

St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

No. 707

MAY 1979

10p MONTHLY

LAST CHANCE

This is our last reminder for applications for Derby Sweepstake tickets. The closing date is **Wednesday, 23rd May**, so get those stamped addressed envelopes in the post with your cheques or postal orders. The winning ticket will cost no more than the 'also rans', 20p.

St. Dunstaners only, please, apply.
The Editor, D.S.S. Dept.,
191 Old Marylebone Road,
London, NW1 5QN

Draw: London Club, Thursday, 31st May. All those drawing a horse will be notified.

TALKING BOOK REPAIRS

Talking book readers in the Brighton area might find it helpful to know that there is a local representative of the Talking Book Library who should be contacted in the event of a repair becoming necessary for any machine in the area. His name is Mr. F. G. Austin of Lustrells House, 53 Lustrells Crescent, Saltdean, and his telephone number is: Brighton 36154.

MUSEUMS ARE FOR EVERYONE

St. Dunstaners who are interested in visiting museums with special facilities for the blind, such as tactile panels or articles which can be handled should write to the Museums Association, 34 Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SF, enclosing a large stamped addressed envelope, for further information.

EL ALAMEIN REUNION

All Eighth Army Veterans who are interested in the El Alamein Reunion in Blackpool on 27/28th October, or the Corps of Royal Engineers Veterans Reunion at Brompton Barracks, Chatham, on 15/16th September, should write to: Alex Jerves, Secretary, Eighth Army Veterans Association, 7 Whinfel Road, West Derby, Liverpool, L12 2AS.

READER'S DIGEST

Reader's Digest is a publication which caters for a variety of tastes from current affairs, humour, religion, medicine, science and personal achievements, to name but a few. This magazine is currently available from the National Talking Magazine on talking book cassettes at the same price as the printed edition. Anyone interested should write directly to the following address, sending a cheque or postal order for £7.70. This annual subscription will ensure you receive 12 monthly cassettes. National Talking Magazines, Melbourne House, Melbourne Road, Wallington, Surrey, or telephone 669 4411.

ST. DUNSTAN'S BAND IN THE TOP TWENTIES

In the 1920's and 1930's, the St. Dunstan's Dance Band could be heard at all the swinging hot spots; the Savoy, the Trocadero, the Cafe de Paris, etc. Today, you can hear them in the comfort of your own home.

Seven of the tunes recorded in the late 1920's are available to you on a 20 minute cassette. Simply send a cassette, blank or otherwise, to the Public Relations Department at Headquarters and ask for SD3, St. Dunstan's Dance Band.

WAR NEWS

Mr. G. Richardson of 5 Penrith Crescent, Maghull, Lancashire, would like veterans of both World Wars to donate brief impressions and anecdotes of those days, including brief details of rank, etc.

ST. DUNSTAN'S SPORTS WEEKEND

St. Dunstan's Sports Weekend will be held on June 16th and 17th. All St. Dunstaners wishing to take part should write to the Sports Organiser, Jock Carnochan, for entry forms and further details.



George Brooks presents the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton with a clay model elephant.

THE MAYORESS OF BRIGHTON GETS AN ELEPHANT

On Thursday, April 5th, an elephant was carried into Brighton Town Hall and presented to the Mayoress, Mrs. Lilian Feld. This, fortunately, involved no threat to the safety of the Mayoress, Town Hall or mahout. The elephant is one of 'Sabu' George Brooks' clay models. The presentation took place in the Mayor's Parlour.

WARNING TO OTHERS

Mr. John Barlow of Sheffield, has written to us with a warning which he thinks all St. Dunstaners should take heed of. When he returned from a holiday recently, he found that his house had been flooded by burst pipes. The house was very badly damaged with carpets and personal belongings ruined as well as ceilings being structurally weakened. Mr. Barlow was told by the Fire Brigade Officer who came to help that he should have turned off the water at the main, still enabling him to leave the central heating

on, as there was sufficient water in the header tank and cistern tank to have lasted for at least three months, providing there were no leaks in the heating system. Unfortunately, he had left the water and the central heating on.

He writes, 'Perhaps a small piece in the *Review* about this may at some future date help other St. Dunstaners for, believe me, I would not wish this to happen to my worst enemy. What I thought was a good thing to do, to keep the house aired during the bad weather, turned out to be a daft thing. Still, never mind. We all have to pay for stupid mistakes and, I can assure you, that next time I go away in winter, every drop of water in the house will be drained off, even if it is cold enough to freeze a brass monkey!'

Good Wishes

Mr. and Mrs. David Hodgson of Ferryhill, Co. Durham, have asked us to express their thanks for all the messages of good will received during Mr. Hodgson's recent illness.

COVER CAPTION: Percy Stubbs' handicrafts. See 'Ways of Life' beginning on page 10.



Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dufton greet Bob Young and his escort.

LONDON REUNION

by
Ray Hazan

The Russell Hotel was alive and buzzing to the throng of 57 St. Dunstaners, present for the first of the London reunions on 21st March. Mr. Richard Dufton welcomed the gathering on behalf of the Chairman and Council. There were 8 St. Dunstaners attending their first reunion; Albert Gardner of Tunbridge Wells, Ronald Hazelgrove of Canterbury, George Jeffery of Reading, Martin McCrorie of County Down, Frank Surridge of Erith, Peter Watson of Peacehaven, McDonald Wesley of Folkestone and William Beatty of County Fermanagh. Messrs. McCrorie and Watson, both injured in Northern Ireland, are the youngest St. Dunstaners in the United Kingdom, being 22 and 23 years old respectively.

Psychological approach

Mr. Dufton said, "These occasions enable us to go back across the arches of the years and to renew friendships that go back to the early days of training." He paid tribute to the psychological approach with which St. Dunstan's tackled training in the early days. A stalwart band of First World War men passed on their skills and experiences to the newly-blinded men of the Second World War.

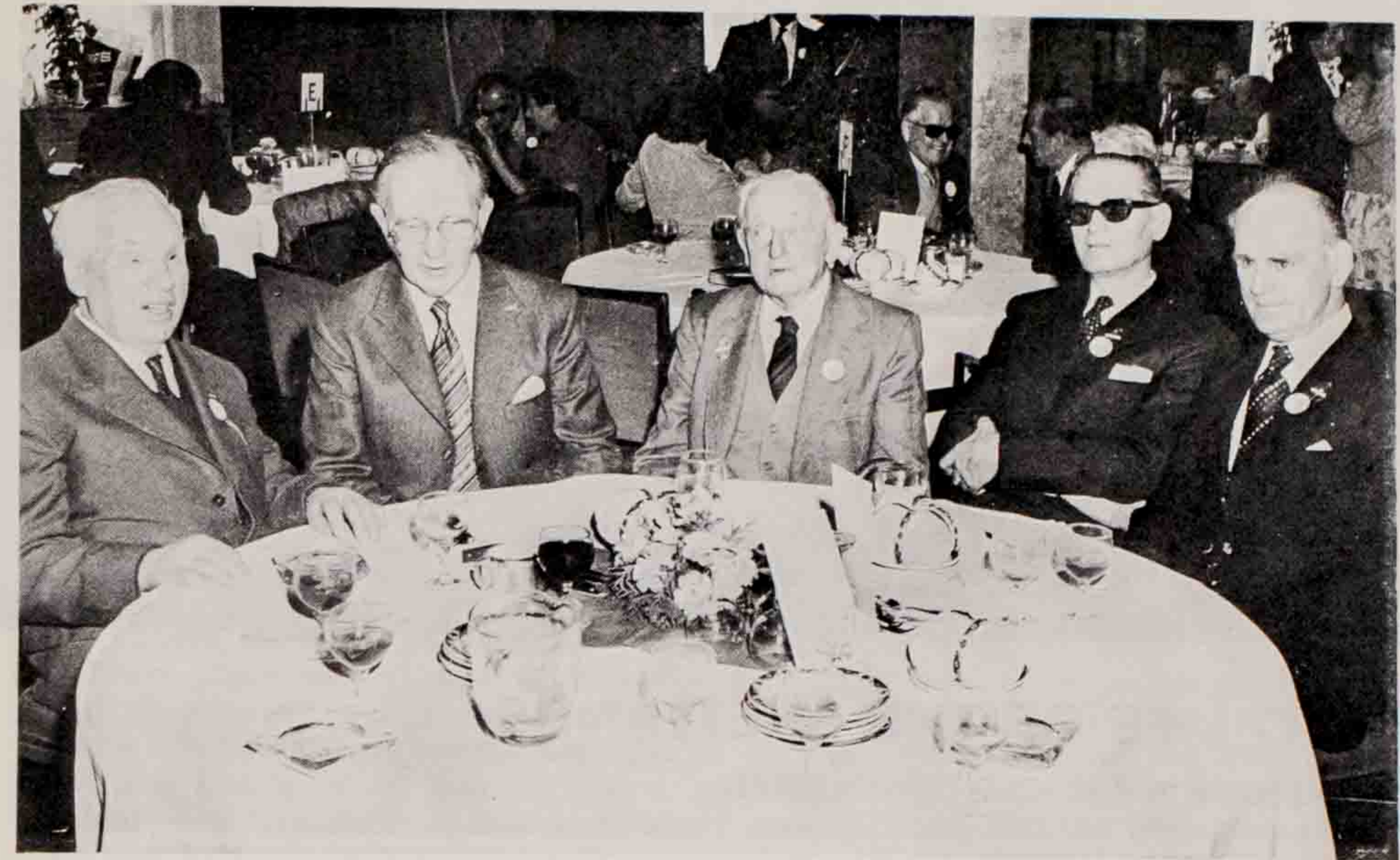
After acknowledging two present members of staff, Miss Stewart and Miss

Blebta, tribute was paid to retired members of staff who were present, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Matthews, Mrs. Blackford and Mr. Roberts.

Speaking as a technologist, Mr. Dufton went on to amplify the many technical services in which St. Dunstan's was involved, starting with a historical resumé, and including the Radio Society of Great Britain in 1920, the first Wireless for the Blind Appeal by Sir Winston Churchill in 1928, the Talking Book Service in 1934 and sonic aids from the early 1960's to the present day. Talking of the present day, Mr. Dufton mentioned how Braille was being brought up to date with the use of Braille embossers connected to computer visual display units.

Print-to-speech

"Access to the printed word was the psychological cornerstone which Lord Fraser had always sought to lay." This had now been achieved in the U.S.A. by a print-to-speech reading machine. Mr. Dufton concluded by saying, "The researchers have begun to understand the problems of the blind in obtaining information. Once that information is in the brain then the blind can telephone, type, speak and report at the same rate as a sighted person."



Mr. Dufton with Mr. Bill Chamberlain, Mr. Cyril Eighteen, Mr. John Caswell and Mr. George Jeffery.

Mr. George Taylor of Maidstone, then rose on behalf of St. Dunstaners to thank Mr. Dufton for his address. He was glad that St. Dunstan's was still in the forefront and went on to say how grateful he was for the help, guidance and opportunity to do more in life than one might have expected. "We all come from a different mould, which makes the task for St. Dunstan's harder. But then St. Dunstan's did instil in us when we went for training that independence and to take our places in the world was the job we should set out to do. In the early days we were a fiery lot.

Challenges

"Time has mellowed us. Whereas the attitude of independence was on the face, it is now just under the surface. But we are ready to come back and take all the challenges that both St. Dunstan's and the blind world has to offer us." After thanking the staff, Mr. Taylor concluded by paying a glowing tribute to the wives without whom the task of St. Dunstan's would have been harder still.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent dancing to the music of Bill Rickard and his Band and the gathering dispersed after the usual raffle and tea.

Welcome to St. Dunstan's



On behalf of St. Dunstan's we welcome St. Dunstaners recently admitted to membership. The Review hopes they will settle down happily as members of our family.

Sidney Bigman of Norwich, joined St. Dunstan's on the 13th September, 1978. He is a Canadian, who was commissioned and served in the R.C.A.F. in the Second World War and his sight failed later. A writer by profession, he has lived abroad and travelled widely, but he and his wife have now come to settle in England.

Mrs. Dorothy Martin of Emsworth, Hampshire, who joined St. Dunstan's on the 21st March, served as a Nursing Officer with the Q.A.I.M.N.S. during the Second World War. Mrs. Martin and her husband, who is also blind, are retired and enjoy their garden and domestic interests.

Oswald Thompson of Bradford, who joined St. Dunstan's on 12th March. Mr. Thompson served as a Gunner with the Royal Artillery (Maritime) during the Second World War. He is married with one son.



WILD LIFE OF THE SHETLANDS

RON SMITH'S ARTICLE CONCLUDED

Photos: Bobbie Tulloch

Mr. Tulloch's fears were well justified for on New Year's Eve, 1978, a report came through that an Esso tanker being manoeuvred into position had been released and had been holed in three places. About 1,000 tons of oil had escaped, polluting thirty miles of coast-line.

I would like to tell you now about a few of the other birds we came across; two of the smaller ones being rock pippits and wheatears. The rock pippits have a short but beautiful flight song, but the wheatears seemed to be everywhere. They had a very restless and agitated movement, every now and then bobbing their heads and fanning out their whitish tails. But the most exciting of the larger birds were first of all the red throated divers. From a distance they seem to have a greyish head, an up-tilted bill, a red patch on the throat and a darkish body. The Shetlanders call these birds the rein geese and although I was unable to record it, every now and then it reminded me of the call or part of the call of a farmyard goose.

As we were walking up the northernmost part of the mainland, a bird flew out of the marshes and on to a fence some little distance away. Through the help of the bird recognition book my friend was able to describe this as the wimbrell. This bird is a close cousin to the curlew,

almost a replica, with the exception that it is very much smaller in size, the curlew being the largest of the waders, about twenty-three inches in length, and the wimbrell about sixteen inches. I did manage to get just a little of the call.

I want to talk for a few moments about some of the sea mammals of the Shetlands. First of all the islands have been visited on a number of occasions by walrus, although the Shetlands lie over a thousand miles from the nearest breeding place. Occurrences were more frequent in the last century before the species had been so drastically reduced by over-hunting. Secondly, I want to talk about the killer whale, which is the largest of the dolphin family. The male will grow to about 30 ft. in length, but the female very much shorter at about 15 ft. The mammal can be recognised by its high dorsal fin; in the male this is about 6 ft. and in the female around about 4 ft. Their prey consists of many of the sea mammals from the largest ballene whale to the porpoises and smaller dolphins. One of the killer whales, about 15 ft. in length, when killed and opened, was found to contain fourteen seals. On another occasion one killer whale was seen to take four porpoises, one after the other, and it was mentioned to me that when the killer whales were in the

vicinity the porpoise population seemed to go almost mad.

Thirdly, I would like to tell you about the Atlantic or Grey Seal. These are found all around the coast line of the Shetlands and they are known by the Shetlanders as the haaf fish (of the open sea). The pups are born from September to November. Some born in caves and other enclosures suffer great mortality during the off-sea storms. The pups have a white coat for one month only and it is at this time that they are hunted for their skins. After one month the skin is shed and the pup is then left by the mother to fend for itself.

Lastly, I would mention the Common Seal, known to the Shetlanders as the tang fish (seaweed). These seals are found all around the Orkneys, Fair Isle and the Shetlands. They are exceedingly numerous and it is nothing to find a hundred lying on skerries in tidal waters.

To conclude my holiday in the Shetlands I would like to tell you about a

sunset. The main feature of the Shetlands is the long summer nights. At midnight in the middle of June it is possible to read a book or take a photograph. For, although the sun has gone below the horizon, its light can be seen in the north the whole night long and it never really gets dark. On this particular evening we walked to a high point. In front of us was a vast area of sea and sky. The sun was descending and as it descended the whole of the surrounding district changed colour; it was still a golden orb in the sky. A small cloud was passing over its face, the edge of the cloud flecked with gold, then changing to pink and quickly to a deep orange and as it kissed the horizon it burst into flame, as if a great fire had been kindled on it and the whole of the western sky seemed enveloped in a crimson glow and all the birds were hushed. The sea was not a sea, but an artist's dream and the very grass at my feet whispered, as though that too revered this beauty and the Giver of Life.

Gannets roosting on a spectacular rock face near Muckle Flugga Lighthouse.





Ron Smith plants the tallest tree.

TREES PLANTED FOR ST. DUNSTAN'S

Two trees were planted for St. Dunstan's in a Sussex forest on March 20th. The planters were Reg Page, a St. Dunstaner from Cross-in-Hand, Sussex, and David Castleton, Public Relations Officer. The trees were a red oak and a cherry respectively and they will stand in Abbotts Wood, which is part of Arlington Forest, inland from the coast between Eastbourne and Brighton.

The occasion was the ceremonial planting of 25 trees by representatives of organisations for the blind along the south coast at Placket Walk, which has been specially laid out for people with all kinds of disability.

The Forestry Commission pursues an enlightened policy in the large areas of wooded land it controls, opening areas to the public and providing facilities from car parks and picnic places to planned walks and nature trails.

The blind people and their escorts were welcomed by Tom Coulson, District Officer, Forestry Commission. Then Roy Hughes, who is Conservatory Recreation Officer for South-East England, briefed them on the plans for the afternoon. He told them that Placket Walk was a special project to make the forest available to disabled people, "But not too special so that you don't feel separated."

Mr. Hughes paid tribute to St. Dunstaners, Ron Smith, who had organised the tree planting in co-operation with Chris Robinson, the Forester in charge of this part of the forest. The trees had been selected for their distinctive touch, their bark and their fragrance. They would take between 50 and 70 years to mature, "Today, you will be establishing something for many generations to enjoy", he concluded.

First Time

Later Mr. Hughes said he thought it was the first time blind people planted trees in a working forest, certainly in the South of England. Each tree bears the name of its sponsoring organisation. One guide dog with a good appetite found the bone meal dressing in the soil prepared for the trees quite tasty!

Ron Smith, as organiser, had modestly allocated no tree for himself but the foresters were having none of that. The last and biggest tree of the day, a Whitebeam which already stood higher than himself, was given to Ron together with a spade which he wielded in a professional manner to finish the planting.

When it is completed and officially opened by Mr. Alf Morris, Minister for the Disabled, on June 5th, Placket Walk will have a tarmac path wide enough for wheelchairs, large print signs describing trees and, perhaps, wildflowers at different points, a toilet—already open—with access for wheelchairs, as well as seats and picnic tables. For the more adventurous St. Dunstaners, Arlington Forest boasts 40 miles of footpaths around varied woodland country, including a lake.

An interesting afternoon, in cold but bright weather, ended with a fresco tea provided by the Forestry Commission and a short speech of thanks to all ranks of the foresters by Ron Smith.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: James Forbes-Stewart, Sprowston, Norwich

May I, through the courtesy of your *Review*, thank the Commandant, Matron and staff of Ian Fraser House for the kindness, attention and humour shown to me whilst at the Bowling Tournament. May I also thank the lads for their wonderful bowling under their handicapped circumstances. I would go as far as to say that St. Dunstaners at Ian Fraser House could, if they wanted, raise a team that would or could beat any team that I know of, speaking as a player from East Anglia.

Although I beat one or two of you and vice versa, the laughter and joking that went on makes me happy to know that we all wear the same badge. Many thanks for the esprit de corps.

From: Arthur Lane, 258 Wellington Road South, Stockport, Cheshire F.E.P.O.W. Visit to Far East

I have organised a trip from September 16th-30th, to Singapore and Thailand for the purpose of paying our last respects to the many friends and comrades we left behind. If anyone feels capable of coming along, they will be most welcome. The fare is £450, which includes bed and breakfast in a hotel in both cities. Any ex-FEPOW who cannot come but would like pictures or commissions of any kind, please write as I feel sure that we who are returning will be more than pleased to help.

From: Paul Baker of Sidmouth, Devon

Listening to the radio, I find involves many difficulties. V.H.F. is fine, but the schools and Open University take over Radio 4. So, back to long wave or medium wave of which the former fades and can become distorted and the latter is hard to get.

It is all rather a mess and, with the summer coming and the Test Matches, the B.B.C. must give a better wavelength and programme than Radio 3 medium wave, which is an impossible station and feeble.

I think too much is spent on local radio, which although maybe for the majority in the end, is pretty stupid stuff. The B.B.C., like the Post Office, should get the public general services right, loud and clear, before embarking upon expensive side-lines.

I reckon we, the blind, as a group, make up a large percentage of listeners and would hope that the silent majority, if it could be made to speak, ought to carry some weight as we are genuine listeners and I just cannot imagine what it is like for those who are hard of hearing.

From: Beryl Griffith, 'Griff', retired member of the nursing staff at Pearson House

Having retired from the nursing staff at St. Dunstan's Pearson House on March 31st, may I thank all St. Dunstaners very much for my wireless, electric toaster and the gift of money which they and the staff so kindly gave me. They will be a constant reminder of many happy years spent at St. Dunstan's.

PUZZLE CORNER

The answer to last month's puzzle corner is as follows:

Firstly,	816
	357
	492
Secondly,	15
	37
	46
	—
	98
	2
	—
	100
	—

Puzzle for May

A boy lived with his parents on the twelfth floor of an apartment block. Each morning he took the lift to the ground floor and went off to school. Coming home, however, he took the lift only to the seventh floor and walked the rest. Why?



Percy and Kate Stubbs in front of the display cabinet holding the cups and plaques which Percy has won for his wrought-iron work and bowling.

WAYS OF LIFE

HE SAYS HE'S RETIRED—Percy Stubbs

Talking to Ray Hazan Pictures by Noelle Walsh

What does the word 'retirement' conjure up in your mind? A seat by a blazing fire with slippers, pipe and newspaper; a chance to catch up on chores; the opportunity to take up hobbies you have never had the time for until now; or does it conjure up visions of emptiness and boredom?

"It is a part of your life which needs preparation", said Percy Stubbs of Norwich. He is supposed to have retired three years ago. The youthful and healthy expression on his face advertised the fact that here was one person who had found satisfaction.

Norfolk is one of the last truly rural, unspoilt counties in England. Agriculture is the predominant industry. The inhabitants are accustomed, therefore, to working outdoors, to being on their own and to taking life with a kind of graceful ease. Percy Stubbs is a Norfolk man.

Percy is quietly spoken, slim and

healthy looking. His actions are confident and the word 'blind' rarely features in his conversation unless associated with a club or society. He was born in the village of Wymondham, about 8 miles from Norwich. As a young boy, he moved with his family into the area of Norwich in which he now lives. He did not follow his father into the grocery/butcher business, but was apprenticed to a decorator/signwriter. In January 1939, Percy and his wife, Kate, were married, (they celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary earlier this year). But work was scarce in those pre-war days and in October 1939, Percy was tempted into taking the King's shilling. He joined the Royal Engineers in Chatham soon after and was then posted to the 43rd Wessex Division in Wiltshire, with whom he remained throughout the war. A daughter, Vivian, was born in 1939, and a son, Peter, in 1942.

The 43rd Division spent two years

mining the south-east coast against possible invasion and then, in typical Army fashion, as the threat of invasion receded, they had to lift them up again. Percy landed at Arromanches on 'D' Day plus ten and accompanied the allies through France, Belgium and Holland. His company was the first to reach the Airborne at Arnhem. On April 14th, 1945, just short of Hamburg, Percy was on a bridge recce, determining the materials necessary to rebuild a demolished bridge, when a mine left in the rubble robbed him of the lower part of his right leg, his sight and, temporarily, the use of his right arm.

After arriving back in Wiltshire, from whence he had started, Percy spent a year at Stoke Mandeville, a few weeks at Church Stretton and then a year at Ovingdean. Here, he trained for, and then took over, a newsagents, tobacconist and confectioners on an estate opposite his present house.

For 14 years, Percy and Kate worked hard, but when Kate developed back trouble, Percy decided to give up the shop. He returned to Ovingdean and retrained in telephony. In August 1976, Percy finally retired after 12 years with the Eastern Counties Farmers' Co-operative.

Outdoor Man

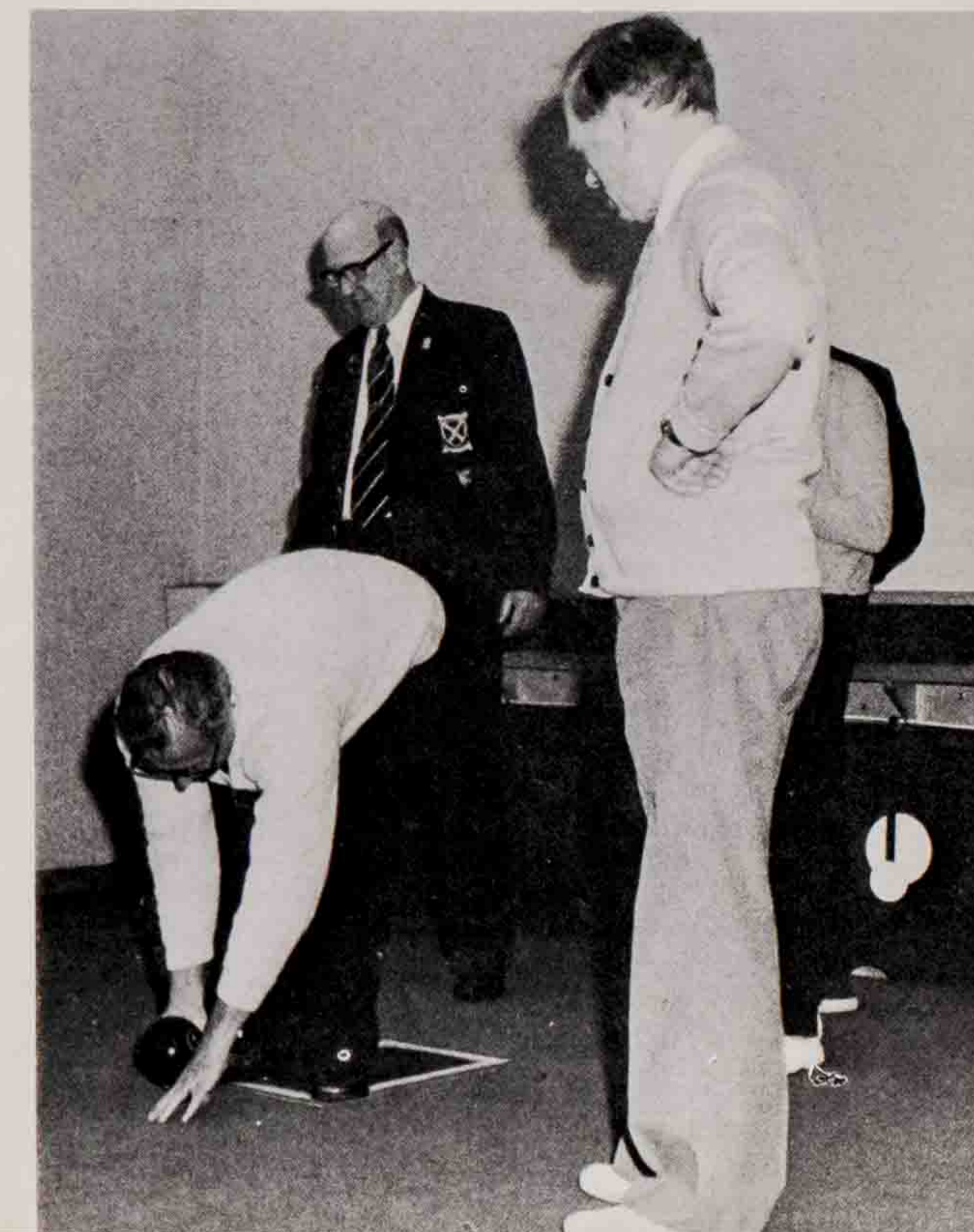
Being a Norfolk man, Percy has always been used to the outdoors. Sharing grazing land and rearing pigs have been projects in the past, but he still cultivates his allotment. Gardening is a talent inherited from his father. Percy is self-sufficient in vegetables. His thirty by ten yard plot is surrounded by a 2 ft. high chicken wire fence 'to prevent him from straying.' He runs a string at about 18 inches above the ground to mark the rows. The string remains there throughout the season. "I don't know, but I seem to get less produce eaten by the birds than other people." His rows are a little further apart than others so that he can kneel between them and weed.

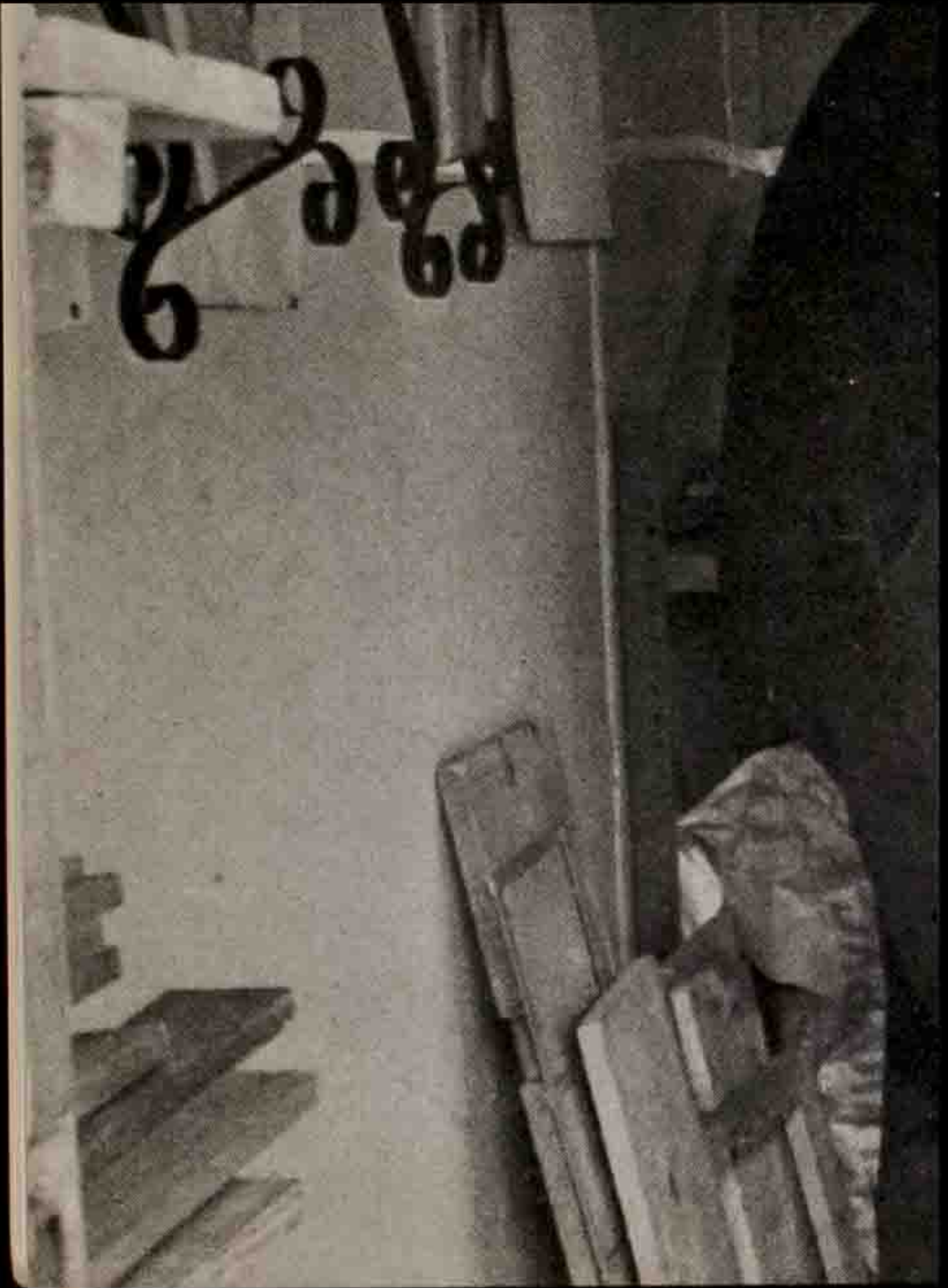
Although a busy road runs near the allotment, it is a fairly isolated spot. This led to one incident when Percy was repairing the roof of a shed. Just as he was climbing onto the roof from an upturned barrel, the barrel fell over and rolled away. He had to wait three hours before being rescued by Kate.



End of the day at the allotment.

Percy Stubbs preparing to bowl at his local club.





READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 1297

The Hour of Maximum Danger

By James Barlow

Read by Clive Champney

Reading Times 18 hours

A sophisticated Russian spy satellite is destroyed by a secret British rocket. A Russian scientist defects to the British.

The Soviet agents recruit five people to help them get information about the rocket. These are well chosen, from differing walks of life, with motives as varied. 'Henry' is a professional traitor. Sheila Howards is a top model with a weakness for handsome virile men. She is morally blackmailed into marrying the defector, Antonoff, who is working on the secret weapon. Maggie Preston is a nineteen-year-old telephone operator at a factory making components for the rocket. She is easily persuaded that there is little real harm in what she is doing, and the money comes in very handy.

Charles Filton is a crank, a misguided idealist and an incipient religious maniac. A South African student working in London needs no persuasion. He hates the 'nigger-loving' British.

The rest of the book deals with the all-out, albeit silent, battle between the Russians and their creatures on the one hand, and the Special Branch, led by the resourceful Bellamy, on the other.

A better-than-average of its kind, well written, absorbing—and very realistic.

Cat. No. 2482

Farewell, My Lovely

By Raymond Chandler

Read by Marvin Kane

Reading Times 8½ hours

An entertaining, fast-moving yarn about the whisky-slugging, fast-talking Private Eye, Philip Marlowe.

As the story opens, Marlowe is standing in the street in Los Angeles, just minding his own business. He is accosted by the gigantic Moose Malloy, fresh out of the State jail and looking for his beloved Velma. He takes Marlowe (in a very painful half-nelson) to the bar where she once worked. But it is now an all-black

club and the two whites are very much *persona non grata*. There is an altercation and somebody gets shot.

This is the beginning of a rip-roaring, action-packed adventure, in which Marlowe is knocked out, clobbered with his own gun, drugged, and thrown into a padded cell!

There is the usual complement of lovely ladies, a missing necklace, a gambling ship stuffed to the gun'ls with trigger-happy hoodlums, and much, more more. . . .

This is Philip Marlowe at his wisecracking best.

Cat. No. 1569

The Rape of Tamar

By Dan Jacobson

Read by Robert Gladwell

Reading Time 6¾ hours

This is a bloody and violent book, set in Old Testament times. Amnon, a wayward and emotional youth, is the eldest son of King David. He conceives an incestuous passion for his sister Tamar, the apple of the King's eye.

Assisted by the narrator, a nephew of King David, he lures the young girl into his house and rapes her (very graphically and explicitly described in the book) and then turns her out into the street.

Unable to return to her father's palace, Tamar runs to her brother Absalom for help and protection, Absalom, swears a terrible vengeance on Amnon.

A disturbing book which may shock, even disgust, some readers, and because of its source material, may give offence to others.

MISSING UMBRELLA

If anyone picked up an umbrella by mistake from the Clinic at Headquarters on April 11th, could they please return it to the Welfare Department at Headquarters.

MISSING CIGARETTE LIGHTER

If anyone found a Ronson cigarette lighter at the London Reunion on March 24th, could they please contact the Editor of the *Review*.

Sports Programme

The Hampshire Association for the Care of the Blind have organised a leisure activities programme for 1979.

26th May-2nd June. Spring Bank Holiday Week's Camp in Devon. Tor-walking on Dartmoor. For the fit and active only. Hiking boots essential. Cost: About £4 each, plus food.

23rd-24th June. Dinghy Sailing Course at Hengeham Rythe Sailing Club, Hayling Island. Overnight camp. Cost: Food only.

29th June-1st July. Weekend Camp at Foxlease Guide Centre, Lyndhurst. Walking, riding and swimming available. Accommodation indoors or under canvas. Cost: £2 each, plus food.

13th-15th July. Calshot, Hants. Activities Centre, near Hythe. Course in sailing, canoeing and other activities. Indoor accommodation. Cost: About £16 inclusive for Hampshire residents and about £23 for others.

27th-29th July. Water sports weekend near Camberley. Sailing, canoeing and

rowing on small lake. Overnight camp. Cost: Food only.

1st-8th September. Week's camp at Woodlarks, near Farnham. Luxury camping. Heated swimming pool on site. Many activities and expeditions available. Children minded during the day. Cost: About £15 each basic, £8 for under 12's.

14th-16th September. Weekend at Park Place Centre, Wickham. Comfortable accommodation. Relaxed activities. Cost: About £15 inclusive.

A canoeing weekend for novices and experienced canoeists is also planned. You must be able to swim to take part in the sailing and canoeing courses. Participants are expected to make their own way whenever possible, but pick-ups can be arranged from mainline train, bus or coach stations.

For further information or application forms, please contact the *Hampshire Association for the Care of the Blind*, 4 Southgate Street, Winchester, Hampshire.

THE TACHELLS' BIG DAY

Our photograph shows Trevor and Beryl Tatchell outside Buckingham Palace after he received his M.B.E. from Her Majesty the Queen. It was the Tatchells' 31st wedding anniversary—"How nice for you", said the Queen when he told her.



Gardening Column

As I write these notes I wonder if we are ever going to have any planting weather at all and hope that, despite late propagation, there is some colour in the garden, at least from the so-called spring bulbs. Even the wallflowers are still in the bud stage and in full flower as summer starts and it seems to be such an awful shame to uproot them to make way for those summer bedders. But if you are to have a show right through the summer you will have to harden your hearts.

On Mothers' Day or round about this date the price of flowers and pot plants reached amazing heights and I think that we shall all have to raise our own for the future and not go broke on honouring the day and all other anniversaries. One cannot blame everything on the grower as the prices rose at every stage and this year the awful weather has put a heavy bill on the cost of heating.

Keep the hoe going regularly on all cultivated sections of the garden to combat the growth of weeds and to make it easy for the planting of those bedding plants of all kinds. It is often a good plan to sprinkle a little general fertiliser when these plants have been in a week or so to enable them to give a good account of themselves.

Lawns

The grass will be growing really well now and the mower needs to be used at least once per week with the blades set a bit lower. Mowings can be used as a mulch round the roses or added to the compost heap.

Give a dose of fertiliser in damp weather; one with a weed killer incorporated is the best. Clip the edges every so often to make things neat and tidy.

Mowers will give of their best if the blades are cleaned off after each usage and a little oil on the axle and wheels will help it to run much more smoothly.

Fruit

Normally, at this time of the year, one can have a good idea by the set as to the kind of crop one is going to have but with the weather being so bad it may be a bit later before one can tell. One often has

some nice early strawberries but I don't think that this will be the case now. However, get the straw down for the fruit to lay on and keep clean. Some slug pellets will deter these pests from having a nibble at the immature berries.

Many insect pests will be on the rampage so give a spray with insecticide. I always find that Derris is still one of the best and safest for all the garden.

Vegetables

I only hope that things here are really progressing since they ought to be well advanced by now. In some cases such as ground-sown lettuces, beet, carrots, etc., thinning should be done since overcrowding will not only result in poor quality but diseases as well. Some settling in by pressing soil round the roots of those left in should be done as, when thinning, those left to mature tend to come out of the ground a little.

As crops of lettuce, radish and other salad items are used up, sow more seed to get a good succession during the summer and early autumn.

Sow further batches of peas and french beans since one can never have too many of these and some can be put down in the freezer for future use.

Ensure that the runner bean poles or other supports are in place and secure ready for the plants to climb.

Cucumbers and marrows in frames should be growing well now and in order to get a good crop they need stopping regularly for branching of side shoots to take place. Pick off any male cucumbers (those which have no baby cucumber behind the flower). Keep well watered and feed regularly.

Naturally, the insect invasion will be on the way now so use those insecticides regularly, but do ensure that the one you are going to use is alright for the plants concerned. Precautions are set out on the label. Some insecticides can be mixed with a fungicide to give a double coverage but often don't take care of the soil bugs. Generally a powder is used here and added to the soil at planting or sowing time.

Keep the hoe and rake going between two rows of vegetables and earth up the potatoes when growth is several inches above ground level.

Flowers

There should be some colour here at last and perhaps the bedding plants will have been set out by those of you in the south, though northerners may still be plagued by the wintry weather; I only hope not. My plants were put out in the quieter spells and I hope that they will give a good account of themselves. Some of the annuals may have been a bit drawn up, so it's quite a good idea to pinch out the top and induce the formation of side shoots and dwarfier plants, which will give a lot more flowers.

Cut away or take off all those dead flowers as seed setting will tend to make the plant lose the will to make more flowers. This holds good for all types including shrubs and roses.

Give them all a dose of general fertiliser either in a liquid form, powder or pellets. These pellet types tend to last longer and, in most cases, are easier to use when spreading by hand and don't scorch any of the leaves.

Sweet peas when at the top of the trellis, poles or other holder are better with the tops nipped off and there will be plenty of branching and so more flowers. Cut blooms regularly and tie in the stems as they climb. I have always found it best to take off the little tendrils which are its natural method of climbing as, here again, that extra strength will go to produce bigger and better flowers.

With those bedding annuals if you have any doubt about putting them out delay till the last moment when the ground has warmed up a little.

Use stakes for any of the plants whether annual or perennial, which are tending to grow rather tall and cover other plants when they lean over.

Leaves of most bulbs will have just about done their job of feeding the bulb for next year's flower so can be taken off and so make the beds look a bit more tidy.

Roses have a tendency to throw quite a number of suckers from the roots near the bush. Older bushes are particularly affected by growth of suckers. These should be pulled out or traced back to the rose and

cut off at its source of growth. Don't just cut off where you find it as they make for even more suckers like pruning the rose.

Chrysanthemums will be growing well now and it might be a good plan to stop those which are growing a bit on the tall side to make them bushy and so have more flowers later on.

Greenhouse

Now you may now have a little more room for the indoor items since the bedding plants have gone out or are in the hardening off quarters.

Space those pot plants a little so that they can really give of their best. Those which were grown from seed earlier can be put into their final pots.

A further sowing of items such as schizanthus and some annuals for autumn and winter colour both in the home and greenhouse can be done now. They won't need much in the way of heat, if any, to come along well.

Pick off those female flowers from the large tuberous begonia plants in order to have better size and if some are wanted for shows, only let one or two blooms stay on the plant. Remember the female flowers are those which have a little seed case or wing behind the head of the flower, which is single. Most pot plants which are needed for show do very much better as regards flowers if they are in a small pot, since the roots are contained.

Pick tomatoes and cucumbers regularly; feed at every other watering but remember it is much better to have the plants a little on the dry side than with their feet in water. Tie in as the plants grow and, with the tomatoes, pick out all the side shoots at leaf joints. Cucumbers need stopping about two joints beyond the fruit in order to make further breaks for more cucumbers.

I have always found that a feed of epsom salts every so often to the tomatoes keeps the leaves in good condition. Use at the rate of about 1 oz. per gallon of water.

Insects are on the rampage plus moulds and mildews in the warm and humid conditions, so use some combined smokes. Remember to use them last thing with everything closed up and open up all windows and doors in the morning for an hour or so before doing any work inside.

CLUB NEWS

LONDON

BRIDGE NOTES

On Saturday, 7th April, the third round of the Individual Competition was held with the following results:

B. Allen and F. Dickerson	84 pts.
R. Armstrong and V. Delaney	65 pts.
B. Evans and J. Huk	60 pts.
B. Miller and H. Meleson	57 pts.
J. Carney and J. Majchrowicz	56 pts.
M. Tybinski and Partner	56 pts.

BRIGHTON

BOWLS

We certainly hope that blue skies are around the corner because on Tuesday May 1st, we begin our outdoor bowling season with a match at St. Anne's Wells.

Following, is a list of the away matches that have been received to date. All invitations request the usual grey dress. Any club members wishing to be included in any of these fixtures should notify the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Pat Padley, as soon as possible, and not later than ten days before the match, at 48 Falmer Avenue, Saltdean, Brighton, BN2 8FG. Tel. 34793.

Sunday, 6th May	Burgess Hill
Sunday, 27th May	Guildford
Monday, 4th June	Seaford
Tuesday, 12th June	Bexhill
Sunday, 17th June	Southampton
Thursday, 12th July	Hurstpierpoint
Thursday, 26th July	Beckenham
Saturday, 4th August	Mayford, Woking
Wednesday, 12th Sept.	East Preston
Saturday, 22nd Sept.	Old Woking

My best wishes to all members of the Bowling Club for a most happy and enjoyable summer season.

JIM PADLEY, Chairman

Bowls Handicap

The Bowls Handicap was, as usual, a huge success, being a combination of great sportsmanship and skill, evened out to a remarkable accuracy by Micky Robinson's handicapping.

Thirteen games finished with a one point difference and three games were decided by sudden death which, to me, shows remarkable handicapping. The

Handicap was run on 8th-10th March as a warm-up to the official tournament which began on 11th March. R. Palmer won the first prize in the Handicap, L. Rea the second prize and the losing semi-finalists were P. Acton and J. Forbes-Stewart.

P. W. ACTON

BRIDGE SECTION

Our third Pairs Competition was held on Sunday, 11th March with the following results:—

North-South

1st W. Lethbridge and Mr. Goodlad	56.5
2nd B. Simon and Mr. Barker	56.0

East-West

1st F. Griffee and Mrs. Green	59.0
2nd G. Hudson and I. Pellington	54.5

Our third Individual Competition was held on Saturday, 17th March, with the following results:—

R. Fullard and G. Hudson	72
F. Griffee and W. Lethbridge	70
I. Pellington and J. Padley	60
H. Preedy and Partner	58
W. Phillips and C. Walters	56

On Sunday, 8th April, we held our Easter Bridge Drive. It was a most enjoyable afternoon with 16 pairs taking part.

The winners were:—

1st F. Griffee and Mrs. Green	1,750pts.
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2nd W. Phillips and Dr. Goodlad	1,440 pts.
3rd B. Simon and Miss Sturdy	1,410 pts.
4th H. Preedy and Mr. Barker	920 pts.

At the time of writing, Bob Osborne, Chairman of the Brighton Social and Sports Club, has been taken into hospital. As Vice-Chairman, may I, on behalf of the Management Committee and all club members, wish Bob a full and speedy recovery.

W. LETHBRIDGE

MIDLAND

All the members of the club offer their sincere congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Finch who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on Saturday, 17th March. A bouquet of flowers was sent to them on behalf of the members. Our thanks go to Miss Maisie Streets for arranging, collecting and delivering them for us.

Maisie told me how delighted Mrs. Finch was with the bouquet. They also received a congratulatory telegram from Her Majesty the Queen. Good luck to them both.

Our April meeting was quite an attractive one, what with discussions about the outing to Slimbridge, a 'bring and buy' as well as quite a few domino games played off. The afternoon flew by.

A number of dates were put forward for the outing, but we finally decided on Sunday, 3rd June. We shall be going to the Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust Centre, with tea at Evesham on the return journey. We shall leave Broad Street at 11 a.m. and the cost is £2.00 to club members and £4.00 to non-club members. Quite a good sum of money was raised on the 'bring and buy' sale; all to help club funds.

Tea was arranged for us by the ladies as usual. Our thanks go to Marjorie Hordyniec for some beautiful home-made cakes. We gave our usual thanks, though, to all the ladies for the grand spread.

Our next club meeting will be held on Sunday, May 13th.

*DOUG CASHMORE
Secretary*

FAMILY NEWS

Marriages

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McGoohan of Tolworth, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Sheila, to Peter Mant on 13th May, at the church of Our Lady Immaculate, Tolworth.

Pearl Wedding

Many congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. Percy Blackmore* of Cardiff, who celebrated their Pearl Wedding on 27th December, 1978.

Many congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. Donald Groves* of Thorpe Bay, Essex, who celebrated their Pearl Wedding on 16th April.

Diamond Wedding

Many congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. Robert Finch* of Shirley, Solihull, who

celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 17th March with a party attended by most of their large family. The house was filled with flowers and a congratulatory telegram arrived from Her Majesty the Queen at 11 a.m.

Ruby Wedding

Many congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Earwaker* of Soberton, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on April 10th.

Grandchildren

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. William Arnold of Keighley on the birth of their eighth grandchild, a girl named Stef, to their daughter, Pauline, and son-in-law, Philip, on 9th March.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hedges of Bexley, on the birth of their first grandson, Marc Anthony, to their son, Anthony, and daughter-in-law, Helen, on 28th January.

Mr. and Mrs. John Holden of Rochdale, on the birth of a grand-daughter to their daughter, Eunice, on 25th February.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Webber of Tewkesbury, on the birth of their second grandchild, Patricia Mary, to their son, Peter, and daughter-in-law, Jane, on 2nd March.

Great grandchildren

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. George Rees of Port Talbot, on the birth of two great grandchildren; Derek George, born on 18th September, 1978, to their grand-daughter and her husband, and Rachel Elizabeth, born on 16th February, to their grandson and his wife.

Personal Achievements

We warmly congratulate:

Geoffrey Andrew of New Southgate, on being awarded a First Class Certificate in the War Pensioners' National Homecrafts and Art Competition. Mr. Andrew was specially commended as the competition in 1979 was of a particularly high standard.

FAMILY NEWS—continued

Margaret Bingham of Macclesfield, Cheshire, and her husband, John, on winning second prize in a Fancy Dress Competition whilst on a cruise round the Canary Islands. Margaret sat in a wheelchair holding a pear and the couple went as 'Carriage and Pair'.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mr. Robert Thorne of Allenton, Derby, on the death of his sister in March.

Mr. Thomas Wood of Hove, on the death of his wife, Mary, on 31st March, following a long illness. Mrs. Wood was in her 77th year and they had been married for 54 years.

Mr. Jack Barkby of Houghton-on-the-Hill, Leics., on the sudden death of his daughter, Sandra, on 31st March. She leaves her husband and their 6 year old son.

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, family and friends.

Charles Crewe Royal Engineers

Charles Crewe of Liverpool, died on 18th March, only a few weeks after his 94th birthday.

Mr. Crewe served as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers during the First World War, having enlisted in 1916. As a result of injuries received at St. Quentin, he lost his left eye and was wounded in the arm, subsequently being taken prisoner and remaining in a P.O.W. camp for nine months. He was discharged from the Army in April, 1919.

Mr. Crewe worked for the Post Office as a sorter until his retirement in 1950. However, over the years, the sight in his one remaining eye deteriorated and he joined St. Dunstan's in October, 1972.

Sadly, his wife, Ann, died in March, 1976, only a few months before they would have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. From that time, a local district nurse, Mrs. Joan Edwards, became a staunch friend, keeping an ever-watchful eye on Mr. Crewe and caring for him devotedly until his declining health made it

necessary for him to move into residential accommodation.

Mr. Crewe was a remarkable man for his years and will long be remembered for his courageous and independent spirit.

He leaves members of his family and friends, particularly Mrs. Joan Edwards.

Arthur Henry Finney 111 H.A.A., R.A.

Arthur Finney, of Southport, Lancs., died at home on the 3rd April, aged 68.

Mr. Finney was with the Territorials before the Second World War and was commissioned and served in the Army throughout the War, losing his sight in 1945. He came to St. Dunstan's to train, took up leather work and, from 1947, ran a craft shop in Finchley, which was officially opened by H.M. the Queen (now Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother). The same year he got his first guide dog and later, in 1955, he moved north and started working as Northern Area Organiser with the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. He had very great success with this appeals work and became extremely well known in the area, retiring only two years ago. He had been somewhat unwell recently, but his death was sudden and unexpected.

He leaves a widow, Edna, and many friends connected with guide dog work in the North West.

James John Laffey 1st Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

James Laffey of Bradford, died at his home on 22nd March, aged 66. He had been a St. Dunstaner for almost 35 years.

Mr. Laffey enlisted as a Regular in the 1st Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and, whilst on active service in Italy, was wounded in January, 1944 at the Garigliano River by a shell. He was discharged in August of that year with the rank of C.Q.M.S. and almost immediately joined St. Dunstan's, where he undertook a period of training in telephony, typewriting and Braille. Mr. Laffey had been a sheet metal worker prior to joining the Army, but readily adapted to his new skills and became a highly proficient and valued telephonist with a company near Bradford. His proficiency was such that in 1960 his firm entered him for a competition to discover the best and most efficient telephonist in the area. Mr. Laffey, in the face of declining health, remained with his employers for 32 years until his retirement in May, 1978, at which time the company was presented with the Queen's Award for Industry and he was selected to make a speech of welcome to the Earl of Scarborough.

In his leisure hours, Mr. Laffey sometimes gave talks locally on the work of St. Dunstan's and enjoyed his garden and listening to the radio.

He leaves a widow, Marjorie, a daughter and two sons.