forward by a senior member of staff at Leeds Education Department, where he is employed, as a result of his work for the community on the Leeds Cassette. Bert was presented with the cheque on March 14th by the Lord Mayor of Leeds.

PUZZLE CORNER

Alfred Turner of Shepperton, Middlesex, has sent us in the following puzzles. Firstly, arrange the figures one to nine in a square so that each line of three figures across, down and diagonally, totals 15.

Secondly, arrange the figures one to nine so that they total exactly 100.



A view of the top table as Mr. Delmar-Morgan welcomes guests and St. Dunstaners.

BRIGHTON REUNION

The 1979 reunion season got off to a cold start. Fortunately, the anti-social temperature was confined to the outdoors, the atmosphere in the Winter Garden of the Metropole Hotel being warm and genial.

There were 220 people present at the Brighton Reunion on Saturday, 10th March, of whom 18 were from the First World War, 77 from the Second World War and one from post-war campaigns.

The Vice-Chairman of St. Dunstan's, Mr. Michael Delmar-Morgan, who presided, started by welcoming the assembled guests. Guests of Honour were the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton, Councillor and Mrs. Alfred Feld, and Mr. K. S. C. Phillips of the Sussex Grocers' Association. There were several retired members of staff and, attending his first reunion, St. Dunstaner, Mr. Terence Coulson of Brighton. A special tribute was paid to "that very select band of helpers, our human sighted guide dogs, our all-seeing, all-supporting cast of St. Dunstan's wives". Mr. Delmar-Morgan gave us the latest statistics on St. Dunstan's. There are now 1,092 members in the United Kingdom, of whom 254 are from the First World War, and 518 overseas members.

"Our Chairman wrote a short introductory passage in the March *Review*

entitled, 'Our Daily Lives', in which he praised the fortitude with which St. Dunstaners, their wives, widows and members of staff had faced up to the hardships of the recent winter months. They were wise words and the praise well-deserved. 'To strive to overcome' was a phrase which was becoming meaningless today in this Welfare State where so much is given to so many", continued the Vice-Chairman. "People begin to expect something for nothing and, eventually, there is nothing left to strive for. The desire to help others has been replaced by lethargy and a spirit of 'I'm alright, Jack'. The time has come to stand up and be counted again. At St. Dunstan's, we still enjoy a community spirit, but we must make sure that others benefit from it".

Mr. Delmar-Morgan went on to praise two people who were due to retire, having devoted themselves selflessly to others; Mr. C. D. Wills, O.B.E., and Commandant L. Fawcett, M.B.E. Just as St. Dunstaners had fought for a cause, their country, so were the staff working for a cause, St. Dunstaners. "You should be grateful".

The Mayor of Brighton was called upon to say just a few words. "Though no Mayor in England will say *just a few words*". Councillor Feld thanked St. Dunstan's for the opportunity to get round and



The Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton meet Mr. and Mrs. Roman Donald.

meet so many people. As Mayor, he received many letters and he quoted from a recent one, which read, 'I am sure you will agree that in Brighton we have a very large number of unwanted children, for which I hold you completely responsible'. Notwithstanding, Brighton, he said, was a marvellous town and we were privileged to live there.

Mr. Paul Walker of Lewes, then rose on behalf of St. Dunstaners to thank the Vice-Chairman and the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton for coming. "They are good friends of ours, as all the people of Brighton have been over the years".

He thanked Miss Stewart and Miss Blebta for organising the reunion. As well as Mr. Wills and Commandant Fawcett, Mr. Walker also wished a happy and successful retirement to Mrs. Brown and Mr. Gordon Poole. Finally, the Manager, chef and staff of the Metropole Hotel were thanked for the splendid meal.

Many people then took to the dance floor, presumably to get warmed up before having to face the cold journey home. Hopefully, they will also have taken home with them warm memories of a happy and rewarding reunion.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Mrs. Olive Evans, widow of Albert Evans, of Newport, Gwent

In answer to the puzzle in the February *Review*, divide £10 equally between X people. The answer is £5 each. The operative word is between, meaning two people. If the answer was £1 each, as suggested in the March *Review*, then the question would be worded *among* X people.

From: David Scott Blackhall, Boreham Wood, Herts.

I have a different answer and, if I may say so, a more correct one, to the problem in 'Puzzle Corner' in the February issue.

If you divide £10 equally between X people, they will each receive, not £1 but £5. The word *between* literally means *by twain* and can only be applied to two persons or things. If £10 is to be shared equally by more than two persons, then it is divided equally *among* them, not *between* them.



ADVENTURE HOLIDAY

by

RANDALL WILLIAMS

We strode briskly through the rapidly running water—it was almost up to our knees. I wondered how much deeper it would get before we reached firm ground.

That afternoon we had been canoeing on the Taw, which is tidal to 2 miles up river. We were using 5 double seaters and had practised changing seats two at a time whilst afloat. The canoes were held in line-abreast by those who were seated, as the changes were from one's own canoe to another. I was unsure whether the mood was happy or sad that no one fell in!

The paddle blades were 90° to each other, supposedly to reduce the wind resistance of the out-of-water blade. Some of us experienced a little difficulty mastering the wrist-twist action necessary with this paddle design. However, this difficulty did not appear to dampen the excitement while we were racing.

As the tide turned and began rising some of us continued canoeing. Suddenly, an urgent shout called in those still on the water—our launching point at the river side was now an island as the rising water had found a way round its back. Leaving our canoes at the launching point we stepped into the water. There was no time to waste. We were surprised

at the speed with which the tide had risen. All ended well, however. We reached the mini-bus and the canoes were safely brought ashore. Although we were a little wet, we were comforted by the warmth in the vehicle, provided by our perspiring bodies and the heater.

That evening we visited the Kings Arms and took the opportunity to get to know one another a little better. During the evening the wife of the landlord came up and gave us an object. "Tell me what it is and how much it weighs," she said. It was a truly enormous onion weighing, I believe, 3½lbs!

It all began the previous day when the main group had rendezvoused at Victoria Station, ready for the journey to the Woodside Adventure Centre. Janet and Harvey, members of the Woodside team, were to drive us to north Devon. This would be the first time Woodside had run a week's activities course solely for the visually handicapped. Besides me there were Joan, Shirley, Frances, Sue M., Sue R., Ray, Dave and Mike, whilst Gloria joined us at Bristol.

That evening we arrived at Bideford and hungrily filled our empty spaces with Chinese take-away!

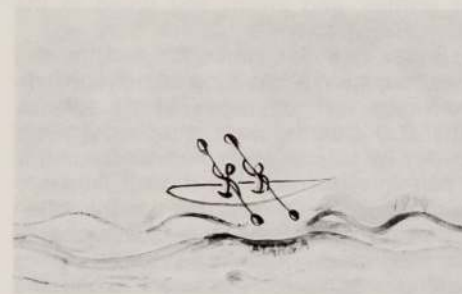
Before it adopted a wide range of

activities, the Woodside Adventure Centre had been known as the Woodside Weekend Ski Club. Woodside itself is a large 5-storey house built in the last century. Today it has a slate roof, white walls and bright blue windows and doors. Outside there is a swimming pool, miniature golf course and an artificial ski slope. The view from one side is of a hill with an infertile valley between and on the other, Bideford, with a silver thread running through it, which is the river Torridge.

That evening, we met Jill and Alan who were to lead the week's activities, and Ken, whose very ready assistance I am sure we all gratefully appreciated. Ken was one of Jill's past teachers.

I was surprised to find that we would be sleeping two floors down! Later it was explained that Woodside was built on the side of a hill and we had entered on the second floor from the drive.

On the Monday morning we were to do the canoe capsize drill. After a prelim indoor session we went to the outside pool. The air was 'fresh' to say the least and I was disappointed to find that the trees were successfully diminishing the sunshine on the pool.



The procedure in a canoe which has turned over is to place one's hands either side of the cockpit at the back and push down while keeping legs straight. Our instructors stood in the water, one either end of the canoe. Each of us would sit in and wait for the '1-2-3' and over. It was my turn. I sat in and Alan, waving one of his favourite toys, (the hose), gave me a sprinkling. '1-2-3' and I turned turtle. I shot up out of the water and made a noise which must have sounded like a wounded cow as I pulled in air. Fortunately, this involuntary spasm, caused by the cold water, did not last.

Sometimes, in the evenings, we gathered in the recreation room. Dave's guitar and an ample supply of wit kept all present entertained.

Tuesday greeted us with a smile—the day was warm and sunny. We got an issue of equipment for grass ski-ing. The skis are about eighteen inches long with five rollers one behind the other. These attach to large heavy boots; a pair of sticks and a steep field and . . . watch me come a cropper! Piece by piece we zig-zagged down the field; the whole exercise providing a continuity of thrills and spills! By the end the seat of my blue jeans had taken on a very darker shade of brown.

Edge of Exmoor

After a packed lunch in the open air, we swung into saddles at a local farm and were taken walking and trotting onto the edge of Exmoor.

It was overcast on Wednesday but we were to try water ski-ing and some of us first-timers wouldn't easily be put off. We struggled and pulled into our wet-suits and finally arrived on a beach where the estuaries of the Taw and the Torridge meet. This area provides a fairly large expanse of calm water. Unfortunately, there was not time to become adept, but at least we got the feel of it. Alan, who drove the speedboat, took me in a double figure-of-eight. Then I tried to stand from the squatting position—that's how I came off!

One of the Woodside activities was parakiting. In this sport the skier wears a kite which results in the skier becoming air-borne when the boat reaches a certain speed. Owing to technical reasons we were unable to try it.

This afternoon's activity was abseiling. I had been a little apprehensive; someone had described it as 'flying over rocks', and another thought it was swinging into cliff-face caves Tarzan-style! I believe it was first employed by the Marines. Near Bideford there is a cliff face of 120 ft., which makes a good site for this activity. We drove near, Ken to the bottom and the rest to the top. The tackle included helmets, belting, metal links and ropes. This we carried through

ADVENTURE HOLIDAY *continued*

the trees to the cliff top. Some of us were in fine joking form. Perhaps this was a way of showing up our shakiness! "It would be a cheap way of doing a kamikaze!" We laughed. As it happened, four of our number declined to do the descent.

Two had descended and I volunteered for the next drop. I wore a helmet (to guard against falling rocks I suppose!) and the safety belt. Jill put the other straps round me and fixed on the metal link through which the rope was looped and paid out to the bottom of the cliff.



I stood at the edge of the cliff, feet slightly apart and dropped backwards momentarily, when the rope jammed in the link under my weight. I was held at 90° to the face. Then I began moving backwards down the face by feeding lengths of the rope through the link. As I moved down directions were shouted from the top, "to the right", "to the left" or "lean back." Not far from the finish Ken called that a 6 inch ledge lay behind me. Thinking it would be a step up I was taken by surprise by a step in. I slipped, lost my footing and dangled against the face. All was well, I found my feet and continued to the ground.

We frequented a local restaurant for the evening meal. This time, unfortunately, both showers on the men's floor were running cold. I had a word with Ken about it and later found that, as the shower switches were on the wall outside the shower units, Dave had turned them off thinking they were lights!

After dinner that evening we drove to the Wild Beach. The name was appropriate I thought, as we heard the crash of breakers and picked our way over angular stones and avoided boulders.

Thursday was fine and we sailed in a 20 ft. Drascombe Longboat between Appledore and Instow. It was necessary to tack up river close to wind and, at one point, as we were sheltered by trees and the current was against us, we began to wonder if we would make it by sail.

Westward Ho!

After lunch we made for Westward Ho! where the large area of flat sand gave us an ideal site for sand yachting and wind skating. I found keeping my balance on the wind skate very difficult. The equipment is a skate board with wheels like footballs. Rising from the centre of the board is a mast with sail attached. One mounts the board side on, feet slightly apart, one arm and hand rest up the mast with the other arm and hand holding the tape which controls the boom. The hand pulls the sail into wind and by using pressure with toes or heels, steering is achieved.

That evening we went to the Barnstaple Leisure Centre, an enormous place with facilities for many activities. We had a go at skittles, and swam and dived in the baths.

Friday was clear as crystal and the sun was warm. We were on the sea shore, wet-suits on and ready to try surfing. The surf boards were attached to our ankles by rubber cords and velcro strips. I certainly learned that if you can't see the board you should be careful when retrieving it from the water. This should be done quickly between breakers. I was fishing around for my board when the end of it was bucked into my face by a sly wave.

Successful Week

The time came for us to leave Woodside, and we boarded the mini-bus for the return journey that afternoon. We had enjoyed ourselves and the Woodside staff were delighted that we had made a success of the week. You might wonder how those without sight manage it. I would say that it takes three things: the willingness to have a go, plus two most important factors, balance and co-ordination.



Norman French receives the G3MOW Memorial Trophy from Louis Varney, with Chairman, Bill Shea, in the background.

AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY A.G.M.

The third Annual General Meeting of the St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society on 24th February, featured three principal events; the inauguration of the club station, the presentation of the G3MOW Memorial Trophy and a talk by Louis Varney, G5RV.

For many months, members of the Committee, staff and friends in the G.P.O. have all directed their efforts towards the establishment of the club station. Bob Fielding and Dave Mitchell of the Ovingdean maintenance team, have braved freezing temperatures and high winds to erect the antennae, just for starters. The rig, (radio sets), are now permanently located on the fourth floor and can be easily transported up to the Winter Garden for meetings. The unveiling of the antennae was performed prematurely by the wind as pennants and an item of ladies' underwear were set streaming. (This latter was not a comment by the maintenance men to the Society).

After a splendid lunch attended by twenty-eight Society members and guests came the presentation of the trophy. This is awarded to the person whom the

Society considers to have contributed the most during the past year.

"Our successful candidate this year does not quite fit this description", said Bill Shea, Chairman, "as he has contributed to the Society for many years". There was warm applause for Norman French, who was completely surprised by the presentation. Mrs. French was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

After lunch, the Society listened to a talk by Louis Varney on a trip he made to South America to celebrate his retirement and 50 years in amateur radio.

The membership of the Society continues to flourish, with several newcomers attending the weekend. They were able to ask questions and listen to sets in operation. Peter Jones was there to demonstrate his latest model of B.R.O.M.A., which enables the blind to read electrical meters. He demonstrated the Vero mini-wrap system and the Weller WC 100 cordless soldering iron which had been used in the construction of B.R.O.M.A.

Society members thank the Ian Fraser House staff for their hospitality and hope they can come again on 21st/22nd July.

WILD LIFE OF THE SHETLANDS

by Ron Smith

Photos: Bobby Tulloch

Through ocean swells and an ever constant wind the Shetland Islands are, like the Outer Hebrides, almost devoid of any trees. There are other similarities; small sandy beaches, some pebbled with beautifully coloured stones, tall cliffs, and small quiet coves and bays. Though this wide landscape is unimpaired by any tall vegetation, there is still plenty of heather with varied bog and marsh flowers. But what the Shetlands lack in flora they certainly make up for with many species of wild life. Here, for example, is a statement which I received from Mr. Bobby Tulloch, the R.S.P.B. Warden for the Shetlands.

"The Shetland Islands lie out in the middle of the North Sea, 200 miles north of Aberdeen and only about 180 miles from the Norwegian coast. The surrounding sea on the continental shelf is relatively shallow and rich in fish. In consequence it has a varied population of birds and mammals that feed on fish. Shetland has long been acknowledged to have some of the best breeding populations of sea bird in Europe, such as puffins, guillemots, kittiwakes, gannets, storm petrels, fulmars and many others. Also along the shores there are breeding populations of grey and common seals and otters. While otters are not considered a sea mammal, in Shetland they have become adapted to living on sea food and their holts or dens are usually in sea caves or holes in the banks. Shetland is also visited by other sea mammals; finned whales, schools of dolphins of several species and porpoises are common everywhere. For a long time this population has seemed secure from the depredation of industrialised society, but with the discovery of huge oil fields beneath the sea bed near Shetland, a potentially dangerous element has made its appearance".

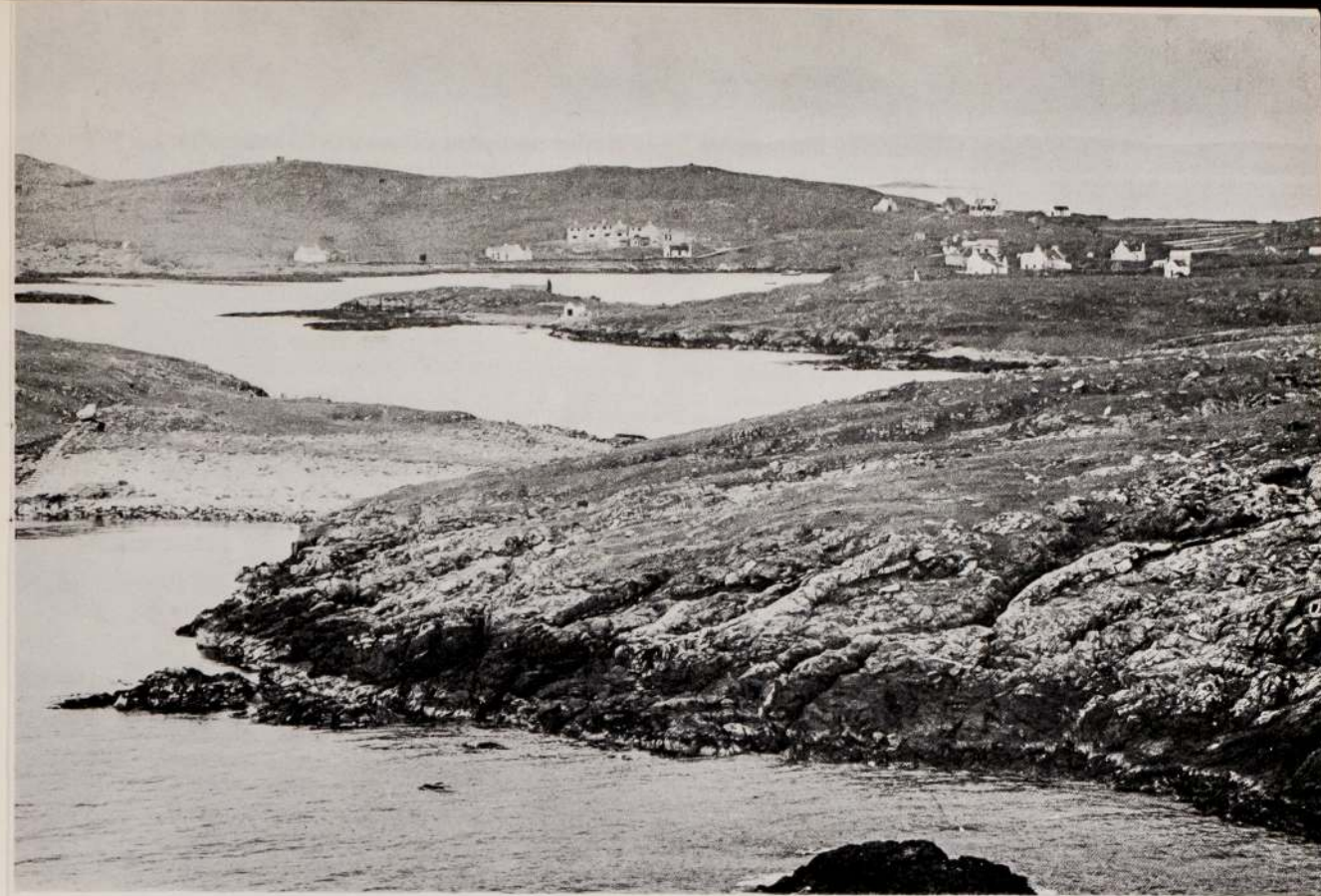
There are fifteen inhabited islands and many many uninhabited islands and skerries, the largest of the inhabited being the mainland which is about 54 miles in length.

I cannot really give you its width because of the great fingers which have been taken out of the land, but as one travels the well-made-up narrow road, twisting and turning east or west, there is fresh or salt water and it is almost impossible for me to delineate in words all the wild beauty. As this was my first evening there and the weather was beautiful, I decided to leave the guest house and try and take a few recordings. There was a greensward just outside the house and almost kissing the water's edge. This was a playground for the many oyster-catchers with their young. What a beautiful job nature has made of these birds, some of the largest being about eighteen inches in length, with a black polished head, a long curved orange bill, a black and white body and long orange-pink legs.

The greater black backed gulls have a red spot on the side of the bill. It has been observed that the young birds, when hungry, will tap this particular spot. The adult bird will then open its beak and there is the regurgitated food for the young.

We came across a colony of the larger herring gulls and when we were about 150 yards away these birds took to the wing and began to circle around, so like large geese, and dived on us. When I mentioned this to my friends at the guest house, they said that I had gone where angels fear to tread.

While the wind was still light and the sea fairly calm we decided to walk down to one of the small bays and along the pebbled beach. Some of these pebbles are beautifully coloured, as I had seen previously. Some were blood red, others



View from the lighthouse, Skerries.

had white veins running through them and others were of various colours. But it is much better to observe these after rain as the colours are then shown more to their advantage. As we were walking along the beach I was informed that there was a small caravan on the bank where a man was polishing many of these stones for sale in Britain.

We continued walking until we came to quite a rocky area where there were literally thousands and thousands of shell fish, mostly mussels, and I remember walking on the high ground, which is beyond Lunna House and I noticed again thousands and thousands of broken shells which had been taken there by the birds and the contents then removed. There were even broken sea urchins there, but on looking on the rocks by the sea shore, we also noticed that there were sea urchins attached to some of these. I suppose one remembers them well because of their very spiny covering, this being their form of protection. When a

predator approaches these spines can be turned and moved in any direction.

As we stood there, we noticed there was almost a complete absence of any sea birds as most of the oyster-catchers had gone with their young to other feeding grounds. It was also very late at night, though still extremely light, as in the summer the days in Shetland are very long, so feeling rather tired we retraced our steps back to the guest house at the end of a very nice day.

The following day we could tell the weather was changing as the wind was increasing and the sea was getting quite noisy, but we had to take advantage of any fine weather so we continued our stroll along the cliff edge and came across quite a number of curlews. These, unlike the ones we met in the south, seemed very inquisitive. We noticed the wind was veering to the north and increasing in velocity and now becoming much colder so we decided to return to the guest house.

We had been informed by the meteorological people that the weather would be bad for about a couple of days, so I decided to stay in Lunna House and take one or two recordings. Mrs. Lindsay, the proprietress, had already informed me that just after the war she had met Commander Percy and how he had been involved with all the activities at Lunna House during the war. When he returned to the Shetland Islands after the war to renew his acquaintance, he met Mrs. Lindsay and took her to the Headquarters of the Norwegian Forces which was at Lunna House. After having a talk with the previous owner, Mrs. Lindsay and her husband decided to purchase it and turn it into a guest house.

For a long time after the Norwegians had left, the house was maintained by Mr. Michael Bruce. Later it became derelict and Mr. Lindsay did a great deal of work in repairs to bring it back into service. The view from the house was exceedingly good and I was told that there was a small jetty there as well as a very fine church, almost by the water's edge. Both of these had been used by the Norwegians.

400 year-old church

The church is about 400 years old and it appears rather dark inside as the windows are quite small and there is no doubt that it is of very strong construction. It has to be to withstand the violence of the climate. At the side of the church a sycamore tree was growing very close indeed to the wall and all the branches were lying flat over one side of the roof. Most unusual. There are the remains of a leper colony and also of a monastery. Around the other side of the church were two holes where the lepers used to receive the service.

I had been listening to the cackling of the petrel fulmars and as the wind had dropped considerably I did manage to get a fair recording, although the sea was still rather noisy. The fulmar has changed its habitat considerably in the Shetlands and one can find the nest on an old peat stack or in disused crofts. This is quite unusual as the fulmars are not very good on their feet. Their normal habitat would be on the ledge of a cliff where all they had to do

would be to fall off and fly. These birds can be recognised by their tubular bill and thickish neck, but in flight they hold their wings out straight and after rapid wing beats will glide for long periods.

The mainland in certain parts is fairly narrow, sometimes it is possible to get away from the wind by just going for a short distance on to the other coast. On this particular day, by doing this, we came across three or four porpoises swimming in and out of one of the small bays and I managed to get a recording of one blowing as it made its undulating movements through the water.

Ruing

During many of our walks we came across clumps of wool scattered here and there and although I realised it must have come off the Shetland sheep, I did wonder how it came off so easily. I was able to contact Mr. Bruce who informed me that the sheep were not sheared but the wool was plucked off; it was called ruing and, apparently, this very fine wool is due to the extremely hardy conditions the sheep have to contend with and endure, especially during the winter when food is extremely scarce. I did enquire about casualties and on one old record it described how 4,500 sheep were lost in one bad winter. I was also informed that the black-faced sheep could not survive in the Shetlands.

Many years ago they exported wool to the Commonwealth, the late Duke of Windsor having started a fashion by wearing a Fair Isle pullover. I asked Mr. Bruce if he had any idea where the sheep came from in the first place. He said that very little was known about this but the belief is that they came from Siberia by way of Norway.

I remember that during one of our walks we came across one or two kittiwakes and even these had some of the sheep's wool around their feet and legs and a local crofter was trying to unravel this before they made their way into the sea, as it may have proved fatal to them otherwise. The call of the adult kittiwake is really beautiful and descriptive and I made a recording of a group of these birds with a heavy sea background. May I say a few words about this true



Guillemots on Shetland.

seagull; it is the real maritime gull only coming inland to breed and then going far out to sea again. I am sure even if your friends cannot recognise the kittiwake from this description, they can certainly do so by its telling call.

Mr. Bobby Tulloch then brought me right up to date by informing me of the oil situation in the Shetlands and his fears and worries for the future.

"The decision was made that the Shetlands was to become one of the largest oil fields in Europe and millions of pounds had been spent in the building of facilities to accommodate huge oil tankers of up to 300,000 tons. Moving huge quantities of oil by sea is, as I am sure you know, fraught with danger and difficulties.

The recent disaster of the Amoco Cadiz has high-lighted this and if we add other difficulties such as winter darkness and hurricane force winds, as well as the vulnerability of under-sea pipe lines, then

it can be understood why there is a concern for the future of our birds and other wild life populations. Part of my job as R.S.P.B. Warden for the Shetlands is to try and identify problems which may arise and to add my voice to put pressure on the developers in the hope that every precaution may be taken to prevent disasters and oil spillages. Whether these precautions are effective, only time will tell".

To be concluded next month

In the *Talking Review* you will hear extracts from the recordings Ron Smith made while in the Shetlands. The complete cassette, with birdcalls, interviews and descriptive sound pictures is available from the Public Relations Department at Headquarters, by sending a C90 cassette and asking for reference number G7.

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 1684

The House of the Dead

By Fyodor Dostoevsky.

Trans. by Constance Garnett

Read by Corbett Woodall

Reading Time 13 hours

A graphic and sombre account of life in a Siberian prison in the late 1800's, and a searing testimony to man's inhumanity to man. Although this is fiction, it is based on the personal experiences of the author.

Each man's sentence begins with a flogging, unless he belongs to a "superior class" such as "a gentleman". He is then branded and fettered, and the leg-irons are never removed until the prisoner has served his sentence. No reading matter, with the exception of the Bible, is allowed. The prisoners are at the mercy of a sadistic Major, who orders floggings for the most trivial offences.

Surprisingly, perhaps, in the circumstances, the food is good and plentiful and the work comparatively light. The doctors in the prison hospital are kind and considerate. But this is scant compensation for a daily life of brutal repression and dehumanising boredom.

This lengthy novel is a dark and chilling picture of brutality and degradation. It does absolutely nothing to make one forget the pinpricks of our own troubled times.

Cat. No. 1724

Abbie

By Dane Chandos

Read by Andrew Timothy

Reading Time 6¾ hours

This is the biography of the writer's aunt, an extraordinary lady and a splendid example of the true English eccentric. Abbie was a ferocious xenophobe; she wore a monocle, kept her watch permanently thirty minutes ahead of Greenwich to give her 'plenty of time to be late', and kept a pair of comfortable shoes in a *sang de boeuf* vase in the drawing room.

A compulsive gardener, she filched cuttings and plants from far and wide.

Once she stole from a carrier's cart a box of rare irises destined for her neighbour, and then threatened the woman with prosecution when she found her digging them up.

She travelled the world, and 'collected' notepaper from every hotel she stayed in. This she used indiscriminately for her voluminous correspondence to her nephew. Thus, it was by no means uncommon for him to receive letters written in Paris or Peking on notepaper headed 'Shepherd's Hotel, Cairo' and 'Raffles Hotel, Singapore'.

She once took a beaver to the Paris Opera. The animal gnawed its way out of the basket and then set to work demolishing the wainscoting in the ante-room. The resourceful Abbie promptly complained to the manager about the disgraceful state of the woodwork in her box...

A funny, very readable book, written with wit and great affection about a lady who could be capricious and infuriating, but always a great joy to know.

Cat. No. 1617

You Might as well Live

By John Keats

Read by Marvin Kane

Reading Time 11 hours

Dorothy Parker was born Dorothy Rothchild in August, 1893. Her father (no relation to the banking family) was a New York business man. Her mother died soon after Dorothy's birth and Harry Rothchild re-married.

Dorothy Parker had a profoundly unhappy childhood, unloved and unwanted. She once described her father as a "bombastic hypocrite" and her step-mother (whom she always referred to as "the housekeeper") as a "religious (Roman Catholic) maniac".

She had a quick perceptive mind and a waspish, often ferociously cruel tongue—a feature which characterised her sayings and writings all her life. She, with Robert Benchley and Robert Sherwood, founded the celebrated Algonquin Grouse,

whose lunches were attended by the cream of New York's literary and theatrical society, including Alexander Woolcot, Yascha Haifitz and Harpo Marx.

Essentially a columnist and critic, her literary output was astonishingly small, consisting of two volumes of poetry and two books of short stories; wry, often bitter, comments on the frailties and failures of the human animal.

She had two husbands, four lovers and

attempted to take her own life on at least two occasions. She was quoted daily by millions of her fellow Americans, was the subject of a Broadway play, and, during the 1920's and 30's, was undoubtedly the greatest single influence on American literary life.

Even if all you know about Dorothy Parker are her lines, "Men seldom make passes at girls who wear glasses"—this book is still well worth reading.

THE SUNRAY BLIND MOBILITY AID

by Walter Thornton

The appearance on the market recently of the Sunray blind mobility aid evoked recollections of St. Dunstan's in wartime Church Stretton. At that time, our late chairman, Sir Ian Fraser, as he then was, always active in pioneering the application of science and technology to improve the lot of the blind, asked Ted Barton and I to try out the prototype of a new device, the invention, I believe, of a B.B.C. engineer, which must surely have been the first of the long succession of electronic aids produced in the hope of furthering blind mobility.

This wartime prototype projected a beam of light, which was reflected back from objects in its path into a photo-electric cell to activate the production of an audible signal. The device was in the form of a large box, strapped to the chest of the user, and powered by heavy batteries carried in the pocket. It was also a delicate instrument and we had strict instructions that it must not get bumped.

Squadron Leader Simpson, author of "One of Our Fighter Pilots is Safe" and "The Way of Recovery", who was working on an article about the new invention, came to Church Stretton to interview us. We all saw exciting possibilities in the new technology, although Ted and I were in no doubt that we would continue to rely on our walking sticks as our principal aid to getting about alone.

Like its wartime predecessor and unlike almost all the electronic mobility aids produced in the last sixteen years, the "sunray" uses a form of light, infra red, as

its sensing medium and indicates the presence of obstacles by an audible signal. There the comparison ends. The "sunray" illustrates the progress of miniaturisation in its compactness, and is also robust. It is small enough to fit in the pocket or handbag. It measures 110 by 70 by 35 mm. or 4¼ by 2½ by 1½ inches.

This latest device is the invention of Dr. Yeshwant Sunthakar of the Sunderland Polytechnic. It is marketed at £33.50, excluding the PP3 battery, by Tweedcroft Ltd., Electronic Engineers, 32 High Street, West Cornforth, County Durham, who say that 28 days should be allowed for delivery. It weighs 6 ounces, and has one simple on/off switch which combines a volume control. A thin lead connects the lightweight earpiece with the hand-held unit. The manufacturers indicate that the method of use is to scan from side to side with the hand-held unit, and claim that its range is from six to eight feet, depending upon the conditions.

The signal, which sounds rather like the unobtainable tone on the telephone, increases in volume as an object is approached. This is a system which has obvious inherent weaknesses. There are many conditions in blind mobility when detection of changes in volume is likely to require undue concentration. Changes in volume might well be difficult to detect when signal strength has to be turned up because of noisy conditions. Furthermore, I found that it was easy to miss the signal indicating a metal post of two inches diameter even in a known and protected

SUNRAY—continued

environment under quiet conditions. Similar difficulties were encountered in locating lamp posts when walking at a normal speed.

The range of the device is inadequate in many situations. "Too little too late", sums up the situation if the device is assessed as an aid to real mobility. The "sunray" also presents the same problems which have militated against more general adoption of previous hand-held mobility aids with an audible signal. These include the difficulty of reconciling the signal heard in the ear with awareness of the direction in which the device is being pointed; the disorientation which can result from undue concentration on the signals at the expense of orientation clues; and the possibility that warning sounds may be disregarded because of listening to the signals.

With the unit I used, the lead to the earpiece was too short, thus restricting scanning techniques and also impeding easy disposal of the hand-held unit when the device was not in use.

The "sunray" gives no protection against drops ahead, and has, therefore, to be regarded as a secondary aid, supplementary to other mobility aids, unless its use is confined to protected environments.

D. F. Robinson's

Gardening Column

These notes are generally written quite a long time before the date of publication and at the time of doing these, it's nice to know that the snow has at last gone, though frost is still about, though not so severe. As there are some spring bulbs showing flowers, it does mean that the winter hasn't put an end to all things. It really is amazing how these little bulbs and other perennial plants and trees survive the hard times. Certain items actually benefit from hard weather, perhaps because it does do in the pests in a big way.

More and more new chemicals are coming along to combat the diseases and pests that attack our plants, many of which are very good but others are just an

In addition, strong sources of infra-red radiation, such as electric or gas fires, and electric lights, such as oncoming car headlights, affect the audible output of the "sunray", causing it to crackle badly.

In shops and stores, it indicated clearly counters, (with gaps), and people, but confusion resulted from the fact that the signal was the same for both counters and persons. It proved effective, however, in following guide lines, such as walls or hedges, and in locating gaps. It provided good protection when used to detect overhanging trees or shrubs.

In giving general protection and in promoting speed and freedom of movement, its use does not in any way compare, in my view, with that provided by the long cane. Nevertheless, the "sunray" is to be commended on several counts. It represents an original attempt to contribute to better blind mobility. It is the cheapest, smallest and lightest electronic aid yet to come on to the market. Although there is some hiss when the device is pointed into space, it is virtually silent apart from meaningful signals. At £33.50, it is cheap enough for agencies to be able to give their members the opportunity of trying out the device and making up their own minds about it and deciding whether it has anything to offer towards meeting their own special requirements.

extra item on the shelves. I often wonder if the increase in the troubles comes from the very high interbreeding that goes on for bigger and better vegetables and flowers. They are fine for a season or two but never last like the old-fashioned types which one could almost destroy by bad gardening and yet they survived.

Admittedly, there are lots of good things brought out for us in the garden but there is still only one real way to get results and that is hard work both outside and under glass, plus keeping tools and all other equipment clean and in good working order. Remember that your working boots or shoes can be a source of infection so clean them up and use some disinfectant.

Fruit

There will at last be some real signs that the trees and bushes are on the way to giving of their best for the new season.

Sprays against various insects can be given now as well as a fungicide. One can get a combined one these days, but do wait for some good weather or all work put in will be washed away soon after you have put it on.

Those apricots and peach trees which some of you may have, either outdoors or inside, will need hand pollination to get a good set but all other items are alright, though frosts now do a lot of damage to the autumn crop.

Clear all the strawberry beds, give the soil a forking over and add a high potash fertiliser. Have the straw or peat ready to put round the crowns when the set has taken place to keep the fruit clean and, as with the vegetables, keep the birds and slugs at bay.

Take the tops off the raspberry canes to induce bushiness and a better crop and watch out for big bud on the blackcurrants. Deal with infection at once by cutting away and put on the bonfire.

Vegetables

Most of the seeds will be in by now if you have some good drying soil and the frosts are not severe. Naturally, some of you in the north may be a bit behind, especially this year with all the arctic weather. Don't worry all that much as it is often a good thing to be a bit late with some of the vegetables.

Birds can be a bit of a pest with the young seedlings just coming along, so give them some sort of protection with a plastic netting or pieces taken off the hedges or that still very effective deterrent, crystals of Alum mixed in water and sprayed over the plants or use a watering can. Also put down the slug pellets or weathered soot along the rows.

When planting out your cabbage family seedlings it is a good idea to dip their roots in Calomel Dust or Captan as this will help to ward off club root and other fungus diseases. At the same time, do firm the plants in well and put down reasonably deep in the soil.

Early potatoes will be growing fairly well so start the hoeing up of soil round the growths and get the main crop

potatoes in their places by the end of the month or a few can be saved for next month if there should be a spare spot available then which is not to be used for other items.

Keep all the rows well hoed and when the plants have really got going a general fertiliser such as Growmore will give them a boost.

Get all the canes and sticks in position for the peas and beans.

Don't sow all the seed of the fairly rapidly growing items such as lettuce, peas, raddish and carrots at once, put them in at intervals to get a long succession.

Remember that there can still be keen frosts about, so if they come give some protection in the shape of newspaper, brown paper or plastic sheeting.

Lawns

Here the grass will be starting to really get a move on, so give the lawn a good raking over to get rid of any dead or tangled growth from the winter and autumn. Set the blades of the mower fairly high and only cut once a week or so.

Give the grass a boost with a fertiliser containing weedkiller and, where you suffer from worms, spray an antidote, which is readily available at most garden shops.

Flowers

Keep the hoe going all through the borders as the weeds will be coming along rapidly even if the real plants are a bit on the slow side.

There should be quite a bit of colour from the bulbs and a few can be cut for a show in the house but be a bit careful over the number of leaves taken as these are the manufacturing centre for the flowers next season. Don't cut off leaves at base when all the colour has gone; twist over the leaves and take off when they have died off.

This season one has been a bit behind in the planting of new items and even those orders placed some time ago were probably late in arriving but they will be alright. Do plant the new arrivals a little deeper than the soil mark or, if in containers, plant below the level of the soil. Cut off any broken shoots or roots and it is a good idea to powder the hole with a fungicide before inserting and water in

well. Tall items may need a stake as a protection against strong winds.

Don't try and plant out those annuals raised from seed under glass yet, since the ground will be a bit cold and frosts very likely to come along at any time this month. Keep the sowing of seed till the end of the month or early May, or they can be put in trays and boxes in a frame in a sunny spot.

Finish off all the pruning of the roses and other strong growing bush plants. Cut away any outstanding branches or shoots which may get in your way when working in the beds, preferably to above head level. I have found that at times I was a bit slow in cutting down and got scratched in the face and round the head.

Get all the beds ready for the planting of those colourful annuals by forking over and adding a small dose of general fertiliser plus peat and sand where you have very heavy soils but only peat on light, porous soils where there is a tendency for it to dry out in sunny weather.

Gladiolus corms and dahlias can be planted out towards the end of the month.

Greenhouse

Many of you in the south will be thinking of cutting out heat now but I would advise keeping it on each night for some time to come as a sharp frost will undo all the hard work carried out in raising those early seedlings and cuttings. Further sowings can be made for a succession of colour both outside and indoors, plus the raising of the winter and early spring

flowering items for 1980, such as the Primula family, Polyanthus, Calceolaris, Cineraria etc.

Early sown tomatoes will be showing good growth and will be nearly ready to be put into their cropping quarters in pots, gro-bags or in the border soil. Get all the equipment ready and soil at hand to warm up under glass, so that there is no check when moving from the growing pots of other containers.

Insects are on the rampage now so use an insecticide regularly either in the form of a spray or smoke pellet. It is a good thing to do this at regular intervals using different types of spray so that the pests can't get used to your usual item and do remember that a fungicide is needed also. A weak solution of disinfectant used on the floor and over the benches and glass will help to give a certain amount of protection. Remember to wash well after using these items.

More light will be needed for the young growing plants but be careful of watering in strong sunlight or burning may occur, and, as I have so often said, it is much better to underwater than give too much. When items are growing really well a dose of fertiliser will boost the plants.

Harden off those bedding plants which will have to go out soon by placing outside in sunny spots during the day and don't be in a hurry to set out those well-grown geranium plants.

Tubers of begonias raised in trays can be put into their flowering pots, plus any other tuberous items raised in boxes.

OVINGDEAN NOTES

It has been a full and busy house this past month with all the bowling fanatics here. Now that they are well into the finals, the place is a hive of activity.

Our theatre visits and drives have been well and truly patronised and the drone of conversation has filled the Lounge at tea and coffee times.

With a fishing trip soon to come and then the Bridge Congress, as well as Easter close on our heels, we will soon be well into the season. We have all the new activities to look forward to, so we will not have time to sit in idleness. However,

listening to the interesting tales of St. Dunstaners can be a pleasant past time and one which you might care to share.

Ian Fraser House was the scene of an unexpected reunion recently when three St. Dunstaners, who had not seen each other since the Second World War, met quite by chance. George Jakins, Bob Ashmore and Tony Nash, when in the Royal Air Force, found themselves on the same draft and had the misfortune to wind up as prisoners-of-war in Java. For three and a half years, they were moved from camp to camp by the Nippons, building

roads and air strips and laying bamboo pipe lines. They laid one which was over three miles long on Amboyna Island, although I suspect that there was more obstruction than construction.

The amount and type of sabotage carried out by these cunning lads was not without humour. One of their tasks was to remove the bath of a Nippon Officer from his bathroom and, on his orders, place it on a brick structure in the garden. A fire was started directly underneath the bath, which was then filled with water and, hey presto, the luxury of a hot bath! Anticipating the pleasure of this luxury, the Nippon, clad in a 'G' string, pink socks, a cap and a sword, tested the temperature of the water at regular intervals. When it had reached the desired temperature, he disrobed and leapt in—only to leap out again with a yell of agony as his posterior

made contact with the scalding bottom of the bath. Having witnessed the outcome of this exercise, our lads, convulsed with laughter, beat a hasty retreat to try to escape the blows rained upon them by the enraged Nippon.

I am sure, however, that the time spent in such appalling conditions was far from funny. It is strange how, when old comrades meet, it is only the amusing stories we hear about. Who was it said, "All their wars are merry and all their songs are sad"?

Towards the end of the three and a half years, a lady appeared one day. She stood up on an old tree stump and said, "You are all in a hell of a mess, but my husband has sent me over to see what I can do. I will have you out of here in three days". She did. Her name was Lady Mountbatten.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON

BRIDGE SECTION

On Sunday, 11th February, we held our second Pairs Competition. The winners were as follows:—

North-South

W. Lethbridge and Mr. R. Goodlad

C. Walters and Mr. H. Barker

East-West

W. Phillips and Dr. J. Goodlad

B. Simon and Miss C. Sturdy

Our second Individual Competition was held on Saturday, 17th February. The results were as follows:—

B. Simon and Partner	67
P. McCormack and F. Griffie	65
J. Padley and W. Lethbridge	64
C. Walters and R. Fullard	61
H. Preedy and W. Phillips	58

W. LETHBRIDGE

ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Our March dance was a particularly happy evening, when nearly 90 members and friends thoroughly enjoyed themselves dancing to the music of our group

The Compact Three. We were delighted to see so many of the bowlers, together with their wives, who were staying at Ian Fraser House for the National Bowling Week. Our next dance will be on Easter Saturday, April 14th, and anyone down on holiday will be made most welcome.

There are still a few vacancies for our holiday at Babbacombe, from 19th-26th May. If anyone would like to join us, please contact me immediately.

Our visit to Eastbourne this year will be on Wednesday, 11th July. We will leave Brighton at 1100 hrs. and the afternoon will be free until 1630 hrs., when we will have high tea in the Congress Restaurant. This will be followed by the Variety Show in the Congress Theatre with Tom O' Connor heading the cast. The cost will be £3 for members and £4 for non-members.

Several other outings are in the pipeline, including a visit to a winery, (I don't think we will have much trouble in filling the coach on that night!), a day trip to the Isle of Wight, a visit to the races with dinner afterwards and, perhaps, an evening mystery trip around the lovely Sussex countryside. Please keep a watch in the *Review* for further details.

R. OSBORNE
Chairman

BOWLS

A special meeting was called on 6th March to elect a new Chairman as our Chairman and Captain, Micky Robinson, has had to resign due to ill health. On behalf of all the Bowling Club, I would like to thank Micky for all the good work he has done during his term of office. We shall miss you on the committee, but all the bowlers will still benefit from your presence. Thank you, Micky. Jim Padley was elected as Chairman and Captain and I feel sure that the club will still be in capable hands.

Our Secretary, Mrs. Pat Jones, also resigned for personal reasons and Pat Padley volunteered to act as Secretary until the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. I also take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Jones for the excellent way she handled the work during her long term of office. Thank you, Pat, from all of us.

We had our first away match on 7th March at Worthing. After a good game of bowls, we enjoyed an excellent tea, provided by the Worthing ladies, followed by a social evening, after which we all returned home in a very convivial mood.

T. MUGAN,
Vice-Captain.

LONDON BRIDGE

The results of the Individuals bridge match held on March 3rd was:

B. Allen and R. Evans	81
J. Carney and Scorer	72
J. Huk and J. Majchrowicz	67
P. Nuyens and H. Meleson	62
R. Armstrong and F. Dickerson	59

MIDLAND

A very good and well-attended meeting was held on Sunday, 11th March, when quite a number of games were played in our domino competitions. It was good to see Tom O'Connor back with us once again after his recent illness.

Bob and Mabel Ashmore brought along a little 'tot' and everyone drank a belated toast to them for their Ruby Wedding Anniversary, which was on 11th February.

We were very pleased to have the company of our very good friends, Mr. and

Mrs. Bill Richards with us once again and they brought along a very lovely raffle prize of four goblets, which were won by Joe Kibbler, our Chairman. I hope he brings them back next month with a bottle, so that we can try them out. It was very kind of Bill and Dot to bring this prize and I thank them most sincerely for all the help that they give to the club.

A very excellent tea was prepared for us once again by the ladies and we all thanked them in our usual manner.

Many items were discussed after tea, including the financial side of the club which, due to rising costs for outings, etc., has got to be watched closely. It was decided that the venue for this year's outing will be the Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust Centre. The time and date has yet to be arranged.

May I say once again how nice it would be to see some new faces. In other words, come and join us; the welcome would be warm.

DOUG CASHMORE,
Secretary.

FAMILY NEWS

Marriages

Mr. and Mrs. Alec Guylar of Hayes, Middlesex, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Una, to Barry Glenn on 23rd December, 1978.

Mrs. Joan Hamilton, widow of our St. Dunstaner, Ronald Hamilton who died in May, 1977, on her marriage to Kenneth Pope of Goring-by-Sea, on April 7th.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Perrett of Devizes, are pleased to announce the marriage of their grandson, Martin, to Shirley Clarke, on October 28th, 1978.

Silver Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Tommy McKay of Brighton, who celebrated their Silver Wedding on 4th February.

Ruby Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ashmore of Sutton Coldfield, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on 11th February.

FAMILY NEWS—continued

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Derek Cribben of Leigh, Lancashire, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on 26th December, 1978.

Diamond Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Aarons of Victoria, Australia, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 18th July, 1978.

Grandchildren

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Craddock of Warrington, on the birth of a grandson, Daniel Leon, to their daughter, Denise, and her husband, on 19th November, 1978.

Mrs. Winnie Edwards of Partridge Green, on the birth of two grandsons, Mark Philip John, to her son, Philip, and his wife, Carol, in October, 1978; and Jonathan Christopher David, to her son, Christopher, and his wife, Angela, in January.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Groves of South-end-on-Sea, on the birth of their first grandchild, Steven, to their son, David, and his wife, Janet, on 17th February.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Peel of St. Helens, Lancs, on the birth of their tenth grandchild, Heather, on 2nd February.

Great Grandchildren

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Latham of Worcester, on the birth of a great grandson, Benjamin, to their grand-daughter, Wendy, and her husband, on 5th January.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Perrett of Devizes, on the birth of their first great grandson, James Ian, to their grand-daughter, Christine, and her husband, Steven, on December 27th, 1978.



Proving she is not just a pretty face, Marian Brooks is seen here at the switchboard. Photo: Chronicle and Echo (Northampton).

Personal Achievements

We warmly congratulate:

Marian, daughter of Eric Bradshaw of Northampton, on being runner-up in the area final of the Post Office's Miss Midland Personality Girl. She was presented with a lovely bouquet and a £10 prize. We also congratulate Mr. Bradshaw's son, Andrew, on being promoted to Assistant Works Manager at the printers where he is employed.

Rosalyn, daughter of John Cruse of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, who has now passed all her examinations and is a S.R.N. and a State Certified Midwife. As a pupil midwife, Rosalyn delivered 40 babies and she has now obtained a post as Staff Midwife in Hexham.

Len Curnow of Liskeard, Cornwall, on being made Deputy Chairman of the County British Legion. Mr. Curnow opened a Royal British Legion Club in Liskeard on 3rd March, 1978, after working hard for eight years to achieve this. He is now President of the local branch. When he joined it, there were about a dozen members, but it now has over 500 and membership is increasing daily.

FAMILY NEWS—continued

Anne, daughter of *James Minter* of Ruislip, on passing the State Certified Midwife's course at the Norfolk and Norwich General Hospital in November, 1978.

Ken Revis of Oxford, on being elected Vice-President of the Royal Engineers Association Bomb Disposal Branch at their recent Annual General Meeting.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mrs. Muriel Bryant of Midsomer Norton, on the death of her husband, Leslie, on 20th February, aged 73.

Mr. Thomas Clark of Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, on the death of his

cousin and great friend, Hector Brammer, on February 11th. Hector was the son of our late St. Dunstan, Charles Brammer.

Mr. Frank O'Kelly of Polegate, on the death of his brother, Brian, on 27th January.

Mr. Jim Padley of Saltdean, on the death of his sister, Alice, on 22nd January.

Mr. Thomas Rosenwarne of Denton, Manchester, on the death of his brother, Walter, at the end of February.

Mrs. Marie Vickery, wife of *Arthur Vickery* of Putney, on the death of her mother on 2nd February, aged 91.

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.

Henry Alfred Baker *Royal Army Service Corps*

Henry Baker of Billericay, Essex, died suddenly at his home on 22nd February, aged 84.

Mr. Baker served as a Private in the Royal Army Service Corps during the First World War until his discharge in March, 1918. After joining St. Dunstan's in 1922, he undertook a period of training in boot repairing, subsequently running his own business for five years. He had always had a keen interest in farming, however, and in 1928 took over a smallholding in Essex where he successfully raised livestock as well as a great deal of garden produce.

After the death of his wife, Dorothy, in 1968 after 48 years of happy marriage, Mr. Baker continued farming with the able assistance and devoted care of his only son, Harry, and his wife, who eventually gave up their home to move in with him when his health began to decline. In earlier years, Mr. Baker enjoyed woodwork and making rugs and, latterly, derived much pleasure from listening to the radio and his talking books.

He leaves a son, Harry, daughter-in-law, Frances, and grandchildren.

John Christopher Belton *Royal Navy*

John Belton of Teignmouth, Devon, died in hospital on 3rd March, aged 81.

Mr. Belton served in both World Wars; as a Deck Hand in the Royal Naval Reserve during the First World War and as a Leading Seaman with the River Patrol of the Royal Navy in the Second World War. He had a life-long connection with the sea and was a fisherman until his retirement at the age of 67. He joined St. Dunstan's in October, 1976.

Mr. Belton had played rugby football for Teignmouth in earlier years and was very well known and highly respected in the area. Until comparatively recently, he enjoyed a four-mile walk each day to meet his old fishermen friends for a little chat and he retained an intelligent interest in current affairs and in everything going on around him.

Mr. Belton had been happily married for 38 years and always looked forward to visits from members of his devoted and united family.

He leaves a widow, Constance, and three children.

Henry Richard Biggs *Royal Air Force*

Henry Biggs of St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, died in hospital on 19th February, a few weeks short of his 66th birthday, after a prolonged period of ill-health borne with great courage and remarkable cheerfulness.

In Memory continued

Mr. Biggs was a Regular in the Royal Air Force and, soon after his discharge with the rank of Temporary Sergeant, he joined St. Dunstan's in 1948. He competently mastered Braille and typewriting and was trained for shop settlement, successfully trading as a tobacconist and confectioner until 1961, when he was forced to retire on health grounds. He continued to make dog leads and trays for the Stores Department and for many years retained a great interest in his garden and greenhouse.

He was a frequent visitor to our Brighton Homes and will be long remembered by our Matron and staff, as well as by many of his fellow members who knew him well.

He leaves a widow, Irene, who cared for him so devotedly through many years of declining health, a son and two daughters.

James Blakeley *Lancashire Constabulary*

James Blakeley of Farnworth, Lancashire, died at Pearson House on 3rd February, aged 69, following a long period of ill-health borne with great fortitude.

Mr. Blakeley lost both eyes following an incendiary explosion when he was on duty as a Special Constable of the Lancashire Constabulary in January 1941.

He joined St. Dunstan's in 1948, and undertook a period of telephony training as well as typewriting and Braille. From 1956 until 1968, when Mr. Blakeley retired on medical grounds, he was a highly valued employee of a spinning company in Bolton. Having been quite skilled at carpentry in earlier years, Mr. Blakeley took a joinery course at Ovingdean and from then on made a regular quota of bathroom cabinets for the Stores Department. These were made with great efficiency and Mr. Blakeley took a great pride in his workshop in which he also made some delightful doll's furniture for his grandchildren.

In November 1975, Mr. Blakeley and his wife, Florence, celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary. He was a frequent visitor to our Brighton Homes, where he will be long remembered by our Matrons and many members of staff.

He leaves a widow, Florence, a daughter and grandchildren.

Allan Roy Bryan *19th Infantry Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces*

Allan Bryan of New South Wales, Australia, died in September, 1978, aged 59.

Mr. Bryan served as a Sergeant in the 19th Infantry Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces from 1940 to 1945. He trained in Sydney as a physiotherapist but had to retire in March 1978 on medical grounds.

Cyril Hobbs *Royal Engineers*

Cyril Hobbs of Ferring, Sussex, affectionately known as Jack, died suddenly on 7th March, aged 74.

Mr. Hobbs enlisted in March 1941, as a Driver with the Royal Engineers and, following injuries received when a mine exploded during his service in Sicily, was discharged in January 1944.

He joined St. Dunstan's shortly after his discharge from the Army and undertook a period of training in telephony, Braille and typewriting, becoming very competent in all subjects. In civilian life, Mr. Hobbs had worked for 18 years as a messenger for the Midland Bank and, as a result of Lord Fraser's personal intervention, was able to continue in their employment as a telephonist. He remained a highly valued telephonist and popular member of the staff from 1945 until his retirement in March 1968, having been with his employers for a total of 42 years.

In his leisure hours, Mr. Hobbs enjoyed listening to music and retained a keen interest in his garden. He was a frequent and welcome visitor to Ian Fraser House, where his cheerful disposition will be sadly missed by Matron, members of the staff and many fellow St. Dunstaners.

Mr. Hobbs had been happily married for 47 years and, with his wife, Norah, celebrated their Ruby Wedding in 1972.

He leaves a widow, Norah.

Albert William Roberts *Royal Army Medical Corps*

Albert Roberts died suddenly at his home on 13th February, aged 86. He had not been in the best of health for some time and throughout, was devotedly cared for by members of his family and good neighbours. Mr. Roberts and his wife, Emma, had been happily married for almost 55 years and had celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in June, 1974.

Mr. Roberts enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1913, having worked in a hospital in civilian life, and served as a Private throughout the First World War. His sight and health were affected as the result of a mustard gas shell explosion in August 1918, gradually deteriorating over the years until he joined St. Dunstan's in 1949. During the Second World War, Mr. Roberts had worked in an aircraft factory.

Having successfully mastered Braille and typewriting, Mr. Roberts made trays at a local blind centre, which he continued to visit once a week until very recently. Despite advancing years, Mr. Roberts always looked forward to holidays with his wife at various coastal resorts and took a great interest in his garden.

He leaves a widow, Emma.

In Memory *continued*

Willie Short *Royal Engineers*

Willie Short of Fakenham, Norwich, died at home on 25th January, aged 87, following a serious illness.

Mr. Short served as a Sapper with the Royal Engineers from his enlistment at Norwich in 1915, until his discharge in April 1919, following multiple gunshot wounds and the loss of one eye in September of the previous year. Due to the deterioration of the sight in his remaining eye, Mr. Short joined St. Dunstan's in October 1975.

Mr. Short was a gamekeeper on an estate on the outskirts of Sculthorpe for forty years and was well-known and highly respected in the village where he had lived throughout his long period of employment and subsequent retirement. He was a keen gardener and had a splendid vegetable plot. In his leisure hours, he enjoyed listening to the radio.

On 20th January, Mr. Short and his wife, Harriet, in the company of their close-knit and devoted family, celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, receiving a congratulatory telegram from Her Majesty the Queen. Unfortunately, the day was saddened by Mr. Short's declining health, but he was cheered by the many flowers and gifts received from well-wishers.

He leaves a widow, Harriet, son, Raymond, daughter Mrs. Vera Usher, and their families.

Albert Spooner *23rd Rifle Brigade*

Albert Spooner, formerly of Woking, died at Pearson House on 9th March, aged 89.

Mr. Spooner served as a Rifleman in the 23rd Rifle Brigade from 1915 until 1919. After the war, he worked for many years for the Corporation. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1968. Although both he and his wife were not in good health, he much enjoyed his first reunion in 1969. Sadly, his wife died in 1972 and he became a permanent resident, first at Northgate House, and then at Pearson House, where he will be remembered with affection by Matron Hallett and all members of the staff.

He leaves a son and two grandchildren.

David Alexander Walker *London Scottish Regiment*

David Walker of Rothley, Leicester, died peacefully at his home on 27th January, aged 95.

Mr. Walker served as a Private in the London Scottish Regiment on the Western Front during the First World War. In January 1915, he sustained gunshot wounds and lost one eye as a result of which he was discharged in July of that year. Following serious deterioration in the sight of his

remaining eye, he joined St. Dunstan's in July, 1973.

From 1919 until his retirement at that age of 65, Mr. Walker was employed by one of the large petroleum companies. Until his health seriously declined, he was a keen bridge player and retained a great interest in his garden and greenhouse. He enjoyed holidaying in Sussex with his daughter and although he never stayed at Ian Fraser House, he visited from time to time when staying on the south coast and was kind enough to make donations each Christmas towards the decorating of our Chapel.

Mr. Walker was a widower and from the time of his wife's death was cared for devotedly by his companion-housekeeper, Miss Euphemia Moffat, with whom he attended our reunions.

He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Muriel Garai.

George Douglas Warden *2nd Essex Regiment*

George Warden of Southall, died in hospital on 11th March, after a short illness. He was 82 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for over sixty years.

Mr. Warden served as a Lance Corporal in the 2nd Essex Regiment from his enlistment in February, 1916. In October 1916, he was totally blinded as a result of injuries received at Delville Wood and he joined St. Dunstan's almost immediately.

Although Mr. Warden had been an electrician in civilian life, he readily adapted to a period of training and mastered typewriting and Braille in six weeks as well as telephony instruction. For 41 years, until his retirement in 1961, Mr. Warden was employed in a department of the Ministry of Labour and was naturally proud of the efficiency and excellent reputation, which he maintained throughout these years. He was a highly popular member of the staff and at a retirement party given in his honour, was presented with the Imperial Service Medal and many tributes were paid by colleagues, many of whom had come from long distances to attend.

Mr. Warden was extremely well-read, with a great knowledge of the history of London and of music. In retirement, his greatest interests were his garden, reading Braille and listening to music. He had a remarkable collection of gramophone records.

His only daughter, who lives in North Devon, kept a watchful eye on Mr. Warden for many years and was in constant touch with him. He spent many happy holidays with her and the family in Bideford.

He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Audrey Jones, son-in-law, and grandson.